



NATIONAL INITIATIVE FOR ARTS & HEALTH IN THE MILITARY



www.ArtsAcrossTheMilitary.org

FACT SHEET

Mission

[National Initiative for Arts & Health in the Military](#) advances the arts in health, healing, and healthcare for active duty military, staff, Veterans, their families, and caregivers.

The Initiative founded in 2012 works across the military, Veterans, public, private, and nonprofit sectors, and seeks to:

- Advance the policy, practice, and quality use of arts and creativity as tools for health in the military'
- Raise Visibility, understanding, and support of arts and health in the military; and
- Make the arts as tools for health available to all active duty military, staff, family members, and veterans.

Leadership, Partners, and Collaborators

The Initiative is led by Americans for the Arts with the advice of the [National Steering Committee](#), and a growing [National Network](#) of organizations and providers of arts programs and services for the military service members, Veterans, and their families.

On behalf of the Initiative, Americans for the Arts engages in formal partnerships and collaborations to implement programming and advance the Initiative's goals. To that end, Americans for the Arts has active Memorandums of Understanding with both the [U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs – National Veterans Creative Arts Festival](#) and the [VA Office of Patient Centered Care and Cultural Transformation](#). A formal Statement of Collaboration with the [American Legion Auxiliary](#) supports joint work to promote the use of the arts in the lives of U.S. Veterans, their families, and caregivers in communities across the country. Americans for the Arts is an official AmeriCorps VISTA site of the [American Legion Auxiliary Call to Service Corps](#).

National hosts and partners for the Initiative's National Summit and Roundtable convening include **Walter Reed National Military Center** and the **National Intrepid Center of Excellence** (2011, 2013); **VSA**, an affiliate of the **John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts** (2012); and the **National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health/National Institutes of Health** (2015).

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Key National Initiative Activities and Resources

<p>Convenings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 27, 2015. <i>National Summit—Advancing Research in the Arts for Health and Well-being across the Military Continuum</i>, National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health at the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD • April 10, 2013. <i>National Summit: Arts, Health, and Well-Being Across the Military Continuum</i>, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Bethesda, MD • October 14–15, 2011. Inaugural <i>National Summit: Arts in Healing for Warriors</i>, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Bethesda, MD • November 15, 2012. <i>Arts & Health in the Military National Roundtable</i>, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington, DC
<p>Publications</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Arts, Health, and Well-Being Across the Military Continuum - White Paper and Framing a National Plan for Action</i> (October, 2013) makes recommendations in research, practice, and policy, and summarizes discussions with more than 500 participants in the national convenings. • <i>The Arts: A Promising Solution to Meeting the Challenges of Today's Military—A Summary Report and Blueprint for Action</i> (Report from the 2012 Arts & Health in the Military National Roundtable, April 10, 2013) proposes a framework to integrate the arts into the “Standard of Care” in military clinical (VA medical and military treatment centers) as well as in community settings across the country.
<p>Resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WEBSITE (www.ArtsAcrossTheMilitary.org) - A central online portal that houses information resources, multimedia presentations, publications, and other assets specific to the work of the Initiative and its partners, including the National Network Directory and national events calendar. • NATIONAL NETWORK DIRECTORY –Updated weekly, the Directory features profiles of individuals, programs, and agencies that offer arts-based services for active duty service members, Veterans, their families, and caregivers. Searchable by state, Directory entries provide a full description of the program, audience, and community setting as well as hyperlinks to illustrative images and videos. • TRAINING PROGRAMS - <i>Arts Deployed: A Practical Guide to Support Arts, Health, and Well-Being across the Military Continuum</i>– In Spring 2015, Americans for the Arts and the American Legion Auxiliary collaborated to produce a free three-part online course designed to explain, train, and support the development of local community arts initiatives and programming for military service members, Veterans, their families, and caregivers. View the each session here: Part One: Introduction (March 11); Part Two: Current Programs, New Possibilities, and Ways to Help (April 8); and Part Three: Building a Grassroots Community Mil/Vet Creative Arts Initiative (June 24). • The VA Arts, Health and Well-being Pilot Project launched in January 2015 helps VA medical centers integrate the arts into their Patient Centered Care plans. The project will enter Phase II in 2016, and is coordinated by Americans for the Arts in partnership with the VA Office of Patient Centered Care and Cultural Transformation and Johnson & Johnson.



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