

NCAR Co-Creation Forum Vol. 2

Arts, Health & Wellbeing: Enhancing Wellbeing with Museums

— Place-Based Co-Creation in the UK and Japan —

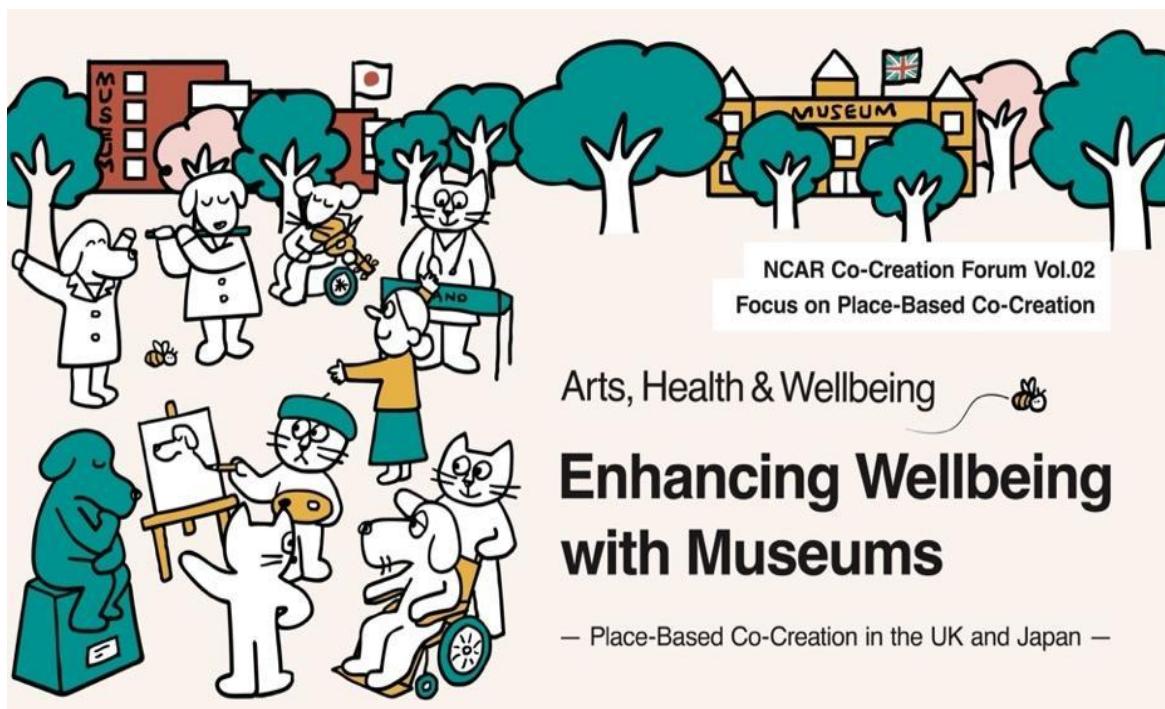
Saturday, 23 May 2026, The National Art Center, Tokyo

The National Center for Art Research (NCAR) (Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo; Director: Masayuki Tanaka) will host the NCAR Co-Creation Forum Vol. 2, “Arts, Health & Wellbeing: Enhancing Wellbeing with Museums — Place-Based Co-Creation in the UK and Japan”, at The National Art Center, Tokyo on Saturday, 23 May 2026. The forum is organised by NCAR and Tokyo University of the Arts, and co-organised by the British Council. The forum aims to promote art and cultural activities that have a positive impact on health and wellbeing.

Museums are public spaces where encounters with artworks and collections can bring people together—sometimes without words—and where diverse forms of human expression can be shared and explored collectively. In recent years, a growing body of research has shown that such cultural experiences can play an important role in supporting both mental and physical health.

At the Co-Creation Forum Vol. 1 held in 2023, we introduced a range of initiatives from museums across the United Kingdom. Building on that discussion, this second forum moves beyond individual programmes to explore how communities can support wellbeing collectively. To realise such approaches at the local and municipal level, collaboration among diverse sectors—including welfare, healthcare and cultural institutions—is essential.

Drawing on the development of Creative Health in Manchester and the emerging concept of Cultural Prescribing in the Ueno area of Tokyo, this forum explores how museums can work together with communities to become vital foundations for supporting health and wellbeing.



Key Visual

“Arts, Health & Wellbeing: Enhancing Wellbeing with Museums — Place-Based Co-Creation in the UK and Japan”

- Date and Time: Saturday, 23 May 2026, 11:00 – 17:00 (Doors open at 10:30)
- Venue: 3rd Floor Auditorium, The National Art Center, Tokyo
(7-22-2 Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo)
- Organised by: National Center for Art Research (NCAR), Tokyo University of the Arts
- Co-organised by: British Council
- Registration: Online registration available from 13 April (Monday) to 22 May (Friday)
https://ncar.artmuseums.go.jp/en/events/d_and_i/wellbeing/post2026-3154.html
- Maximum capacity: 150 (Registration will close once max. capacity has been reached)
- Cost: Free
- Other: A recording of the event will be available for streaming by late June.
(Pre-registration required by Friday, 22 May).

■ Programme

Japanese–English simultaneous interpretation, Japanese Sign Language interpretation, and Japanese captioning will be provided.

11:00 Opening Remarks	Moderator: Makino Anri (Project Assistant Professor, Tokyo University of the Arts) Speakers: • Tanaka Masayuki (President, The National Museum of Art, Japan; Director, The National Museum of Western Art; Director, National Center for Art Research) • Hibino Katsuhiko (President, Tokyo University of the Arts; Director, The Museum of Fine Arts, Gifu; Director, Contemporary Art Museum, Kumamoto) • Jim Booth (Country Director, Japan, British Council)
11:10 Introduction “Museums and the Emerging Field of Health and Wellbeing”	Inaniwa Sawako (Senior Curator, Learning, National Center for Art Research, Japan; Research Lead for the ART-Based Platform for Co-creation)
11:30 Session “Creative Health in Manchester”	Moderator: Ito Tatsuya (Professor and Director, Center for Social Collaboration, Tokyo University of the Arts; Project Leader of the ART-Based Platform for Co-creation) Speakers: • Hannah Waterson (Research Associate in Knowledge Mobilisation, The University of Manchester) • John McAuliffe (Associate Vice-President (Culture Portfolio) and Director, Creative Manchester, The University of Manchester) • Julie McCarthy (Creative Health Strategic Lead, Greater Manchester Combined Authority and NHS Greater Manchester)
12:20 Break	
13:20 “Creative Health and the Art Museum: Practices from the Whitworth”	Sook-Kyung Lee (The Whitworth, The University of Manchester; Professor of Curatorial Practices, The University of Manchester)
13:40 “The ART Co-Creation Project and Cultural Prescribing”	Ito Tatsuya

14:00 “Cultural Prescribing in the Ueno Area: Museum-Led Cultural Prescribing and Its Context”	Kumagai Kazumi (Curator and Chief of Learning and Public Programs, Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum)
14:20 Panel Discussion “How Can Museums Become Spaces for Wellbeing?”	Moderator: Inaniwa Sawako Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kumagai Kazumi • Inoue Tomoko (Certified Nurse in Dementia Nursing, Dementia Medical Center, Eiju General Hospital) • Kurokawa Hiroko (Director, The University Art Museum, Tokyo University of the Arts; Professor, Tokyo University of the Arts) • Tanaka Masayuki • Hibino Katsuhiko
Break	
15:20 Dialogue “Perspectives from the UK and Japan”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kataoka Mami (Director, Mori Art Museum; Executive Advisor, National Center for Art Research) • Yuasa Manami (Regional Arts Director, East Asia, British Council)
15:40 Reflection	Small group discussion among participants
16:00 Panel Discussion “Culture and Wellbeing: The Role of Cultural Hubs in Supporting Society”	Moderators: Ito Tatsuya, Inaniwa Sawako Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sook-Kyung Lee • John McAuliffe • Hibino Katsuhiko • Tanaka Masayuki
16:55 Closing	

*See website for more details.

https://ncar.artmuseums.go.jp/en/events/d_and_i/wellbeing/post2026-3154.html

NCAR signs MoU with Creative Manchester and the ART-Based Platform for Co-creation at Tokyo University of the Arts

The National Center for Art Research (NCAR), the Tokyo University of the Arts’ “Arts-Based Communication Platform for Co-Creation to Build a Convivial Society” (commonly known as the “ART-Based Platform for Co-creation”), and the University of Manchester’s “Creative Manchester” will commence joint research activities from the 2026 academic year under an international Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the fields of Creative Health and Cultural Prescribing.

Greater Manchester is recognised as one of the leading city regions in the UK in the field of Creative Health. Building on a long history of arts and health initiatives, Creative Manchester serves as a platform through which universities, cultural institutions, and local government work together to advance research and social implementation. This model of collaboration between culture, research, and government resonates with the Cultural Prescribing initiatives being developed by NCAR and the ART-Based Platform for Co-creation.

This forum is held as part of this international collaboration and will serve as a platform for sharing insights between Japan and the UK.

An MoU signing ceremony is scheduled to take place following the forum. Members of the press wishing to cover the event should contact the details provided at the end of this document.

- Signing ceremony date and time: Saturday, 23 May 2026, 17:30-17:50
- Venue: The National Art Center, Tokyo, 3rd Floor Auditorium (7-22-2 Roppongi, Minato-ku)
- Attendance: Invited guests only

Furthermore, under this agreement, the three parties will jointly convene a session at the International Social Prescribing Conference 2026, hosted by Kyoto University, on 27 May (<https://ispc2026.symposium-hp.jp/index.html>).



Press Contact:

Public Relations Office, National Center for Art Research, c/o PRAP Japan, Inc.

Tel: +81-3-4570-2273 Fax: +81-3-4580-9127 Email: ncar@prap.co.jp

Office hours: Monday–Friday, 10:00–18:00

(Closed on public holidays and during the year-end and New Year holidays)