

Making Sense(s):

Wellbeing through the arts

Speaker biographies

Dr Kelsie Acton, Access Consultant & Researcher (Canada/UK)



Dr Kelsie Acton is a neurodivergent access consultant and researcher whose work is grounded in over fifteen years in disability arts. She has collaborated with organizations including Battersea Arts Centre, Factory International, and the Young Vic. A member of the Critical Design Lab, she explores crip technoscience and critical access studies, managing the Remote Access Archive project. Her practice weaves creativity, activism, and care to imagine more equitable and accessible futures for the arts. She is currently a post-doctoral researcher with the Centre for Performance, Technology, and Equity at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama.

Carolina Almeida, CAM Youth Advisory Group representative (Portugal)



Carolina Almeida (b. 1999, Lisboa) studied Environmental Biology at the Faculty of Sciences of Lisbon (FCUL) and Design for Emergent Futures at ELISAVA/IAAC, where she explored futures literacy and developed artefacts for the decolonisation of knowledge and interspecies collaboration. Her work promotes science democratisation, open-source knowledge, and collective learning, often informed by critical and speculative design. She collaborates with transdisciplinary organisations such as Interspecies Internet and BY THE END OF MAY — as operations and community manager in the former, and storyteller in the latter.

Tobiasz Sebastian Berg – choreographer, opera and dance creator, cultural diplomat (Poland)



A graduate of the Academy of Theatre Arts in Kraków (Dance Theatre Department), the Kieślowski Film School, and the Jagiellonian University's program in Cultural Diplomacy. His works combine music, movement, and social reflection, exploring accessibility, inclusion, and the sensory experience of the body. Berg develops projects that bridge contemporary choreography, opera, and social engagement. He is currently conducting PhD research on dance for visually impaired people and the role of touch in kinesthetic awareness.

Margarida Bezerra Bastos, CAM Youth Advisory Group representative (Portugal)



Margarida Bezerra Bastos (b. 2000, Porto) is an interdisciplinary artist whose practice spans performance, installation, drawing and sound. Her work investigates the intersections of memory, identity, technology and gender, often through participatory and collaborative processes. She holds a Master's degree in Visual Arts from the University of Porto and another in Performing Arts (Interpretation and Artistic Direction) from the Polytechnic Institute of Porto. She also earned Bachelor's degrees in Visual Arts and in Cultural Programming and Production from ESAD.CR, as well as the 8th Grade Certificate in Piano Performance from the Porto

Conservatory of Music. Bastos participated in the 15–25 Imagina project at the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation and currently serves on the Foundation's Youth Board.

Ellie Griffiths, Artistic Director, Oily Cart (United Kingdom)



Ellie began as a performer for Oily Cart, before becoming an Associate Artist and guest Director. She was appointed as Artistic Director / Co-CEO in 2019. Ellie founded the Upfront Performance Network (which connects 1000+ international Sensory Theatre makers) and was awarded a Winston Churchill Travel Fellowship, to research Sensory Theatre across the world. Ellie's artistic work and training has been

produced and delivered internationally in countries such as Japan, Sweden and the USA. In 2019, Ellie created SOUND SYMPHONY, a performance made for and with Autistic young people. This was programmed as part of the Made in Scotland showcase, Bibu festival (Sweden) and in the Edinburgh International Children's Festival. Ellie was awarded the ASSITEJ international Award for Artistic Excellence.

Eric Booth, Co-Founder, International Teaching Artist Collaborative (United States)



In 2015 Eric Booth was given the nation's highest award in arts education, and was named one of the 25 most influential people in the arts in the U.S. He began as a Broadway actor, businessman, and author of eight books, the most recent is Making Change: Teaching Artists and Their Role in Shaping a Better World. He has been on the faculty of Juilliard (12 years), Tanglewood (5 years), The Kennedy Center (20 years), and Lincoln Center Education (for 41 years). He serves as a consultant for many arts organisations, cities, states and businesses around the U.S., and in 11 other countries. He co-founded the International Teaching Artist Collaborative, the first global network of artists who work in communities and schools, and founded The Ensemble, the publication of the world's music for social change field.

Mikko Laamanen, Research Professor of Sociology of Consumption, Oslo Metropolitan University (Norway)



Mikko's research draws from the sociologies of consumption, organisation and social movements to focus on the everyday politics of technology, inclusion and social change. His current project focus is on inclusive digital platforms, subcultural consumption communities and sustainable arts. Mikko is the coordinator for the Sociology of Consumption Research Network at the European Sociological Association.

Lene Juul Langballe, Artistic Director & Project Manager, European Choir Games & Grand Prix of Nations Aarhus 2025 (Denmark)



With a Master's degree in Music and Nordic Language and Literature, Lene has extensive experience in outreach and education within music, singing and opera. As a producer, she has led numerous projects in schools and creative youth groups, developing initiatives where music fosters community, inclusion, well-being and health. She is Artistic Director and Project Manager of the international choral festival European Choir Games & Grand Prix of Nations Aarhus 2025, and a Producer at Levende Musik i Skolen (Live Music in Schools), which brings professional concerts to primary and lower-secondary schools across Denmark.

Eve Mutso, Dancer & Choreographer (Estonia)



Eve Mutso is a freelance dancer and choreographer, and a former Principal Dancer with Scottish Ballet. Born in Tallinn, she graduated from Tallinn Ballet School and joined the Estonian National Ballet before moving to Scotland, where she performed major roles in works by choreographers such as MacMillan, Balanchine and Page. Her choreographic works include eIEven, 111 (with Joel Brown / Candoco) and Echo for the Estonian National Ballet. She has performed internationally and teaches at institutions including the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre and Tallinn Music & Ballet School (MUBA), and has been a board member of Indepen-dance, an inclusive

dance company for disabled and non-disabled people in Scotland since 2017. In 2025, she received the Salme Reek Children's Production Award for Ballet Story: A Sensory Friendly Relaxed Performance.

Markku Kaikkonen, Director, Music Centre Resonaari (Finland)



Markku Kaikkonen is the Director of the Resonaari Music Centre and Principal of the Resonaari Music School in Helsinki, which provides instrumental education for more than 300 learners with special needs. Holding a Master of Music degree from the Sibelius Academy and advanced qualifications from the Orff Institute (University Mozarteum, Salzburg), he has co-authored several publications and developed innovative

learning materials that enable everyone to participate in and learn through music. Internationally active as an educator and expert, he contributes to multiple boards and advisory groups. Kaikkonen chaired the Special Music Education Commission of ISME (2018–2020). In 2021, he was named Alumni of the Year by the University of the Arts Helsinki.

Paulina Ricciardi, Executive Director, Ópera Latinoamérica (Chile)



Executive Director of Ópera Latinoamérica OLA, an Ibero-American theatre network. Paulina has 17 years of experience working in the cultural sector and creative industries in London and Chile, working for organizations such as the Southbank Centre and Cultural Cooperation, Teatro Municipal de Santiago, Centro Cultural GAM, and Ópera Latinoamérica OLA. She holds a Master's degree in Cultural Policy and Management from City University London, focusing on education and outreach in cultural organizations. She also holds a Bachelor's degree in Philosophy from the University of Chile and a Diploma in Cultural Management with a minor in

Visual Arts from the same university.

Silvia Carretero, President, ROCE – Red de Organizadores de Conciertos Educativos y Sociales (Spain)



Silvia is a cultural manager specialising in music and the performing arts, with experience in programming, production, mediation, education and communication. She leads the Socio-Educational Department of the Castilla y León Symphony Orchestra and the Miguel Delibes Cultural Centre in Valladolid. As ROCE President since 2020, she has spearheaded initiatives promoting inclusive access to music education and participation. She holds degrees in Music History and Cultural Management from the Universities of Valladolid and Barcelona.

Susana Gomes da Silva, Head of Education, Mediation and Participation, CAM Gulbenkian (Portugal)



Susana leads education, mediation and participation at CAM Gulbenkian, shaping audience-centred programming and educational projects. She played a key role in creating and managing CAM's Youth Advisory Group, embedding a participatory approach in institutional planning. Susana is an author, lecturer and teacher of museum education and mediation in several institutions and universities, contributing to the development of innovative practices that connect people with art and culture.

Keiu Virro, Researcher & Journalist (Estonia)



Keiu Virro is a junior research fellow and PhD student at Tallinn University's School of Governance, Law and Society, where her research explores accessible theatre and its social impact. She holds MA degrees in Change Management in Society and in Cultural Studies. Before entering academia, she worked as a journalist and cultural critic, receiving the Reet Neimar Prize in Theatre Criticism and the Estonian Ministry of Justice's Violence Prevention Award. Keiu continues to bridge research, culture and social engagement through her writing and public work in the arts.

Ela Zingerevich, Vocal Artist, Educator & Composer (Switzerland)



Ela Zingerevich is a vocal artist, educator and composer based in Switzerland. She holds a BA in Voice Studies from the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance and a Master's in Voice Studies from the City University of New York. She has performed with the Israel Philharmonic and the German Radio Orchestra, and collaborated as an educator with the Weill Institute at Carnegie Hall. Certified in the Lichtenberg Method for Applied Voice Physiology and accredited as an acupuncture therapist (Ortra TC), she is the creator of the Zinger Method, a somatic and vocal approach supporting health and resilience in performing artists. Ela collaborates

with the Centre de Médecine Intégrative de l'EHNV and is an international partner of Carnegie Hall's Lullaby Project, exploring the intersections of music, care, and embodied artistic expression.