FACT SHEET

Mission
Founded in 2012, the 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.

Working across the military, veterans, public, private, and nonprofit sectors, the National Initiative 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, Veterans, their family members, and caregivers.

Leadership, Partners and Collaborators

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

On behalf of the National 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 convenings include the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and the National Intrepid Center of Excellence (2011 and 2013); VSA, an affiliate of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts (2012); and the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health/National Institutes of Health (2015).

The National Initiative for Arts & Health in the Military is supported in part by Johnson & Johnson, the Corporation for National and Community Service, and the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation.

www.ArtsAcrosstheMilitary.org
Key National Initiative Activities and Resources

**Convenings**

- October 14-15, 2011. Inaugural National Summit: Arts in Healing for Warriors, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Bethesda, MD
- April 10, 2013. National Summit: Arts, Health, and Well-Being Across the Military Continuum, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Bethesda, MD
- February 27, 2015. National Summit—Advancing Research in the Arts for Health and Well-being across the Military Continuum, National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health at the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD
- February 2-5, 2017. 4th National Summit and Festival, Tampa, FL

**Publications**

- The Arts: A Promising Solution to Meeting the Challenges of Today’s Military—A Summary Report and Blueprint for Action (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.
- Arts, Health, and Well-Being Across the Military Continuum - White Paper and Framing a National Plan for Action (October, 2013) makes recommendations in research, practice, and policy, and summarizes discussions with more than 500 participants in the national convenings.

**Resources**

- 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 Initiative Directory and national events calendar.
- NATIONAL NETWORK DIRECTORY – This online 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.
- NIAHM closed facebook group is a real-time shared resource for members of the arts & military community to post events, projects, advocacy, calls for artists, and casting calls nationwide.
- NIAHM E-Newsletter is published bi-monthly for the arts and military community at large and reaches over 2,000 subscribers, featuring articles, resources, and media links.
- TRAINING PROGRAMS – A series of three free webinars produced by Americans for the Arts and the American Legion Auxiliary in 2015, designed to explain, train, and support the development of local community arts & military initiatives for active duty servicemembers, Veterans, their families, and caregivers. Part One: Introduction; Part Two: Current Programs, New Possibilities, and Ways to Help; and Part Three: Building a Grassroots Community MilVet Creative Arts Initiative.
- 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.