



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS PROJECTS

Anchorage, Alaska

Alaska Project Lead: Alaska State Council on the Arts

Project Name: Creative Arts Workshops and Retreat

In Connection With: Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER), Anchorage AK

Project Description: A series of five, two-day creative arts workshops and a retreat for female veterans and active duty service members in Anchorage. Upon conclusion of the workshops, attendees will participate in a public performance, an exhibit, or a presentation. Professional film maker/s will coordinate with the project evaluator to document the workshops and any resulting performances or exhibitions.

Amount Approved: \$50,000

San Diego County, California

California Project Lead: Resounding Joy partnering with Combat Arts, VetArt, So Say We All, San Diego Veteran's Coalition, and Vets' Community Connections.

Project Name: Pop-up Community Creative Arts Cafes

In Connection With: Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton

Project Description: A coalition of six arts organizations in San Diego County will implement pop-up Community Creative Arts Cafes connecting clinic patients and their families to the community, local arts organizations to each other, and the broader military population to appropriate arts activities, while building awareness of arts participation opportunities in the region.

Amount Approved: \$50,000

Fort Carson and Colorado Springs, Colorado

Colorado Project Lead: Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region in partnership with Colorado Creative Industries—Colorado's state arts agency

Project Name: Military Arts Connection (MAC)

In Connection With: Fort Carson, CO

Project Description: The MAC program will encompass development and delivery of two cultural competency training modules (in order to understand another group's frame of reference and common language): Military Cultural Competency Training for local artists and arts organizations, and Arts Cultural Competency Training for local military healthcare practitioners and service providers, as well as a custom-built MAC website, which will serve as the hub of the program. The website will maintain a public directory of MAC program-trained artists, arts organizations, and military service providers, as well as dates for upcoming MAC training sessions, and other relevant resources.

The website's primary functions will be (1) to increase awareness of the arts as a healing tool for military populations, and (2) to facilitate scheduling of arts engagement experiences that will help active-duty service members, veterans and their families connect with their community.

Amount Approved: \$50,000

Tampa, Florida

Florida Project Lead: Straz Center for the Performing Arts

Project Name: VetArtSpan

In Connection With: James A. Haley Veteran's Hospital, Tampa

Project Description: The VetArtSpan project will include arts engagement activities, podcasts, videos, veteran-civilian dialogs, website, and in-theater presentations as a foundation for empowering the veteran community. The project will also expand the network of veteran service organizations and serve as a forum for storytelling and sharing of the veteran experience. Finally, VetArtSpan will reach out to other regions of Florida to build a statewide healing network of art-making, communication, and understanding for veterans, their families and caregivers.

Amount Approved: \$50,000

Bethesda, Maryland

Maryland Project Lead: Chesapeake Shakespeare Company

Project Name: Shakespeare Project

In Connection With: Walter Reed National Military Medical Center

Project Description: A ten-month, artist-in-residence program to include military service members, veterans, family members, as well as staff, students, and faculty at NICOE/Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. Phase one of the program will include: theatre exercises such as ensemble-building, performance techniques, and language interpretation, and workshops focused on storytelling, improvisation, theatre crafts, playwriting theatrical design, and theatre history. Phase two will result in a production presented at Walter Reed and at two other locations in Maryland.

Amount Approved: \$50,000

Jacksonville, North Carolina

North Carolina Project Lead: Jacksonville-Onslow Council for the Arts

Project Name: The Art Club

In Connection With: Camp Lejeune

Project Description: Continuation of weekly open studio time offered at the Jacksonville-Onslow Council for the Arts. Participants will exhibit their work in the council's gallery and plans are underway for exhibits to tour to three other arts councils in the eastern region of North Carolina: Wayne County Arts Council, Arts of the Pamlico in Beaufort County, and Arts of the Albemarle in Pasquotank County. The project will also include a writing program for the first time. A series of writing workshops will be hosted at the clinic on base and subsequently 12 weeks of two-hour writing sessions at the arts council.

Amount Approved: \$47,300

Killeen, Texas

Texas Project Lead: Texas Folklife

Project Name: Stories for Creative Forces Project

In Connection With: Fort Hood, TX

Project Description: To support workshops in storytelling and training in audio production for military personnel and veterans that will result in finished, broadcast-quality, audio documentaries shared at an open community event, as part of a podcast series, on social media, and through radio broadcasts. The project will train participants to create and broadcast their own military service stories and experiences, including those of their families, cohorts, and community.

Amount Approved: \$25,000

Texas Project Lead: VSA Texas

Project Name: Ink Stick Project

In Connection With: Fort Hood, TX

Project Description: To support a series of writing sessions—each session is eight weeks long—led by writing instructors/coaches at the Cultural Activities Center in Temple, Texas. Classes will be held weekly in a small group setting with 10-12 service members/veterans. Writing instruction for poetry, fiction, and personal narrative will be offered and participants will receive feedback from their peers and instructors. Following each eight-week session, participants will be invited to a celebratory event at Fort Hood to share their work.

Amount Approved: \$25,000

Tacoma and Olympia, Washington

Washington Project Lead: Washington State Arts Commission (ArtsWA)

Project Name: Summit II – Healing in Community

In Connection With: Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Tacoma, WA

Project Description: There are three components of the Creative Forces Summit II – Healing in Community:

- The first component involves facilitating the Music Works 4 Veterans program, a community program that supports on and off-post music-making connected to Joint Base Lewis-McChord and area veterans, with expansion anticipated into the South Puget Sound area. This will also partially support what is designed to become an annual event, the Vet Jam Experience.
- The second component involves a multi-day event focused on cultural competency; the elevation of skills and understanding of an organization's or an individual artist's capacity to work more effectively with the military population.
- Finally, Washington State Arts Commission will convene Summit II, a two-day conference with breakout sessions, plenaries, and intensive workshops directed primarily at the arts and culture community interested in working with the military and veteran population. Veterans, active service members, and related organizations such as the Dept. of Veterans Affairs, will also be invited to participate.

Amount Approved: \$50,000

Fort Belvoir and Portsmouth, Virginia

Virginia Project Lead: Virginia Commission for the Arts

Project Names: Creative Forces Network of Fort Belvoir and the Creative Forces Network of Hampton Roads

In Connection With: Fort Belvoir, VA and Navy Medical Center, Portsmouth, VA

Project Description: The project consists of developing two networks of local arts organizations, each network surrounding one of the two Creative Forces clinics in Virginia. The two networks will focus on how to better coordinate with their respective clinic as well as among themselves to provide a pipeline of community support, arts activities and services for active duty military service members, veterans, and their family and caregivers. Projects at both locations include a planning period to establish the local organizations that will participate in each network and the activities the network will pursue. Each location will support a coordinator who will work with the network to, among other activities, develop an asset map of arts programming in the area and expand existing arts programming. The networks will document the best practices that emerge.

Amount Approved: \$50,000 for the Fort Belvoir network and \$45,000 for the Hampton Roads network.