

# New Report Emphasizes Arts, Culture, and Leisure as Essential to Social Health and Community Well-Being

WASHINGTON, DC, UNITED STATES, April 15, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- From shared musical experiences and storytelling traditions to community sports leagues and neighborhood gatherings, arts, culture, and leisure are fundamental to how we connect, find belonging, and create shared meaning. Yet despite their profound impact, these sectors have often been undervalued — resulting in chronic underinvestment and missed opportunities to strengthen community well-being.



Today, the Foundation for Social Connection (F4SC) releases its latest [SOCIAL Framework Report: The Arts, Culture, and Leisure Sectors](#), reframing these domains as essential infrastructure for

health and collective well-being. Part of F4SC's broader SOCIAL Framework series, the report translates research into practical, evidence-based strategies that can be applied across the life course and at multiple levels of influence.

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*Jillian Racoosin Kornmeier,  
MPH*

“Arts, culture, and leisure are not only nice-to-haves — they are essential systems that allow all of us to thrive,” said Jillian Racoosin Kornmeier, MPH, Foundation for Social Connection Executive Director. “This report demonstrates that when we intentionally invest in these sectors, we unlock powerful levers for systems change that improve individual well-being and strengthen the social fabric of

our communities.”

Developed in collaboration with a multidisciplinary subcommittee of experts, the report demonstrates how arts, culture, and leisure can be leveraged to strengthen social connection and improve both individual and community outcomes. It offers actionable recommendations for artists, cultural institutions, policymakers, public health leaders, educators, and community practitioners, including:

- Embedding arts education, leisure, and play-based learning across formal, nonformal, and informal education settings
- Establishing and sustaining community hubs dedicated to arts, culture, and leisure
- Including arts, culture, and leisure in placemaking efforts to prioritize recurring interaction and inclusive gatherings
- Facilitating intergenerational exchange through arts, culture, and leisure engagement
- Adopting social prescribing in healthcare and community-based settings
- And more

In addition to these strategies, the report highlights promising examples from communities across the country, showcases relevant policy approaches, and points readers toward related concepts and resources to deepen learning and action.

“This report validates what we've long understood at the Foundation for Art & Healing: creative expression and engagement are vital to our health and well-being,” said Jeremy Nobel, MD, MPH, Founder and President of the Foundation for Art & Healing, long-time Harvard faculty member, and author of Project UnLonely: Healing Our Crisis of Disconnection. “By elevating arts, culture, and leisure as critical social infrastructure, it offers a practical and timely roadmap for addressing the growing crisis of disconnection and for building communities where people can experience connection, belonging, and resilience.”

Crucially, the report also examines persistent barriers to participation — including affordability, representation, and access — and calls for intentional, equity-centered approaches to ensure these spaces foster genuine connection rather than reinforce existing disparities.

Taken together, these insights and strategies position arts, culture, and leisure not at the margins, but at the center of how we design healthier, more connected communities — and offer a clear call to action for leaders across sectors to invest accordingly.

To learn more, download the [full report here](#), and [register here](#) for the Foundation for Social Connection’s upcoming webinar, “Advancing Social Connection through Arts, Culture, and Leisure,” on May 20th at 12 PM ET.

For media inquiries or to speak with our experts on social isolation, loneliness, and social connection, please contact Shannon Vyvijal at [shannon@social-connection.org](mailto:shannon@social-connection.org)

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