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Disrupting discrimination against older people experiencing homelessness (OPEH) through community-based arts initiatives

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What comes to mind?



Discrimination defined

• "Discrimination occurs when an individual is treated differently ... solely on the basis of ... an interplay of characteristics:

o Race

- \circ Sexual orientation
- o Religion
- Physical disability
- \circ Mental illness
- o Age
- Citizenship status
- \circ Gender
- and/or Socioeconomic status."

(Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, 2021)



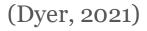
"The stigma and discrimination against an individual based on their housing status."

(Canham and Humphries, 2020)

Older People and Homeism

• Research has found that people who first experience homelessness at age 50 and older "more often have gone through a financial or health crisis in later life, lost a loved one or experienced a relationship breakdown."

- These intersecting challenges can impact numerous outcomes, including:
 - Employment
 - Income security
 - o Health
 - \circ Access to services.



Anecdote



• From the perspective of a non-profit service provider supporting seniors in navigating housing options in BC

Disrupting discrimination through community-based arts initiatives

- Three community-based arts initiatives:

 Community Conversations stereotype card project (Rachel)
 - Atelier Mobile Montreal (Eduardo)
 - o Art Hive project at James House (Alison)

