

Creative Well-being Tokyo International Conference on Open Access to Culture 2026

Applications for Admission to the Programs to Be Accepted from 14:00 on Thursday, August 27



Design: Higuchi Maiko, Typeface "Clementite": François Dey / Silly Type Foundry

International Conference on Open Access to Culture 2026

Applications for admission to the Conference, Studio (networking program), and Gallery (exhibition) will be accepted from 14:00 on Thursday, August 27.

Since 2022, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government and Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture Arts Council Tokyo (hereinafter referred to as "Arts Council Tokyo") have continued to jointly hold The "Conference on Open Access to Culture" as part of the Creative Well-being Tokyo initiative. The theme for 2026, the fifth year of the event, is "Moving Together—A Culture of Mutuality." The event aims to look back on the journey of this initiative to date and to provide participants with an opportunity to consider what arts and culture can do to help everyone live a better life, thereby exploring a future vision for an inclusive society and well-being.

Registration for admission to all programs of International Conference on Open Access to Culture 2026 will be accepted from 14:00 on Thursday, August 27, 2026. For more details, please visit the event's official website below.

Official website: <https://creativewell.rekibun.or.jp/creativewell-conference/2026.html>

- * The exhibition at the Lobby Gallery will be open to the public without registration.
- * Registration for admission to each program will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, with some exceptions.
- * The Conference (at Hall B5) will be live-streamed via Zoom.

This event comprises three sections—the Conference, Studio (Networking), and Gallery (Exhibition)—at three different locations within the Tokyo International Forum. Participants will take an immersive tour of these three sections. With the Conference's subjects linked to both the Studio (Networking) and the Gallery (Exhibition), the entire event will delve into a single question from various angles. The event is also designed to be accessible for everyone, for example, providing information accessibility through sign language interpretation, subtitles, etc. as well as equipment and seating spaces friendly to wheelchair users.

You can be a listener, speaker, participant, and spectator—

An introduction to how to enjoy this event as much as possible: Three model itineraries

This press release provides not only the latest update on a public exhibition in the Gallery program, but also an introduction to how to enjoy the event as much as possible by proposing three model itineraries for a tour that encompasses features from all three sections of this event: the Conference, Studio (Networking), and Gallery (Exhibition).

Event Overview

Event Title	:	Creative Well-being Tokyo: International Conference on Open Access to Culture 2026 Moving Together—A Culture of Mutuality
Dates	:	October 28 (Wed) – November 1 (Sun), 2026
Venue	:	Tokyo International Forum (3-5-1 Marunouchi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo) October 28 (Wed) – November 1 (Sun): Lobby Gallery October 30 (Fri) – November 1 (Sun): Hall B5, Hall D5
Organizers	:	Tokyo Metropolitan Government, Arts Council Tokyo (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture)
Admission	:	Free (Registration required, except for the exhibition)
Languages	:	Japanese, English, Japanese Sign Language, and International Sign * Simultaneous interpretation and live captions available (International Sign will be provided in Hall B5 only.)

Five-Day Event of Touring Three Locations in the Venue

This event comprises three sections—the Conference, Studio (Networking), and Gallery (Exhibition)—at three different locations within the Tokyo International Forum. Participants will take an immersive tour of these various programs. Tour the programs at different locations as you like, getting involved in the event as a listener, speaker, participant, and spectator.

Hall B5 Conference: A place for listening and thinking

Dates: October 30 (Fri) – November 1 (Sun)

The Conference will feature a total of five sessions where a diverse lineup of guest speakers, including leading artists, researchers and practitioners in various fields will reimagine well-being together with the audience.

Hall D5 Studio (Networking): A place for participation, discussion, and experience

Dates: October 30 (Fri) – November 1 (Sun)

This program comprises a talk, performances, and a workshop where presenters and general participants will share the same space and time, uttering voices, moving their bodies, and talking together. Mutual influence mediated by artistic expressions will allow all those present to share the feeling of well-being expanding from “me” to “us.”

Lobby Gallery Gallery (Exhibition): A space for viewing, feeling, and finding clues

Dates and hours: October 28 (Wed) 15:00–21:00; October 29 (Thu), 30 (Fri), and 31 (Sat) 11:00–21:00; November 1 (Sun) 11:00–15:00

This exhibition explores the main themes of the conference through approaches that transcend language, drawing on the imaginative power of artists’ works and the experiences they evoke in viewers. It also introduces the efforts of Tokyo Metropolitan museums, concert halls, and theaters to create environments where everyone can enjoy arts and culture, as well as other initiatives related to the conference themes.

A guide to take an in-depth look at the “Culture of Mutuality” from various perspectives

Three Model Itineraries for Program Tours

The three model itineraries proposed here are designed to guide you to take an in-depth look at the “Culture of Mutuality” from many different perspectives:

our relationships with nature, cities, culture, body and senses, dreams and memories, and how to open up a space for culture. We hope that some or all of these perspectives match your interests and provide you with a clue as to how to enjoy the event.

1. Open Up a Future Where Everyone Will Be Connected Through Culture

This itinerary guides you to consider how we can open up a space for arts and culture in which everyone can participate to express and enjoy themselves.

The video screening of the performance *TRAIN TRAIN TRAIN* with a talk session to look back at the creation of this stage production as a process of resonance between diverse minds and sensibilities. The session will explore a shared space and time for expressions through the practices of accessibility and collaboration.

In the Closing Session, “Creative Well-being—A Culture of Mutuality,” the speakers will review the discussions during the past three days and discuss a future vision of spaces that will support arts and culture and the role of culture in society from various perspectives, including those of cultural policies in Japan and abroad.

From among the exhibits in the Gallery (Exhibition), this model itinerary recommends exhibits about the history of Creative Well-being Tokyo and the initiatives of cultural facilities run by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, which will inspire you to consider both practical and policy-related requirements for well-supported participation in cultural activities.

Studio (Networking)

- **Performance “TRAIN TRAIN TRAIN” — Screening and Talk Session**
November 1 (Sun) 10:00–12:30

Conference

- **Closing Session “Creative Well-being—A Culture of Mutuality”:**
November 1 (Sun) 15:30–18:00

Gallery (Exhibition)

- Exhibits about the history of Creative Well-being Tokyo
- Initiatives of Tokyo Metropolitan Government-run cultural facilities, etc.



Photo by Miyagawa Maiko

Performance “TRAIN TRAIN TRAIN” — Screening and Talk Session

Speakers:

Kris Yoshie (Arts Producer)
Moriyama Kaiji (Dancer,
Choreographer, and Director)

A fixed-point high-definition video of the stage performance at the Tokyo Metropolitan Theatre in the fall of 2025 will be screened. In the talk session, Kris Yoshie, who was in charge of accessibility design from the initial stages and Moriyama Kaiji, who choreographed and directed the performance, will discuss what happened behind the scenes of the creation of this work, which builds on the legacy of the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games Opening Ceremony, as well as the appeal of the work.



Photo by Ishizuka Sadato

2. Explore new perspectives on the world that go beyond a human-centered view

This itinerary focuses on the practices of artists who create works in harmony with nature and the environment, which will inspire you to reconsider a human-centered view and expand the scope of "others" to encompass non-human organisms and nature as a whole.

The itinerary starts with the Prologue&opening session, "A Future Woven by Arts and Culture," which will explore the expressions that emerge from the interplay between nature, urban environments, and people's lives, as well as the role of arts and culture in everyday life. In Session 1 "Practicing Interdependence," the speakers will share their practices and use them as the basis of an exploration for how people can support each other and nature, and rebuild their relationships with each other and with nature in the face of disasters, environmental issues, and regional and social challenges. From among the exhibits in the Gallery (Exhibition), this model itinerary recommends the screening of documentary footage from the "Multispecies" Kick-off Event, which features speakers whose fields of activities are the sea, mountains, and the earth, as well as artworks such as *Snakes and Strata* by Seo Natsumi, who explores and represents memories or traces of natural phenomena, including disasters, left in nature together with the local people, and *Ordinary Whales* by Koretsune Sakura, who conveys the whaling cultures and activities of people around the world.

The exhibits in the Gallery will inspire you to consider the "Culture of Mutuality" from the perspective of a world created through mutual influences between various beings, whether human or non-human, instead of human-centric perspectives.

Conference

- **Prologue&Opening Session "A Future Woven by Arts and Culture"**
October 30 (Fri) 18:30-21:00
- **Session 1 "Practicing Interdependence"**
October 31 (Sat) 10:00-12:00

Gallery (Exhibition)

- Video documentation of the "Multispecies" Kick-off Event
- *Snakes and Strata* by Seo Natsumi
- *Ordinary Whales* by Koretsune Sakura



Snakes and Strata by Seo Natsumi

Centered on Yama no O-jakunuke, a work that emerged from exchanges with residents and research into local folklore in Marumori Town in Miyagi Prefecture, which was affected by Typhoon Hagibis in 2019, this exhibition presents a collection of works that consider how artistic expression can transmit memories and experiences of disasters and wars in various regions, as well as the possibilities of dialogue.

3. Pass on dreams, memories, and expressions to the future

This itinerary provides you with a close view of how the dreams and memories of a person resonate with others through their works and words and inspire new forms of expression and action.

In Session 3, "Moving Together—Living through Dreams," an artwork by Sangita Jogi will provide a starting point for discussions between the speakers, who have continued their creative activities in different regions and circumstances, about how they have worked to pass on their experiences and imagination to the future. From among the exhibits in the Gallery (Exhibition), this model itinerary recommends exhibits on Miyajima Tatsuo's two art projects: *Sea of Time - TOHOKU* and the *Revive Time: Kaki Tree Project*. The former connects the present and the future through the collaborative efforts of many people, and the latter conveys wishes for life and peace to children around the world. Another recommended feature is the exhibit *With People, Not For People* by Aoki Akira and Usui Yui, which focuses on the practices of Kobokan, a welfare facility with a history of more than 100 years, in pursuit of clues for living a better life in the local community. This exhibit will be complemented by a talk session where the curator and the artist will reflect on the process of creation and exhibition and discuss the activities of Kobokan in the settlement movement and their connection with art. Another exhibit of interest features silkscreen prints from *The Women I Could Be*, a picture book by Sangita Jogi that depicts dreams and the realities of society.

It embodies the potential of artistic expressions to be handed down beyond time and place and empower people in the future.

Conference

- **Session 3 "Moving Together—Living through Dreams"**
November 1 (Sun) 10:00-12:00

Gallery (Exhibition)

- *Sea of Time - TOHOKU, Revive Time - Kaki Tree Project* by Miyajima Tatsuo
- *With People, Not For People* by Aoki Akira and Usui Yui
- Talk Session "Considering Well-being and Art Through the Kobokan Settlement"
October 28 (Wed) 16:00-17:00
- *The Women I Could Be* by Sangita Jogi, Tara Books

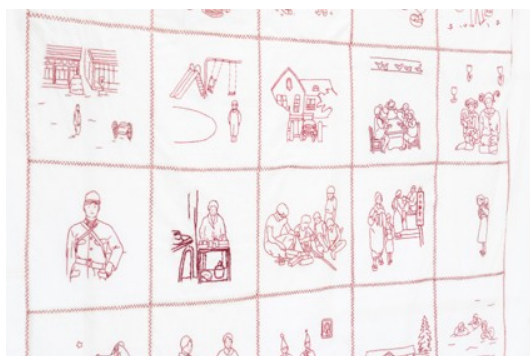


Image: A section of the tapestry created for "With People, Not For People."
Photo by Kato Hajime



Photo by Kato Hajime

Talk Session "Considering Well-being and Art Through the Kobokan Settlement"

Speakers:

Aoki Akira (Independent curator,
Certified social worker)
Usui Yui (Artist)

For the exhibition "With People, Not For People," artworks were created through workshops based on historical materials from the Kobokan, a welfare facility located in Sumida Ward, Tokyo. The curator and artist behind this project will discuss the contemporary significance of the settlement activities at the Kobokan and their connection to art.

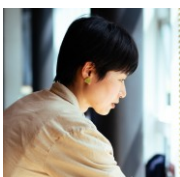


Photo by Nakao Azusa

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