

# Art has the power to touch hearts and change minds. To transform.

In those moments of beauty and creativity, we can be moved to see and act anew - bringing change to ourselves, our communities and our world.  
That is the transformative power of the arts.  
And it is what drives us.

The Community Arts Network (CAN) is a global platform that seeks to enable, engage and empower individuals, organisations and communities that use the arts for social impact.

## Our origins

A 2019 survey that considered thousands of organisations in more than 90 countries found that community arts is a global community of ideas...but not yet a global community network. Networks are able to harness ideas into powerful, unified action. This inspired [Community Arts Lab- Porticus](#) & [Hilti Foundation](#) to join forces and respond to this need...and CAN was born in April 2021. Today, CAN is a growing network of hundreds of individuals and organisations using the arts for social impact, working across diverse focus areas in over 60 countries.

We **envisage** a world where:

The arts are **fully applied** in the creation and advancement of social change

The contribution that art can make to solving our world's complex problems is **understood and valued** and

The arts have the same **status and influence** as science, technology, policy and economics.

CAN is a **lighthouse** in the Arts for Social Impact sector, acting as a leader to illuminate pathways for integrating arts into social impact ambitions and initiatives.

## What we do

### Enablement

- **Enable connections** within the network and with unlikely allies, as changemakers working in the arts and other fields.
- Share opportunities, tools and knowledge to support and empower individuals and organisations working in the field.
- Make the work of the network **visible** through our channels, to promote and empower members.
- Contribute to the **creation of a global arts for social impact architecture for the sector**.
- **Explore synergies and alignment**, and **foster collaborations** within the sector.

### Advocacy

- Contribute to the **global conversation** about how arts serves as a force for real change and on the shared vision to develop its power and impact collectively.
- **Amplify and unify voices** calling for the role of the arts in contributing to structural change to be better recognised and supported.
- **Set** ambitious goals and a **strategic direction** for catalysing arts to create and/or advance social impact.
- **Mobilise and connect** a global community of changemakers, united around shared values.
- **Advocate** for the role of arts in social impact and for the accessibility of arts to everyone.
- **Advocate for greater financial investment** in the development of the Arts for Social Impact sector, as well as those engaged in it.

We **participate** in diverse events and activities throughout the year and the world, to advance the cause for arts for social impact, to benefit our members and the development of our sector.

We will seek out **partnerships** with those who share this vision for arts for social impact, and with whom we can co-create and collaborate with.

### Registered CAN members are able to:

**Promote** themselves and their work on the CAN network and channels.

**Explore and Access** the network, using our Matchmaker and Network Map tools.

**Connect** directly with a diversity of artists, organisations, activists, funders and others linked to arts for social impact.

## Join us!

### Become a member

In your work, **are you applying and have applied** arts as a vehicle for social impact?

Are you **interested in applying** arts for social impact in your work?

Registering is easy...and free.

### Click here to Register

For us to give you and your work the biggest boost across all our channels, including our [newsletter](#), we need you to upload:

- Powerful imagery of your work and logo,
- A rich summary illustrating **your relationship to Arts for Social Impact**
- Your social media and work links

A rich CAN profile enhances your visibility on our [Network Map](#) and ensures you show up in relevant keyword and theme-based searches that align with your work on our [Matchmaker](#). You can try it out for yourself [here](#).

### Follow us

Are you interested in learning more about arts for social change?

Watch [this](#) short video.

Visit our website and follow us on social media: [Instagram](#) [Facebook](#) [LinkedIn](#) [YouTube](#)

## Questions?

Email: [info@community-arts.net](mailto:info@community-arts.net)