The mission of CaringKind* is to create, deliver, and promote comprehensive and compassionate care and support services for individuals and families affected by Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias, and to eliminate Alzheimer’s disease through the advancement of research. We achieve our mission by providing programs and services for individuals with dementia, their family and professional caregivers; increasing public awareness; collaborating with research centers; and informing public policy through advocacy.

Cultural partners include:
- 9/11 MEMORIAL & MUSEUM
- AMERICAN FOLK ART MUSEUM
- ARTS & MINDS
- BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN
- BROOKLYN MUSEUM
- BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY
- INTREPID SEA, AIR & SPACE MUSEUM
- THE JEWISH MUSEUM
- LINCOLN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
- MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC
- THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART
- MUSEUM OF MODERN ART
- NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN
- ORPHEUS CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
- QUEENS MUSEUM
- RHYTHM BREAK CARES
- RUBIN MUSEUM OF ART
- UNFORGETTABLES CHORUS

CaringKind wishes to acknowledge the generosity of Art for Alzheimer’s for supporting the development, design, and printing of the connect2culture brochure and related information.

Creativity in its multi-faceted expression lies at the essential core of what makes us well. Every creative engagement enriches life and generates a positive cascade of physical, mental, emotional, psychosocial, and spiritual benefits that empower us to flourish across the lifespan.”

— Greg Finch, Director of Field Services, National Center for Creative Aging

“The best thing is to spend time with people and make new friends.”

— Memory Tour participant, Brooklyn Botanic Garden

“...She connected with the music instantly and remained engaged throughout the entire program. The joy this program brought her was priceless...and lasted the entire day.”

— Lincoln Center Moments participant, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts

A resource for families seeking cultural programs in New York City that engage people with dementia and their caregivers through creative programming.
When a person hears a familiar song, it may inspire them to move to the rhythm, hum the tune, or to sing the lyrics. Since memories of favorite songs are stored long-term, a person living with dementia can access and connect to that part of their lives and discover emotional connections. These connections have been known to lift mood and encourage positive interaction.

“After singing together In the Good Old Summertime, we asked one of our members to sing it as a solo. When he got to ‘she’s my tootsey-wootsey,’ tears were rolling down his cheeks remembering his beloved wife.”
— Participant, Unforgettables Chorus

Dance programs provide dynamic experiences.

These programs combine three essential elements to improving mood: music, movement, and touch. Music stimulates long-term memory, making those recollections more easily accessible for the person with dementia. A generation of songs that are connected to life moments can have someone moving in their chair or on the dance floor. While movement and music go hand in hand, touch introduces social interaction and physical connection. With these components wrapped up in one activity, the result can be improved mood and engagement.

“There is spirit and joy abounding here. It is tangible. There is extraordinary and unusual magic of connection that is fostered in this setting for all who attend.”
— K.W.
Professional Care Partner, Rhythm Break Cares Touch Social Tea Dance

Music programs help to build social and emotional connections to memories long after the initial diagnosis.

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Connect2culture® seeks to build a bridge between cultural institutions in New York’s five boroughs and individuals with dementia and their caregivers. Using art, dance, music, science, history, natural history, and living collections, these organizations understand that you and the person you’re caring for are looking for ways to share experiences outside of your daily routine.

Educators have been trained to support connections and stimulate memories for participants through multi-sensory experiences. For instance, the smell of herbs at a botanic garden might suggest a favorite food memory, or touching a piece of velvet while looking at a portrait of someone wearing a velvet gown might bring the painting to life.

For more information about available cultural programs, please call our 24-hour Helpline at 646-744-2900 or visit caringkindnyc.org/connect2culture

Visual arts programs engage people through looking and storytelling.

What do you see in the artwork in front of you? The story starts with your responses to sensory stimuli – visual or tactile clues, sounds or music, and even scents. Programs that involve a short discussion in the galleries followed by related art-making activities offer different ways of exploring art and memory. The reward is the enjoyment of a shared experience, and being emotionally and intellectually stimulated in a creative, enriching, and non-judgmental environment.

“Art taps into cognition, emotion, and memory and takes us to the heart of what it means to be human.... Through shared artistic experiences, care partners learn that, despite cognitive changes, they are able to interact with a greater sense of who they are.”
— Carolyn Halpin-Healy
Executive Director, Arts & Minds

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