

179 were potentially eligible for inclusion and screened, leaving a total of 88 relevant studies that were included. These studies covered a range of arts activities, designs, methods and different outcomes related to overall health, wellbeing and quality of life. Findings were then synthesised mapped to form a typology of arts activities and their benefits. This systematic review showed that evidence of the impact of Arts for Health on wellbeing in older people who reside in care homes is varied and encompasses a range of arts activities and outcome measures. Furthermore, the quality of evidence was shown to vary across studies.

THE ASSOCIATION OF LIVE PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE AND COGNITIVE DECLINE IN A BIRACIAL POPULATION STUDY

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Research on healthy aging practices continues to explore innovative ways of supporting older adults and there is a growing need for understanding how cognitive decline may be associated with the aging process (Rajan, Hebert, Scherr & Evans, 2012; 2013). In examining the long-term association of musical performance attendance on changes in cognitive functioning for older adults, we tested the hypothesis that attendance at live performances (concert, play, or musical) will be associated with slower cognitive decline. This study used a sample of 5,567 older Americans age 65 and older with two or more cognitive assessments over 15 years from the Chicago Health and Aging Project. A linear mixed effects regression model adjusting for demographic variables was used to assess cognitive decline in a biracial population sample of African Americans (AAs) and European Americans (EAs). More frequent arts attendance was associated with a higher level of baseline composite cognitive function among older African Americans and European Americans; this association was almost twice as high among EAs than AAs. Attending 10 or more musical events per year was associated with 15% slower cognitive decline among AAs and 30% slower cognitive decline among EAs. A similar association was observed for change in MMSE among AAs and EAs. Our findings suggest that attending a higher frequency of live performances was associated with slower decline in cognitive function and that attending live performances should be encouraged as a valuable component of arts participation and enrichment in the lives of older adults for its cognitive benefits.

LIVING CANVASES: BRIDGING INTERGENERATIONAL UNDERSTANDING AND CONNECTIONS THROUGH ART

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Living CanvasesSM is an intergenerational life review and art-making program designed to bring together younger and older individuals and the community as a whole. During a series of workshop discussions, elder participants chart their life stories and share important turning points in the life course. Audio recordings of workshop discussions and

written descriptions of turning point experiences are then shared with young artists who use elders' stories as inspiration for the creation of visual, performance or other forms of art. Turning point stories and the art the stories inspired are then shared during a recognition reception which brings together elder workshop and young artist participants and the broader community. This presentation will share findings from an implementation feasibility assessment of the institution of the program in older adult community service and residential organizations. To date, 69 older adults, 46 young adult artists, and six community organization collaborators have participated in the program. Initial findings of the implementation feasibility assessment indicate overwhelming positive experiences among program participants. Older adult participants positively endorsed participation in the workshops and perceptions of the recognition reception (e.g., 90% felt they learned something valuable, 93% enjoyed sharing their life experiences, 93% felt honored). Young adult artist participants also reported many benefits (e.g., 100% learned valuable life lessons, 82% were inspired). Our presentation will address the challenges and promises of utilizing art inspired by elders' life stories as a tool for intergenerational connection and community building.

EXPERIENCE OF HEALTH AMONG CENTENARIANS: EXPECTATIONS AND ADJUSTMENTS

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Health issues among very old age concern concomitant illnesses and other physical or cognitive impairments that affect daily functioning. This situation often results in the loss of autonomy, including giving up of leisure activities that used to be part of everyday life and that used to give meaning to it. Particularly, research on centenarians has pointed out a discrepancy between the objective assessments of their health versus their health experience. The present study examines how centenarians experience health in daily life with the aim to better understand their own needs. Part of a broader survey conducted in the U.S. (Fordham Centenarian Study, N = 119; 78.2% females; 19.3% African American and 79.8% White), we analyzed the answers given by 77 centenarians to open-ended questions about their current challenges, by applying a thematic content analysis technique (Braun & Clarke, 2006). Findings indicate 3 different types of perceived challenges: 1) lived corporeality, 2) sociocultural activities and interactions, and 3) existential being and psychological adjustments. These challenges are embedded in concrete living conditions, and their integration at psychological level implies constant modifications. Centenarians' health experience appears as a dynamic process where representations and expectations are continuously readjusted to both, corporeality and sociality. Aging successfully appears related to the progressive transition to a different "lived world" with specific needs. In this "world", loss is an overarching key issue where new ways of living that can provide pleasure are found. This study points the interest of adopting a comprehensive perspective to the understanding of ageing.

AGEING, IDENTITY, AND EDUCATION—THE ROLE OF EDUCATIONAL GUIDANCE IN THE THIRD AGE