



**GCDN**  
Global Cultural  
Districts Network  
An Initiative of MEA Consulting

the **social**  
**biobehavioural**  
research group



University  
of Glasgow

**MEIRU**  
Malawi Epidemiology and  
Intervention Research Unit

**Invitation: Contribute to one of the most significant studies into health x arts participation to date**  
**GRACE-Epi Arts and Health Conceptualisation Workshop**



*Photo by Martine Doyon. Courtesy of Quartier des Spectacles, Montreal.*

*Art and design studio Daily tous les jours created Musical Swings, inviting the public to make music together in an unexpected collective performance in public spaces.*

Engagement with the arts and culture is increasingly being described as a health behaviour, though there are still significant gaps and challenges in data collection. One such area for further investigation is the relationship between arts engagement and population health in diverse cultural contexts. GCDN invites members to participate in an online workshop to contribute to this research for [GRACE-Epi](#), a 7-year research program on arts and health, funded by a Wellcome Discovery Award.

[GRACE-Epi](#) brings together researchers and experts from the Global North and South in arts, humanities, social sciences, epidemiology, data science, and molecular biology. The goal is to understand how arts and cultural engagement affect health and ageing. The program aims to create new inclusive frameworks, expand research globally, and introduce studies on biological mechanisms linking the arts to



**GCDN**  
Global Cultural  
Districts Network  
An Initiative of MEA Consulting

the **social**  
**biobehavioural**  
research group



University  
of Glasgow

**MEIRU**  
Malawi Epidemiology and  
Intervention Research Unit

health. Through multidisciplinary, rigorous and creative science, GRACE-Epi will transform the breadth, depth and foundations of epidemiological research on arts and cultural engagement.

Following our 2024 research report [Culture for Health – Implications and Opportunities for Cultural Districts](#), the [Social Biobehavioural Research Group at University College London \(UCL SBB\)](#) is once again partnering with GCDN. Alongside the [Global South Arts and Health Initiative](#) and [Art and Global Health Centre Africa \(ArtGlo\)](#), [Malawi Epidemiology and Intervention Research Unit](#) and [School of Culture and Creative Arts, University of Glasgow](#), UCL SBB will run workshops in order to build the conceptual foundations for this work across diverse cultural contexts.

### **Workshop Information**

Participants will map what factors influence arts and cultural engagement and healthy ageing in different cultural contexts. The workshop will comprise a mixture of group based and individual exercises exploring key questions such as:

- What is meant by healthy ageing?
- What is meant by arts and cultural engagement (i.e. what activities specifically do the arts encompass)?

**Format:** Online workshop

**Dates:** Either on Wednesday 20 May or Tuesday 2 June

**Duration:** 2 hours, with a 5 minute comfort break

**Times:** We will arrange a time that works across the time zones of those who express interest

**Open to:** The workshop is open to the staff of any organisation with a GCDN membership, alongside members of the communities they serve who are keepers of culture, people with lived experience of ageing, carers of older adults, artists, or people working within arts and cultural organisations.

Participation from organisations and individuals from underrepresented and marginalised communities is particularly encouraged.

**Credits:** Participating organisations will have the option to be acknowledged in scientific papers, on the UCL SBB website and newsletters.

**Optional additional activities:** GRACE-Epi will produce data at regular intervals over its 7-year duration. GCDN Members will, in due course, be invited to participate in a co-commission of original works using these findings as stimuli - more information to follow soon.

### **Participation and more information**

To express interest in participation please complete the form [linked here](#) before **Monday 27 April 2026**.

For more information on the program please visit <https://sbbresearch.org/projects/grace-epi/>

For more information on participation or if you have any questions please contact Rox Kamperou:

[rkamperou@gcdn.net](mailto:rkamperou@gcdn.net)