



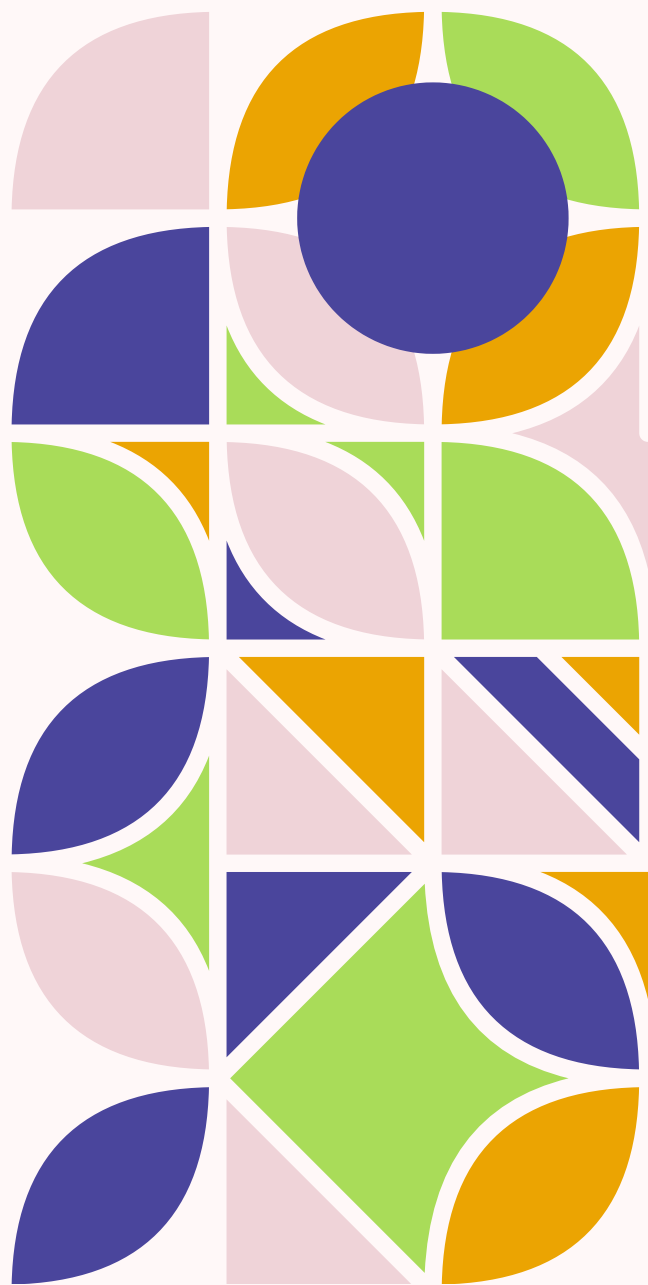
HEALING
ARTS
CHICAGO

SUMMER CELEBRATION:

An Arts x Health x Wellness Summit

July 27, 2024

MALCOLM X COLLEGE



EVENT REPORT

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SUMMARY

On Saturday, July 27, 2024, Healing Arts Chicago hosted a free summer celebration and creative summit featuring artists, leaders, arts organizations, and health institutions, in a day of making, learning, and discussing through workshops, conversations, performances, and interactive experiences.

The summit included 20 sessions and activities including conversations exploring the future of art, health, and wellness as well as participatory artmaking, therapeutic dance, sound and poetry workshops, chair yoga, food vendors, puppets, pinatas, and more. There were a total of 585 attendees, 58 presenters, and 20 artists.

The event centered the Healing Arts Chicago artist cohort, consisting of 10 artists certified as Community Health Workers. Healing Arts Chicago is a partnership led by the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE), the Chicago Department of Public Health, and the City Colleges of Chicago. The summer celebration and creative summit was part of the nationwide, 18-site Arts for Everybody initiative. Each of the partners played a critical role in organizing and ensuring the success of the event.



PROGRAM OVERVIEW



10am	OPENING SESSION			
11:10 - 12:10	Workshop: Poetic Expression	Conversation: Intergovernmental Collaboration	Experience: Approaches to Holistic Health	Ongoing: Arts Activities, Resource Fair, Food
12:25 - 1:25	Workshop: Exploring Identity & Gratitude through Art	Conversation: Expanding Healthcare Systems	Experience: Move through Sound	
1:40 - 2:40	Workshop: Chair Yoga	Conversation: Arts as Social Prescription	Experience: Afrofuturism Movement	
2:55 - 3:55	Workshop: Self-Attunement	Conversation: Arts Ecosystem and Wellness	Experience: Performance Showcase	
4pm	CLOSING SESSION			

OPENING SESSION

10AM – 11AM

ARTISTS:

Shannon Harris
Mecca Perry

HOST:

Shannon Harris

SPEAKERS:

Clinée Hedspeth, DCASE Commissioner
Dr. Olusimbo (Simbo) Ige, CDPH Commissioner
Meida McNeal PhD, DCASE
Alisha Warren LCSW, CDPH
Gloria West PhD, Malcolm X College

PARALLEL SESSION #1

11:10AM – 12:10PM

WORKSHOP:

Poetic Expression with **Nile Lansana**

a creative exploration immersing participants in the exciting craft of poetry and spoken word resulting in poetic pieces they will take out into the world

CONVERSATION:

How can intergovernmental collaboration support the creative workforce?

Meida McNeal PhD, DCASE
Alisha Warren LCSW, CDPH
Elizabeth Gmitter PhD, CCC
Clyde Valentin, Arts for Everybody
Moderator: Kaoru Watanabe RN

EXPERIENCE:

Easy and Impactful Approaches to Holistic Health
with **Kiam Marcel Junio**

an experiential approach to learning, sensing, and integrating the four dimensions of health and wellbeing: body, emotions, mind, and spirit

PARALLEL SESSION #2

12:25PM – 1:25PM

WORKSHOP:

Exploring Identity & Gratitude through Art & Poetry with **Kadijat Alaka LCPC + Shalom Parker LPC**

a workshop using guided poetry and reflective art for enhanced reflection on identity and gratitude

CONVERSATION:

How can we expand existing health systems to include the arts and artists?

Susan Imus LCPC, Columbia College
DeShawna Hill-Burns, Malcolm X College
Francisco Rodriguez Psy. D, CDPH
Teresa Berumen, ILCHWA
Moderator: Veronica Sek MPH

EXPERIENCE:

Move through Sound by **Chih-Jou Cheng and Mecca Perry**

a transformative experience that blends gentle movement, the power of sound healing, and introspection

PARALLEL SESSION #3

1:40PM – 2:40PM

WORKSHOP:

Chair Yoga with **Gail Joy**

a class focusing on integrating gentle movements with mindful breathing techniques to enhance relaxation, reduce stress, and improve overall well-being

CONVERSATION:

How can the arts serve as social prescription?

Shalom Parker LPC, HAC
Stephanie Jones-Horne, CDPH
Chris Appleton, Art Pharmacy
Moderator: Pascale Ife Williams PhD

EXPERIENCE:

Afrofuturism Movement Experience with **Shannon Harris** featuring **Ytasha Womack**

music mindfulness meets medicinal movement in a secret rooftop garden



WORKSHOP:

Self-Attunement to Prevent Burnout
by **Farah Salem LCPC**
(limited to 12 participants)

a session utilizing Somatic Experiencing®
exercises and art therapy tools for self-
attunement

CONVERSATION:

How can the arts ecosystem integrate
health and wellness?

Melissa Raman Molitor ATR-BC, SAIC
Kevin Iega Jeff, Deeply Rooted
Sarah Ward LPC, Sky Art
Moderator: **Lisa Moore PhD**

EXPERIENCE:

Performance: A Prescription for
Wellness hosted by
Nile Lansana and Jewel Hale

featuring performances by
avery r. young, Zahra Baker,
Mekeba Malik and more

CLOSING SESSION

4PM - 5PM

HOSTS:

Nile Lansana and
Jewel Hale

KEYNOTE TALK:

Sekile M. Nzinga PhD
& **Andre Royo**

MUSICAL PERFORMANCE:

Windy City Ramblers

SPEAKERS:

Meida McNeal PhD, DCASE
Ife Williams PhD, HAC
Alisha Williams LCSW, CDPH



RESOURCE FAIR

Healing Arts Chicago's
community partners share
arts x health x wellness resources.



FOOD TRUCKS

Enjoy and support local food businesses!



ISSA WELLNESS BREAK LADY SOL & JAQUANDA

Engage your mind, body & spirit as we
move through gentle stretching and
simple dance/mvmt sequences set to
Afro-Caribbean music vibes.



WANDERING PUPPET BY CHIH-JOU CHENG

This wandering creature embarks on a
ceaseless quest, gathering forgotten
tales and treasures along its path. Take a
moment to assist this brave traveler, or
simply join in a reflective pause amidst
its journey of discovery.



LIVE SCREEN PRINTING WITH NATALIA CUEVAS

Join us in commemorating the Healing
Arts Chicago Summit by learning the
basics of screen printing and making
your own tote bag!



GROWING TOGETHER WITH HOLIDAY GERRY

Contribute to this mural of a
magnificent garden with a painting of
a beautiful bird or nature symbolizing
our growth as artists and a community.



PIÑATA INSTALLATION BY NATALIA CUEVAS

IN COLLABORATION WITH NORTH RIVER CLINIC COMMUNITY

An interactive piñata-sculpture blending symbols of health and
medicine across cultures to pay tribute to the shared histories
of North River Village and the greater Chicago community.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

RESOURCE FAIR

[AWAKENINGS](#)

[BUILD, INC.](#)

[CDPH](#)

[CHICAGO AUSTIN YOUTH TRAVEL ADVENTURES](#)

[CHINESE AMERICAN SERVICE LEAGUE](#)

[DCASE](#)

[ENVISION UNLIMITED](#)

[FREE SPIRIT MEDIA](#)

[FREE STREET THEATER](#)

[FRIEND HEALTH](#)

[GADS HILL CENTER](#)

[GIRLS ROCK! CHICAGO](#)

[HONEYCOMB NETWORK](#)

[HUMBOLDT PARK SOLIDARITY NETWORK](#)

[ILLINOIS CHW ASSOCIATION \(ILCHWA\)](#)

[LIFESCORE FOUNDATION](#)

[MIDWEST ASIAN HEALTH ASSOCIATION](#)

[PILSEN WELLNESS CENTER](#)

[SINAI CHICAGO - BEHAVIORAL HEALTH](#)

[THEATRE FOR HOPE AND HEALING](#)

[UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS CHICAGO'S PEACE LAB](#)

[WALLS TURNED SIDEWAYS](#)

[YWCA OF METROPOLITAN CHICAGO PARKS FRANCIS CENTER](#)

TEAM

Leadership Team

Meida McNeal - Deputy Commissioner, Cultural Grants and Resources, DCASE
Alisha Warren - Assistant Commissioner of Mental Health, CDPH
Pascale Ife Williams - Healing Arts Chicago Cohort Coordinator
Francisco Rodriguez - Director, Greater Lawn Mental Health Clinic
Stephanie Jones-Horne - Director, Greater Grand and Englewood Mental Health Clinics
Kadijat Alaka - Director, North Lawndale and North River Mental Health Clinics
Hillary Wang - Project Manager, Behavioral Health, CDPH
Asad Ali Jafri - Healing Arts Chicago Creative Producer
Lee Nah - Healing Arts Chicago Fellow

Artist Cohort

Chih-Jou Cheng
Erica Marie Serrano
Holiday Gerry
Jeweline Hale
Leyda "Lady Sol" Garcia

Mecca Perry
Natalia Cuevas
Nile Lansana
Shalom Parker
Shannon Harris

Advisory Committee

Alex Rodriguez, Arts for Everybody
Kaoru Watanabe, Cambodian Heritage Museum
Leah Ra'chel Gipson, SAIC
Lisa Moore, University of Chicago
Susan Imus, Columbia College

Veronica Nevarez, Esperanza Health
Veronica Sek, Sinai Chicago

Production Support

Adonis Wagner
Megann Lawlor
Yahya Youssef



IMPACT

EVENTBRITE REGISTRATION: 525

ACTUAL ATTENDANCE: 585

SESSIONS: 20

PRESENTERS: 58

ARTISTS: 20

STAFF & VOLUNTEERS: 25

ORGANIZATIONS: 24

PRESS

News Clip: WBBM-TV (Chicago, IL), 07.28.2024

Audience: National - 12,991, Local - 12,991

<https://muckrack.com/broadcast/savedclips/view/VRiAol5D9h>

News Clip: WBBM-TV (Chicago, IL), 07.27.2024

Audience: National - 331,359, Local - 40,737

<https://muckrack.com/broadcast/savedclips/view/Xghcroqc4N>

Radio Clip: AM 1690 WVON, 07.26.2024

Audience: National - 4,300

<https://muckrack.com/broadcast/savedclips/view/R6hilhKUvf>

<https://muckrack.com/broadcast/savedclips/view/dpr4whINMH>

Newsletter: Axios, 07.26.2024

<https://www.axios.com/newsletters/axios-chicago-weekender-962a3190-4a88-11ef-bd8c-bdd4d06178f8.html>

Newspaper: Lawndale News, 07.25.2024

<http://www.lawndalenews.com/2024/07/two-chicago-festivals-celebrate-the-power-of-arts-on-health-healing-communities/>

Article: WTTW, 07.25.2024

<https://news.wttw.com/2024/07/25/community-events-focused-arts-and-healing-feature-vic-mensa-and-re-royo>

Podcast: The Rundown, WBEZ

<https://www.wbez.org/the-rundown-chicago-news-podcast/2024/09/18/heres-why-chicago-is-training-local-artists-to-work-in-city-mental-health-centers>



EXPENSES

Expense	Amount
Venue Rental	\$2,804
A/V Rental	\$2,654.53
Event Equipment Rental	\$1,292
Supplies	\$435.34
Presenter and Artist Fees	\$14,800
Musical Performance	\$3,500
Food Trucks	\$8,452.51
Catering	\$3,092.38
Videography	\$14,800
Photography	\$1,500
Marketing Assets	\$3,057
Printing	\$1,441.65
Graphic Design	\$1,200
Accessibility Services	\$1,680
TOTAL:	\$60,709.41

EVALUATION

This evaluation of the event includes feedback from a series of debriefing meetings and a survey of participants.

General

Overall, the event received really positive feedback from attendees, presenters, artists, and staff. Over 90% of those asked ranked the event and/or their specific sessions as a 4 or 5 out of 5 and 80% thought the event should be an annual occurrence. Several presenters went out of their way to communicate that they were greatly impacted by the event. People are interested in staying connected to and involved with Healing Arts Chicago as a program.

Most of the major areas for improvement seem to lie within the planning, logistics, and production aspects of the event.

Planning

Planning for the event started in earnest four months before it, and though this time was spent efficiently, it would be ideal to begin the planning process at least six months before the event. Planning was conducted by committees through a series of meetings utilizing collaborative documents. The committees and documents can be adapted to serve as models and templates for future or similar events. In-person and virtual meetings were critical to the planning, production, and implementation. However, there could have been more overlap amongst meetings with the leadership team, artist cohort, and advisory committees. For example, members of the event steering committee met individually with the creative producer but not as a whole. This could have been resolved by bringing the committee together earlier in the process. The artist cohort felt they could have met collectively in person earlier and more often for event planning.



EVALUATION

Marketing and Press

As a pilot program, marketing collateral had to be created for the first time including branding and templates for the event. The design, print, social media, Eventbrite, and web page aspects of marketing required a collaborative effort including DCASE, CDPH, Arts for EveryBody, the creative producer, and a contractual graphic designer. Though this may not have been the most efficient way of working, it did help the collaboration among the partners and we eventually completed the creation of all the marketing material. Due to time constraints, not all of the social media posts were shared before the event. We did not receive all of the physical collateral on time for the event; however, these items were created as evergreen collateral intended to be used at mental health clinics around the city.

Public Relations for the event, through the partnership with Arts for EveryBody, were managed by JTPR. As a result, there was some press coverage leading up to the event as well as overall coverage of the Arts for EveryBody initiative. Two media outlets expressed interest in covering the event live, but only one showed up. As a result of JTPR's work, the event was highlighted or covered by six different media outlets.

Though the inter-governmental partnerships strengthened the program and brought more resources to the marketing efforts, there were challenges in coordinating details including social media, website, and Eventbrite. The Arts for EveryBody partnership helped amplify the event but also had challenges in determining priorities when it came to this particular event amid the 17 other sites that were part of the same initiative. In the same way, there may have been some confusion from a public perspective in terms of branding between Healing Arts Chicago and Arts for EveryBody, as well as the affiliated organizations that make up the initiative. In the same way, there may have been some confusion about the HAC program as a whole versus the July 27th event.

Attendance

The event had a goal of 500 attendees, and to get to that number, we aimed for 1,000 Eventbrite registrations. Our final Eventbrite registration number was 525, however, we ended up having 585 people in attendance, counted using our food tickets. We noticed we also had attendance from several people who were at Malcolm X College for different programs but ended up attending ours as they walked by.

The number of attendees allowed for parallel sessions to be well attended and feel full. Near the end, many of the early attendees had left, leaving fewer people in attendance for the closing session.

EVALUATION

Program

The event ran from 10 am - 4 pm and included a total of 20 sessions and activities with 58 presenters, and 20 artists. Besides the opening and closing sessions, the rest of the sessions ran parallel to each other with as many as 3 sessions and 3 additional activities taking place at the same time. Each parallel session included a conversation, a hands-on workshop, and an interactive experience. In addition, there was a resource fair with 24 health and arts organizations, art-making activities, a pinata installation, food trucks, a wandering puppet, and dance movement breaks.

The conversations were designed to have a through line that included introducing Healing Arts Chicago, discussing inter-governmental collaboration, expanding healthcare systems to include the arts, exploring arts as social prescription, growing the arts ecosystem to include wellness, and visioning the future of arts, health, and wellness.

Based on direct feedback and attendance, the content of the program was well received. The opening session and earlier parallel sessions were all well attended, and the arts activities were full all day. Towards the end of the day, as the crowd began to dissipate, there was less attendance, including for the closing session. The two food trucks were well-liked and served over 500 people.

Feedback from participants, staff, and the artist cohort included feeling conflicted about which session to attend as there seemed to be a lot of compelling content at the same time. There was also a concern about limited time to transition between sessions.

Venue

As a partner of Healing Arts Chicago, Malcolm X College's Conference Center served as an ideal venue. The center allowed for over 500 people without feeling overcrowded, and the multiple spaces allowed for all of the parallel sessions and activities to fit and take place concurrently with easy transitions in between. Free parking was very helpful, but the validation process was not entirely clear to all attendees.

The communication between Malcolm X College's staff and our team was clear and the staff were supportive in the planning and production process. We were limited to indoor space, and it felt that some of the art activities would have been better outdoors.

Our biggest challenges with the venue were technology and production details. Specifically with audio and visual components as there was only one technical staff person assigned to the event and most of the technology in the spaces had limited functions. In retrospect, additional tech support perhaps from an outside contractor could have helped resolve some of these concerns.

EVALUATION

Production and Logistics

Production at the venue started informally the day before the event. The production schedule on the day itself was from 7 am - 7 pm. Healing Arts Chicago's production staff worked closely with Malcolm X College's staff and outside vendors to ensure everything was set up and running on time throughout the day. Though there were a few challenges with technology and set-up, they were all resolved before each session.

Logistics that included crowd flow, directions of space navigation, and communication with presenters on their specific sessions and the green room were handled by HAC staff and volunteers. Though there were no major challenges here, there is room for improvement in signage, wayfinding, and liaisons for presenters and artists.

Load-in and load-out created some challenges for the HAC team, vendors, presenters, and artists as there is no official loading dock. Cohort artists mentioned needing support for this process in their feedback. Load-out could have been a more efficient process with better planning led by the HAC production team.

Technology, specifically audio components, could be improved for the next iteration. Malcolm X College is not set up for full audio production and some aspects of the technical riders and multiple sessions were miscommunicated with Malcolm X College staff. This resulted in last-minute changes, even though artists had submitted technical riders weeks before the event.

Staffing

The event planning and implementation were led by the Creative Producer in collaboration with the Healing Arts Chicago Leadership Team, Artist Cohort, and Healing Arts Chicago Fellow. The support of the Arts for Everybody team and HAC advisors was also integral to the planning and implementation of the event.

Event production itself included a five-person HAC production team, members of the HAC leadership, DCASE and CDPH staff, and volunteers. The Malcolm X College staff and additional vendors supported event production.

Overall, the event felt supported by the number of staff and volunteers involved. There was a 50% attrition rate in volunteers from the general public, but this was accounted for in the planning process.

EVALUATION

Budget

The event had a direct expense budget of up to \$50,000. The actual direct expenses attributed to this budget for the event were \$42,852.41. An additional \$17,857 was spent on video documentation and marketing assets from a separate budget. The total expenses for the event totaled \$60,709.41

Miscellaneous

Participating in the Arts for EveryBody initiative was highly beneficial due to the resources, network, and overall support provided. The research, staff, network, ideating, PR, and troubleshooting supplemented our own efforts. Arts for EveryBody also specifically helped with identifying and securing one of our keynote speakers and designing key marketing assets for Healing Arts Chicago. There were some challenges as well including cross-promotion of different projects (Healing Arts Chicago/Arts For EveryBody and all the affiliated organizations) as well as the window installation that had some logistical issues due to its size.

The Resource Fair was an important aspect of the event with a total of 24 health, arts, and community organizations. There was a good balance of unique offerings and participants were encouraged to visit multiple tables using a bingo card. One of the challenges was set-up and placement, as well as organizations arriving and leaving at different times.

The Green Room for presenters and artists was necessary as a space for prep, respite, and transition. The food catered for the green room was not as good as the food trucks. We found in our evaluation that not all presenters and artists knew about the green room and food initially and learned about it later in the day.

The reception for staff, artists, and presenters was important as a way to celebrate the work and build camaraderie among the team.



QUOTES

"I loved the vibe of the event, especially the meditation and breathing exercise orchestrated by Shannon & Mecca Perry.

I appreciated the opportunity to share my experience as a Community Health Worker"

"The event was an excellent snapshot of the work of Healing Arts Chicago - from its philosophical and policy underpinning and implications to the healing arts in practice. It felt like there was something for everybody during the day, and like people were able to engage in whatever way they were feeling in that moment."

"The bingo card was a great tool to have people experience the various components of the day."

"It was great to see so many different people engaged in the program and able to learn more about the intersection of arts and health."

"I loved seeing the Chicago families attend and enjoy as a family."

"The way it seemed to not only be a culminating event but also a catalyzing moment for the continuity of this work."

RECOMMENDATIONS

General

Based on its success and the desire from attendees and participants for more, the Healing Arts Chicago: Arts x Health x Wellness Summit should return as a regular, annual event.

Framing

The framing around arts, health, and wellness is critical to the event both from a citywide perspective as well as a connection to national and international efforts. This year, the event intentionally focused inwards on the pilot program, the partners, and the artist cohort. In future years, more external partners can help expand the framework. Having artists at the core of the process at an early phase is important.

Program

A balance of content-specific conversations and hands-on activities that include families seems important for the program to be successful. Additional elements such as art installations, food trucks, and other interactive designs are helpful as well. For future iterations, we should consider fewer parallel sessions so there are more people in each session and less conflict over which one to attend. All-day arts activities left lead artists exhausted without enough breaks. In future iterations, these activities should happen in blocks of time so lead artists can rotate.

Potential keynote speakers include Natalie Moore, Tricia Hersey, Adrienne Maree Brown, Resmaa, Angelique Power, Tracie D. Hall, and Eve Ewing. Potential partners and resource providers include Alliance Chicago, Sky Art, Snow City Arts, Chicago School of Professional Psychology, Firebird Community Arts Center, Lawndale Popup Spot, NDoula Community Alliance, and Front Port Arch Center amongst others.

Venue

Malcolm X College as a partner is an ideal partner. The venue costs are affordable and the staff support and existing equipment are beneficial. We should explore using more outdoor spaces and solve for the technical issues we had this year, which could include outdoor support and more prep time.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Staffing

The event should be led by a Creative Producer, shaped by the Healing Arts Chicago leadership team, and supported by an advisory team. Event implementation should have a five-person production team including the Creative Producer, production assistants, and additional technical support. There should be more volunteers recruited for a total of 20 - 25 volunteers in addition to staff.

Planning and Production

Event planning should start at least six months before the event and include bi-weekly leadership meetings and monthly advisory meetings. The Creative Producer should also join artists' monthly cohort meetings. Closer to the event, dedicated event planning meetings should occur weekly. Program and bookings should be completed ideally three months before the event so that marketing can launch two months before the event with a more focused effort the month of the event. The full production team should join meetings during the month of the event and set-up should officially start the day before the event. Additional vendors and contractors should be confirmed three months prior to the event. A technical consultant should be considered as part of the production team in addition to the venue's technical staff.

Timing

Some effort should be spent on the timing of the event and how it relates to audience and community engagement. Perhaps the event is better situated in summer or fall in order to capture more college and school audiences. In either case, the middle of summer as it was this year may not be the ideal time as we found many potential presenters and partners were unable to commit then. The duration of the event could possibly be shorter as well. Instead of a six-hour event from 10am - 4pm, where we lost some of the audience towards the end, we could consider a four or five-hour event or try starting the event later.

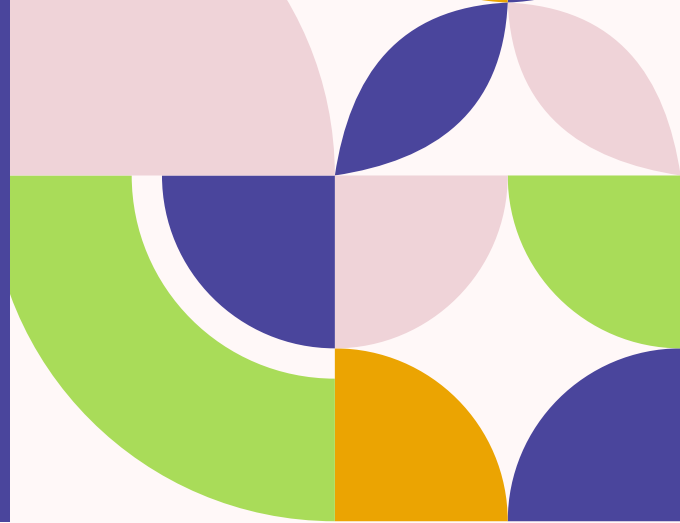
Budget

Our \$50,000 direct cost event budget seemed to be realistic for this year, though we also had some expenses covered by other sources and others by Arts for EveryBody. Keeping that in mind, for an event of a similar scale, \$75,000 would be a more realistic budget.

PROPOSED 2025 BUDGET

Expense	Amount
Venue Rental	\$3,000
A/V Rental	\$5,000
Event Equipment Rental	\$5,000
Supplies	\$1,500
Presenter and Artist Fees	\$20,000
Production Staff	\$5,000
Food Trucks	\$10,000
Catering	\$3,500
Videography	\$10,000
Photography	\$1,500
Marketing Assets	\$5,000
Printing	\$1,500
Graphic Design	\$1,500
Accessibility Services	\$2,500
TOTAL:	\$75,000

APPENDIX



The documents on the following pages served as conversation guides for the four panel discussions and keynote conversation.

They were designed by Healing Arts Chicago Fellow, Lee Nah.



HAC SUMMIT CONVERSATION GUIDE

<p>Healing Arts Chicago Summit Conversation #1: Intergovernmental Collaboration <i>How can intergovernmental collaboration support the creative workforce?</i></p>
<p><u>Date/Time</u></p> <p>Saturday, July 27th, 2024</p> <p>10:55 AM - Call to Greenroom (Conf. Hall B) 11:10-12:10 PM - Conversation (Conf. Hall C)</p>

The tone of the session is semi-formal and an opportunity for conversation panelists to engage directly with one another to discuss how intergovernmental collaboration supported the fruition of Healing Arts Chicago. The session will be lightly moderated by Kaoru Watanabe from the HAC Advisory Board.

This session is designed for a lay audience, meaning that attendees come from a variety of backgrounds and may not have specialized knowledge in the subject matter. We kindly ask that all panelists use accessible language, avoiding complex terminology and jargon. The goal is to ensure that everyone, regardless of their expertise, can fully engage with and understand the discussions.

DETAILED RUN-OF-SHOW	
11:10-11:15 (5 min)	<p>Welcome and Introductions - All panelists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Kaoru</i> begins by welcoming attendees to the space- Panelists go around introducing their name and organization
11:15-11:25 (10 min)	<p>Conversation Introduction and Background - Kaoru; Meida, Alisha, Elizabeth, Clyde</p> <p><i>Kaoru:</i> To begin our conversation exploring “how can intergovernmental collaboration support the creative workforce?,” we wanted to provide context on how this project came to fruition. Our panelists today include local and national stakeholders, all of whom were vital in developing Healing Arts</p>



	<p><i>Chicago. To get us started, could each of you share your background and role in envisioning this intergovernmental project?</i></p> <p>Meida provides brief history of Healing Arts Chicago; followed by Alisha (CDPH), Elizabeth (City Colleges of Chicago), and Clyde who introduces Arts For Everybody/ONOP</p>
<p>11:25-12:05 (40 min)</p>	<p>Panel Discussion - Moderated by Kaoru; All panelists</p> <p><i>[POSSIBLE QUESTIONS]:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is the significance of the City of Chicago and national stakeholders considering the importance of arts as a public health concern? - How does the idea of belonging at the root of connection promote the function of arts in health? Why is placing artists in community settings critical to this? - How can we sustain the integration of the creative workforce in government systems at the funding and policy level to support the future of this work? - What challenges did you encounter as a result of working across departments and sectors within the City government system and beyond? How did you overcome these challenges by working collaboratively? - Following this pilot year, what insights and considerations gained can be integrated into future iterations of Healing Arts Chicago programming?
<p>12:05-12:10 (5 min)</p>	<p>Thanks and Closing Thoughts - Kaoru; Panelists volunteer</p> <p>Kaoru: <i>Thank you all, for spending time with us today and sharing your insights on how intergovernmental collaboration can support the workforce through projects like Healing Arts Chicago. Before we conclude, do any of the panelists have any closing thoughts you'd like to share?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Panelists volunteer at their discretion</i>
<p>12:10 pm</p>	<p>SESSION CONCLUDES</p>



PANELIST BIOS

MODERATOR: Kaoru Watanabe



Kaoru Watanabe is currently the Associate Director of the National Cambodian Heritage Museum and Killing Fields Memorial, and the Cambodian Association of Illinois. She is a nurse by training, who brings holistic and ecological approaches to the work with the community. Throughout her professional career, she has been interested in working with and facilitating dialogues among people and communities that bring different lived experiences and perspectives. She was born and raised in Tokyo, Japan; and worked in Cairo, Egypt before moving to Chicago. She has a BS in nursing

from St. Luke's College of Nursing (Japan) and an MS in nursing science from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Meida McNeal PhD, DCASE



Meida Teresa McNeal is Senior Manager of Art & Community Impact Investments with the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs & Special Events. In this role, she designs and implements artist recovery programs and creative placemaking grantmaking initiatives. She received her PhD in Performance Studies (Northwestern) and her MFA in Choreography & Dance History (Ohio State). She is also Artistic and Managing Director of Honey Pot Performance. Awards include an Illinois Arts Council Fellowship in New Performance Forms, Field Foundation's Leaders for a New Chicago, 3Arts Award in Dance, Chicago Dancemakers Forum Lab Artist, and the Links' Hall Co-Missions Fellowship.

Alisha Warren LCSW, CDPH



Alisha Warren, LCSW, is the Assistant Commissioner of Mental Health with CDPH, overseeing Clinical Mental Health services and the CARE team. With over 15 years of experience as a practicing social worker, she creates sustainable, holistic programs that promote physical health, mental wellness, joy, and community, valuing collaboration for optimal wellness.



Elizabeth Gmitter PhD, City Colleges of Chicago



Dr. Elizabeth Gmitter currently serves as the Dean of Health Science and Career Programs at Malcolm X College. In this role she leads a department of 20+ certificate and degree programs serving 2500 students annually. Her growing grant management and director portfolio experience includes over \$7M in state and federally funded grants secured since 2018. Dr. Gmitter currently serves as the program director for the HRSA Opioid Impacted Family Support Program awarded in 2020 and the IL Department of Human Services Certified Recovery Support Specialist grant awarded in 2021. Together, these braided funding opportunities and others under her leadership aim to expand program reach to impact workforce demands in critical professional gaps while providing wrap-around

supports to students for successful retention and completion of programs.

Dr. Gmitter has a broad background of experience in educational program expansion, curriculum development, compliance, and assessment earning her PhD in Curriculum and Instruction in Health Professions Education from University of Illinois at Chicago in 2019. In 2015, she was recruited by Malcolm X College to develop the inaugural public Physical Therapist Assistant Program for the City of Chicago. Since securing initial accreditation for the program, she has been promoted three times within the organization now serving the institution for nine years.

Clyde Valentin, Arts for Everybody



Clyde Valentin is a multidisciplinary artist, educator and cultural producer. With a passion for exploring the intersections of art, technology and social justice, Valentin has created numerous exhibitions and programs that challenge traditional boundaries. As the former Executive Director of the Hip-Hop Theater Festival, Valentin has been instrumental in fostering community engagement and promoting diverse voices in the art world. With a commitment to empowering marginalized communities, Valentin's work continues to inspire and provoke meaningful conversations.



HAC SUMMIT CONVERSATION GUIDE

<p>Healing Arts Chicago Summit Conversation #2: Expanding Healthcare Systems <i>How can we expand existing health systems to include the arts and artists?</i></p>
<p><u>Date/Time</u></p> <p>Saturday, July 27th, 2024</p> <p>12:10 PM - Call to Greenroom (Conf. Hall B) 12:25-1:25 PM - Conversation (Conf. Hall C)</p>

The tone of the session is semi-formal and an opportunity for conversation panelists to engage directly with one another to discuss how existing health systems can integrate the arts and artists. The session will be lightly moderated by Veronica Sek of City Colleges of Chicago.

This session is designed for a lay audience, meaning that attendees come from a variety of backgrounds and may not have specialized knowledge in the subject matter. We kindly ask that all panelists use accessible language, avoiding complex terminology and jargon. The goal is to ensure that everyone, regardless of their expertise, can fully engage with and understand the discussions.

DETAILED RUN-OF-SHOW	
12:25-12:30 (5 min)	<p>Welcome and Introductions - All panelists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Veronica begins by welcoming attendees to the space- Panelists go around introducing their name and organization
12:30-12:40 (10 min)	<p>Conversation Introduction and Background - Veronica; Francisco, Susan, DeShawna, Teresa</p> <p>Veronica: To begin our conversation on “How can we expand existing health systems to include the arts and artists?,” it might be helpful to start with what we mean by ‘health systems.’ Health systems refer to all the organizations, people, and resources that work together to provide healthcare services to a community. This includes hospitals, clinics, doctors, nurses, insurance companies, public health organizations, and policies that ensure people</p>



	<p><i>receive the care they need.</i></p> <p><i>On today's panel, we have a variety of stakeholders who work at different intersections of arts in health. Could each of you share your background in healthcare and an example of how the arts have appeared in your line of work?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Each panelist responds; can be based on both professional and personal examples</i>
12:40-1:20 (40 min)	<p>Panel Discussion - Moderated by Veronica; All panelists</p> <p><i>[POSSIBLE QUESTIONS]:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Over the pilot year, the Healing Arts Chicago artist cohort became certified Community Healthcare Workers (CHWs). Why is this significant? - How can we reimagine the role of Community Healthcare Workers as facilitators for arts and artists in clinical spaces? - How can we consider healthcare professionals' needs (ex. Fatigue, workforce shortage, burnout) in integrating artists into health systems? - Within the healthcare industry, this question becomes largely about economics. How can we create sustainable funding streams to further the expansion of arts in healthcare? - What role does education play in developing the pathway between practicing artists and CHWs? How can we expand training programs and licensure procedures to support this pathway?
1:20-1:25 (5 min)	<p>Thanks and Closing Thoughts - Veronica; Panelists volunteer</p> <p>Veronica: <i>Thank you all, for spending time with us today and sharing your insights on how we can expand existing health systems to include the arts and artists. Before we conclude, do any of the panelists have any closing thoughts you'd like to share?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Panelists volunteer at their discretion</i>
1:25 pm	<p>SESSION CONCLUDES</p>

PANELIST BIOS



MODERATOR: Veronica Sek



Veronica Sek is a seasoned public health professional with extensive experience in leading, managing, and supporting multidisciplinary teams in workforce program development and implementation. She earned her bachelor's in applied psychology and master's in public health focused on community health sciences at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and is currently pursuing her doctorate in public health focused on leadership, advocacy and equity at Tulane University. She has held key roles such as Senior Director of the Community Health Worker (CHW) certificate and apprenticeship program at City Colleges of Chicago – Malcolm X College (MXC) and currently serves as the Business Services Manager at the Sinai Urban Health Institute (SUHI). Veronica has successfully launched Illinois' first DOL-registered CHW apprenticeship program, led the development of a nationally recognized contact tracer training and vaccine ambassador course, and secured over \$4 million in grants and service contracts. Her expertise lies in building strong community partnerships, enhancing communications, and fostering collaborative relationships with stakeholders.

As a first-generation, bilingual Polish-American, Veronica is deeply committed to socio-economic stability and equitable access to resources. She believes in the importance of fulfilling and supportive work environments. Beyond her professional achievements, Veronica integrates her love of arts and health as a crafter, DIYer, and artist, recognizing the healing powers of creativity.

Francisco Rodriguez PsyD, CDPH



Dr. Rodriguez is the director of the Greater Lawn clinic located in the southwest side of the city of Chicago close to Midway airport. Dr. Rodriguez has been with CDPH for over two decades. First as a clinical therapist and now as part of the leadership team in the mental health bureau. Dr. Rodriguez obtained his master's in counseling psychology and his Doctorate in clinical psychology from the Adler School of Professional Psychology. Dr. Rodriguez was born in Mexico and immigrated to the States at age 17.



Susan Imus LCPC, Columbia College



Susan D. Imus, LCPC, BC-DMT, GL-CMA, is a Professor at Columbia College Chicago where she currently co-coordinates the Arts in Health minor. She chaired the department of Creative Arts Therapy for 19 years which included co-founding six programs. Susan is a dancer by training having danced with 3 different companies in addition to acting in numerous theatrical productions. Susan currently works with Rush University Medical College and Rush Generations Center for Aging facilitating Arts in Health initiatives. She is currently co-leading a research study with Rush University and Columbia College Chicago funded by the National Endowment for the Arts on Dance for Health for older adults. She is an international consultant and educator to institutions throughout Asia and Europe.

DeShawna Hill-Burns, Malcolm X College



DeShawna Hill-Burns is a proud Chicagoan, wife, mother, grandmother and loves to travel, and is passionate about uplifting her local and global communities.

DeShawna attended Chicago State University where she earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Health Information Administration. This was a proud moment for her family because she was the first in her family to receive a degree. She was awarded Part Time Lecturer of the year in 2006 from the City Colleges of Chicago at Harold Washington College. She has dedicated her time to be devoted to the development of her field and being a mentor and teacher to many students. In 2022 she became an Alumni of the Leadership Initiative, which empowers Black women to develop skills related to systems change, economic empowerment, communications, and strategic alliances while building a close-knit support network of The Willie Taplin Barrow Fund for Black Women's Leadership at Chicago Foundation for Women to further align with Willie life of breaking barriers and bringing women together to learn from each other. Rev. Barrow's legacy and fierce commitment to justice is similar and aligns perfectly with DeShawna.

Mrs. Hill-Burns started her career as a Registered Health Information Administrator, for over 20yrs. in various leadership roles at John Stroger Hospital, Ravenswood Hospital, Chicago Read Mental Health, Illinois Psychiatric Institute, Jorge Prieto, John Sengstacke Health Center, Provident Hospital, Advocate Trinity Hospital. She has served as Part time Lecturer at Harold Washington College, The Jordan's Evans Institute and Kennedy King College. She is currently the Senior Program Director for the Health Information Technology Program at Malcolm X



College. Leading the program to become the first accredited Health Information Technology Program within the City Colleges of Chicago. Mrs. Hill-Burns is actively involved in the American Health Information Management Association, currently serving as the Past Chair for the AHIMA Council of Excellence in Education (CEE), Illinois HIMA(ILHIMA), and the Chicago Area HIMA(CAHIMA), where she has served a three year elected position as President of the association, president elect and past president and served as an active board member since 1993 as volunteer in various capacities. She is also a proud member of the Top Ladies of Distinction Midway Chicago Chapter.

DeShawna Hill-Burns hopes that her legacy is to make a mark in the lives of African Americans that will ensure their success regardless of the challenges they may face, they shall overcome.

Teresa Berumen, ILCHWA



Teresa Berumen is the Community Health Worker Supervisor with the Rush University System for Health, a Trainer with the Center for Health and Social Care Integration, and serves as member of the Illinois Kidney Care Alliance CHW Task Force. In her roles at Rush, Teresa was instrumental in developing and implementing a community health worker program and serves as a co-lead for the team. Teresa's work includes co-leadership of Rush's 30-plus member Community Health Worker (CHW) Hub, oversight of her team conducting social determinants of health screenings, primarily in the emergency department, as well as providing guidance for her team in assisting patients to apply for public benefits and connection to community resources. Teresa formally began her career as a Community Health Worker in 2014 at Enlace Chicago, followed by her work as a community resource educator at Saint Anthony Hospital. Additionally, she recently ended her two year term as the Board Chair for the Illinois Community Health Worker Association. She had also previously served as a member of the Illinois Community Health Worker Advisory Board. Teresa has co-authored three publications and presented at various conferences.



HAC SUMMIT CONVERSATION GUIDE

<p>Healing Arts Chicago Summit Conversation #3: Arts as Social Prescription <i>How can the arts serve as social prescription?</i></p>
<p><u>Date/Time</u></p> <p>Saturday, July 27th, 2024</p> <p>1:25 PM - Call to Greenroom (Conf. Hall B) 1:40-2:40 PM - Conversation (Conf. Hall C)</p>

The tone of the session is semi-formal and an opportunity for conversation panelists to engage directly with one another to discuss how arts have served as social prescription in their background and line of work. The session will be lightly moderated by Dr. Pascale Ife Williams, Healing Arts Chicago Cohort Coordinator.

This session is designed for a lay audience, meaning that attendees come from a variety of backgrounds and may not have specialized knowledge in the subject matter. We kindly ask that all panelists use accessible language, avoiding complex terminology and jargon. The goal is to ensure that everyone, regardless of their expertise, can fully engage with and understand the discussions.

DETAILED RUN-OF-SHOW	
1:25-1:30 (5 min)	<p>Welcome and Introductions - Ife; All panelists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ife begins by welcoming attendees to the space- Asks “how are you, and what have you been dreaming about today?”- Panelists go around introducing their name and organization, and answer
1:30-1:40 (10 min)	<p>Conversation Introduction and Background - Ife; Shalom, Stephanie, Chris</p> <p>Ife: To begin our conversation exploring “how can the arts serve as social prescription?,” we wanted to begin with a background on what we mean by ‘social prescription.’ Social prescribing is a practice where healthcare</p>



	<p><i>providers refer patients to non-medical services and community-based activities to improve their health and well-being. The goal is to address social, emotional, and practical needs that can impact health, ultimately promoting holistic care beyond traditional medical treatments.</i></p> <p><i>With that in mind, our panelists today offer diverse perspectives on how arts can serve as a social prescription – from being clinical and organizational leaders to arts-based social prescribers. To get us started, could each of you share a bit about your background?</i></p> <p>- Panelists respond</p>
<p>1:40-2:20 (40 min)</p>	<p>Panel Discussion - Moderated by Ife; All panelists</p> <p><i>[POSSIBLE QUESTIONS]:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What are some examples of arts as social prescription? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chris ex. 'Exercise is good for everyone' - Shalom shares about ceramics class - Community-based approaches such as social prescribing have existed informally to promote community well-being for many years. What can we learn from the work that's been done? - What are some strategies you have employed to integrate social prescription in your work? How do you imagine this working across Chicago at large? - Who is social prescription for, and who is it not for? How do you measure the success of art-based social prescriptions in clinical practice? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chris shares Art Pharmacy's framework - How do you identify the specific needs of your community when designing creative healthcare programs? How have arts as social prescription successfully supported Chicago's mental health clinics this past year? - How can we build a healthcare infrastructure that supports and maintains high-quality arts-based care? - How can we validate the arts as a legitimate form of social prescription?



2:20-2:25 (5 min)	<p>Thanks and Closing Thoughts - Ife; Panelists volunteer</p> <p><i>Ife: Thank you all, for spending time with us today and sharing your insights on how arts can serve as social prescription. Before we conclude, do any of the panelists have any closing thoughts you'd like to share?</i></p> <p>- <i>Panelists volunteer at their discretion</i></p>
2:25 pm	SESSION CONCLUDES



PANELIST BIOS

MODERATOR: Pascale Ife Williams PhD, Healing Arts Chicago



Pascale Ife Williams, PhD is a cultural organizer, educator, disruptor, healing justice practitioner, and community scholar. Ife is a Chicago native with over 15 years of experience in justice-driven arts and community-engaged work that explores and engages racial, gender, and wellness equity. She invites communities to co-design their realities through radical imagination, strategic visioning, and creative healing practices.

Shalom Parker, Cohort Artist Healing Arts Chicago



Shalom is first and foremost a person. One who loves people and loves making art, specifically ceramics, she is also an abolitionist and invested in her community. One of the ways that she has used those passions is through becoming an art therapist and LPC at Chicago Torture Justice Center and working with people who have been tortured by the police.

Stephanie Jones-Horne, Director of Mental Health Center, CDPH



Stephanie Jones-Horne, a Chicago native from the Southside, is the Director of two mental health clinics in the Bronzeville and Englewood communities. Passionate about mental health and dedicated to leadership, Stephanie advocates for mental health awareness, treatment, and support. She channels her passion by teaching a Trauma-Informed Mentoring course to inner-city youth as part of a violence prevention program.



Chris Appleton, Art Pharmacy



Chris Appleton is the Founder and CEO of [Art Pharmacy](#), a healthcare technology company solving America's mental health crisis. Appleton's vision for Art Pharmacy imagines the U.S. healthcare ecosystem adopting arts-based social prescribing as a critical part of an impact-driven mental health field. Appleton and his work have been featured in the New York Times, San Francisco Chronicle, CNN, ABC, CBS, NPR, TEDx, Fast Company, and more.

Appleton's strong commitment to servant leadership, family and civic engagement has led him to be bestowed numerous awards and honors, including the Americans for the Arts National Emerging Leader Award, Emory Center for Creativity and the Arts Community Impact Award, Atlanta Business Chronicle 40 Under 40, Georgia Trend's 100 Notable Georgians, World Economic Forum's Global Shapers, New Leaders Council Alumni Award, 2019 Class of Leadership Atlanta and Outstanding Atlanta Class of 2014.

At the heart of Chris's life's work, he believes that lasting, sustainable change happens when people work across boundaries and barriers. Appleton and his wife, Annie, who works for Sartain Lanier Family Foundation, live in Atlanta with their two young children. He holds an MBA from Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management.



HAC SUMMIT CONVERSATION GUIDE

<p>Healing Arts Chicago Summit Conversation #4: Arts Ecosystem and Wellness <i>How can the arts ecosystem integrate health and wellness?</i></p>
<p><u>Date/Time</u></p> <p>Saturday, July 27th, 2024</p> <p>2:40 PM - Call to Greenroom (Conf. Hall B) 2:55-3:55 PM - Conversation (Conf. Hall C)</p>

The tone of the session is semi-formal and an opportunity for conversation panelists to engage directly with one another to discuss the arts ecosystem's relationship to wellness in their lives and line of work. The session will be lightly moderated by Dr. Lisa Moore from the HAC Advisory Board.

This session is designed for a lay audience, meaning that attendees come from a variety of backgrounds and may not have specialized knowledge in the subject matter. We kindly ask that all panelists use accessible language, avoiding complex terminology and jargon. The goal is to ensure that everyone, regardless of their expertise, can fully engage with and understand the discussions.

DETAILED RUN-OF-SHOW	
2:55-3:00 (5 min)	<p>Welcome and Introductions - All panelists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Lisa begins by welcoming attendees to the space- Panelists go around introducing their name and organization
3:00-3:10 (10 min)	<p>Conversation Introduction and Background - Lisa; Melissa, Kevin, Sarah</p> <p>Lisa: Our conversation today explores the question, "How can the arts ecosystem integrate health and wellness?". Our panelists today represent a diverse range of artists, educators, and visionaries whose work has expanded our arts-based approaches to communal health and wellness. To get us</p>



	<p><i>started, could each of you share a bit about your background, and how you come to this idea of “health and wellness”?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Panelists introduce their background and share
3:10-3:50 (40 min)	<p>Panel Discussion - Moderated by Lisa; All panelists</p> <p><i>[POSSIBLE QUESTIONS]:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In what ways are artists storytellers, and how does storytelling at the root of connection promote collective health and wellness? - How do the arts and artists challenge systems of power by acting as equalizers? - Healing transcends categories. However, within systems that require advocacy at funding and policy levels, how do we sustain a collaborative arts and healthcare ecosystem? - What role does education play in integrating health and wellness into the arts ecosystem? How can creative pedagogical practices promote wellness within this ecosystem? - How can the arts continue to promote health and wellness in settings such as classrooms, clinics, and public spaces?
3:50-3:55 (5 min)	<p>Thanks and Closing Thoughts - Lisa; Panelists volunteer</p> <p>Lisa: <i>Thank you all, for spending time with us today and sharing your insights on how we understand the role of arts in collective health and wellness. Before we conclude, do any of the panelists have any closing thoughts you'd like to share?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Panelists volunteer at their discretion
3:55 pm	<p>SESSION CONCLUDES</p>



PANELIST BIOS

MODERATOR: Lisa Moore PhD



Lisa L. Moore, LICSW, PhD is a senior lecturer and Director of the A.M. Program in social work, social policy and social administration at the Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice at the University of Chicago. She has been a social work educator and practitioner for over 25 years. Her active projects involve working as a collaborator with colleagues from SAIC and UIC on the Intergenerational Dialogue Project at the Center on Addison. Her other work explores the labor of Black women in communities, institutions and families, and she writes on the intersections of race and psychoanalytic theory, and autoethnography. Her psychotherapy practice has focused on working with adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse and domestic violence. She is a trained somatic experiencing practitioner, who resides in Chicago with her two children, a puppy, and a bearded dragon.

Melissa Raman Molitor ATR-BC, SAIC



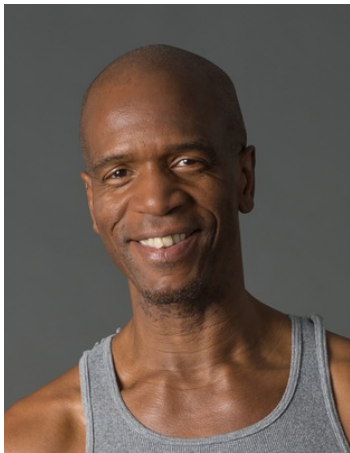
Melissa is an Associate Professor, Adj. at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) and the founding director of Evanston ASPA (Asian, South Asian, Pacific Islander American), a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing resources and support for the local Asian American community, and increasing the visibility and representation of the Asian American diaspora in civic, cultural and community spaces through the arts. Melissa was awarded the 2021-2022 Curatorial Fellowship at the Evanston Art Center, and currently serves as Chair on the Evanston City Arts Council. She is involved with the Evanston Public Library Racial Equity Task Force and was recently involved with the City of Evanston's Participatory Budgeting Process. Melissa holds a BA in Psychology and a BFA with a concentration in Ceramics and Photography from the University of Michigan. She received an MA in Art Therapy from SAIC and is a registered, board-certified art therapist and licensed clinical professional counselor.

Melissa is an artist, art therapist, educator, activist and community organizer. Her multidisciplinary training and extensive experiences in the arts, mental health, education and



community sectors coalesce in the creation of liminal spaces that employ art as a form of critical consciousness, community care and social change. Melissa's art practice involves the exploration of personal and collective identity through mixed media installation using organic materials, fiber arts and found objects. Informed by traditional art and ritual practices, she explores the mapping of cross-cultural journeys and the process of creative placemaking. Her work draws on the power of art in fostering human connection and community care, and employing multimedia to engage people in discourse and action towards racial equity and social justice.

Kevin Iega Jeff, Deeply Rooted



Kevin Iega Jeff is a celebrated dancer, choreographer, artistic director, and innovative leader. Recognized by the Juilliard School as one of its 100 Outstanding Alumni, he's been honored alongside legends like Viola Davis and Aretha Franklin. *Newcity* magazine listed Iega among Chicago's top performers, and Mayor Lori Lightfoot appointed him to Chicago's Cultural Advisory Council.

He's danced on Broadway in *The Wiz*, on TV at the 1994 Academy Awards, and choreographed the film, Spike Lee's *"She's Gotta Have It."* With over fifty choreographed pieces to his name, he has been commissioned by premier companies and theaters both nationally and internationally.

As a community-focused artist, Iega has worked on global projects like *Grit & Grace* and *Swamp Gravy*. He's educated at institutions from Howard University to the University of Kwazulu-Natal in South Africa.

Originally from New York, Iega started at The Bernice Johnson Cultural Arts Center and later founded JUBILATION! Dance Company. He co-founded Chicago's Deeply Rooted Dance Theater in 1995, setting the stage for the future Deeply Rooted Center for Black Dance and Creative Communities. After leading Deeply Rooted for 24 years, Iega moved to its Emeritus role in 2022, steering new projects like Creative Communities and GOSHEN, featuring the music of Grammy Award winner Donald Lawrence.

When asked to reflect on his philosophy, Iega says, "I am influenced by the spectrum of energies in Creation and my mentors before me. Dance and art reveal our inner genius, reflecting who we are and who we strive to become."



Sarah Ward LPC, Sky Art



With a career spanning over 30 years, Sarah Ward has dedicated her life to working therapeutically with youth and their families in some of the most under-resourced and underinvested neighborhoods. After earning her master's degree in art therapy from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 1998, Sarah made a groundbreaking move by establishing the first art therapy program at the Cook County Juvenile Court. It was here that she encountered the harsh realities of being a therapist in a punitive system, which ignited her passion for creating a more supportive environment for youth through art.

In 2001, driven by this vision, Sarah founded SkyART, a not-for-profit arts organization on Chicago's far southeast side. What began as a small initiative has since blossomed into a transformative force, serving over 3,000 youth annually across schools, carceral spaces, community centers, and two flagship studios on the south and west sides of Chicago. Each program offered by SkyART is designed through a therapeutic lens, ensuring that art serves as a powerful tool for healing and personal growth.

Sarah's expertise is backed by her extensive credentials. A registered art therapist (ATR) since 1999, this qualifies her to supervise master-level clinical interns and conduct individual and group therapy. Her qualifications include Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) and a trauma-informed clinical practitioner certification from NYU Silver School of Social Work, obtained in 2022. Sarah dedicates over eight hours each week to therapy sessions inside youth prisons, drawing on her deep commitment and professional artistry, rooted in her BFA from the Minneapolis College of Art and Design.

Recently, Sarah transitioned from her role as CEO and Founder of SkyART to focus on her private practice. She sees clients very young to adulthood and also serves as a therapist for Greenlight Family Services, providing therapeutic support to students who have recently experienced sexual assault.

Sarah's passion for teaching is evident in her continued efforts to educate others, from universities to police stations to shelters. She trains individuals in the practice of using art to foster connection and communication, sharing her invaluable knowledge and experience to inspire and equip others in the field with tools to connect and heal others.



HAC KEYNOTE DISCUSSION GUIDE

Healing Arts Chicago Summit <i>Keynote Discussion with Andre Royo & Dr. Sekile Nzinga</i>	
<u>Date/Time</u> Saturday, July 27th, 2024 Arrival Time: 2:00 pm Call time to Greenroom: 3:40 pm Keynote: 4:10 - 4:35 pm (25 MIN)	<u>Location</u> Malcolm X College 1900 W Jackson Blvd Chicago, IL 60612 Auditorium

KEYNOTE CONVERSATION: *Andre Royo & Dr. Sekile Nzinga*

The tone of the session is casual and an opportunity for conversation panelists to engage directly with one another to discuss how their background and work engage the power of arts on health and wellbeing. The session will be lightly moderated by Dr. Sekile Nzinga.

Pre-reading:

This reading will help you gain a clearer understanding of the role of arts and culture in public health. Please review it for your reference.

<https://arts.ufl.edu/sites/creating-healthy-communities/resources/evidence-based-framework/>

DETAILED RUN-OF-SHOW	
3:40-4:10	Speaker briefing in Greenroom (Conf. Hall B) - Alex Rodriguez (Arts for Everybody), Andre Royo, Dr. Sekile Nzinga
4:10-4:15 (5 min)	Welcome and Introductions - Dr. Sekile Nzinga, Andre Royo - Dr. Nzinga introduces her background, brief introduction for Andre
4:15-4:30 (15 min)	Keynote Discussion - Dr. Sekile Nzinga, Andre Royo [SUGGESTED FLOW - 5 MIN PER THEME]



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Arts as Therapeutic Intervention: The Power of Naming <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How the act of naming art as a therapeutic intervention can facilitate healing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dr. Nzinga's experience of the function of storytelling as a mechanism of healing, through literature - Andre's example of his work as an actor and encounters of healing through storytelling as characters and in community with others - Reciprocal Relationship Between Arts and Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Examples of therapeutic art interventions, both professionally and in life <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dr. Nzinga's example of a movement therapy program - Andre's example of music's impact on his mother's Alzheimer's treatment - The Role of Community in Collective Wellbeing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How arts in community with others contribute to a sense of belonging and collective healing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dr. Nzinga & Andre's examples of when arts have strengthened community bonds and individual relationships - The role of the arts in bridging generational differences and serving as a universal healer
4:30-4:35 (5 min)	<p>Thanks and Closing Thoughts - Dr. Sekile Nzinga, Andre Royo</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Speakers transition into closing thoughts at <u>4:30</u>, share final reflections, and thank each other</i>
4:35 pm	SESSION CONCLUDES



KEYNOTE BIOS

Andre Royo



Andre Royo is best known for the legendary role of Bubbles in HBO's *THE WIRE*. Most recently he can be seen as Royal in *TO LESLIE* which premiered at SXSW 2022 Film Festival. Royo is a recurring character Laz Zayas in Gloria Calderon Kellett's romantic comedy series *WITH LOVE* for Amazon. Furthermore, Andre can be seen as Thirsty Rawlings on Fox's *EMPIRE*, Mayor Bobo on Amazon's *HAND OF GOD*, and Barry on Showtime's comedy *HAPPYISH*. In film, he can be seen in *HUNTER GATHERER* where he won the 2016 Best Actor Award at the SXSW Film Festival. Moreover, Andre has appeared in an eclectic array of features including George Lucas' *RED TAILS*, James Gunn's *SUPER*, Felix van Groeningen's *BEAUTIFUL BOY*, and James Ponsoldt's *THE SPECTACULAR NOW*. March 10th - April 13th 2023, Royo starred in Eric Bogosian's one-man play titled *DRINKING IN AMERICA* at Audible's Minetta Lane Theatre in New York. Royo, under the direction of Mark Armstrong, played over a dozen characters, all of whom were intoxicated, as an exploration of the American male psyche and how it coincides with contemporary conversations about toxic masculinity and male fragility.

Dr. Sekile M. Nzinga



Sekile M. Nzinga (she/her) is an intersectional feminist executive leader whose expertise spans academic, governmental, and not-for-profit settings. She is the inaugural Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and served as the inaugural Chief Equity Officer for the state of Illinois—where she established the Office of Equity within the Office of Governor JB Pritzker. Dr. Nzinga also is an engaged interdisciplinary scholar, educator, activist, and practitioner who prioritizes mental health, healing, wellbeing, care networks, and reproductive justice within black and other underserved communities. Dr. Nzinga

established the Feminist in Residence program to support the creative process and projects of feminist artists, activists, and educators during her time as the Director of Northwestern University's Women's Center. She is the author of "Lean Semesters: How the University Reproduces Inequity" published with Johns Hopkins University Press, the editor of "Laboring Positions: Black Women, Mothering, and the Academy" on Demeter Press and she writes



about the intersections of child sexual abuse survival, bodily autonomy, and reproductive freedom at her blog, I Usta be Monique. She is a former board chair for the Chicago Abortion Fund, a member of the Statewide Women's Justice Taskforce, and partners with equity-oriented community-based organizations and cultural institutions throughout Chicago. Dr. Nzinga earned her PhD in Human Development from the University of Maryland, her Masters of Social Work from Ohio State University, her BS in Social Work from Morgan State University, and has studied abroad in Africana Studies at the University of Ghana in Accra.