



## Foundation for Social Connection to Receive National Endowment for the Arts Award to Explore Social Prescribing Interventions

Washington, D.C. (January 14, 2025) - The [Foundation for Social Connection](#) is pleased to announce it has been approved by the [National Endowment for the Arts](#) (NEA) as one of the 18 recipients of their 2025 Research Grants in the Arts awards. NEA Director of Research & Analysis Sunil Iyengar says, **“The research undertaken by these NEA grant recipients, including the Foundation for Social Connection, will contribute to a formidable body of research that is strengthening public knowledge about the arts’ benefits to our lives and communities.”**

Guided by the expertise of the Foundation’s [Scientific Leadership Council](#) Chair and Vice Chair, Drs. Julianne Holt-Lunstad and Carla Perissinotto, the Foundation and its partner, [Art Pharmacy](#), will evaluate arts-based social prescribing as an effective and scalable intervention to address social isolation and loneliness among older adults. By combining the therapeutic benefits of arts engagement with personalized social prescriptions, this research aims to improve mental health outcomes, foster meaningful social connections, and enhance well-being in older adults. The project will also explore how this approach can address existing systemic disparities in healthcare delivery through the provision of culturally responsive, whole-person care tailored to individual needs.

**“With the older adult population set to [double](#) by 2050, the need for validated, innovative solutions to address social isolation and loneliness among this at-risk group grows more urgent,”** says Jillian Racoosin Kornmeier, Executive Director of the Foundation for Social Connection. **“Through this research, we aim to harness the transformative power of arts-based social prescribing and pave the way for a future where healthcare systems can holistically and equitably support the well-being of every individual.”**

NEA Research Grants in the Arts awards provide funding to support a broad range of research studies that investigate the value and/or impact of the arts, either as individual components of the U.S. arts ecosystem or as they interact with other domains of American life. For more information on other projects included in the NEA’s grant announcement, visit [arts.gov/news](#).

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The [Foundation for Social Connection](#) (F4SC) was founded in 2020 with the vision of a vibrant society where social connection is at the heart of how we live. As the leading US organization focused on addressing our crisis of disconnection, our mission is to advance social connection nation-wide rooted in evidence for our collective well-being. Together with our [Scientific Leadership Council](#), [Action Network](#), and partners, we translate research into practice, create long-lasting partnerships and convening opportunities for field builders, and prioritize social connection as a national value powered by lived experiences.

[Art Pharmacy](#) was founded in 2022 to address the dual mental health and loneliness crises by connecting members with non-clinical, community-based activities with protective and therapeutic benefits. Our social prescribing solution is built around the understanding that traditional mental health services often leave gaps in care, particularly for populations experiencing barriers to access, cultural stigma, or a preference for non-clinical interventions. Based in Atlanta, GA, Art Pharmacy is currently working with partners in California, Connecticut, Georgia, Massachusetts, and New York. We are actively working to expand our offerings to all 50 states.