

# Healing Arts ↪ Barcelona



World Health  
Organization



Jameel Arts  
& Health Lab

The National Museum of Catalonia, the Jameel Arts & Health Lab, and the World Health Organization (WHO) announce  
*'Healing Arts Barcelona'*



- Spain's first regional Healing Arts campaign launches from October 20-26th
- Will activate Catalonia's rich cultural ecosystem within its public health systems

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**Barcelona, 26 June 2025** — The Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya (MNAC) has signed a strategic agreement with the Jameel Arts & Health Lab in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) to host 'Healing Arts Barcelona'. Under the guiding theme "The arts take care of us – culture is health", Healing Arts Barcelona will take place from 20 to 26 October and include hundreds of events and projects across Catalonia. The agreement was signed by Pepe Serra, Director of MNAC, and Stephen Stapleton, Founding Co-Director of the Jameel Arts & Health Lab, in a special ceremony at MNAC, with the presence of Dr. Carmen Cabezas, member of the Advisory Committee for Healing Arts Barcelona and a leading figure in Catalan public health.

Jointly organized by the MNAC and the Jameel Arts & Health Lab, and backed by the WHO, 'Healing Arts Barcelona' seeks to drive systemic transformation through the integration of cultural and artistic practices into health promotion, disease prevention, and community care. The initiative aligns with MNAC's ongoing strategic reflection on expanding its societal role and impact.

*"Healing Arts Barcelona reflects our commitment to expanding the museum's role as a cultural, social, and health-leading agent of change" said Pepe Serra, Director of MNAC. "It is not only a platform for artistic and scientific exchange, but also an opportunity for the museum to foster alliances and advocate for the integration of culture into public policies that improve collective wellbeing in a crucial moment for this museum."*

The event is part of the broader Healing Arts global movement, which has launched previous activations in Venice, London, New York, Basel, Jaipur, Houston, Atlanta, and Scotland, often in collaboration with world-leading cultural and scientific institutions. This will be the first edition of the global Healing Arts campaign in Spain and will engage the full Catalan arts and health ecosystem.

The week-long program spans the intersection of art, science, and policy, with events taking place across Catalonia. Activities will include an international symposium, high-profile keynotes, workshops, concerts, screenings, policy roundtables, community interventions, and artistic experiences in museums, healthcare facilities, universities, and other venues. The program will also feature dedicated, decentralized events in regional hubs such as Baix Llobregat, Lleida, Sitges, Granollers and Vic.

As part of Healing Arts Barcelona, a comprehensive mapping of the Arts in Health ecosystem in Catalonia will be carried out by researchers from the Jameel Arts & Health Lab, New York University, the University of Edinburgh, and the University of Vic. The study will systematically document and analyze the diversity of existing initiatives and stakeholders, providing a key resource to guide future policy, strategic collaboration, and community engagement. This evidence base will support the long-term integration of the arts into Catalonia's health and care systems.

This project is supported by the Departments of Culture and Health of the Government of Catalonia.

For more information please visit: [healingartsbarcelona.org](https://healingartsbarcelona.org)

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## About the Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya (MNAC)

The Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya (MNAC) is a leading cultural institution housed in the Palau Nacional on Montjuïc, originally built for the 1929 International Exposition. It first opened in 1934 as the Museu d'Art de Catalunya, bringing together the medieval art collection. In 1995, as the Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya, it inaugurated the new Romanesque art galleries, and over the following years progressively expanded its public presentation of the collection, culminating in 2004 with the integration of modern art.

The MNAC is currently planning an ambitious expansion into a second historic building, which will double its exhibition space and enhance its ability to fulfill its mission. Broadening its curatorial role, the museum is also a key player in cultural and social innovation, with a strong focus on education, inclusion, and community health. It is internationally recognized for pioneering arts in health initiatives in collaboration with hospitals, primary care centers, universities, and public institutions.

[museunacional.cat](https://museunacional.cat)

## 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 Culturunners, 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](https://jameelartshealthlab.org)

Photo Credit: Corpus de Irene Vicente Sala, MNAC. Photo by Vibbra.

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