



Press Release - Friday 30 January 2026. For immediate release.

AWARD WINNING HIGHLAND CINEMA COMPLETES TRANSITION TO CHARITABLE TRUST

Highland Cinema, Fort William is proud to announce that from Sunday 1 February 2026 it will officially operate as a registered charity, recognised by the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR), following a transition process that began in September 2025.

Founded in 2020 by Angus and Michie MacDonald, Highland Cinema has become a welcoming hub for film, arts and culture in Lochaber. Angus MacDonald said, “The cinema was always built to be a community asset, and becoming a Charity Trust formalises that vision for the future.”

General Manager Will Marshall added, “Our programme of film, food and culture will continue as audiences expect, with all gift vouchers and pre-purchased tickets honoured. There will be some visible changes as we begin operating as a registered charity, but the cinema our customers know and love – our films, events and welcoming atmosphere – remains the same. At the same time, charity status gives us access to new funding and partnerships, helping us invest in our future.

With the closure of Oban Phoenix Cinema in 2024, Highland Cinema’s role in the West Highlands has become even more important. The five newly appointed Trustees, with experience across film, hospitality, business and marketing, will support the cinema’s long-term sustainability. They will continue to champion Highland Cinema’s established programme of film, theatre, music, ballet, visual arts, talks and community events, building on its strengths to widen access to the arts and enrich cultural life across Lochaber.

The cinema thanks its staff, visitors and the wider community for their support. Achieving charity status recognises the work done so far and provides a strong foundation for continued growth, ensuring Highland Cinema remains a cultural and community hub for years to come.

Ends

Highland Cinema, Cameron Square, Fort William, PH33 6AJ

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NOTES

The purpose built boutique Highland Cinema located in Fort William, Scotland, opened its doors on September 25th 2020, with two screens and a café bar, bringing cinema back to the heart of the Highlands for the first time in 15 years.

Originally set to open in May 2020, the Highland Cinema was delayed due to Covid-19. Construction began again in July, with final touches added leading up to the opening on September 25th.

Fort William is a town on the West Coast of Scotland and gateway to Ben Nevis (the UK's tallest mountain). The town and surrounding area of Lochaber are recognised as the 'Outdoor Capital of the UK', with a population of 20,000. Annual tourism exceeds 440,000.

Highland Cinema was the winner of the Big Screen 'UK Cinema of the Year' award in 2023, a proud moment for all those involved in its design, ethos and provision of excellent hospitality. In addition, Dualchas, the Skye based architect, received a top award for the building, with the judges declaring it "a transformational project which has created a vibrant sense of place".

Following the closure of the Oban Phoenix Cinema in 2024, the next closest cinema to Fort William is in Inverness, 68 miles away.

Key sponsors of the Highland Cinema are Mowi Scotland and Alvalance Aluminium. BSW donated the timber. Due to the Alvalance sponsorship, locals will receive a 30% discount card during the off season. The cinema employs 25 local members of staff all year round, plus seasonal staff.

Highland Cinema, Cameron Square, Fort William, PH33 6AJ.

Screen 1: 107 seats total. Standard: 75. Luxury: 30. Disabled: 2

Screen 2: 62 seats total. Standard: 45. Luxury: 16. Disabled: 1

Café bar capacity: 84. (Bar café: 68. Terrace: 16)

Hires photos and logo files for Highland Cinema can be viewed and downloaded from:

www.highlandcinema.co.uk/press-and-media