

## **Title: Breathe named UK Social Enterprise Awards Finalist!**

Breathe Arts Health Research has been named a finalist in the 2021 UK Social Enterprise Awards, recognising businesses which are transforming society.

Internationally recognised arts and health professional, seasoned multi award-winning social entrepreneur, and Breathe Arts Health Research's Founder and Managing Director, Yvonne Farquharson is a finalist in the 'Women In Social Enterprise Award'

Yvonne is an advocate for the importance of women and the LGBTQ+ community being represented in leadership roles and she regularly presents at events supporting female entrepreneurs. Yvonne heads up an all-female senior management team, and 85% of the Breathe team are female.

Over the past decade Yvonne's pioneering work to improve individual health outcomes and sector-wide transformation, has led Breathe to win numerous awards, celebrating the high-quality arts and health programmes she has developed and instigated. This includes being named as a 'New Radical' by Nesta, winning NHS England's 'Innovation Challenge' Award and Action for Children's Arts 'Outstanding Contribution' award.

As with many other organisations, the pandemic, caused significant disruption to finances, programmes and operations. Through Breathe's resilience as a team and Yvonne's determination and entrepreneurial spirit, they redesigned all of their programmes to be delivered online, created new Covid-response work and re-wrote their business and fundraising plans. Breathe not only survived Covid-19 but emerged stronger and more relevant than ever.

"We wanted to nominate Yvonne personally, for her exceptional contribution to the sector and to show our appreciation for the positive and inspirational impact she has on all of us, every single day." **The Breathe Team**

**Commenting on being shortlisted, Yvonne Farquharson, Founder & Managing Director of Breathe Arts Health Research said:**

*"I feel honoured and humbled to have been selected as a Finalist in the acclaimed UK Social Enterprise Awards 2021 in the Women In Social Enterprise category. As a female leader I am aware of the many obstacles that can appear on our career journeys and I*



*feel passionately about smashing down those obstacles not just for the women in our team and those we work with every day - but for the generations of strong and pioneering female leaders to come.*

*I am proud to be an employer of a predominantly female workforce and an entirely female Senior Management Team. The talent, creativity and ambition of every woman I work alongside, is a daily reminder of the importance of creating opportunities for all women, at all stages of their life, to excel in the workplace."*

**Commenting on the Awards, Chief Executive of Social Enterprise UK Peter Holbrook said:**

*The UK Social Enterprise Awards are back, bigger and better than ever before. We have had a record number of applications this year, all of which have showcased the strength, dynamism and resilience of the social enterprise community through what's been an incredibly difficult and uncertain period.*

*Over the course of the pandemic social enterprises have been going above and beyond the call of duty to support their teams, the individuals, and communities they work with, showing the grit, determination and innovation so inherent to this sector. They've been operating directly on the frontline of the crisis, launching new products and pivoting their business models to meet the needs of communities and society as a whole.*

*The Awards are all about celebrating the achievements of the UK's social enterprise movement, which is showing us that another way of doing business is possible - one which has never been more important as we look to build back better and address the climate emergency."*

The UK Social Enterprise Awards run by Social Enterprise UK, the national membership body for social enterprises, recognise the nation's most pioneering social enterprises. Breathe Arts Health Research will be joining other shortlisted organisations at the prestigious awards ceremony held at London's iconic Guildhall on 8 December.

**ENDS**

**Notes**

For more information, please contact Hannah Abraham - [hannahA@breatheahr.org](mailto:hannahA@breatheahr.org)

[Breathe Arts Health Research](#)



Breathe Arts Health Research design and deliver artistic programmes, underpinned by scientific research, to improve health and wellbeing. Our innovative and artistic approach to transforming healthcare experiences, offer those we work with, a sense of empowerment, hope and creative fulfilment when they need it most.

### **About social enterprises**

Social enterprises are businesses which trade for a social purpose that reinvest or donate over half their profits to further this social or environmental mission. They are an increasingly important part of the UK economy contributing £60 billion and employing 2 million people. Estimates are there are 100,000 in the UK. Research carried out by Social Enterprise UK, the membership body for the sector, shows they are outperforming traditional businesses when it comes to start-up rates, turnover growth and innovation. They are also ahead of the pack when it comes to workforce diversity and pay. For more information and statistics see Social Enterprise UK's [State of Social enterprise Report 2019](#) and the '[Hidden Revolution](#)' report which showed the true scale and impact of the sector.

### **About Social Enterprise UK**

Social Enterprise UK is the largest network of certified social enterprises in the UK and the leading global authority on social enterprises. Together with our members we are the voice for the sector. We have led public policy for 15 years, helping pass the Social Value Act, and are a strategic partner to government. We exist to increase the profile of the sector through our campaigns and research, and build the markets for our members - working with some of the UK's biggest companies to support them to bring social enterprises into their supply chains. Our members reflect the diversity of the sector ranging from local grass-roots organisations to multi-million-pound businesses. We see social enterprise as the future of business.

[www.socialenterprise.org.uk](http://www.socialenterprise.org.uk)

