



4TH INTERNATIONAL ARTS AND HOMELESSNESS SUMMIT 2026

BIOGRAPHIES – IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

Rob Dawson is a **singer-songwriter** from Limerick, **Ireland** whose music explores mental health, resilience and lived experience. An advocate for Focus Ireland, he has spoken publicly about youth homelessness and uses his platform to raise awareness about recovery and mental health.

The Museum of Understanding Through Tolerance and Inclusion (MUTTI), Australia uses arts and multimedia storytelling to amplify the voices of marginalised communities. Founded in 2022 and led by human rights artist **Belinda Mason** OAM, MUTTI collaborates with artists and people with lived experience to create projects that encourage dialogue, empathy and social change.

Gbenga Yusuf is a **Nigerian** theatre producer, director and performer with over 16 years of experience creating large-scale musical theatre and live performance. Through **Seeing Through the Arts**, he collaborates with performers and creatives on productions including Saro, Wakaa and Moremi. He also co-leads the Arts & Homelessness International African Hub with Lisa Ogun', connecting artists and organisations across the region.

Lisa Ogun' is an Arts & Homelessness International Associate Leadership Programme alumni and a UK-based **performing artist, writer and creative facilitator** working across theatre, mentorship and community arts. After a life-changing stroke early in her career as a dancer and choreographer, she turned her focus to teaching, advocacy and supporting artists through creative practice. She also co-produces the Arts & Homelessness International African Hub with Gbenga Yusuf.

Cat Foley (she/they) is Community Participation Manager at **The Choir With No Name**, which builds joyful singing communities with people impacted by homelessness and marginalisation across the UK. Cat works closely with choir members, ~~volunteers and~~ staff to support co-production and ensure members' voices shape the organisation's work and direction.



No Tan Distintas (NTD) is a transfeminist collective of women and queer people who are or have experienced homelessness in **Buenos Aires, Argentina**. The organisation runs weekly support spaces, workshops and collective housing initiatives, building networks of care and resources to support more liveable and just lives. NTD received Arts & Homelessness International's Centre of the Year Award in 2024.

Rianna Patterson is an Arts & Homelessness International Associate Leadership Programme alumni and a coordinator of the Latin American Hub. She is also the **director of the documentary *Dementia: The Island Journey***, which explores holistic approaches to dementia and healthy ageing in the Caribbean and has received international recognition at film festivals.

José Vanilson Torres da Silva is an activist and national coordinator of **Brazil's National Movement of Street People (MNPR)**. With lived experience of homelessness, he has dedicated many years to advocating for the rights, dignity and social inclusion of people living on the streets and contributing to national policy discussions in Brazil.

Uma Só Voz is a **Brazilian** choir programme founded in 2016 by musician **Rico Vasconcellos**, bringing together people with lived experience of homelessness through music. The choir has performed as part of the cultural programmes of the London and Rio Olympic Games and was an early inspiration for the international arts and homelessness network.

Cocoroom is a community arts space founded in 2003 in **Osaka's** Kamagasaki district, exploring how voice, words and imagination connect creative expression with society. Through projects such as Kamagasaki University of the Arts and its guesthouse café, Cocoroom brings together artists, travellers, local residents and people experiencing homelessness to create spaces for encounter, creativity and mutual support.

Rey Trombetta is Head of Marketing and Communications at **Streetwise Opera**, where he leads messaging, campaigns and digital storytelling to share the organisation's work with wider audiences. Previously a journalist reporting on conflict and human rights in countries including Afghanistan, Palestine, Lebanon and Colombia, he now focuses on using communications and creative media to amplify the voices of people affected by homelessness.



Anthony Luvera is an **artist, writer and educator** whose work explores home, displacement and social justice through collaborative **photography** projects with people who have experienced homelessness. His internationally exhibited practice challenges public perceptions of homelessness and housing inequality. He is Director of Education at the Royal Photographic Society and co-author of *Reframing Homelessness: A Guide to Ethical Representation*.

Owen Clayton is a **literary scholar** whose research focuses on recovering marginalised voices and the cultural history of homelessness. His work explores how homelessness has been represented in literature and photography. He is the author of several books, including *Representing Homelessness* (Oxford University Press, 2021), and co-author of *Reframing Homelessness: A Guide to Ethical Representation*.

Diana Margot Rosenthal is a **researcher** specialising in mixed-methods research and Inclusion Health, focusing on health disparities affecting marginalised communities. Her work uses community-based participatory research and transdisciplinary approaches to address issues of health equity and social justice. She currently works with families with young children experiencing homelessness in New York City.

Samira Saleh is a **spoken word artist**, host and organiser whose work is rooted in her Dutch, Egyptian, Moroccan and diasporic background. Her practice focuses on amplifying unheard stories through performance, storytelling and research on themes including Islamic feminism. She has performed internationally and supports emerging artists through initiatives such as Mama's Open Mic and Seniors Slam.

Nell Hardy is Creative Producer of Old Diorama Arts Centre's **One Roof** programme and festival, supporting artists with lived experience of homelessness. She is also Founder and Creative Lead of **Response Ability Theatre**, which platforms people affected by trauma to shape how their stories are told. Nell is an Associate Artist with Arts & Homelessness International and works with the Museum of Homelessness as an object storyteller and trauma-conscious coach.

Daniel Pitt is a curator-producer and arts leader committed to the social power of the arts. Since 2021 he has been Creative Director and Chief Executive of **Old Diorama Arts Centre** in London, a centre for artistic creation and community engagement. He has led the organisation through a period of renewed vision and growing impact, reconnecting it with local communities amid major urban change in the Euston area.

David Tovey is an internationally award-winning **artist, educator and activist** working across photography, painting, installation and performance. His work raises awareness of social issues including homelessness and has been exhibited internationally, including at Tate Modern and Tate Liverpool. He founded the UK's One Festival of Homeless Arts and teaches art to people experiencing homelessness at Passage House.



Patrick Chassignet works with the **Fondation Abbé Pierre** and is involved in the **C'est pas du luxe! festival in Avignon**, which brings together professional artists and people experiencing poverty to co-create and present artistic work.

Evelyn Ariane Lauro is a historian with an MA in Cultural Studies and a specialisation in Human Rights, Diversity and Violence. She leads the Social Outreach Department at the **Museum of the Portuguese Language in São Paulo**, working to strengthen connections between the museum and underserved local communities.

Sandra Carla Sarde Mirabelli is a socio-cultural advisor in the Management of Studies and Social Programs at **Sesc São Paulo**. Her work focuses on developing social and cultural initiatives that promote wellbeing and quality of life for workers and their communities. She holds a PhD in Social Service from the Pontifícia Universidade Católica de São Paulo.

Larissa Meneses is Cultural Programming Coordinator at **Sesc Bom Retiro**, one of the community centres of Sesc São Paulo. Since 2019 she has coordinated cultural programmes, partnerships and interdisciplinary projects across culture, education, sport and leisure. She holds a Master's degree in Political Science from the University of Campinas (Unicamp).

Bekki is a **mixed media artist** whose work has often focused on issues around homelessness and mental health. She now works at the Museum of Homelessness.

JP is a **multidisciplinary visual artist** and poet whose main mediums are graffiti, graphic design, and illustration. He is currently developing a clothing line that incorporates graffiti and street art-inspired techniques.

Sam Spencer is a **poet**, writer and lived experience advocate. Her creative work is rooted in personal and collective experiences of housing injustice, trauma and healing. Alongside her writing, she contributes to housing policy conversations with organisations including Groundswell, Shelter and Homewards.

Ronnie McDowall is a **musician** whose practice centres on voice, songwriting, composition and arrangement. His work explores music as a way of reconnecting with identity, creativity and lived experience.

Skywatchers is a community arts collaboration based in **San Francisco's Tenderloin** neighbourhood, bringing together artists across cultures, generations and abilities. Their work centres the stories, experiences and creative voices of residents with histories of housing insecurity. Through collaborative performance and public art, Skywatchers creates spaces for belonging, expression and solidarity.



Shereena Akoto is an actor, mental health nurse and cognitive behavioural therapist who has worked with **Cardboard Citizens** for many years as both an artist and a member with lived experience. Through performance, she helps bring to life stories of people who have experienced homelessness and injustice, creating space for voices that are often unheard.

Barry Callaghan is a member of **Cardboard Citizens** and has been involved in workshops and creative activities with the organisation over the past year. He volunteers at his hostel and recently launched the podcast Homeless Not Hopeless, which amplifies overlooked voices, challenges stigma and broadens perspectives around homelessness.

For Arts & Homelessness International

Sarah Hough is an Arts & Homelessness International Associate Leadership Programme alumna, **producer and storyteller**, and Communications Officer at Groundswell. A rapper and poet performing as Da Stigma, she creates podcasts, films and live programmes that amplify lived experience and challenge stigma. Her work focuses on trauma-informed storytelling and supporting others to share their stories.

Natasha Steer is a producer at Arts & Homelessness International and a creative health practitioner. Drawing on her lived experience of health challenges and homelessness, she works with communities to explore the role of creativity in wellbeing. Natasha co-developed AHI's Quality Framework, supporting practitioners and organisations to deliver trauma-conscious arts provision.

Matt Peacock is Co-Director of Arts & Homelessness International and founder of Streetwise Opera. A former support worker, he has spent many years championing the role of the arts in addressing homelessness. He is a Clore Leadership Fellow and has been recognised as one of the Evening Standard's Most Influential Londoners and a Southbank Centre Changemaker.

Katie Langford is Co-Director of Arts & Homelessness International and Chair of Response Ability Theatre. With a background in acting and broadcasting, her work focuses on the power of creativity, community and lived experience to challenge injustice and reimagine responses to homelessness.

Samra Said is Co-Director of Arts & Homelessness International and a humanitarian committed to civic engagement and social change. She previously worked with Street Support Network and Human Appeal and is a Southbank Centre ChangeMaker. Samra was selected as one of a small group of European leaders for the Alliance for Socially Engaged Arts Fellowship, a programme supporting organisations driving community-led cultural change across Europe.