

Arts & health

Healing
through
creativity



AVEC LE SOUTIEN DE



ARTS & HEALTH PROGRAM

Healing Through Creativity

Improving the health of vulnerable populations through committed artistic initiatives with a strong social impact.

◆ **20 co-created artworks**

WITH LOCAL ARTISTS & COMMUNITIES

◆ **7,000 people**

DIRECTLY INVOLVED

◆ **A better scientific understanding**

OF THE ARTS & HEALTH CONNECTION

◆ **A greater visibility**

OF THIS TOPIC AMONG GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT ACTORS

This program was designed with input from professionals across the arts, research, and healthcare sectors – both public and private – including the WHO, AFD, *Institut Pasteur*, *Médecins du Monde*, IRD, Samusocial International, Aga Khan University, and others.



SPOTLIGHT ON...
The "Slamunity" initiative in Brazzaville, Congo

In 2022, Congolese slam artist Marisuca Monkengué introduced slam poetry to students training in social and health work. Through writing workshops and public performances, they explored new ways to connect with and support vulnerable individuals. The project culminated in an original performance showcased at the Brazzaville Slam Festival.





ARTS & HEALTH: A PROVEN CONNECTION TO ENHANCE CARE...

The link between arts and healing is no longer anecdotal. In 2019, a WHO report confirmed that the arts significantly impact both mental and physical health – in prevention, treatment, and recovery.

While many organizations focus on technical support for healthcare infrastructure and prevention, artistic approaches remain rarely integrated.

Integrating artistic practices into healthcare schemes strengthens their effectiveness, enhances relationships between caregivers and patients, and improves quality of life.

“[The arts] approach health and well-being within a broader societal and community context, offering solutions where traditional medicine may fall short.”

DR ÖSTLIN, FORMER WHO REGIONAL
DIRECTOR FOR EUROPE

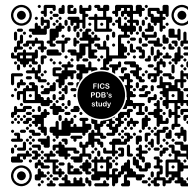
...STILL UNDERFUNDED BY DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES

Despite a significant amount of literature on the positive impacts of the arts for health – over 3,000 referenced by the WHO in its dedicated report – development banks and agencies rarely incorporate this approach into their frameworks.

A 2025 study, *Public Development Banks – Arts, Culture and Sustainable Development: Why? What? And How?*, shows just how little the arts are considered and funded in development strategies.



**DOWNLOAD THE
STUDY BY CLICKING
HERE OR BY SCANNING
THE QR CODE**

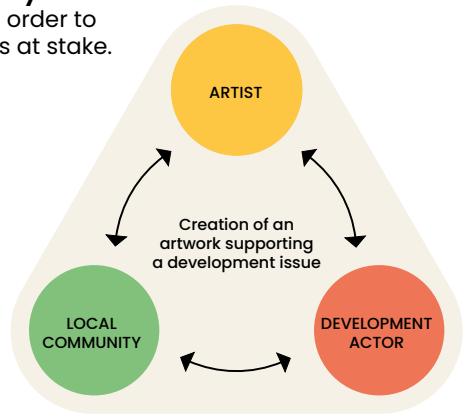


BASED ON THIS OBSERVATION, THE METIS FUND PROPOSES TO:

- ◆ **Launch a targeted program bringing the arts into healthcare efforts** across 15 diverse regions.
- ◆ **Foster cross-disciplinary dialogue and promote Arts & Health** to key policy and development stakeholders.

IMPACT LOCALLY...

- ◆ **Improve health conditions** and well-being among vulnerable communities through collaborative artistic creation.
- ◆ **Enable participants (artists, citizens, healthcare professionals)** to engage deeply with health issues through the creation of committed artworks.
- ◆ **Encourage learning, action and autonomy** among all participants and the public in order to better address and respond to the issues at stake.



POTENTIAL PROJECT

BENIN *ONCE UPON YOUR HOSPITAL*

Context

0.20
doctors per 1,000
inhabitants

Partner

The Mother and Child Hospital and University Center of Cotonou (CHU-mel) is specialised in gynaecology, obstetrics and paediatrics, working closely with the APHP. In some departments, there are significant inequalities between medical and paramedical staff, which are causing considerable tension.

...THEN IMPACT GLOBALLY

- ◆ **Amplify the voices of artists and communities** on issues of health and well-being.
- ◆ **Produce scientific knowledge** on the subject, and foster reflection on the role of the arts in health and well-being.
- ◆ **Advocate for arts-based approach to health** among global policy and funding institutions, promoting the arts as a tool to improve health outcomes.

SPOTLIGHT ON... Scientific research

Two pilot projects will be supported by scientific research teams. Their work will contribute to growing evidence on the benefits of arts in health and will help translate data into emotional, accessible formats.

Initiative

In this context, a visual artist and a storyteller will meet with the hospital's paramedical staff. Over several weeks, they will recount their daily lives at the hospital through drawings and words, sharing stories, feelings and emotions. These exchanges will then give rise to an artistic co-creation, a unique illustrated story that will give voice to the healthcare workers and poetically recount daily life at the CHU-mel. The work will be presented to other members of the hospital, as well as to patients.





ARTS & HEALTH PROGRAM: 15 COMMUNITY-DRIVEN PROJECTS IN THE FIELD

Complementing existing development policies, 15 Arts & Health initiatives will be deployed in close contact to local populations (examples of geographies shown on the map – subject to change).

Each initiative will be involving a technical health operator, a local artist, and a local group of citizens – resulting in the creation of original artworks, supported by the Metis Fund’s project design method.

POTENTIAL PROJECT

FRENCH GUIANA

SANTÉ POU TOUT MOUN

Context

52.9%

of the population lives below the national poverty line

17.6%

of women suffer from severe hunger

Partners

Médecins du Monde has been working since 1980 to ensure universal and sustainable access to healthcare. It is active in French Guiana to provide access to healthcare to people in extremely precarious situations, particularly in Cayenne’s informal settlements.



SPOTLIGHT ON...
Thematic focus areas

Fragilities

Conflicts & Resilience of populations and health systems

Sexual and reproductive health rights

Maternal and Child Health

Health & Climate

Mental health

Nutrition

Strengthening public health systems

6 METIS MOBILITY GRANTS

After the initial project phase, six grants will be made available to artists taking part in the program. They will enable the artists involved to meet and co-create for a month around health issues. These exchanges will strengthen their commitment and will ensure continuity of the program through their future actions.

Initiative

Theatre director Berekyah Yergeau will engage with residents of several informal settlements in Cayenne, leading writing and theatre workshops with them. Together, they will share experiences and create a performance rooted in their lived realities. The resulting play will be presented to a wide range of stakeholders across French Guiana as part of local Universités Populaires (Community Knowledge Forums).



VALORISATION OF THE PROGRAM IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE WHO

With a view to promoting the Arts & Health Program, the Metis Fund and the WHO will be joining forces to present the tangible and artistic results of our local initiatives.

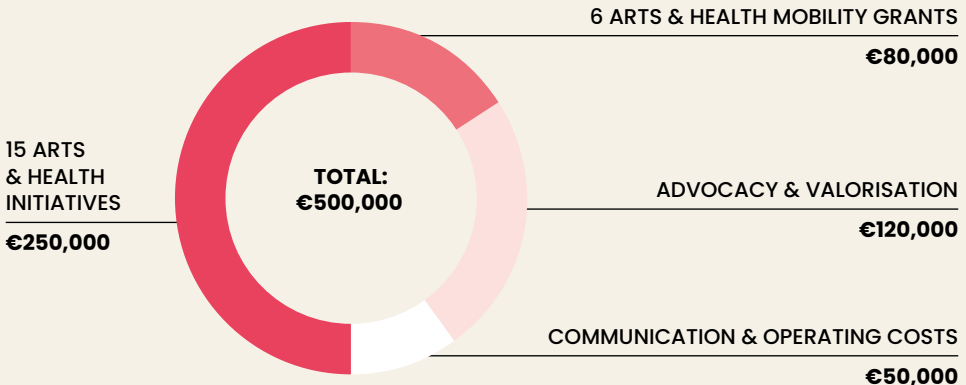
An exhibition will be co-designed to explore the multiple effects of artistic projects on health, both at the individual and institutional levels. It will be presented in Geneva in 2027 on sidelines of the World Health Assembly.

SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE ON ARTS & HEALTH

The Arts & Health Program will foster the production of scientific knowledge and community engagement. Research outcomes will be shared through emotional, artistic forms of expression.



BUDGET



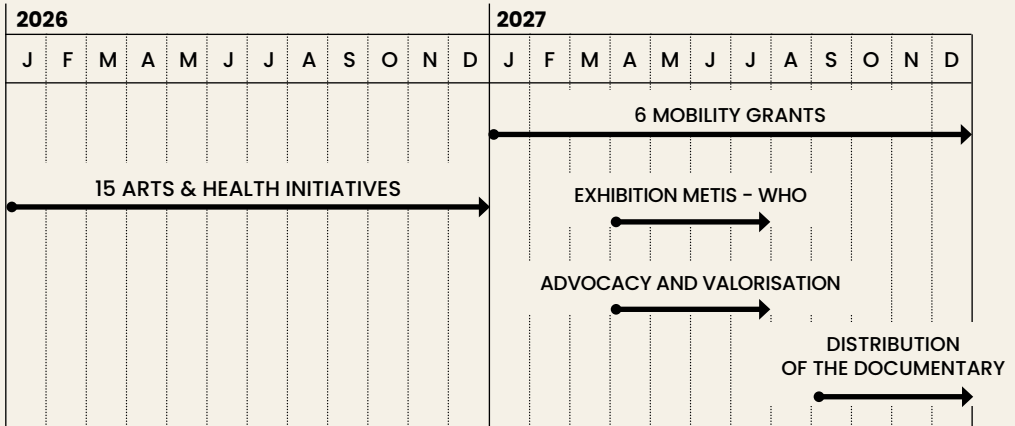
ADVOCACY FOR THE ARTS & HEALTH LINK

- ◆ **A poetic documentary film** to reveal emotional impacts and contextual insights. It will be shared with the local community members who took part in the artistic co-creation initiatives, as well as with a broader international audience.
- ◆ **Participation of the Metis Fund in international events** dedicated to global health (World Health Summit, One Sustainable Health Forum).

**SPOTLIGHT ON...
Targetted actors**

- ◆ Arts & Culture Coalition of Public Development Banks (co-led by the Metis Fund)
- ◆ Public development finance networks (Finance in Common Summit)
 - ◆ Global health institutions
 - ◆ Cultural institutions and artists

AGENDA





“The arts heal, they care, they connect. They help us build resilience. They empower. They challenge, move and inspire us. They put us in motion.”

TIPHAINE DE MOMBYNES,
DIRECTION OF THE METIS FUND

METIS, SHARING EMOTIONS, CREATING TRANSFORMATIONS

What if we used the arts to tackle today's greatest challenges – environment, health, education, employment, peace, gender equality, food, energy? The Metis Fund for Arts & Development seeks to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

What sets us apart: while technical solutions are necessary, they're not enough. We harness the emotional power of the arts to drive both individual and collective transformation.

