The Baring Foundation



AROUND THE WORLD IN *ANOTHER* 80 CREATIVE AGEING PROJECTS

Second edition

By David Cutler



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About the Baring Foundation

The Baring Foundation is an independent foundation which protects and advances human rights and promotes inclusion. We believe in the role of a strong, independent civil society nationally and internationally. We use our resources to enable civil society to work with people facing discrimination and disadvantage and to act strategically to tackle the root causes of injustice and inequality. More can be found in *A History of the Baring Foundation in 50 Grants*, available on our website.

From 2010–2019 the Foundation's Arts programme supported arts for older people. We have published widely on this subject – a list of some of these and other resources can be found at the back of this report. Since 2020, the focus of our funding has been creative opportunities for people with mental health problems.

About the author

David Cutler is the Director of the Baring Foundation, leads its arts programme and serves on the boards of several arts organisations. He is author of a number of reports on creative ageing. He was awarded an OBE for services to charity in 2026.

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The Baring Foundation would like to thank all the organisations and creative practitioners who contributed case studies for this report.

AI (Microsoft Copilot) was used as a research tool in the compiling of this report. Whilst the information has been checked to the best of our ability, the Baring Foundation cannot guarantee its accuracy.

This report was edited by Harriet Lowe, Communications and Research Manager at the Baring Foundation, and designed by Alex Valy.

Cover illustration by Michal Iwanowski
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Around the world in *another* 80 creative ageing projects

BY DAVID CUTLER

> He was recommended by Barings with whom he had an open credit.

Jules Verne on Phileas Fogg in *Around the World in 80 Days* (1873).



The Elders, Floating World Productions, Ireland. Photo © Luke Brabazon. **See page 40.**

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Introduction

In 2019, after almost ten years funding a creative ageing programme in the UK, we published *Around the World in 80 Creative Ageing Projects*.[1] The Foundation had been an enthusiastic collaborator in a number of international projects, especially with partners in The Netherlands and Finland and with the British Council and the Churchill Fellowship. We built on these experiences to showcase work that we believed proved that creative ageing was emerging as an international movement.

Seven years on, things feel very different. Although we regard creative ageing as a 'legacy' funding programme, it is not the main focus of our arts funding. The world has lived through a pandemic and we recorded its impact on creative ageing in the UK in another report.[2] Geopolitics looks very different, largely in a way that worries most of us. Climate change is even more apparent. Funding for international exchange in the UK for the arts is under ever greater strain. AI is having an increasing impact in all areas including creativity and health.

Even so, we wish *Around the World in Another 80 Creative Ageing Projects* to be a light hearted endeavour. The Baring Foundation is not a research agency and this report does not lay claim to scholarly rigour (nor, hopefully, academic language). In the last few years, with our Finnish partner, Kaapeli, we have run a free digital resource called the International Creative Ageing Network (iCAN). It now has over 500 members.

1 *Around the world in 80 creative ageing projects*, 1st edition, 2019. Available at: baringfoundation.org.uk/resource/around-the-world-in-80-creative-ageing-projects.

2 *Key workers: creative ageing in lockdown and after*, David Cutler, 2020. Available at: baringfoundation.org.uk/resource/key-workers-creative-ageing-in-lockdown-and-after.

We sought new examples of work for this report through this membership and through our newsletter. Otherwise, this report has been assembled through desk research which has included the use of AI. We feel that this has greatly extended the scope of our research, especially outside Anglophone countries. We are aware of the dangers of AI 'hallucinating' wonderful examples of work to please us but that don't exist, and we have done our best to verify the information. Any mistakes are the responsibility of the author.

We have not been able to include all the examples we were offered or uncovered unfortunately. There has been an element of curation to extend the range of countries involved. The number of examples is not meant to be a proportionate representation of work happening there – just tasters. We have deliberately excluded any work previously mentioned in one of our previous reports as we would like to paint a wider picture. In particular, there are more examples of work taking place in Finland, The Netherlands, Japan and Germany in our other reports.[3] We intend that examples given here should be of work happening now or recently, though in some cases this might not be the case. Most importantly, inclusion in this report should not be seen as an 'endorsement' of that work. We have neither the locus nor the resources to offer such a seal of approval.

Once again, we have excluded any work taking place in the UK, but we can now offer a directory of 320 examples[4] of creative ageing projects and organisation in the UK (which is certainly not exhaustive).

As in the first edition, we have taken a broad view of both creative ageing and of the arts. By creative ageing, we mean creative activities for people (generally) aged over 60. These activities tend to be led by professional artists of any age though often using volunteers. We focus on work led by arts

3 See resources on page 78–79.

4 *Creative Ageing: The Directory*, Baring Foundation, 2025. Available at: baringfoundation.org.uk/resource/creative-ageing-the-directory.

organisations as that is the work we are most familiar with, not because it is the only way of doing things. Activities can take place anywhere – under a clear blue sky or in an arts or community centre or a hospital ward or in a care home. Participants might be fitter than me or living with one or more age-related conditions, such as Parkinson's or a form of dementia.

Let's start our journey...



List of countries



Photo © Arts in Medicine Projects, Nigeria. See page 56.

Australia



All the Queens Men LGBTIQ+ Elders Dance Club, Adelaide Cabaret Festival, 2025. Photo © Claudio Raschella.

01 ALL THE QUEENS MEN

All the Queens Men is a queer, feminist and community focused arts organisation, based in Melbourne but operating nationally and internationally. Creative ageing is a central and long-term strand of work, especially with the older queer community. This work has included Elder Dance Clubs and Coming Back Out Balls and salons (live and digital). Rainbow Reviews invited older people to see and review live performances for free. A project in planning is The Pageant matching older people to fashion designers unfolding in 'rounds' of life storytelling.



Australian Rugby Choir. Photo courtesy of the UpstAGEING festival, Canberra.

02 CREAKY DANCE THEATRE

Founded by dance artist Wendy Erickson, Creaky Dance Theatre launched in 2023 in the Geelong and Bellarine Peninsula region of Victoria. It provides a supportive space for mature participants, specifically older women, to explore contemporary dance, social connection, and live performance

03 DANCE4WELLBEING

Dance4Wellbeing was established in 2017 and delivers specialised, dance-based health and wellness programmes primarily for adults over the age of 55. It operates in the areas of Hunter and Southern Tablelands in New South Wales, as well as online. It was founded by Jessica Conneely, a former professional dancer and dance educator with over 30 years of performing and teaching experience.

04 UPSTAGEING FESTIVAL, CANBERRA

UpstAGEING is Australia's largest dedicated creative ageing festival. The 2026 pilot festival, hosted by Council on the Ageing (COTA) ACT, was a 10-day multi-arts festival offering 250+ events in 66 venues, with 1,600 people participating in delivery and 11,000 attending – 50 times its target. It removed barriers to participation, created a city-wide platform celebrating older people, and gave opportunities for everyone from beginners to established creatives to experiment, share and connect.

Austria

05 KLUB+ ATELIER

Klub+ Atelier in Vienna is part of a network of around 150 pensioners' clubs in the city. There is an open studio, as well as courses and workshops. Artists undertake a range of visual arts and crafts, including paper-making, printing and collage, book-binding, jewellery design and upcycling fashion. In 2024, products from the fashion upcycling workshops were first onto the catwalk at Vienna Fashion Week.

Belgium

06 JONG EN OUD (YOUNG AND OLD)

The city of Ghent has been running a city-wide intergenerational programme for over 10 years, and there are now over 170 intergenerational projects, events and activities taking place throughout the city's urban areas, including cinema nights and theatre events. The city authority launches a competition every year, with a 1,000 euro prize for the winner. In 2026, the winner was 'Petites Histoires', a project in which the elderly in Ghent and children from a primary school created a performance together with professional musicians.

07 MAISON GERTRUDE

Maison Gertrude is an innovative arts centre in Brussels located directly inside a nursing home. It turns corridors, gardens, and everyday spaces into collaborative creative zones where residents, staff, and visiting artists make art together.

08 THEATRE WITH THE ELDERLY: NEVER TOO OLD TO MAKE A SCENE

Never Too Old to Make a Scene was a research initiative at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Antwerp (AP Hogeschool Antwerpen) that tested drama and acting exercises in local residential care homes to measure impact on resident wellbeing and develop practical guidance for artists and carers.

Bosnia and Herzegovina



Photo courtesy of Naš most Zenica.

09 NAŠ MOST ZENICA (OUR BRIDGE)

Naš Most Zenica is a non-profit association based in Zenica which uses a volunteer-based model to create a supportive space for older people to be creative. It particularly focuses on older women, most of whom have no prior artistic experience. Through painting, handicrafts, music and community exhibitions, members learn new skills, share knowledge and build social connections, often on an intergenerational basis.



Photo courtesy of Naš most Zenica.

Brazil

10 STORYTELLING BY PHONE (CONTAÇÃO DE HISTÓRIAS POR TELEFONE)

During periods of severe isolation in the pandemic, Brazilian arts organisations pivoted to combat loneliness using targeted, intimate audio performances. Local arts networks mobilised volunteer poets, musicians, and traditional storytellers and artists then called isolated older people over the telephone to perform spoken-word poetry, play live instruments or read serialised folklore to them. What was an everyday communication tool turned into an interactive, creative lifeline.

Bulgaria

11 I AM HERE (АЗ СЪМ ТУК)

I Am Here is a seasonal summer project in Sofia, which takes over outdoor cultural spaces such as Sofia's Borisova Garden. Led by Bulgarian choreographer and director Nadezhda Dicheva, the project uses a mix of music, movement and dance to encourage creative expression, lifelong learning, and social integration among adults aged 60 and over. The project engages participants through free morning classes that blend music and movement, covering Latin music, ballroom styles, and traditional Bulgarian folk music.

Canada



The Shaw Festival. Photo © Peach Juice Creative.

12 LONDON ARTS COUNCIL: CAIDC (CONNECTING THROUGH ART IN DEMENTIA CARE)

Operated in partnership with McCormick Dementia Services, the London Arts Council in London, Ontario, deploys professional artist-educators in dementia care spaces. Participants take part in 12-week collaborative projects including songwriting and music-making, drama and visual arts, drawing directly on their memories, interests and experiences.



The Shaw Festival, Canada.
Photo © Peach Juice Creative.

13 POWER OF DANCE

Power of Dance is run by the Dance Centre, a not-for-profit located in downtown Vancouver and runs free creative dance and movement workshops for everyone aged 55+, alongside school-age and youth programmes.

14 THE SHAW FESTIVAL

The Shaw Festival is an annual festival at Niagara-on-the-Lake in Ontario. It has integrated the concept of positive ageing into its work, inviting older adults to become active creators of culture. A range of programmes – theatre improv, voice, dance, playwriting, scene study – focus on cognition and physical vitality. Through its specialised Shaw C.A.R.E Summit, the festival blends Creativity, Aging, Research and Exploration, showcasing aging innovation and leading gerontological science.

15 TORONTO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: TSOUND CONNECTIONS

The Toronto Symphony Orchestra (TSO) partners with health organisations to virtually beam live, professional-level musical performances and conversations directly into care settings and older people's own homes. Musicians from both the TSO and the Toronto Symphony Youth Orchestra lead these tailored, highly interactive 30-minute sessions.

Chile

16 NATIONAL SERVICE FOR OLDER ADULTS

Chile's National Service for Older Adults (SENEMA) is a decentralised public agency, which promotes active and healthy ageing, participation by older citizens and coordinates social services. It promotes arts and culture as part of active ageing at a local level offering creative workshops and courses, and through partnerships with cultural and heritage organisations. For example, the National Museum of Fine Arts in Santiago has collaborated with SENEMA for eight years, inviting older people from the city to visit the museum and participate in creative workshops.

China



Drama training for over-55s by Arts' Options. Photo courtesy of Arts' Options.

17 ARTS' OPTIONS

Arts' Options is a not-for-profit arts organisation in Hong Kong using the arts to help older adults stay active and connected. They organise professional drama classes, community tours, and the landmark Hong Kong Creative Aging Arts Festival at the Jockey Club Creative Arts Centre to showcase senior talent. Drama programmes also give older adults professional stage skills.



Showcase for the older actors' training programme by Arts' Options, Hong Kong.

18 THIRD ACT THEATRE

Third Act Theatre is a Guangzhou-based theatre company composed entirely of elderly and senior amateur performers. The troupe made its regional debut at the 2nd Hong Kong Creative Aging Arts Festival in September 2026. At the festival, they presented an original theatrical piece titled ‘Balance’, also referred to in local programmes as ‘The Third Trimester’. The play is directed by Sean (Cai Shugun) and performed entirely by senior actors. By bringing older adults from mainland China to perform alongside over 170 senior artists from other regions (ranging from 55 to 90 years old), the theatre acts as a bridge for active aging policy initiatives within the Greater Bay Area of southern China.

Costa Rica

19 AGECO

As the leading national organisation for senior citizen advocacy in Costa Rica, AGECO (Asociación Gerontológica Costarricense) coordinates widespread community-based programmes including regular volunteer-led and professional workshops focusing on traditional crafts, painting, and group performance. These emphasise social connections with isolated or vulnerable older people.

Cuba

20 CASAS DE CULTURA (HOUSES OF CULTURE)

These municipal arts and cultural hubs partner directly with local clinics and older people's day centres ('Casas de Abuelos'). Music therapy programmes use traditional Cuban rhythms and well-known songs. Sessions blend active singing, dance therapy, and musical improvisation.

Czech Republic

21 HUSA NA PROVÁZKU THEATRE

Husa na provázku Theatre in Brno has established a theatre ensemble for senior citizens called Studio 60+. Members collaborate with a variety of professional directors and artists in the main company. Studio 60+ focuses on original productions that often weave in documentary elements about the lives of contemporary older adults in Brno. They also organise the Festival 60+, which brings senior theatre groups from professional cultural institutions across the Czech Republic together to share work, participate in workshops, and foster intergenerational dialogue.

Denmark

22 CULTURE TOGETHER

Culture Together was a prominent collaborative research project in central Denmark, in which cultural institutions, such as the open-air museum Den Gamle By in Aarhus, partnered with dementia experts to create art interventions for care home residents. Den Gamle By has also developed an extensive programme for people with dementia in recent years.

23 SILVERS

Silvers is a community-focused cultural initiative where older Danes, including local creatives and artists, open their homes or studios to others to host intimate workshops, dinners and storytelling sessions.

Egypt

24 GOLDEN YEARS FOUNDATION (مؤسسة جولدن ييرز)

Set up in 2021 by Dina Hashish, the Golden Years Foundation works across Egypt offering art classes, craft workshops (such as crochet, sewing, and macramé), choir groups, and interactive book clubs to keep older adults socially and mentally engaged.

Finland



Photo courtesy of Tempest Group/Johannes Romppanen.

25 MYRSKYRYHMÄ (TEMPEST GROUP)

Myrskyryhmä (Tempest Group) is a Finnish dance group working in the field of participatory and inclusive art. Myrskyryhmä offer dance performances and artist residencies in care units, workshops for seniors and artists, and dance video projects with elderly people. They also provide training for nursing staff in care units.

France

26 ART EXPLORA

Art Explora was created in 2019 by entrepreneur and philanthropist, Frédéric Jousset. The Foundation works in France and in the UK, as well as running a Europe-wide prize for participatory arts. Its mission in to expand access to the arts. In France, one of its projects is the Allô Miró initiative which runs in nursing homes using volunteers to discuss works of visual art with residents.

27 PARIS OPERA

The Paris Opera has partnered with Le Temps de Jouer to offer a subscription service for care homes for the elderly, offering access to filmed performances of ballets and operas, including Swan Lake, Don Quixote and The Barber of Seville, alongside online workshops designed for the staff to develop themed activities for elderly residents.

Germany

28 DIE GUTE STUNDE (THE GOOD HOUR)

Die Gute Stunde offers online arts and cultural events and workshops designed for older people at home and in residential facilities. Since 2021, it has hosted over 190 online events with more than 4,700 guests from Germany and beyond. All events are interactive, accessible and free of charge.

29 MUNICH CITY DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND CULTURE

'Artful Together' is a city council project, bringing participatory artistic workshops into care homes. Projects are developed collaboratively between the City's arts and culture department and artists and care staff. A pool of workshops is being developed which is accessible and dementia friendly. A care home can book a workshop which is then run for at least five sessions.

30 STADT MUSEUM BERLIN

The Round Stories ('Runde Geschichten') project at the Stadt Museum Berlin is a participatory creative ageing outreach programme for over-65s, developed over five years with care homes, people living with dementia and, recently, a queer senior theatre group. Coming together in co-created workshops, participants explore their journeys in their city and the world. There have been five editions so far, each culminating in an exhibition at Berlin Global, a permanent exhibition at the Humboldt Forum. This project has sparked further work within the Museum itself.

31 WEMENTO

A Piece of Us (Ein Stück Von Uns) is a theatre-based project for people living with dementia and cognitive impairment in long-term care. Wemento use expression, memory work, movement and work with residents' ideas to create small scenes and sometimes an end-of-project performance. Wemento also supports staff in residential care to integrate related approaches into their daily care.

Greece



SevenEleven's 'Games for Adults' art in museums programme.
Photo © Vasso Paraschi / Courtesy of the B&E Goulandris Foundation.

32 SEVENELEVEN COMPANY

SevenEleven is a theatre company in Athens specialising in working with older people and people living with dementia. They have developed a method called 'thāllo', which centres on arts-based and sensory interventions. They also turn real stories and humour from nursing home residents into public theatrical productions to combat ageist stereotypes. They have partnered with museums such as the Museum of Cycladic Art and the B & E Goulandris Foundation museum of modern art.



VR art in care homes project, SevenEleven Company, Greece. Photo © Katerina Stamatouli / Courtesy of the B&E Goulandris Foundation.

India

33 KOLKATA METROPOLITAN INSTITUTE OF GERONTOLOGY (CMIG)

Run under the auspices of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, this health centre in Kolkata runs regular, structured dance therapy sessions for its elderly residents, including those with dementia and Parkinson's. These projects adapt classical Indian dance such as Bharatanatya and use utilise hastas (hand gestures/mudras), raga (melody), and basic seated or standing rhythmic footwork.

Ireland



Photo courtesy of Coel Connected.

34 CEOL CONNECTED

The Very Curious Céilí is an intergenerational gig-theatre production, the brainchild of Coel Connected, an Irish performing arts company. The piece combines theatre and live music and was created with older people in residential care and community settings alongside young people, exploring ageing, memory, music, loss and intergenerational connection. The production is currently touring Ireland.

35 CORK CULTURAL COMPANIONS

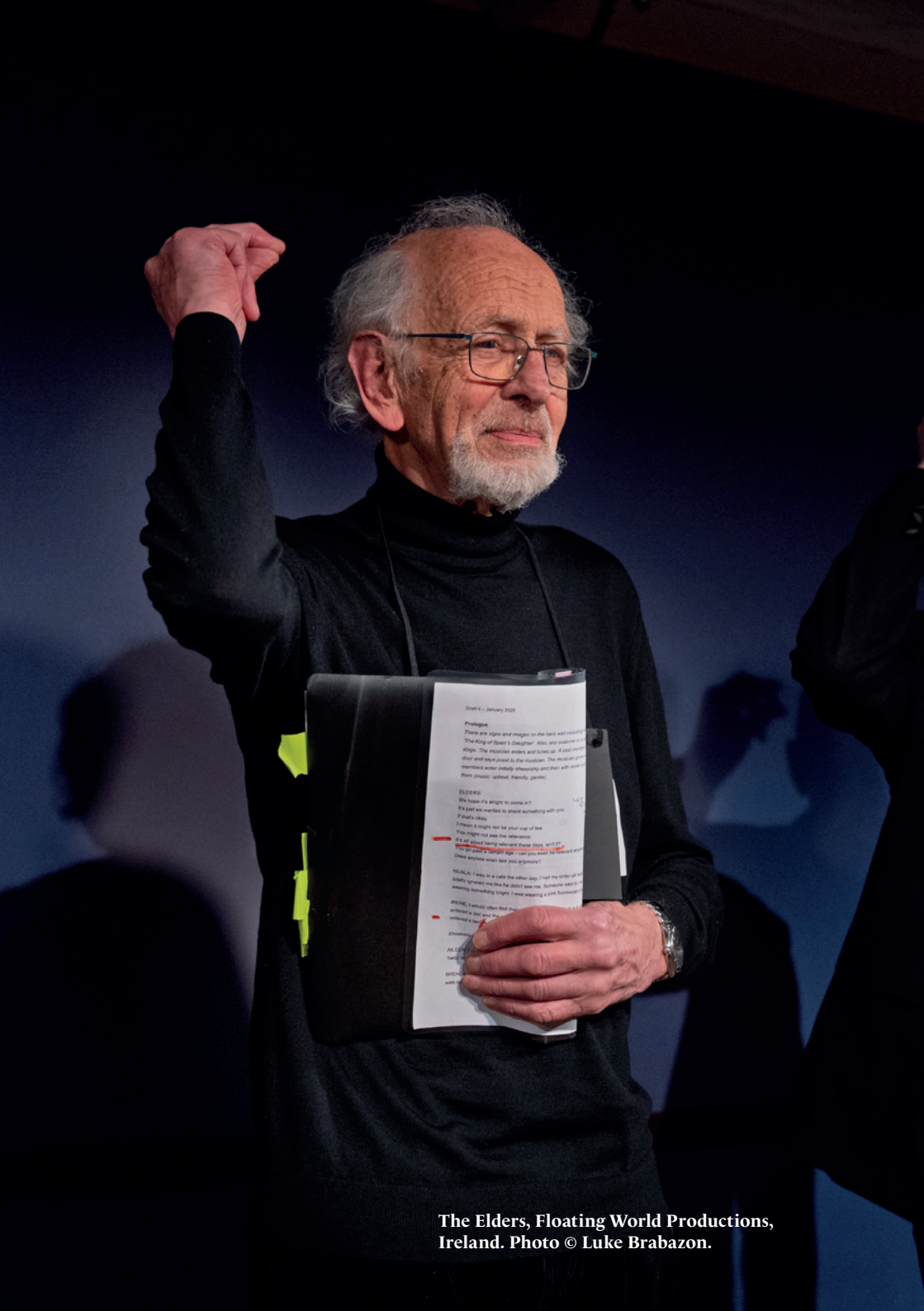
Delivered by Muintir Na Tire Cork, a community organisation, Cultural Companions is a free service designed to reduce isolation through engagement with arts events and activities. Networks of cultural companions with similar interests are created to accompany older people to arts events. Creative writing and oral history workshops are also offered.

36 FLOATING WORLD PRODUCTIONS: THE ELDERS

Since 2018, a community of over 65-year-olds called The Elders has been making theatre with artistic director, Andrea Scott of Floating World Productions. They train with Andrea and other professionals from the industry in movement, creative writing, play writing, improvisation, creative composition, contemporary drama, puppetry and more. The group has 22 members and works out of the Mill Theatre in Dundrum, Dublin, as well as sometimes outdoors in parks or woodland.

37 MERCER'S INSTITUTE FOR SUCCESSFUL AGEING

The Creative Life Centre at the Mercer's Institute for Successful Ageing (MISA) is based at St James's Hospital, Dublin and aims to promote and highlight the creativity of older people. It co-designs programmes through collaborations with arts and cultural organisations, artists, health care settings and local authorities. Activities include art exhibitions, participatory art and music workshops, creative lectures and an artist in residence programme for artists to work with patients, families and staff at the hospital.



The Elders, Floating World Productions, Ireland. Photo © Luke Brabazon.

38 MUSIC & HEALTH IRELAND

Founded in 2008, Music & Health Ireland is a national arts and health organisation bringing high-quality live music to people in residential care, hospitals and community settings. Through its Musicians-on-Call programme in the Mid-West and Tea, Chats & Tunes programme in the North East, professional musicians create person-centred musical experiences shaped by conversation, memories and musical requests. A distinctive feature of the organisation's practice is its collaborative songwriting, whereby professional songwriters work alongside older people to transform their stories, memories and life experiences into original songs, amplifying their voices and creating lasting musical legacies. Alongside programme delivery, the organisation supports research, professional training and national partnerships.

Italy

39 DANCE WELL

Dance Well is a dance and movement project for people living with Parkinson's and other movement disorders. The project was started in 2013 by the municipality of Bassano del Grappa in Vicenza, northern Italy, and has since expanded across Italy, Europe and as far as Hong Kong. The local authority coordinates the network, alongside research foundations and international partners. Classes take place in artistic spaces, such as museums, galleries and theatres, and participants are addressed as 'dancers' rather than patients to nurture a highly inclusive environment.

Jamaica

40 GOLDEN DESIGNS

This social enterprise and creative ageing organisation was founded by Shelly-Ann Thompson. It specifically targets adults aged 60 and over. Backed by grant support from the Digicel Foundation, it trains hundreds of older adults in business skills and modern craft, transforming traditional skills like crochet, embroidery, and macramé into fashionable, high-value fashion items (such as hats, bags, and sandals) that appeal to younger buyers. The group regularly hosts painting, drawing and ceramics classes.

Japan

41 ASATTE (DAY AFTER TOMORROW) PROJECT

The Day After Tomorrow Project is a long running (since 2003), multi-site project by renowned artist Hibino Katsuhiko which aims to use art as a way to connect people, communities and regions. Projects have taken place in Azamihara, Niigata region, a remote rural village with an elderly population. These include the Morning Glories project in which residents and participants grew morning glories, harvested seeds, and passed those seeds to other communities around Japan. As the plants grew and covered their building, the structure itself became a medium for communicating stories, relationships, and local activities. Hibino described the building as becoming a "natural newspaper" that conveyed messages to others. While the project is also intergenerational, older people are key, contributing memories, gardening skills, local history, and long-term stewardship of the project.

42 TOTSU-TOTSU DANCE (TORINDO)

This is an ongoing contemporary dance residency and workshop series running since 2009 led by dancer/choreographer, Osamu Jareo and not-for-profit organisation, torindo. Choreographers work with nursing home residents, care staff, and local communities. Totsu-totsu means "faltering" or "unsophisticated" in Japanese and the method uses bodily movements to create a unique vocabulary for non-verbal connection with dementia patients. Work mainly takes place in Maizuru, Kyoto Prefecture, but the project has also travelled outside Japan to Malaysia and Singapore.

43 ZOO OF SOUND AND LIGHT / LIVE ANIMATED CONCERTS

An interactive sensory media project led by Takashi Kiriyama at Tokyo University of the Arts, the Zoo of Sound and Light merges technology with active elderly care, prompting older participants to interact with physical instruments and digital displays to collectively alter real-time soundscapes and visual animations.

Kenya

44 TOKEN OF MERCY

Token of Mercy is a community arts therapy organisation in the poor areas of the city of Kisumu. It was founded and is directed by Nelly Adhiambo. Older participants engage in art activities designed around therapeutic themes like emotional expression, self-identity, trauma recovery and stress reduction. Work mainly involves the visual arts, as well as some craft techniques such as crocheting. Some work results in optional art exhibitions.

Lithuania

45 MENAS IR ALZHEIMERIS (ART AND ALZHEIMER'S)

Art and Alzheimer's is an initiative designed to enhance the quality of life for individuals living with dementia. Run by the NGO 'Socialiniai meno projektai' (Social Art Projects), it builds a bridge between the cultural sector and healthcare institutions. There are a number of strands. 'Susitikime muziejuje' (Let's Meet at the Museum) is a training and network programme for museum staff and has operated in museums across Lithuania. 'Menas žmogaus gerovei' (Art for Well-being) targets healthcare staff and institutional caregivers, involving them in active creative therapies like silk-painting workshops to reduce burnout.

Luxembourg

46 ALTERSWERK

Alterswerk is a progressive association of artists which aims to completely redefine how society views the later stages of life, collaborating with artists from the visual arts, music, literature, and performing arts to organise exhibitions and public events. Its goal is to project a positive, creative image of old age and campaign against social inequality through artistic research and expression.

47 MAMIE ET MOI

Mamie et Moi facilitates regular knitting, sewing, and arts-and-crafts workshops designed specifically to foster intergenerational exchange. It connects older women (“Mamies”) with younger generations, using tactile, creative arts to reduce isolation and pass down traditional skills.

Malta



Photo courtesy of the Ġamborì Festival.

48 ĠAMBORÌ

Ġamborì is an annual creative ageing festival organised by Teatru Malta (Malta's national theatre) that celebrates arts, empowerment, and active ageing for individuals aged 60 and older. It is supported by the Ministry for Active Ageing and managed alongside the Zararti Malta Cultural Association. The festival serves as a showcase for members of regional 'Każin 60+' clubs. Guided by professional creative workshop leaders, older adults from various regions in Malta rehearse and produce full-scale plays.

Mexico



Photo courtesy of Music and Dementia Mexico.

49 MUSIC AND DEMENTIA, MEXICO

Inspired by work in the UK, this artist-led creative ageing project brings together people with dementia, their families, care professionals and musicians for relational musical improvisation. The programme has been adapted to the cultural and social realities of life in Mexico, with ambitions to spread across Latin America. Each session is based on listening rather than performance or clinical goals. The project collaborates with researchers and trains musicians.

The Netherlands



A Singing in Healthcare session at the Leipzig Opera. Photo by Kirsten Nijhof. Photo © Singing in Healthcare.

50 ZING-CIRKEL (SINGING CIRCLE)

Zing-Cirkel is group singing initiative for people with memory problems or neurodegenerative conditions such as Parkinson's, which takes place at Amsterdam's historic Concertgebouw. The initiative is led by former opera singer, Maartje de Lint, who has also founded Singing for Healthcare, which provides training for using singing in care settings.

51 ATELIER SKON

Atelier Skon is a community-integrated workshop space in Eindhoven where care home residents, neighbours and volunteers meet to upcycle cast-off materials into collaborative arts and crafts. It is a project of Vitalis, a major regional health and residential care group with a big creative programme.

52 CORDAAN

Cordaan is a major social services and social welfare organisation catering to a variety of vulnerable people, largely in Amsterdam. They have multiple arts activities for older residents of their care homes. They are working with several other care providers to provide an online toolkit for these activities for other organisations to use.

53 FONDS SLUYTERMAN VAN LOO

Fonds Sluyterman is an independent Dutch charitable foundation dedicated to enriching the lives of older adults by funding art, cultural participation, and community connection initiatives. Originally established in 1916 and based in Beverwijk, the fund uses its capital to support projects that combat loneliness and give meaning to the lives of the elderly across The Netherlands. Lang Leve Kunst (‘Long Live Art’) is a major multi-year initiative launched by the Foundation in collaboration with other prominent Dutch foundations, public funds, and ministries.

New Zealand

54 INMOTION: DANCING WITH PARKINSON'S

Developed by choreographer Lucy Marinkovich during her fellowship at the University of Otago, this community dance and live-music initiative is specifically tailored to help participants with Parkinson's disease improve motor control, expression and social connectedness.

55 MĀPURA STUDIOS

Māpura Studios is an inclusive creative arts community space in Auckland running specialised visual arts, painting, and multimedia classes particularly for those with a disability. This includes older people living with physical and neurological changes, such as after a stroke.

56 SENIORSDANCE

Established in 2011 by Susan Jordan as Dance Mobility and renamed in 2014, SeniorsDANCE in Auckland offers contemporary dance classes for people over 60 with the majority of participants in their 70s and 80s and devises productions. Classes are taught by professional dancers.

Nigeria



Photo © Arts in Medicine Projects, Nigeria.

57 ARTS IN MEDICINE PROJECTS

Arts in Medicine Projects was founded and is led by Nigerian multidisciplinary artist and social innovator, Kunle Adewale. His work specialises in creative health interventions for older adults and people living with dementia and cognitive decline. The organisation offers a range of programmes, including fine arts, digital painting using iPads, art exhibitions, live music, open mic sessions and dance. Kunle also integrates virtual reality therapy, enabling Nigerian seniors to revisit meaningful places and reconnect with memories linked to classical music. Activities take place across elderly care homes and the Federal Neuro Psychiatric Hospital in Yaba, Lagos. The work is supported by the Global Brain Health Institute, University of California – San Francisco, Alzheimer's Association and Alzheimer's Society.

Norway

58 ANNA & CO

Anna & Co is a creative dance and choreography company founded by Anna Charlotta Nordanstedt in 2017. It specialises in creating artistic performances in care homes, with projects tailored for small groups of elderly residents at a time to maintain a comfortable atmosphere. One such project is 'Skogen' (The Forest), an inter-disciplinary and sensory performance designed for care home facilities. They have also collaborated with Myrskyryhmä (see Finland). Nordanstedt also founded Creme Fraiché Dansekompani 60+, a dance troupe of women aged 60 to 82 in Levanger.

Poland

59 POZNAŃ SENIOR CITIZENS CHOIR (POZNAŃSKIE SENIORITKI)

Poznańskie Senioritki is a Polish vocal ensemble of women aged 60+, founded in 2014 by conductor and arranger, Ewa Wodzyńska-Mazur. The ensemble combines original choral arrangements with choreography, theatrical expression and visual staging and has given over 350 concerts, appearing at international festivals including Malta Festival and Ethno Port. Its performance in a music video by the rapper Łona won Poland's Fryderyk Award, the equivalent of an American Grammy. Its intergenerational workshops have reached over 5,000 children. Senioritki aims to strengthen older women's artistic identity and agency while challenging age-based stereotypes in contemporary culture.

60 WROCŁAWSKIE CENTRUM SENIORA (WROCŁAW SENIOR CENTRE)

Wrocławskie Centrum Seniora, an older people's organisation in Wrocław, coordinates with local theatres, galleries, and artist collectives to create an annual festival called 'Wrocławskie Dni Seniora' or Wrocław Senior Days. The event famously launches with the March of the Hats ('The Marsz Kapeluszy'), where thousands of older people parade through the historic town square in elaborate, self-made wearable art, headpieces, and avant-garde costumes. The festival offers over 100 free events and attractions, with local arts organisations hosting things like amateur theatre marathons, senior choir battles, digital media labs, and intergenerational painting sessions.

Portugal

61 TEATRO UMANO (TU)

Based in Lisbon, Teatro Umano has been developing creative ageing work since 2020, engaging more than 234 older people through theatre and intergenerational performance projects. Participants take part in creative workshops, rehearsals and public presentations which strengthens confidence and social connections.

Singapore

62 ARTSWOK COLLABORATIVE

ArtsWok Collaborative is an arts charity with several creative ageing initiatives. Their flagship programme, Both Sides, Now, uses creative approaches to encourage end-of-life conversations among older people and their families. They also run a hands-on training programme, placing arts practitioners into Active Ageing Centres across Singapore.

63 T:>WORKS

T:>Works is an arts organisation which runs The AGEncy Fund and the accompanying AGEncy Fest. Originally launched during T:>Works' 40th anniversary, The AGEncy Fund is a dedicated platform designed to provide project grants of up to S$10,000 for creative projects involving individuals aged 60 and above.

South Africa

64 SINOVUYO SENIORS CENTRE MURAL AND LEGACY ARTS

Sinovuyo Seniors Centre is based in Khayelitsha, Cape Town. It facilitates collaborative visual arts projects where older people work alongside professional community artists to paint large-scale wall murals. These murals visually document the faces, histories, and lived experiences of the community's matriarchs and patriarchs, embedding elder narratives directly into public community spaces.

South Korea

65 SEOUL INTERNATIONAL SENIOR FILM FESTIVAL

Seoul International Senior Film Festival is an initiative of Seoul's Senior Welfare Centre. It welcomes entries from South Korea and internationally in English or Korean, which offer insights into later life, ageing, life and death, and relationships between the generations.

Spain

66 FUNDACIÓN "LA CAIXA" (LA CAIXA FOUNDATION)

Fundación "la Caixa" is a major philanthropic foundation, which coordinates a popular creative award for individual senior citizens over the age of 60. Organised alongside Radio Nacional de España (RNE) and La Vanguardia, a major Spanish newspaper, it encourages lifelong reading, writing, and creative expression. Participants can submit short stories (relatos), flash fiction (microrrelatos), or short audio podcasts. Winning entries are professionally adapted, then broadcast on national radio networks and published in major newspapers. The winning authors are selected to sit on the following year's judging panel.

Sweden

68 AGE ON STAGE

Age on Stage was started in 2015 by choreographer Charlotta Öfverholm. It hosts inclusive workshops across Sweden and Europe where elderly citizens explore movement, improvisation, and storytelling regardless of prior dance experience. Workshop participation frequently culminates in community-centred professional performances. It runs a certification teacher training programme to teach dance educators how to adapt movement and foster creative environments for older bodies.

67 CULTURE FOR THE ELDERLY PROGRAMME

Culture for the Elderly is a collaboration between the Cultural Administration and the Health, Care and Care Administration in Malmö, which aims to strengthen and coordinate a rich cultural offer for Malmö's older citizens. For example, the City of Malmö´s nursing homes can, through a digital booking system, book free visits from cultural organisations such as the city art gallery, as well as other artists and art forms.

69 SALON DE VIE

Salon De Vie in Stockholm is an eight-week guided creative journey where small groups of older adults meet weekly. Meetings focus on life-writing, storytelling, and conversation. Participants bring journals to jot down, preserve and celebrate their personal life histories. Meetings are hosted in neighbourhood spaces, such as popular cafés and restaurants across Stockholm.

Switzerland

70 CONSERVATORIO DELLA SVIZZERA ITALIANA

The Conservatorio della Svizzera italiana in Lugano has taken part in research projects around music and the elderly, including the Art for Ages project, which deployed staff and students from the Conservatoire in nursing homes in southern Switzerland. Residents engaged in rhythm-based activities, interactive singing, and playing percussion instruments.

Taiwan

71 NEW AND ALIVE ART SERVICE (NAAS)

The New and Alive Art Service is a social enterprise dedicated to creative ageing. The organisation transforms senior care by training professional caregivers to deliver visual arts and reminiscence activities. Operating in community centres, NAAS provides structured programmes tailored specifically for older people.

Thailand



Thai Film Archive 'Silver Guides'. Photo © Pisut Srimhok, courtesy of Museum Siam.

72 MUSEUM SIAM (THE NATIONAL DISCOVERY MUSEUM INSTITUTE)

The Museum Siam in Bangkok has collaborated with the British Council to introduce several creative ageing initiatives. In one six-week programme, senior cinema enthusiasts engaged directly with Thai cinematic collections and film preservation. As Silver Guides, they combined institutional history with lived memories, offering museum visitors personal, reflective tours of Thai film heritage. Another, the Chanchara initiative, facilitated themed storytelling circles, building on community care for seniors facing isolation. Participants brought cherished personal objects to prompt cross-generational dialogues, creating a supportive environment grounded in mutual empathy. For a third project, hosted by Chiang Mai University's Lanna Traditional House Museum, northern Thai acoustic music was integrated with gentle movement and traditional crafts.

Turkey

73 TEOS CULTURE AND ART ASSOCIATION: INTERGENERATIONAL CULTURE DAYS

Teos Culture and Art Association has run a project called "Intergenerational Culture Days" which brought the residents of two care homes in Urla together with young people through music, theatre, film screenings and literature events, alongside oral history work. The project delivered a wide range of participatory activities and produced a documentary and podcasts, strengthening older people's engagement with culture, enabling intergenerational exchange, and preserving local multicultural memory.

USA

74 CITY OF CLEMSON ART CENTER

The City of Clemson Art Center has developed the Artist in Residence Memory Care and Arts Programme, a free programme of creative engagement for people living with dementia. Artists and musicians lead weekly sessions that spark connection and wellbeing in retirement communities. The programme was piloted in one retirement community in Clemson, but they now have funding to expand across the state.

75 LIFETIME ARTS

Lifetime Arts is a non-profit organisation that leads the creative ageing movement across the United States. Founded in 2008, it works nationwide to train artists, library staff, and social care professionals to implement instructional arts programmes for older adults. This includes teaching educators, artists, and organisation staff how to run skill-based art workshops. It offers help to state agencies, public libraries, and senior systems to build localised creative ageing plans, as well as coordinating broad initiatives like Creative Aging in the West to embed the arts into public health and community spaces.

76 NEW ENGLAND CONSERVATORY

The New England Conservatory has a long-standing creative ageing programme that works in care homes through ongoing residencies, original songwriting and choirs. It has partnered with Lifetime Arts and Age Strong in Boston. The Conservatory hosts workshops like “Creative Ageing by Design” to train artists on how to build age-inclusive music programmes for older adults in community settings.

77 PASSAGER BOOKS

Passager is a non-for-profit independent publisher of work by older writers. Based in Baltimore, they publish a twice-yearly journal, as well as books of poetry, short fiction and memoir by writers aged 50 and older. A biennial book prize is awarded for a first book of poems by a writer age 70 and older. They also produce a weekly podcast, and host a variety of readings and workshops. They have worked with writers from 50 to 106 and believe ‘emergence’ can happen at any age.

78 THE CREATIVE CENTER AT UNIVERSITY SETTLEMENT

This New York City organisation has many arts in health and creative ageing programmes. It provides structured art classes and workshops designed specifically for older adults with some taking place in care homes, as well as hospitals across New York City.

79 UNITED ARTS CENTRAL FLORIDA

In response to a warning by the US Surgeon General about growing social isolation, in 2025 United Arts established a Creative Aging Partnership alongside health and social care organisations including AdventHealth, the Senior Resource Alliance, and Share the Care. This is a structured eight-week residency programme which embeds professional teaching artists in regional adult day care and dementia care locations. Activities on offer include drumming and percussion, clay art, poetry and world dance.

80 WALLIS ANNENBERG CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS (THE WALLIS)

Located in Beverly Hills and serving the greater Los Angeles area, The Wallis' Creative Ageing Programme provides interactive, hands-on arts education and workshops specifically tailored for adults aged 55 and older. These include creative writing classes where participants learn memoir, poetry, and dramatic structure to craft personal narratives and monologues. There are showcases where participants perform their written works live on stage at The Wallis theatres for invited audiences. Collaborative workshop series (such as partnerships with the LA dance company BODYTRAFFIC) blend physical movement, rhythm, and storytelling for all abilities. Discounted or free tickets are given to older adults for theatre, music, and dance performances on site, often paired with artist talks.



A showcase for Art's Options' older actors training programme, Hong Kong, see page 25.

Reflections & recommendations



Some reflections

Is Creative Ageing expanding? In the first edition of this report, we listed 20 countries. This time we have included examples from 44. It is hard to tell if this is the result of changed methods in gathering material or a genuine expansion in coverage.

What is for certain is that the world is ageing and rapidly. In 2019 when we wrote our first report, it is estimated that there were around 1 billion people aged 60 or over and today that figure is at least 1.2 billion. (I only account for the figure rising by one, by the way.)

In the UK, it is true to say that there has been an increase in interest in 'arts for health' by funders, researchers, policy makers and arts organisations. This has largely been driven by an increasing body of evidence about the health benefits of the arts as demonstrated, for instance, by The Arts Cure by the UK academic, Daisy Fancourt. This includes a very substantial number of significant research studies regarding arts and age-related illnesses, especially dementia.

The Baring Foundation has always taken the view that creativity should be viewed as a human right, regardless of other benefits, so we look at creative ageing principally from the viewpoints of access and equity. However, it would be perverse to ignore evidence of health benefits, and these naturally drive funding in particular from governments and from health funders.

Such a broad and shallow look at international creative ageing makes any conclusions as to countries 'leading the way' suspect. Also circumstances change rapidly. Ten years ago relatively little was happening in Finland to promote creative ageing.

However concerted government action and resourcing changed this profoundly. A change of government in Finland and an era of austerity will not help this impressive progress though.

In our first edition of *Around the World*, we made some observations which we feel are worth repeating and still hold just as true, if not more so.

Firstly, countries around the world are becoming increasingly concerned about two issues which it has been shown over and over again that the arts are great at tackling – dementia and social isolation among older people. There are many examples of interventions aimed at these throughout the report in very different countries.

Secondly, the arts expose both the universality of ageing but also its cultural specificity. Different nations will bring to bear unique national traditions in the arts, as well as differing social approaches, such as greater deference in some cultures towards older people than in others.

A third issue which was true in our last report but perhaps we didn't make it explicit enough is the power of the arts in challenging ageism and the stigma of ageing. Showing that older people remain every bit as creative and capable of contributing to society is a powerful aspect of this report. In the UK the challenge of ageism is not being met sufficiently by any part of society and it is likely that this is true in many countries around the world. This also seems to be true about the arts sector itself where often young artists in different genres are considered exciting and gain media attention and awards while establishing a career in the arts in older life is almost unknown.



Tanya Losanno from The Women's Room comedy trio in Underestimated! at Ainslie Football Club. Photo courtesy of the UpstAGEING Festival, Canberra, see page 14.

Recommendations

1. UNESCO in its work on Article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights should acknowledge the importance of creativity in the lives of older people.

2. National Ministries of Culture and Arts Councils should ensure that their strategies and provision cover the entire life course, including people in older age.

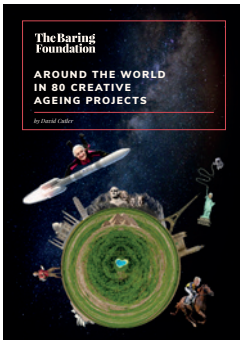
3. National Ministries of Health and Welfare should ensure that their strategies and provision explicitly recognise the value of culture and creativity, including in later life.

4. Independent funders of the arts such as foundations should consider the important role they can play both in offering resources to creative ageing activities, but also in bridging the separate worlds of older people's organisations and arts and cultural organisations.

5. IFACCA – the International Federation of Arts Councils and Culture Agencies – should promote the importance of creative ageing among its membership.

6. Opportunities for international exchange should be maximised, such as the inclusion of creative ageing in conferences on ageing and on dementia.

Selected resources



Around the world in 80 creative ageing projects (1st Ed.)
David Cutler
2019



Creative ageing: the Directory
Baring Foundation
2025



Creative ageing: what next?
Compiled by the Baring Foundation
2023

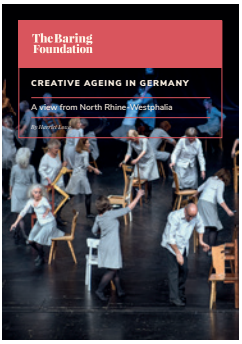


Love in a cold climate: creative ageing in Finland
David Cutler, Raisa Karttunen and Jenni Räsänen
2021

These and many other resources are available at
www.baringfoundation.org.uk



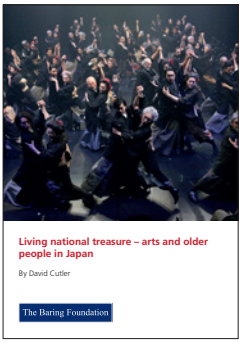
Dutch old masters – and mistresses: creative ageing in The Netherlands
David Cutler
2017



Creative ageing in Germany: the view from North Rhine-Westphalia
Harriet Lowe
2017



Guide to dementia friendly performances
West Yorkshire Playhouse
2016



Living national treasure: arts and older people in Japan
David Cutler
2015

> “Mr Fogg quietly shut the door.
> Phileas Fogg had won his wager, and made his journey around the world in eighty days. To do this he had employed every means of conveyance – steamers, railways, carriages, yachts, trading vessels, sledges, elephants.”

Jules Verne on Phileas Fogg in *Around the World in 80 Days* (1873).

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