



California Arts Council

2014-15 Veterans Initiative in the Arts (VIA) Grantees

The Veterans Initiative in the Arts (VIA) is a pilot competitive grant program that provides project and partnership support for the California Arts Council's State-Local Partners (local arts agencies) to reach veterans, active military, and their families. VIA offers equity, access, and opportunities to enrich the lives of veterans through arts programming that is sensitive and responsive to their unique experiences. Learn more at <http://arts.ca.gov/programs/via.php>.

Number of Grants Awarded: 13 | Total Investment: \$125,561

Organization	Project Thumbnail
Alameda County Arts Commission <i>\$10,000</i>	Veterans + Families + Art = Creative Power is a new community building project by the Alameda County Arts Commission with partnering veterans service agencies. This project will bring veterans and their intergenerational families together for a series of art workshops. The goal is to strengthen family bonds and encourage family communication through the engaging, joyful and transformative power of the art making process. Further, the goal is to connect veteran's families with each other and with the boarder community through culminating exhibits at multiple veteran services and civic venues.
Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa County <i>\$9,500</i>	AC5 will partner with the Veterans Service Department and CCTV. The goal of this effort will be to engage veterans in artistic endeavors to gain confidence and enhance their creativity by creating self-portraits. Portraits will be incorporated into the AC5 Arts Passages gallery and displayed at various locations around the County. A local artist will be engage to hold up to 6 workshops of 15 veterans each allowing for individual instruction. CCTV will partner to advertise the workshops and produce and broadcast highlights of the events and workshop.
Arts Collaborative of Nevada County <i>\$8,861</i>	A collaboration between NCArts, Welcome Home Vets, and NCTV, the Image-Nation Project pulls together veterans and the community through the camera lens. Accomplished photographer Michael Llewellyn will provide veterans instruction in photography, and send them on assignment to document their world. Simultaneously, Llewellyn will capture images of each veteran's life and journey. With the support of counselors, the process will enable veterans to see their world with new perspective, and the culminating Exhibition will allow the community to see the faces of these veterans in a new light.

<p>Arts Connection <i>San Bernardino County</i> \$10,000</p>	<p>Veterans, active-duty military, and their families are invited to engage in a multifaceted art project blending social, environmental and artistic components. Spearheaded by Joshua Tree veterans organization, Mil-Tree, in collaboration with other area non-profit organizations, local artists and Joshua Tree National Park staff, participants will engage in papermaking from invasive plants and then use the paper for creative endeavors including drawing, screen printing, writing and storytelling. Funding would secure materials, facilities, lead artists/writers, and cover administrative costs.</p>
<p>Arts Council for Monterey County \$9,900</p>	<p>In consultation with Veterans' Affairs staff, Arts Council teaching artists with experience working with the arts in healing will work with local veterans to develop a 500 square foot mural that celebrates resilience and honors their inner strength. Preparation for the mural will begin with a series of developmental art classes that explore relevant themes and help veterans develop skills in design, imagery and illustration while they also develop the capacity to reduce anxiety through the arts. The veterans will each develop an individual tile and contribute to the mural as a whole.</p>
<p>Arts Orange County \$9,600</p>	<p>Arts Orange County will offer a free theatre workshop conducted by Chance Theater at the Veterans First service center in Santa Ana in the autumn of 2015, culminating in a free public performance at the Chance Theater's Bette Aitken Theater Arts Center in Anaheim.</p>
<p>Del Norte Association for Cultural Awareness \$9,500</p>	<p>DNACA's "Arts for Veterans" project will utilize professional local and touring artists to provide long- and short term artist residencies and activities in the performing and visual arts for Del Norte County veterans and their families. A culminating juried art exhibition open to the public will be held to showcase the work of the veterans and their families, and to help bring about community awareness of veterans and their creative capacity. VIA grant funds will be primarily used for artist fees, materials and production expenses, but also for administrative support.</p>
<p>Los Angeles County Arts Commission \$9,500</p>	<p>In partnership with The Craft & Folk Art Museum (CAFAM) and the County of Los Angeles Military and Veterans Affairs (CLAMVA), arts learning and the artistic expression of veterans will be supported through a public exhibition, Art and other Tactics: Contemporary Craft by Artist Veterans, featuring the art work of 22 artist veterans at CAFAM, and the participation of veterans in artist-led making workshops at Bob Hope Patriotic Hall, a historic facility serving veterans since 1926. CAFAM will create a printed and online brochure to provide a self-guided tour of art at Patriotic Hall.</p>

<p>Mariposa County Arts Council, Inc. \$9,700</p>	<p>Partners Mariposa County Arts Council and the Mariposa County Veteran of Foreign Wars Post #6042 proposes a series of jointly curated/selected exhibitions and complimentary public programs designed to bring together the diverse and geographically dispersed community of veterans in Mariposa County, create opportunities to initiate conversations and connections among both veterans and the general public, bring awareness of veterans' experiences to the larger community, and discover what additional art programming local veterans would like to see offered in the future.</p>
<p>Riverside Arts Council \$9,600</p>	<p>The Riverside County Veterans in the Arts program will utilize theatre, music and mixed media visual arts as a therapeutic tool in working with veterans and their families. The program would culminate in a performance at The Box in downtown Riverside and an exhibit at The Afterimage, RAC's gallery in University Village. Funds would go toward pay for artists, supplies, production costs and program development.</p>
<p>San Francisco Arts Commission \$9,600</p>	<p>The Veterans Arts Partnership is the foundation for long-lasting relationships between the San Francisco Arts Commission (SFAC) and veterans' organizations. As SFAC settles into its new home at the War Memorial Veterans Building in fall 2015, it will host a series of convenings in the building employing the arts to welcome and engage veterans already occupying and using the building. These forums will solicit input for the upcoming SFAC Gallery exhibition Surrounding Veterans to ensure it reflects the veteran experience, and help increase veteran engagement in all SFAC programs and services.</p>
<p>Yolo County Arts Council \$9,900</p>	<p>The art exhibition, Positive Reflections: From Combat to Community, will serve to encourage and support the artistic expressions of veterans in Yolo County. A partnership with the Veterans Service Office will serve to support the assembling of this exhibition, and will be enhanced by a poem commissioned from this project. The Positive Reflections project will contribute to public understanding of a range of veterans' experiences and celebrate, through the arts, the transition of our warriors as they reintegrate from combat to civilian life.</p>
<p>Yuba-Sutter Regional Arts Council \$9,800</p>	<p>In partnership with Yuba-Sutter United Veterans Services Office, Yuba Sutter Arts will create an 'Art Park' with and for veterans, active military and their families. Funds will be considered seed monies from which to craft a moveable public art installation in a neglected area of central Marysville. The City has donated a vacant lot for the duration of its initial phase, during which large murals will be designed by veterans - mentored by professional local artists - in time for a public unveiling on or around Veterans Day, 2015, before being relocated to Marysville's historic Ellis Lake.</p>