

Communities mobilize across New York's five boroughs to champion the healing power of the arts

UNGA Healing Arts Week by the Jameel Arts & Health Lab runs 20-26 September 2025



Image: NYC Health + Hospitals/Metropolitan (detail), Artwork Priscila De Carvalho. Photo by N. Knight. Image courtesy of NYC Health + Hospitals Arts in Medicine department.

- [UNGA Healing Arts Week](#), by the [Jameel Arts & Health Lab](#) in collaboration with the World Health Organization, is a global arts and health festival, held annually alongside the United Nations General Assembly in New York. Major support for the initiative has come from the Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund and The Music Man Foundation.
- UNGA Healing Arts Week 2025 will include a Well-Being Concert at Carnegie Hall, the launch of a photo essay at the [Guggenheim Museum](#), a research symposium at [NYU Steinhardt](#), a social prescribing roundtable at the [Federal Reserve Bank of New York](#), a film screening on music and brain health at [Juilliard/Lincoln Center](#), a freestyle street dance jam at [Public Records](#) in Brooklyn, panels on the arts and neighborhood health at [NYC H +H/Lincoln Hospital](#) in the Bronx, alongside community events and workshops that will span all 5 boroughs of New York City.
- Independent community organizers and established cultural organizations [can apply](#) to be a part of the festival, which has had previous activations in Scotland, London, Venice, Paris, Jaipur, Riyadh, Lviv, Houston, Atlanta, and is planned for Barcelona and Singapore later this year.

Healing Arts ↪ UNGA, NYC



NEW YORK — UNGA Healing Arts Week by the Jameel Arts & Health Lab, in collaboration with the World Health Organization, returns to New York City, mobilizing a global coalition of artists, health and culture leaders, researchers, policymakers, and community members to celebrate the role of the arts in supporting health and wellbeing for all.

Now in its third edition, the festival takes place alongside the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), transforming iconic venues and neighborhood spaces across all five boroughs into sites of creative care, cultural participation, and public health innovation. The 2025 festival centers a bold new vision: to recognize arts engagement as a health behavior—on par with physical activity, nutrition, sleep, time in nature, and social connection—and to embed the arts more deeply into health systems and social infrastructure, both locally and globally.

Global Momentum, Local Mobilization

This year's festival features events at iconic venues including **Carnegie Hall, The Julliard School, Lincoln Center, the Guggenheim Museum, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Federal Reserve Bank of New York, NYU Steinhardt, NYC H+H/ Lincoln Hospital, The Public Theater**, and community spaces across all five boroughs. The rich variety of events reflects the growing momentum of the arts and health movement and its relevance to diverse communities and care settings.

UNGA Healing Arts Week 2025 also marks the **launch of a city-wide mapping of New York's arts and health ecosystem** through the [Healing Arts New York Network](#) in partnership with the Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund to connect and amplify organizations using the arts to promote community wellbeing.

"UNGA Healing Arts Week 2025 highlights the growing global recognition that the arts are not just enriching— they are essential to health," said Christopher Bailey, Co-Director, Jameel Arts & Health Lab and Arts & Health Lead, World Health Organization. "This year's program reflects a worldwide movement, connecting hospitals, cultural spaces, and communities to demonstrate how creativity is transforming care"

"We are at a pivotal moment," said Prof. Nisha Sajnani, Co-Director, Jameel Arts & Health Lab, Director of Drama Therapy, NYU Steinhardt; and co-founder of the Healing Arts New York network. "UNGA Healing Arts Week is about turning evidence into action—bringing together artists, educators, researchers, and policymakers to redesign systems of care, build collective resilience, and embed creativity into the fabric of clinical and public health."

UNGA Healing Arts Week will also include a high-profile announcement of the Jameel Arts & Health Lab's inaugural Global Healing Arts Ambassador.

Healing Arts ↔ UNGA, NYC



Highlights of UNGA Healing Arts Week 2025:

NYU Research Symposium: A full-day convening that asks: Can the arts be considered a health behavior alongside sleep, movement, and nutrition? The event will connect emerging research with practice and policy recommendations. Keynote: Daisy Fancourt, PhD, Author of "[Art Cure: The Science of How the Arts Save Lives](#)"

Photo Essay Launch: Debut of the Series' Photo Essay at the Guggenheim Museum on September 24th. Launch will include a keynote presentation in the iconic Peter B. Lewis Theatre.

The Economics of Arts & Health Policy Roundtable: Hosted at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, this high-level roundtable will explore social prescribing as a pathway to realizing the economic, clinical, and public health potential of the arts as a driver of care innovation and health equity.

UNGA Wellbeing Concert and Reception, Carnegie Hall: An immersive musical experience with Mexican- American jazz singer Magos Herrera, exploring music's role in supporting emotional regulation, connection, and mental health.

Film Screening & Panel of My Brain: After The Rupture at Juilliard/Lincoln Center: The incredible and inspiring story of broadcaster, writer, and musician, Clemency Burton-Hill as she rebuilds her life following a tragic brain injury.

Freestyle street dance jam at Public Records in Brooklyn: A creative experience hosted by LaveRhythm weaves together freestyle dance and live music to celebrate the vibrancy of street and club dance cultures and promote community wellbeing.

Workshop - Arts for the Blues at NYU Steinhardt: First developed in the UK at Edge Hill University and the University of Salford, this alternative model for treating depression has since been adapted for use with children, NHS staff, mothers, and babies.

State of Mind: Mobile Unit & Public Works - Theatre Aimed at Civic Health: As our nation struggles with a loneliness epidemic, join artists Pablo Hernandez Basulto and Michael Rohd in a participatory session exploring how theatre can build social connection, trust and coalition.

Arts & Minds Interactive Gallery Tours at The Met: Join Arts & Minds Co-founder Carolyn Halpin-Healy as she leads an interactive gallery tour with an art-making workshop at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Arts & Minds programs are created for people living with dementia or memory loss as well as their caregivers.

NYC Health +Hospitals Community, Care, and Culture at Lincoln Hospital: This two-part panel will re-imagine how connections between clinical and cultural ecosystems can be strengthened to address the rising mental and public health challenges in the Bronx.

ENDS

Healing Arts ↔ UNGA, NYC



Notes to Editors:

About UNGA Healing Arts Week

UNGA Healing Arts Week is an international initiative by the Jameel Arts & Health Lab that brings the arts into dialogue with public health during the annual United Nations General Assembly. The 2025 program spans performances, panels, workshops, and community events across all five boroughs of New York City, offering an inclusive platform for advancing the Arts in Health movement.

healingartsnewyork.org

About the Jameel Arts & Health Lab

Launched in January 2023 by the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Europe, the Steinhardt School at New York University, Community Jameel, and Culturrunners, the Jameel Arts & Health Lab is a global initiative to measurably improve health and wellbeing through the arts. With a focus on overlooked and underserved communities, the Lab leverages scientific evidence, artist-led advocacy, and capacity building to drive the integration of the arts into mainstream healthcare.

jameelartshealthlab.org

About the Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund:

The Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund aims to increase access and opportunity for all New Yorkers and foster healthy and vibrant communities. The fund uses an equity lens to develop initiatives and to issue grants, driven by the principle that everyone should have access to positive and enriching opportunities that define a full range of human experience and that circumstances of birth should not limit choices or short circuit success for anyone.

<https://thelmtif.org/>

Additional Confirmed Partners Include: Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Julliard Extension, Federal Reserve Bank of New York, The Guggenheim, J.P. Morgan, NYC Health + Hospitals, Newport Global Summit

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