

Creative Forces Community Engagement Grantees

Grantee Organization	Location	Grant Amount/Tier	In Partnership with	Project Title	Project Description
University of Alabama at Birmingham	Birmingham, AL	\$10,000, emerging	Department of Veterans Affairs- Birmingham VA Healthcare System	Creative Arts for Birmingham Veterans	This pilot project includes four, six-week, virtual arts workshops with four currently established Whole Health veteran groups through the Birmingham, AL VA. The four workshops explore creative and expressive writing, visual art, mindful movement, and compassionate listening with reflective visual art-making. Each group will take part in one six-week class before moving on to the next art form in the cycle.
Mount Sequoyah Center Inc.	Fayetteville, AR	\$10,000, emerging	Veterans Health System of the Ozarks	Culinary Arts Food Experience (CAFÉ) and Writing NOVICE Program	This project will provide a group of veterans with a culinary arts and writing residency at Mount Sequoyah. Participants will learn from a chef and be guided toward finding their culinary style while also learning about food writing from a professional writer. The residency will end with a banquet dinner with an audience of veterans and community members. Creative writings and recipes will go home with participants.
City of Mesa	Mesa, AZ	\$50,000, Advanced two-year grant	Mesa United Way	Arts In Service	Arts in Service (AIS) provides educational studio art classes free for veterans and service-members to help them achieve their personal goals, whether that is to build a supportive community of fellow veterans, gain new skills, reduce stress, or improve overall well-being. The ongoing program consists of eight weeks of veteran/service member-exclusive sessions ranging from welding, ceramics, printmaking, painting, photography, blacksmithing, jewelry, playwriting, glass frameworking, and belly dancing. AIS sessions focus on the art form to enable skill-building, relationship-building, and sense of achievement, all while building resiliency and achieving wellness.
Arts and Culture El Dorado	Placerville, CA	\$5,000, emerging	Veterans Memorial Bldg of El Dorado County Veterans Bldg Council Inc	Veterans' Voices Writing Workshop	Veterans' Voices Writing Workshop is a free and ongoing writing workshop that is open to all veterans, from any branch of service. It offers a supportive environment and the tools needed for the writing of fiction and nonfiction stories, service related or not, as well as memoir, poetry, and drama. The workshop is facilitated by experienced, professional writers.
Diavolo Dance Theatre	Los Angeles, CA	\$50,000, Advanced two-year grant	Office of Military and Veteran's Affairs at Kansas State University	THE VETERANS PROJECT presents S.O.S.	THE VETERANS PROJECT is a community-engagement program with the goal of bridging the widening gap between veterans and civilians. Through movement workshops, art sessions, creative writing exercises and open discussions, DIAVOLO will foster veterans' creative expression, increase veterans' active arts participation, and enhance the public's understanding of veteran experiences today. The program will culminate in a custom-choreographed evening concert piece titled S.O.S., which will feature veterans performing alongside DIAVOLO dancers.

Old Globe Theatre	San Diego, CA	\$50,000, Advanced two-year grant	Veterans Village of San Diego	The Old Globe/Veterans Village Theatre Initiatives	The Old Globe/Veterans Village Theatre Initiatives are a series of six year-round programs for homeless veterans at Veterans Village San Diego. In order to meet participants' needs and goals at any stage of their recovery, each program sets different expectations for the length and depth of participant commitment. The Old Globe/Veterans Village Theatre Initiatives help veterans express themselves creatively, build social networks, and improve their employment outcomes.
Resounding Joy Inc.	San Diego, CA	\$50,000, Advanced two-year grant	Social and Environmental Entrepreneurs	Semper Sound	Community programming will improve the health, well-being, and quality of life of military service members, veterans, and their families through music arts activities, instruction, and opportunities to perform. Semper Sound's trauma-informed programs are enhanced by the expertise of Board-Certified music therapists, who serve as coaches, teachers, and guides for participants.
Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center, Inc.	Tampa, FL	\$50,000, Advanced two-year grant	James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital	Straz Salutes	Straz Salutes will provide multiple access points to the performing arts, arts learning and artmaking for active duty and veteran military, their families, and caregivers. The project activities include: Veterans Creative Arts Showcases, Vet Chat monthly virtual events, Veteran Civilian Arts Ensemble – a multidisciplinary space for veterans to explore performing and visual arts disciplines in classes at the Straz Center, and Four Broadway Military Family Nights at selected touring Broadway performances.
Brushwood Center at Ryerson Woods	Riverwoods, IL	\$50,000, Advanced two-year grant	Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center	At Ease: Art and Nature for Veterans	Brushwood Center will expand the At Ease program and support the improved well-being of the military community through the combined power of art and nature. Expansion will allow Brushwood Center to deepen engagement with the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Healthcare Center, while also extending services to more veterans and active duty personnel at the Naval Station Great Lakes through a diverse and robust offering of art, photography, and music classes, workshops, performances, and exhibitions.
University of Kansas Center for Research, Inc.	Lawrence, KS	\$25,000, Advanced one-year grant	The University of Kansas' with KU Graduate Military Programs and the Lt. Gen. William K. Jones Military-Affiliated Student Center	Modern Warriors Live - Engagements and Performance at the University of Kansas	The Lied Center will collaborate with KU's Graduate Military Programs and Military-Affiliated Student Center to present Modern Warriors Live, an immersive narrative and music experience that chronicles one veteran's journey. Prior to the performance they will host "Modern Warrior Experience" that allows the MWL artists to collaborate with local veterans empowering them to share their story through a unique Modern Warrior format of storytelling.

Dancing Well: The Soldier Project, Inc.	Louisville, KY	\$10,000, emerging	Tapestry Folkdance Center	Dancing Well	The Soldier Project's mission is to restore the wellbeing of veterans and families affected by Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and brain injury (BI) through community dance. Through the power of live music, dance, and community, the project uplifts veterans and families in need and build social connection for people whose PTSD often leads to isolation and depression.
Caregivers on the Homefront, Inc.	Kansas City, MO	\$10,000, Advanced one-year grant	Elsa Adams-Littleton (individual artist)	Art on the Homefront	Art on the Homefront will partner with a local art teacher to host stand-alone painting workshops both in-person and virtually, and include these workshops in existing restorative weekend and Homefront Hangout programs. They will host a total of 24 workshops within the grant period to support military and veteran caregivers and children.
Frontline Arts, A New Jersey Non-Profit Corporation	Branchburg, NJ	\$50,000, Advanced two-year grant	Readjustment Counseling Services (better known as Vet Centers), Veterans Health Administration, United States Department of Veterans Affairs	Frontline Paper Expanded Reach: In-house Weekly, Offsite monthly workshops	This project expands the outreach of the Frontline Paper veteran arts program via enhanced weekly, and mobile monthly papermaking sessions at both Frontline Arts in Branchburg, NJ and the South Jersey Vet Center in Egg Harbor, NJ as well as online. The project starts with a training session for new facilitators, leading to 100 in-house/virtual and 12 mobile workshops creating increased engagement with the veteran community and service organizations over the course of two years, serving up to 1,800 participants.
DE-CRUIT, Inc.	New York, NY	\$37,885, Advanced two-year grant	New York City Department of Veterans' Services	The DE-CRUIT Program: Using Theatre to Address Trauma and Mental Health Needs in Military Veterans	The DE-CRUIT program uses theatre, specifically Shakespeare, to address trauma and mental health needs in veterans. DE-CRUIT is an evidence-based, veteran-led program that uses principles from classical actor training, techniques of grounding and breathing, and experiential analysis of Shakespeare's verse to build camaraderie among the group members and to foster individual and collective healing. Participants use the Shakespearean monologue form to construct personal trauma narratives which they share with other veterans in the group and ultimately with the broader civilian community through a culminating performance to an invited audience.
Exit12 Dance Company Inc.	New York, NY	\$10,000, emerging	Intrepid Museum Foundation	Exit12 Workshops for Veterans and Refugees on the Intrepid	Exit12 and the Intrepid Sea, Air, and Space Museum will deliver an 8-week creative writing and choreography workshop, bringing together military veterans, their families, and refugees from Afghanistan and Iraq. The participants will create poems, choreography, music, and prose over the 8-weeks, focusing on sharing individual stories with one another. A public performance of the works will take place at the Intrepid Sea, Air, and Space Museum during Fleet Week/Memorial Day Weekend 2023.

Josephine Herrick Project, Inc.	New York, NY	\$50,000, Advanced two-year grant	Harlem Vet Center	Odyssey Project: Warriors Come Home	Over the course of two years, the Odyssey Project will bring together combat veterans for two three-month participatory photography workshops and ongoing mentoring, culminating in a large-scale public exhibition and book of their artwork. The project seeks to use group-based photography workshops and peer mentorship with veterans to explore the journey home from war in a safe space with other veterans who have the same shared experience, and create a new “unit” dedicated to engaging each other and the world around them in new ways through their camera lenses.
The National Jazz Museum in Harlem	New York, NY	\$10,000, emerging	Black Veterans for Social Justice, Inc.	Jazz & Creative Veterans	In partnership with Brooklyn, NY-based Black Veterans for Social Justice (BVSJ), NJMH will present a series of four free concerts. Three events will take place at BVSJ’s auditorium and will include an educational component. The fourth concert will be presented outdoors at a park or other location near BVSJ as part of BVSJ’s 2023 Memorial Day celebration. All concerts will be held at physically accessible venues and will feature a jazz band, led by or featuring a veteran.
Literary Cleveland	Cleveland Heights, OH	\$7,500, emerging	VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System	Veterans’ Voices	“Veterans’ Voices” will provide free creative writing workshops to Northeast Ohio military service members and veterans. These poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction classes will provide an opportunity for them to process their experiences, express their creativity, advance their writing skills, and build relationships with other service members. The project will culminate in the publication of an anthology of writing by participants that will be shared with the public.
Modern Warrior Live	Ravenna, OH	\$50,000, Advanced two-year grant	Cuyahoga Community College	The Modern Warrior Experience	Through an intensive 8-week Modern Warrior Experience workshop for rural veterans and four Modern Warrior LIVE performances each grant year, the project will weave honest first-person narration, world-class musicians, and stagecraft, and empower veterans to reflect, articulate, understand, and grow from trauma. In the Modern Warrior Experience portion, a small cohort is coached and supported to bring their own voices to the stage to express their fears, frustrations, and hopes; in the Modern Warrior LIVE shows the cofounder/veteran and musicians engage larger audiences to feel the hope and healing of artistic expression.
Tennessee Shakespeare Company	Memphis, TN	\$10,000, Advanced one-year grant	Memphis VA Medical Center	Feast of Crispian - South	TSC’s Military Veterans Health Program, Feast of Crispian-South, uses Shakespeare to interactively aid Mid-South area heroes with post-deployment mental health and chemical dependency issues. This year-round residency employs specifically-trained TSC Teaching-Artists who lead multiple-week sessions for three distinct veteran in-patient populations at the Memphis VA Medical Center.

Bihl Haus Arts Inc.	San Antonio, TX	\$50,000, Advanced two-year grant	Vet TRIIP	Forward, Arts!	Forward, Arts! offers professionally taught drawing and painting classes free of charge, including all art supplies, to veterans with PTSD, MST, and depression with the goal to help ease veterans' emotional and physical pain through arts immersion. This project will support the expansion of Forward, Arts! classes to reach a new population of veterans, as well as training for new teachers and expansion of accessibility for veterans.
Center for African American Military History	Houston, TX	\$10,000, emerging	The Jung Center of Houston	Military Inspired Art Showcase (M.I.A.)	M.I.A. is a multi-month art exhibition and programming schedule intended to leverage the power of the arts to help create stronger community connections and enable local military service members, veterans, and their families to unleash their inner creativity. Artwork and exhibits reveal the effects of war upon our nation's heroes, provides veterans with a creative venue for expression, and promotes patriotism in a positive light.
Armed Services Arts Partnership	Alexandria, VA	\$50,000, Advanced two-year grant	Virginia Stage Company	ASAP Community Arts Chapters	ASAP will deliver evidence-based community arts programming to 700 unique veterans across four Chapter communities — Hampton Roads, VA; Washington, DC; San Diego, CA; and Indianapolis, IN — as well as online. The project aims to significantly and sustainably improve veterans' social connectedness, resilience, and self-esteem through creative expression. Key elements of the program model include immersive classes, introductory workshops, and frequent performances.
Art for the Journey	Richmond, VA	\$10,000, Advanced one-year grant	Hunter Holmes McGuire VA Medical Center	Veterans Art Program	Veterans Arts Program provides monthly art-making experiences for up to 20 veterans with service related disabilities/PTSD at the Hunter Holmes McGuire VA Medical Center or other appropriate community locations. These experiences will produce art created by the veterans to be taken home and exhibited in the community annually. Programs are led by a team of artists and volunteers with the aim of creating not only beautiful art, but a positive communal environment characterized by personal engagement, friendship, and well-being. Projects include clay, memorial boxes, pour and art-making with watercolor, acrylic, pencil and oil pastel.
Museum of Glass	Tacoma, WA	\$10,000, Advanced one-year grant	Joint Base Lewis-McChord/Washington State Office of Veteran's Affairs	Enriching the Glassmaking Experience for Hot Shop Heroes Participants	Museum of Glass has offered Hot Shop Heroes to more than 700 soldiers and veterans for almost eight years. Hot Shop Heroes instructors work in partnership with the referring therapists from Joint Base Lewis-McChord and the Washington State Office of Veterans Affairs to provide each participant with artmaking experiences that support their recovery. This project will enrich the Hot Shop Heroes experience by adding a sketching component, and culminate each eight-week session with a celebration and a certificate of achievement for participants.

Path with Art	Seattle, WA	\$25,000, Advanced one-year grant	Seattle Opera	Veterans Path with Art	Veterans Path with Art cohort programming includes multidisciplinary (e.g., visual, vocal, theatre, and literature) online and in-person optional 8-week classes, 2-session workshops, core classes, and Art Kits. Highlights include the Veterans Choir in collaboration with the Seattle Opera and a trip to the Veteran's Farm in Orting, WA in partnership with the Vet Conservation Corp of the WDVA. These trauma-informed, healing-centered classes are a welcoming and non-judgmental environment, offering veterans low-barrier to entry to the transformative power of the arts.
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