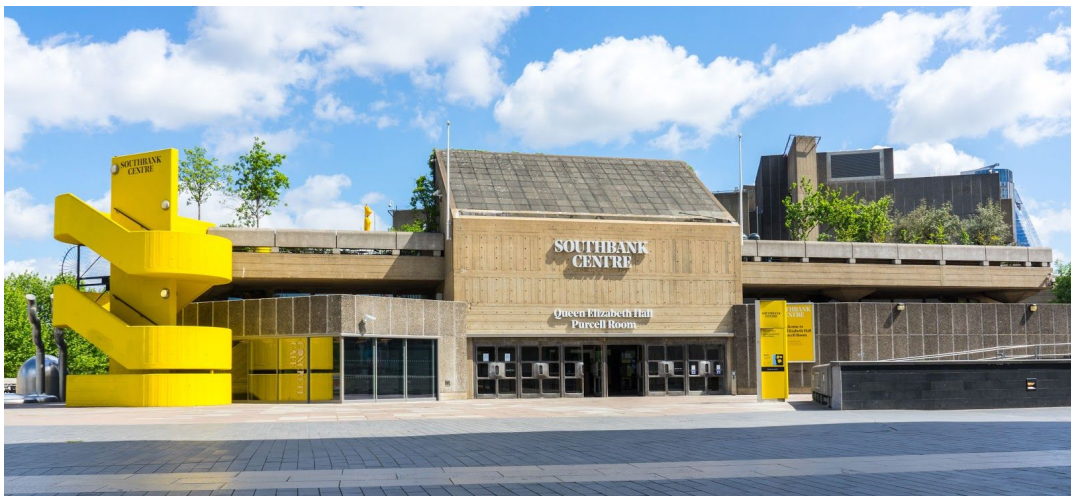


## Press Release

**Date:** Tuesday 10 March 2020

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## **Aesop and the Southbank Centre present the 2020 Conference for Health & Arts decision-makers**



The Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall will host the 2020 Conference for Health & Arts decision-makers  
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Building on the successes of Aesop's (Arts Enterprise with a Social Purpose) and the Southbank Centre's previous Arts and Health Conferences in 2016, 2018 and 2019, Aesop and the Southbank Centre are joining forces and working in partnership to present the **2020 Conference for Health & Arts decision-makers**.

These events are a key highlight in the Arts and Health calendars and are designed to bring together policy makers, practitioners and funders from the arts and health sectors. The 2020 Conference will take place from **9am to 6pm on Friday 3rd July 2020** at the **Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall**.

The 2020 Conference will focus on the following hot topics:

- 'Scaling is a matter of social justice' – There is growing evidence that arts programmes can deliver health improvement but, as a major 2017 report acknowledged, the UK 'is still very far from realising more than a small modicum of the potential contribution of the arts to health and wellbeing.' How can arts and wellbeing programmes grow so that they can become like universal health services, available to everyone who needs them?;
- 'Training to lay the foundations for growth' – There are limited training opportunities for health professionals to learn about the arts' potential contribution to health improvement and how to

deliver arts and health programmes. Arts professionals need training to achieve effective partnerships with the health system.

- ‘Who pays?’ – What are the potential income sources and how can they best be brought together and marshalled to support growth?.

The day will include expert keynotes, panels and conversations with **Professor Helen Stokes-Lampard** - Chair of the National Academy for Social Prescribing and former Chair of the Royal College of General Practitioners, **Tim Joss** - Chief Executive and Founder of Aesop, **Soweto Kinch** - the renowned British jazz saxophonist and MC, and **Professor Suzy Willson** - Artistic Director of Clod Ensemble and creator of their award-winning Performing Medicine programme. Other contributors will include Gillian Moore, CBE - Director of Music at the Southbank Centre, Vivienne Parry, OBE - Science Writer and Broadcaster, and Professor Kevin Fenton, Public Health England Regional Director for London’.

The day includes exploration of the headline topics, powerful patient and beneficiary testimonies, a new project bringing together leading artists and clinicians, and opportunities to experience arts and health programmes.

The full line-up of panelists and contributors will be announced in Spring 2020. Tickets are priced at £65 and will be going on sale on the Southbank Centre’s website on International Social Prescribing Day on Thursday 12 March, with limited early bird ticket offers and bursaries available.

**Gillian Moore CBE, Director of Music, Southbank Centre**, said: *“The evidence for the benefits of the arts on mental and physical health at all ages is clearly documented.*

*“From its conception with the 1951 Festival of Britain - at the time seen as a tonic for the nation - through to the present day, the Southbank Centre has long been an advocate of the role of the arts and culture in improving the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities.*

*“These are important issues which the Southbank Centre is committed to addressing in its day-to-day work. This conference, organised in partnership with Aesop, is a vital area of our work and we hope it will be an opportunity to share expertise across all sectors in this, to develop tools to further implement such programmes and to ensure that the role of arts in improving the lives of people is fully understood.”*

**Tim Joss, Aesop Chief Executive and Founder** said:

*“Aesop’s vision is of a future when arts solutions for society’s problems are valued and available for all who need them.*

*There are many inspiring arts programmes which have the potential to improve people’s health. But none are available for all who need them. A patient or GP who hears about a wonderful programme will naturally ask ‘Is it available in my area?’ Far too often the answer is ‘no’.*

*Following two sell-out Aesop conferences in 2016 and 2018, we are delighted to have joined forces this year with the Southbank Centre and to be focusing on crucial challenge of expanding the reach of arts and health programmes across the nation.”*

**James Sanderson, Director of Personalised Care at NHS England and Improvement** said:

*“There is growing evidence of the impact of the arts on health and wellbeing, and through social prescribing we are beginning to realise the wide benefits of connecting people to arts based activities*

*and experiences. The challenge is to scale up these opportunities, enabling more and more people to benefit, and delivering new opportunities for people to live their best life.”*

- ENDS -

**For further press information and images please contact:**

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Gillian Moore CBE, Director of Music at the Southbank Centre and Tim Joss, Aesop Chief Executive and Founder are available for comment and interviews.

**Listings Information:**

**The 2020 Conference for Health & Arts Decision-Makers**

Friday 3rd July 2020, 9am - 6pm

Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall.

Ticket price: £65 (early bird ticket offers and bursaries available)

**NOTES TO EDITORS**

**About the Southbank Centre**

The Southbank Centre is the UK's largest arts centre and one of the UK's top five visitor attractions, occupying a prominent riverside location that sits in the midst of London's most vibrant cultural quarter on the South Bank of the Thames. We exist to present great cultural experiences that bring people together and we achieve this by providing the space for artists to create and present their best work and by creating a place where as many people as possible can come together to experience bold, unusual and eye-opening work. We want to take people out of the everyday, every day. The site has an extraordinary creative and architectural history stretching back to the 1951 Festival of Britain. The Southbank Centre is made up of the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room and Hayward Gallery as well as being home to the National Poetry Library and the Arts Council Collection. It is also home to four Resident Orchestras (London Philharmonic Orchestra, Philharmonia Orchestra, London Sinfonietta and Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment) and four Associate Orchestras (Aurora Orchestra, BBC Concert Orchestra, Chineke! Orchestra and National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain). [www.southbankcentre.co.uk](http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk)

**Aesop - Arts Enterprise with a Social Purpose**

Aesop is a bridge-builder, connecting the worlds of health and the arts. It's helping health harness the powers of the arts, and helping the arts gear up to deliver health improvement. Alongside the Conference & Showcase, Aesop's main programmes are Dance to Health (a falls prevention dance programme for older people), the Aesop Institute (training for health and arts professionals to run successful arts in health programmes) and the Aesop Public Health England Evaluation Framework (already downloaded 3,600 times). [www.ae-sop.org](http://www.ae-sop.org)