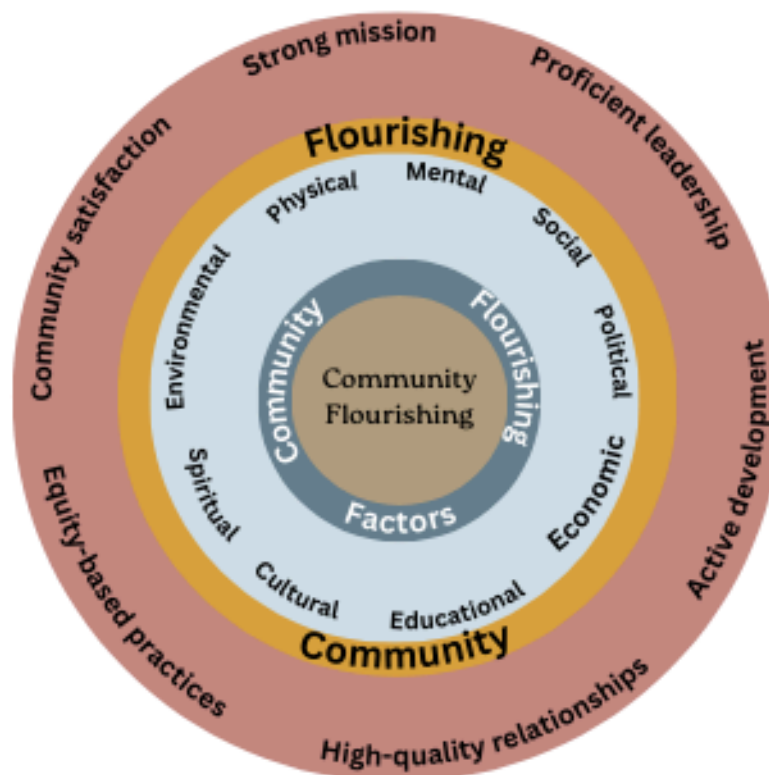


COMMUNITY FLOURISHING

OVERVIEW

Community flourishing refers to “being well together” and to positive impacts that involvement with a community has on our health, resilience, and belonging. Community flourishing is a dynamic interplay between conditions that enable communities and community members to multiply and maintain resources for their wellness and potential fulfillment. Factors promoting community flourishing support community values and provide a sense of security within individual, collective, and national standards of well-being.^{1,2} Community flourishing is facilitated by community-informed and value-driven social relations, services, shared spaces, and decision-making.³

The figure below identifies the factors contributing to community flourishing as well as characteristics of a flourishing community.^{1,2,3}



BROADER SIGNIFICANCE & IMPACT

Arts engagement helps to promote health education and cope with illness.

The arts help build awareness of health issues as well as understanding of perceptions of health issues in society.⁴ For people with life-limiting illness, arts engagement promotes an improved sense of well-being and connection with others, a re-discovered sense of self, and resilience.⁵

Participation in museums as “spaces of care” helps overcome social inequalities, social exclusion, and stigmatization.

Participation in museum community engagement projects as “spaces of care” improves self-esteem, confidence, awareness of social inequality and identity issues as well as overall feelings of well-being. “Spaces of care” enhance participants’ knowledge for challenging the stigma of mental illness and poverty.⁶

Arts engagement helps adolescents to successfully recover from difficult communal experiences.

For adolescents who experienced school violence, community arts engagement promotes resilience by nurturing problem-solving creativity, meaning-making, and community pride.⁷ Furthermore, for youths who experienced migrational adversity, participation in arts and community change projects improves sense of purpose and hope, self-expression skills, confidence to engage with their community, and social cohesion.⁸

Arts engagement helps to promote health education and cope with illness.

For people with dementia, handling museum artifacts increases feelings of happiness, wellness, interest, confidence, and optimism; and participation in visual community art-viewing and art-making improves attention, pleasure, and negative affect.^{9,10} Crucially, visiting museums every few months or more is associated with a lower incidence of dementia over the following 10 years.¹¹

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