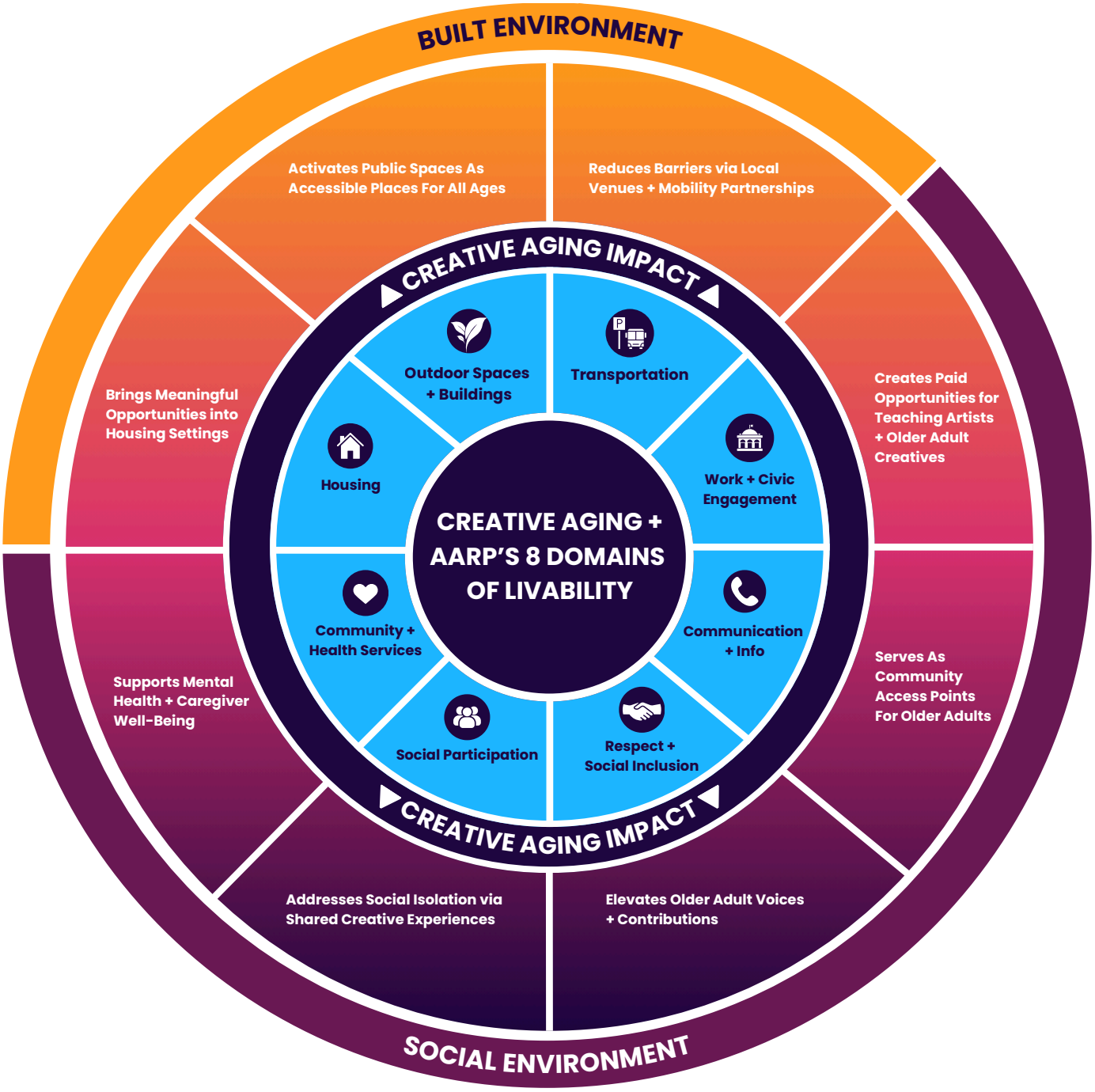
Creative Aging & AARP's 8 Domains of Livability

Creative aging is a natural and powerful strategy for advancing age-friendly communities. The [AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities] organizes its work around eight domains of livability—key areas that shape whether a community supports people of all ages to thrive.

Because creative aging operates at the intersection of health, culture, and community life, it contributes meaningfully across all eight domains:



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Outdoor Spaces & Buildings

Creative aging activates public spaces—parks, libraries, community centers, and cultural venues—making them more welcoming, accessible, and vibrant places for people of all ages to gather.

Transportation

Programs hosted in accessible, local venues (like libraries or senior centers) reduce transportation barriers, while partnerships can align with broader mobility solutions to ensure older adults can participate.

Housing

Creative aging supports aging in place by bringing meaningful, social, and creative opportunities directly into housing settings, including senior housing, community centers, and home-based programs.

Social Participation

At its core, creative aging addresses one of the most critical challenges in aging—social isolation—by offering accessible, engaging opportunities to connect through shared creative experiences.

Respect & Social Inclusion

Creative aging programs elevate the voices, stories, and contributions of older adults, fostering intergenerational exchange and reinforcing that older adults are valued, cultural contributors.

Work & Civic Engagement

Creative aging creates paid opportunities for practicing teaching artists, volunteer roles for participants, and pathways for older adults to contribute meaningfully to their communities through arts and culture.

Communication & Information

Creative aging initiatives often serve as trusted entry points for sharing information, reaching older adults through accessible, community-based channels that go beyond digital-only communication.

Community & Health Services

Increasingly recognized as part of the healthy aging ecosystem, creative aging supports mental health, cognitive function, and caregiver well-being—complementing traditional health and social services.

Why This Matters:

The AARP framework emphasizes that livable communities are built through coordinated action across multiple domains, not isolated interventions. Creative aging offers a cross-cutting strategy that helps communities make progress in many areas at once—strengthening not only individual well-being, but the overall social and civic infrastructure that supports healthy aging.

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