

# NATIONAL INITIATIVE FOR ARTS & HEALTH IN THE MILITARY



## Background

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In October, 2011 the first **National Summit: Arts in Healing for Warriors** was held at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC) and the National Intrepid Center of Excellence (NICoE), hosted by Rear Admiral Alton L. Stocks, in partnership with a national planning group of military, government, and nonprofit leaders. The Summit marked the first time various branches of the military collaborated with civilian agencies on a national scale to discuss how engaging with the arts provide opportunities to meet the key health issues our military faces—from pre-deployment to deployment to homecoming. Building upon its success, a multi-year **National Initiative for Arts & Health in the Military** was established in 2012 to:



## Program Components:

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- 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.

A series of strategies to lay the groundwork for the National Initiative are being launched to: 1) encourage further cooperation within arts, military, and health fields; 2) enhance communication between beneficiaries and providers; promote greater visibility of the importance of the arts to military health and wellness, and; 3) engage with leaders across agencies and sectors in the development of policies that support Initiative goals.

### • NATIONAL CONVENINGS

- Arts & Health in the Military National Roundtable (**November 15, 2012**)
- National Summit: Arts, Health & Well-being across the Military Lifecycle (**April 10, 2013; 2014 & 2015 TBD**)
- National Advisory Board: National Report Card on Arts & Health in the Military (*November, 2013*)

### • POLICY PUBLICATIONS

- National Initiative for Arts & Health in the Military Blueprint for Action (**April 10, 2013**)
- National Initiative for Arts & Health White Paper (*July, 2013*)
- National Report Card: Arts & Health in the Military (*April, 2014; 2015*)

### • NETWORKING, TRAINING AND INFORMATION

- Website, Network Map and Online Toolkit (phase I website launch in *September, 2013*)
- Americans for the Arts Convention: pre-convention webinar, convention peer session, and Arts & Health in the Military post-convention grass-roots Summit (*June, 2014*)
- Webinars (*ongoing 2014 – 2015*)



## Partners in the National Initiative

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**Americans for the Arts** and the **Walter Reed National Military Medical Center** co-lead a National Steering Committee providing guidance and support, including: Global Alliance for Arts & Health, National Endowment for the Arts, National Intrepid Center of Excellence, Creative Healing Connections, Foundation for Art & Healing, National Center for Creative Aging, New York Army National Guard Chaplaincy, Oasis by Design, LLC, Planetree Residential Facilities, Rollins & Associates, Smith Center for Healing and the Arts and the Joan Hisaoka Healing Arts Gallery, The Epidaurus Project, USO Metro, Vet Art Project and VSA, an affiliate of The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.