

2025 Creative Forces Community Engagement Grant Recipients

The primary aim of the National Creative Forces® Community Engagement grant program is to enhance the health, well-being, and quality of life for military-connected individuals who have experienced trauma. The program achieves this by funding arts initiatives that encourage creativity, build social connections, improve resilience, and help smooth the transition to civilian life.

The Creative Forces Community Engagement Grant is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in partnership with Mid-America Arts Alliance (M-AAA).

Below is a list of the 2025 Creative Forces Community Engagement grant recipients below and [their projects](#).

Grant Projects

Mesa, Arizona

Mesa Arts Center

Arts in Service

Grantee Website: [Mesa Arts Center](#)

Partner Organization: Mesa United Way [azuravets.org](#)

Grant Amount and Tier: **\$50,000, Advanced**

Grant Period: **2025–2027**

Tempe, Arizona

Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing at Arizona State University

Veterans Writing Circle

Grantee Website: [Arizona State University](#)

Partner Organization: Pat Tillman Veterans Center [veterans.asu.edu](#)

Grant Amount and Tier: **\$10,000, Advanced**

Grant Period: **2025–2026**

Berkeley, California

Kala Art Institute

Veterans Initiative in the Arts: Artist Residencies, Exhibitions,
and Art Workshops

Grantee Website: [Kala Art Institute](#)

Partner Organization: Cal Veteran Services Center, part of the Centers for Educational Equity
and Excellence (CE3) [veteran.berkeley.edu](#)

Grant Amount and Tier: **\$10,000, Emerging**

Grant Period: **2025–2026**

Los Angeles, California

Geffen Playhouse

Geffen Playhouse Veterans Writing & Performance Workshop

Grantee Website: [Geffen Playhouse](#)

Partner Organization: Veterans in Media & Entertainment [ymeconnect.org](#)

Grant Amount and Tier: **\$24,000, Advanced**

Grant Period: **2025–2026**

Los Angeles, California

Piece by Piece

Piece by Piece Veterans

Grantee Website: [Piece by Piece Los Angeles](#)

Partner Organization: Village for Vets [villageforvets.org](#)

Grant Amount and Tier: **\$25,000, Advanced**

Grant Period: **2025–2026**

San Diego, California

Resounding Joy

Sounds of Service: Community Music Engagement for
Military-Connected Individuals

Grantee Website: [Resounding Joy](#)

Partner Organization: U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, Chula Vista Vet Center
[va.gov/chula-vista-vet-center](https://www.va.gov/chula-vista-vet-center)

Grant Amount and Tier: **\$50,000, Advanced**

Grant Period: **2025–2027**

San Diego, California

San Diego Opera

Words & Music: From Service to Song

Grantee Website: [San Diego Opera](#)

Partner Organization: Resounding Joy resoundingjoyinc.org

Grant Amount and Tier: **\$10,000, Emerging**

Grant Period: **2025–2026**

San Diego, California

KPBS

GI Film Festival San Diego

Grantee Website: [KPBS](#)

Partner Organization: Film Consortium San Diego filmconsortiumsd.com

Grant Amount and Tier: **\$25,000, Advanced**

Grant Period: **2025–2026**

Ocala, Florida

Arts in Health Ocala Metro
Art for Veterans

Grantee Website: [Arts in Health Ocala Metro](#)

Partner Organization: Ocala Vet Center va.gov/ocala-vet-center

Grant Amount and Tier: **\$3,799, Emerging**

Grant Period: **2025–2026**

Chicago, Illinois

DEMIL Art Fund

The DEMIL Arts Initiative: Advancing Veterans in the Arts

Grantee Website: [DEMIL Art Fund](#)

Partner Organization: Emerging Veteran Artist Movement veteran-art-movement.net

Grant Amount and Tier: **\$25,000, Advanced**

Grant Period: **2025–2026**

Chicago, Illinois

Steppenwolf Theatre Company

Steppenwolf: Veterans' Night

Grantee Website: [Steppenwolf Theatre Company](#)

Partner Organization: Gary Sinise Foundation garysinisefoundation.org

Grant Amount and Tier: **\$25,000, Advanced**

Grant Period: **2025–2026**

Evanston, Illinois

Open Studio Project

Art & Wellness for Veterans

Grantee Website: [Open Studio Project](#)

Partner Organization: Evanston Vet Center va.gov/evanston-vet-center

Grant Amount and Tier: **\$10,000, Emerging**

Grant Period: **2025–2026**

Louisville, Kentucky

Kentucky Shakespeare

Shakespeare with Veterans

Grantee Website: [Kentucky Shakespeare](#)

Partner Organization: Louisville Vet Center va.gov/louisville-vet-center

Grant Amount and Tier: **\$10,000, Emerging**

Grant Period: **2025–2026**

Lutherville-Timonium, Maryland

Baltimore Classical Guitar Society

Lullaby Project for Veterans in Maryland

Grantee Website: [Baltimore Classical Guitar Society](#)

Partner Organization: Perry Point VA Medical Center va.gov

Grant Amount and Tier: **\$10,000, Emerging**

Grant Period: **2025–2026**

Cambridge, Massachusetts

Yuan3 Chih4 Education

Healing Through Art: Empowering Military Communities

Grantee Website: [Yuan3Chih4Edu](#)

Partner Organization: Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation tzuchiboston.org

Grant Amount and Tier: **\$10,000, Emerging**

Grant Period: **2025–2026**

Kentwood, Michigan

Healing In Arts

The Art of Resilience: Veterans' Journeys Through Creativity

Grantee Website: [Healing In Arts](#)

Partner Organization: Paint with a Twist paintingwithatwist.com/studio/grand-rapids/

Grant Amount and Tier: **\$45,000, Advanced**

Grant Period: **2025–2027**

Duluth, Minnesota

23rd Veteran

Iron Range Forge Building

Grantee Website: [23rd Veteran](#)

Partner Organization: Minnesota North College minnesotanorth.edu

Grant Amount and Tier: **\$10,000, Emerging**

Grant Period: **2025–2026**

St. Paul, Minnesota

CommonBond Communities

Makers' Post Art Studio at Upper Post
Veterans Community

Grantee Website: [CommonBond Communities](#)

Partner Organization: Northern Clay Center northernclaycenter.org

Grant Amount and Tier: **\$10,000, Emerging**

Grant Period: **2025–2026**

Columbia, Missouri

Access Arts

Art Workshops for Women

Grantee Website: [Access Arts](#)

Partner Organization: Stephens College
stephens.edu/life-at-stephens/center-of-excellence-for-veterans-success

Grant Amount and Tier: **\$10,000, Emerging**

Grant Period: **2025–2026**

Maplewood, Missouri

Artists First

Artists First for Veterans

Grantee Website: [Artists First](#)

Partner Organization: Salvation Army Veterans Residence

centralusa.salvationarmy.org/midland/veterans-residence

Grant Amount and Tier: **\$25,000, Advanced**

Grant Period: **2025–2026**

St. Charles, Missouri

Foundry Art Centre

Camo Canvas Connections

Grantee Website: [Foundry Art Centre](#)

Partner Organization: City of St. Peters stpetersmo.net/240/Cultural-Arts-Centre

Grant Amount and Tier: **\$8,353, Emerging**

Grant Period: **2025–2026**

St. Louis, Missouri

Hope Creates

Make Your M.A.R.C. - Music. Art. Recovery. Connection.
for Veterans in Recovery

Grantee Website: [Hope Creates](#)

Partner Organization: St. Louis County Veterans Court

stlcountycourts.com/courts-departments/treatment-court/veteran

Grant Amount and Tier: **\$10,000, Emerging**

Grant Period: **2025–2026**

Helena, Montana

Holter Museum of Art

Holter Healing Arts: Courage to Create

Grantee Website: [Holter Museum of Art](#)

Partner Organization: Ft. Harrison VA Medical Center

va.gov/montana-health-care/locations/fort-harrison-va-medical-center

Grant Amount and Tier: **\$25,000, Advanced**

Grant Period: **2025–2026**

Omaha, Nebraska

Circle Theatre

Threads of Tradition: Exploring Japanese Culture
in Western Nebraska

Grantee Website: [Circle Theatre](#)

Partner Organization: Legacy of the Plains Museum legacyoftheplains.org

Grant Amount and Tier: **\$5,000, Emerging**

Grant Period: **2025–2026**

Omaha, Nebraska

WhyArts, Inc.

Creative Arts Programs for Veterans

Grantee Website: [WhyArts](#)

Partner Organization: New Visions Homeless Services newvisionshs.org

Grant Amount and Tier: **\$10,000, Emerging**

Grant Period: **2025–2026**

Beacon, New York

Savage Wonder Art Center

Support Savage Wonder Art Center's Production and Performance of Seven Veteran and Veteran-adjacent-authored 10-minute Comedies and Dramas

Grantee Website: [Savage Wonder](#)

Grant Amount and Tier: **\$10,000, Emerging**

Grant Period: **2025–2026**

Brooklyn, New York

UrbanGlass/New York Contemporary Glass Center, Inc.

Glass for Good

Grantee Website: [UrbanGlass](#)

Partner Organization: Department of Veterans Affairs–NY Harbor Healthcare System
[va.gov](#)

Grant Amount and Tier: **\$10,000, Emerging**

Grant Period: **2025–2026**

New York, New York

Carnegie Hall

Carnegie Hall's Lullaby Project Partnership with NYS
Department of Veterans' Services

Grantee Website: [Carnegie Hall](#)

Partner Organization: New York State Department of Veterans' Services [veterans.ny.gov](#)

Grant Amount and Tier: **\$10,000, Emerging**

Grant Period: **2025–2026**

New York, New York

Exit 12 Dance Company, Inc.

In-Trench

Grantee Website: [Exit 12 Dance Company](#)

Partner Organization: The Strongpoint Theinert Ranch, Inc. strongpointtheinert.org

Grant Amount and Tier: **\$25,000, Advanced**

Grant Period: **2025–2026**

New York, New York

Josephine Herrick Project Inc.

Odyssey Project: Warriors Come Home

Grantee Website: [Josephine Herrick Project Inc.](#)

Partner Organization: Queens Vet Center va.gov/queens-vet-center

Grant Amount and Tier: **\$50,000, Advanced**

Grant Period: **2025–2027**

New York, New York

Sing for Hope

Building Community Through the Arts: A Collaborative Initiative to Foster Connection, Expression, and Wellbeing for Veterans in Nursing Care

Grantee Website: [Sing for Hope](#)

Partner Organization: James J. Peters Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center
va.gov/bronx-health-care/locations/james-j-peters-department-of-veterans-affairs-medical-center

Grant Amount and Tier: **\$25,000, Advanced**

Grant Period: **2025–2026**

Port Chester, New York

Clay Art Center

Clay for Veterans

Grantee Website: [Clay Art Center](#)

Partner Organization: SUNY Westchester Community College sunywcc.edu

Grant Amount and Tier: **\$10,000, Emerging**

Grant Period: **2025–2026**

Raleigh, North Carolina

ComMotion - Community in Motion

Wellness & Movement for Veterans

Grantee Website: [ComMotion - Community in Motion](#)

Partner Organization: Durham VA Medical Center

Grant Amount and Tier: **\$40,000, Advanced**

Grant Period: **2025–2027**

Wake Forest, North Carolina

The Joel Fund

'Deploy' Operation ART

Grantee Website: [The Joel Fund](#)

Partner Organization: Durham VA Whole Health Pathway Program
va.gov/durham-health-care

Grant Amount and Tier: **\$3,932.50, Emerging**

Grant Period: **2025–2026**

Canton, Ohio

Canton Museum of Art

Alpha Romeo Tango (ART) Program

Grantee Website: [Canton Museum of Art](#)

Partner Organization: Pegasus Farm/Military and First Responders Center
pegasusfarm.org/military-and-first-responders-center.org

Grant Amount and Tier: **\$9,000, Emerging**

Grant Period: **2025–2026**

Edmond, Oklahoma

Edmond Historical Museum

Old Time Radio Performances for Veterans

Grantee Website: [Edmond History Museum](#)

Partner Organization: Edmond Fourth of July Festivals, LibertyFest libertyfest.org

Grant Amount and Tier: **\$5,000, Advanced**

Grant Period: **2025–2026**

Portland, Oregon

Oregon Society of Artists

Veterans' Art Program

Grantee Website: [Oregon Society of Artists](#)

Partner Organizations:

- The Salvation Army Veterans and Family Center
veterans.salvationarmy.org/cs_veterans_and_family_center
- Department of Veteran Affairs–Portland www.va.gov/portland-health-care

Grant Amount and Tier: **\$25,000, Advanced**

Grant Period: **2025–2026**

Huntingdon, Pennsylvania

Huntingdon County Arts Council

Veterans Downhome Music

Grantee Website: [Huntingdon County Arts Council](#)

Partner Organization: Huntingdon-Bedford-Fulton Area Agency on Aging
hbfaaa.org/senior-centers/standing-stone-senior-center/

Grant Amount and Tier: **\$10,000, Emerging**

Grant Period: **2025–2026**

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

The Clay Studio

Community Workshops for Veterans

Grantee Website: [The Clay Studio](#)

Partner Organization: US Department of Veterans Affairs–Philadelphia va.gov

Grant Amount and Tier: **\$10,000, Emerging**

Grant Period: **2025–2026**

Johnson City, Tennessee

East Tennessee State University Research Corporation/StoryCollab

Voices of Valor: A Veteran Storytelling Initiative

Grantee Website: [ETSU Research Corporation](#)

Partner Organization: The Warrior's Canvas & Veteran Art Center warriorscanvas.org

Grant Amount and Tier: **\$25,000, Advanced**

Grant Period: **2025–2026**

Kingsport, Tennessee

Symphony of the Mountains

Home of the Brave: Annual Veterans Day Concert

Grantee Website: [Symphony of the Mountains](#)

Partner Organization: City of Kingsport artskingsport.org

Grant Amount and Tier: **\$4,000, Emerging**

Grant Period: **2025–2026**

Richardson, Texas

Dallas Art Therapy

Creative Mission Veteran Open Studio

Grantee Website: [Dallas Art Therapy](#)

Partner Organization: Dallas VA Medical Center

va.gov/north-texas-health-care/locations/dallas-va-medical-center/

Grant Amount and Tier: **\$10,000, Emerging**

Grant Period: **2025–2026**

San Antonio, Texas

Luminaria

Luminaria Urban Military Innovation Network
for Art (LUMINA)

Grantee Website: [Luminaria Contemporary Arts Festival](#)

Grant Amount and Tier: **\$10,000, Emerging**

Grant Period: **2025–2026**

Wichita Falls, Texas

Backdoor Theatre

Veteran Improv Troupe

Grantee Website: [Backdoor Theatre](#)

Partner Organization: Helen Farabee Center helenfarabee.org/veterans

Grant Amount and Tier: **\$3,000, Emerging**

Grant Period: **2025–2026**

Salt Lake City, Utah

University of Utah

Women War Nurses: A Community of Healing

Grantee Website: [University of Utah Theatre](#)

Partner Organization: Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs veterans.utah.gov

Grant Amount and Tier: **\$10,000, Emerging**

Grant Period: **2025–2026**

Alexandria, Virginia

Armed Services Arts Partnership (ASAP)

ASAP's San Diego Chapter

Grantee Website: [Armed Services Arts Partnership](#)

Partner Organization: San Diego Writers, Ink writeyourstorynow.org

Grant Amount and Tier: **\$50,000, Advanced**

Grant Period: **2025–2027**

Tacoma, Washington

Museum of Glass

Hot Shop Heroes

Grantee Website: [Museum of Glass](#)

Partner Organizations:

- Soldier Recovery Unit Madigan Army Medical Center madigan.tricare.mil
- Intrepid Spirit Center Madigan Army Medical Center madigan.tricare.mil
- American Lake VA Medical Center
www.va.gov/puget-sound-health-care/locations/american-lake-va-medical-center

Grant Amount and Tier: **\$50,000, Advanced**

Grant Period: **2025–2027**

Waukesha, Wisconsin

Donna Lexa Art Centers

Upscaled Veterans' Art Therapy and Creative
Expression Program

Grantee Website: [Donna Lexa Art Centers](#)

Partner Organization: U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs: Clement J. Zablocki Veterans'
Administration Medical

Center va.gov/milwaukee-health-care/locations/clement-j-zablocki-veterans-administration-medical-center

Grant Amount and Tier: **\$25,000, Advanced**

Grant Period: **2025–2026**