



## **INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR CARING COMMUNITIES**

*Better Living ... Adding Life to Years*

**Re-imagining Well-being: Digitally Connecting the Dots – Ageing, Music, ICT & the Climate Crisis  
Virtual Event - February 8, 2021 – 10 am EST**

### **CONCEPT NOTE**

**UN Commission for Social Development SESSION FEB. 9 2021**

*“Harnessing Creative Solutions towards a Society for All Ages”*

Within the framework of support for the 59th United Nations Commission for Social Development and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals Agenda, the International Council for Caring Communities (ICCC) has organized the **“Re-imagining Well-being: Digitally Connection the Dots: Ageing, Music, ICT and the Climate Crisis** session to harness creative solutions towards a **Society for All Ages**. This gathering of non-traditional new global leaders and experts will leverage their insights and wisdom to address four key elements for enhancing "Better Living...Adding Life to Years" by connecting the dots of the inter-linked SDG's, New Urban Agenda, technology, and smart cities as more "human-oriented cities"...a practical holistic mindset! The presenters are voices from Austria, Australia, Ireland, Russia, Tanzania, and the United States exploring ways that digital technology can enhance greater well-being.

Statistics show that by 2050, there will be 1.5 billion persons over 65 years of age (the "AgeQuake"). How Information-communication Technology will be used to support healthcare during the COVID crisis and as a bridge to eliminate the isolation of seniors, and how music can serve as a catalyst to expand worldviews and point to multilateralism can lead to larger social change in urban settings. These leaders will link in real-time to determine how creative innovations and abilities can be impacted through ICT. The 5th edition of the Music Compendium: Global Resource: Solutions for Cultural, Social, Health, Educational, Environmental and Economic Issues" features 109 projects illustrating the important role music plays in enhancing the SDGs from over 50 UN Member States that are digitally accessed for practical review and communication.

#### **Presentation topics:**

##### **Robots**

Robotic technology and Artificial Intelligence are advancing fast. Not long ago, a robot was an idea that evolved into a toy that moved. Fast forward about 50 years and we have robots with artificial intelligence assisting us in our daily tasks and performing life-altering surgery. In today's presentation, we will discuss how Robots have evolved from an idea and how with the help of Artificial Intelligence, helps to enhance our well-being.

We start by introducing the concept of AI and how AI changes a simple robot into a necessary component in our everyday lives. Then, we will show you some marvelous machines that make our lives better and in some cases longer; thus proving that technology is life-changing.

##### **AGEING: URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

###### **“Smart” City – Metz, France**

Every city is a “smart” city. The goal of the architect and urban planner is to discover its « smart » points and reinforce them. To begin with, we should start thinking on how can we satisfy the needs of all dwellers: youth, elderly, handicaps.. and to help them better integrate in society. What are the means which could work with? - urban design and architecture, skills, knowledge, and for sure in the modern world we can't deal without digital. 2020 has shown a new possible paradigm of living in the cities: digital was playing one of the key roles in making the lives of the elderly easier and also we have realized the necessity of well-designed and elaborated public areas in the cities.



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The presented fellowship project is an example of an urban regeneration concept, which could easily transform an unfriendly place into a vivid and neighborly environment for all generations.

### **“Design for All” - Dar es Salaam, Tanzania**

Design for All, address the complex urban sociological and environmental challenges of a novel site in Dar es Salaam, famously known as *coco beach*. It is, in reality, a beach on the border of the Indian Ocean.

It's been a go-to spot for years, drawing thousands of people on holiday. It's exciting to see the city of six million people standing still by the traffic created by this holiday movement. Despite this fame, little attention has been given, to its contribution to urban development. Several issues, including social, the construction use of space and well-being, the environmental and urban development crisis, have made it unpleasant, ageing unfavorably, and environmentally uncomfortable.

This project thus addressed challenges that focused on urban sociological perspectives for architectural and urban design, looking at ways to improve the social construct of space and environmental issues.

### **Music as a Global Resource**

We are in need of creative solutions to the major challenges facing communities and societies at large. Music and the arts provide one of these solutions. This presentation will give a brief overview of the recently published, *2020 Music as a Global Resource Compendium (5th Edition)*. We will share powerful examples from the compendium that demonstrate how music can play a role in solving some of the most difficult problems facing human beings from mental and physical illness to poverty, natural disasters, and war.

As the world comes to grips with the far-reaching impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the role of music, the arts, and cultural understanding has become more important than ever. The presentation will discuss the ways in which these projects have overcome such obstacles through technological innovations, and continued to play a significant role in supporting communities to survive and thrive in challenging conditions.

### **Information-communication Technology – ICT**

Covid-19 has been particularly challenging for the elderly. Isolated from friends and family, elderly people have borne a significant burden over the past year, from living with Covid to passing away without the comfort and support of loved ones. ICT has played a significant role and can continue to do so in the years ahead. In the early days of Covid when nursing homes closed to visitor's tablet devices and voice over IP applications enabled digital communication with families. However, for elderly people with the additional complication of disabilities such as significant hearing loss such services offered limited support as face-to-face interaction and touch are key for reassuring the love and support of family. As we look to the future beyond Covid-19, technology will play a growing role in the support of elderly people, both in residential units and in the home. We will explore the short-, medium- and longer-term advancements that will improve the quality of life for elderly people, help extend the lifespan of independent living and improve the connectedness with family and community. We will also make recommendations for how to achieve these ambitions in a way that leads to the best outcomes through the application of standards-based interconnected systems and best practice system architectural design.

### **OLDER PERSONS – THE FUTURE**

“New” well-being will become part of the new post-COVID reality. This new reality should belong to us, and not vice versa. The design of a new reality with new well-being must have the foundation of a society for all and include the contribution of all, including people of all ages. Older persons will be part of this endeavor in line with the motto of the 2030 Agenda, which calls for inclusiveness as the foundation for sustainable development.



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**The International Council for Caring Communities (ICCC)**, established in 1993, responds to the challenges and opportunities of a rapidly aging global population. ICCC stimulates and identifies successful strategies and creative solutions by encouraging their adaptation and/or replication in both developing and developed countries.

Mainstreaming ageing issues, especially within the areas of the built environment and information and communication technologies (ICT), is the centerpiece of ICCC's global dialogue. ICCC is a non-profit organization and has United Nations Special Consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). It serves not only as a leader and catalyst but also as a bridge joining universities, government agencies, the private sector, NGOs as well as United Nations agencies to promote new ways of viewing an integrated *Society for all Ages*.

Since its inception, one of ICCC's unique goals has been to highlight the contributions that private enterprises and individuals have made to the betterment of society. Through global dialogues, technical support, and international student design competitions, ICCC promotes the mainstreaming of ageing issues through "out of the box" gatherings of non-traditional change agents and experts.