



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ozmo Institute for Neuroaesthetics: Pioneering Science, Innovation, and Community Enhancement Through the Arts

Memphis, TN – The Ozmo Institute for Neuroaesthetics is spearheading transformative research into impact of auditory and visual stimuli—such as music, sound, visual arts, and architecture—on the human brain, health, and behavior. As an emerging scientific field, neuroaesthetics investigates the biological and neural mechanisms by which aesthetic experiences enhance well-being and healing. Our mission is to develop and implement innovative methods and cutting-edge technologies that harness the arts for therapeutic purposes and community improvement. Our institute serves as a center for scientific research and technological innovation, transforming artistic insights into practical, evidence-based solutions.

A Vision Inspired by Resilience and Creativity

The Institute’s founding vision is rooted in the personal story of its Founder and CEO, Dr. Žak Ozmo. A former war refugee from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Dr. Ozmo’s life has been profoundly shaped by the arts. “In my family, the arts have always represented a path to something higher, a way to transcend adversity. Music, in particular, became our strength, our sense of identity, and our means of resilience,” Dr. Ozmo explained. “This experience of the arts as a tool for resilience and healing drives our research and our mission to bring those benefits to others.”

Our Collaborations

The Ozmo Institute for Neuroaesthetics collaborates closely with the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC), particularly within the Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology. This partnership positions us as a leading research-to-practice hub, fostering inter-departmental and inter-institutional synergy. By integrating efforts with UTHSC’s Neuroscience Institute, Cancer Program, Department of Pediatrics, Department of Neurology, and Department of Psychiatry, among others, we ensure a multidisciplinary approach to our research and programs.

Our institute has also established a vast network of community stakeholders, including leading educational, cultural, and religious organizations, healthcare systems, businesses, and volunteers. This network makes our work central to Memphis life, enabling us to collaborate with diverse partners and ensure the relevance and impact of our research and programs on the broader community.

Flagship Program: Music and Medicine

Our flagship initiative, the city-wide Music and Medicine program, leverages Memphis's rich musical heritage and diverse population to foster social change and improve health outcomes. By integrating music and sound, psychology, neuroscience, biology, and health sciences, we are

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creating new scientific methods and technologies to address various challenges. In the clinical setting, the initial focus is on conditions treated in the NICU, particularly neonatal abstinence syndrome, oncology, and anxiety disorders, particularly PTSD. Our further plans include researching and providing therapeutic interventions for autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's.

Community Events and Education

The Ozmo Institute will host an array of community events throughout 2025, including:

Musical Performances and Workshops: Focused on the therapeutic effects of music on PTSD, ASD, cancer, and general well-being, these science-based events will be free to the public and involve our partners such as Crosstown Arts, the Memphis Symphony Orchestra (MSO), Unapologetic, Stax Music Academy, Opera Memphis, and Memphis Songwriters Association.

Educational Courses: Offering free, age-appropriate lessons on the neuroscience of music for children and young adults in collaboration with our cultural partners.

Join Us in Transforming Memphis

We invite you to support the Ozmo Institute for Neuroaesthetics in our mission to advance science, innovation, and community enhancement through the arts. We aim to elevate the field of neuroaesthetics into a major economic sector in Memphis, creating extensive employment opportunities and paving pathways to meaningful careers throughout the city. Together, we can turn Memphis into a model city for integrating arts and science for the betterment of society.

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