



California Arts Council 2016 Veterans Initiative in the Arts (VIA) Grantees

Veterans Initiative in the Arts (VIA) is rooted in the California Arts Council's desire to address the needs and improve the lives of California's veterans through the arts. VIA provides project and partnership support for nonprofit arts organizations, local arts agencies, and veterans' assistance agencies to reach veterans, active military, and their families through local arts programming. Learn more at <http://arts.ca.gov/programs/via.php>.

Number of Grants Awarded: 33 | Total Investment: \$300,268

Alameda County Arts Commission

\$9,700

With California Arts Council support, the Alameda County Arts Commission will present "Creative Veterans" with partnering veterans' service agencies to provide veterans with a series of art workshops. The goals are to provide Veterans with opportunities to express themselves in a supportive environment strengthen partner and family bonds, develop art making skills, and engage in community building. The project will include exhibits at veteran service and civic venues.

Arts Collaborative of Nevada County, Nevada

\$10,000

With support from the California Arts Council, NCArts will expand our successful Image-Nation project, uniting veterans and communities through a traveling Poetry/Photography Exhibition that highlights the relationship and the responsibility society has with returning warriors. Through workshops taught by master photographers and poets, veterans safely learn the skills to tell their story in a powerful way that benefits themselves, other veterans, and the larger community.

Arts Orange County, Orange

\$9,100

With support from the California Arts Council, Arts Orange County will offer two free theatre workshops for veterans conducted by the Chance Theater in collaboration with Veterans First in Santa Ana in 2016-17. Participating veterans will talk about their experiences--before, during and after their military service--and their stories will be shaped into two one-hour theatre pieces they will perform publicly free of charge at the Chance Theater in Anaheim and at the new Heroes Hall veterans museum at the OC Fair in Costa Mesa.

California Ballet Association, Inc., San Diego

\$8,500

With support from the California Arts Council, California Ballet Association, Inc. will provide at least 1,500 tickets to veterans, retired, and active members of the military for 2016's The Nutcracker. California Ballet will provide special classes where participants will receive dance instruction and learn basic choreography they will see onstage when they attend the performance. Funding will underwrite engagement activities, a portion of donated tickets, and administrative expenses.

Combat Arts San Diego, San Diego

\$7,250

With support from the California Arts Council, Combat Arts San Diego will bring together post-911 combat veterans with the Clairemont neighborhood of San Diego for the development, creation, and installation of a Veteran Mural Project mural. The funds will be used to: pay an artist and 2 vet mentees to teach 4 months of weekly art classes, a pro high resolution image, printing, frame fabrication, frame installation, art materials, video editing, and refreshments for an unveiling ceremony.

Contra Costa County, Contra Costa

\$9,400

With support from the California Arts Council, the Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa County and the County Veterans Service Office will engage veterans in ABOUTFACE: Building Veterans' Self-understanding through Self-expression. These painting workshops will help veterans gain confidence in themselves and enhance their creativity. Their paintings will be displayed at public venues throughout the county. These exhibits will bring awareness of veterans' unique stories to the public.

Del Norte Association for Cultural Awareness, Del Norte

\$9,700

With support from the California Arts Council's VIA grant, DNACA will provide arts workshops free of charge for Del Norte County veterans and their families in media including guitar, percussion/drumming, drawing and watercolor, with a culminating public art exhibit. Free season tickets to DNACA's quality, multicultural performing arts series will be provided to those interested, and an aging "wars" mural on the front of the Veterans Memorial Hall in Crescent City will be refurbished.

Dell'Arte Inc., Humboldt

\$9,317

With support from the California Arts Council, Dell'Arte, Inc. will collaborate with the Eureka Vet Center and the Blue Ox Veterans Program to train local veterans in crafting public storytelling. This training will empower veterans to share their diverse range of experiences in a way that increases public understanding.

Diavolo Dance Theatre, Los Angeles

\$10,000

Diavolo will develop and present The Veterans Project: Part 2, a community-based dance work to foster

veterans' creative expression, increase veterans' active arts participation, and enhance the public understanding of veterans' experiences. The workshops will culminate in custom-choreographed performances on Diavolo's distinct set pieces, featuring Diavolo dancers performing side-by-side with veteran participants.

El Dorado Arts Council, El Dorado

\$8,500

With support from the California Arts Council, El Dorado Arts Council will expand its Veterans' Voices writing workshop program. This will include increased outreach, an EDAC staff liaison at Veterans Treatment Court, and a new home base for the program at American Legion Post 119 in Placerville. California Arts Council's support will allow EDAC to reach more veterans, especially younger vets from Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts, and share with them the power of writing from memory.

Fresno Arts Council Inc., Fresno

\$4,365

With support of the California Arts Council, Fresno Arts Council and The Community Living Center at VA Central California Health Care System in Fresno will offer professionally lead art classes in painting and pottery to prepare Veterans to participate in the 2017 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. This annual arts festival showcases the artistic achievements of Veterans from across the country.

Habitat for Humanity San Fernando/Santa Clarita Valleys, Los Angeles

\$9,400

With support from the California Arts Council, Habitat for Humanity SF/SCV will continue to conduct and expand its trauma-informed art workshops to help veterans and their families face, overcome, and manage the struggles that come with the military experience. We will do this with long-standing community partners such as A Window between Worlds, led by trauma-informed specialists, and facilitated by staff and interns at and beyond our My TIME® Veteran Enrichment Center.

Mariposa County Arts Council, Inc., Mariposa

\$10,000

With support from the California Arts Council, the Mariposa County Arts Council and the Keith M. Bertken Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #6042 will commission an art installation created by artist/veteran, Ehren Tool, that shares the stories and experiences of Mariposa's local veterans. This installation and its public programming are designed to initiate conversations and connections among both veterans and the general public, bringing awareness of veterans' experiences to the larger community.

Mil-Tree Veteran Project, Los Angeles

\$9,700

With support from the California Arts Council, Mil-Tree Veterans Project will bring community and veterans together to create a public art project and community space called Sanctuary to include an eco-dome structure made with the tools of war, sandbags and barbed wire. The project incorporates

ceramic and metal art pieces made by project participants. A grant award will be used for artist stipends, art supplies, building materials, consultant honorariums and project documentation.

Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, San Diego

\$9,700

With support from the California Arts Council, the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego will implement ArtOASIS, a program supporting the recovery of active military personnel from the symptoms of combat-related stress. The partnership joins MCASD with Combat Arts San Diego, a nonprofit organization that provides art experiences for combat troops. ArtOASIS will serve 75 troops enrolled in the Overcoming Adversity and Stress Injury Support (OASIS) program of the Naval Medical Center San Diego.

Old Globe Theatre, San Diego

\$9,400

With support from the California Arts Council, The Old Globe will provide a Technical Center Community Apprenticeship Program, which will offer ongoing, paid apprentice opportunities for veterans from Veterans Village of San Diego and active-duty military and their families from Naval Base San Diego. The Globe will create approximately 4 technical theatre apprenticeship opportunities during the grant period, with apprenticeship periods lasting approximately 8-10 weeks each.

OneVet OneVoice, San Francisco

\$8,800

With support from the California Arts Council, OneVet OneVoice will be able to grow the Annual SF Veterans Film Festival, which is now in its 5th year. We plan to conduct more robust marketing and administration, which will increase our reach and engagement with larger audiences and allow these poignant and important stories by and about veterans to have greater social impact.

Resounding Joy Inc, San Diego

\$10,000

With support from the California Arts Council, Resounding Joy will provide direct music therapy to active duty service members and veterans fighting Posttraumatic Stress Disorder, Traumatic Brain Injury, substance abuse and other stress- and trauma- related physical and psychological diagnoses. This non-invasive treatment will help these men and women overcome their challenges by providing stress relief, peer support, and symptom management, all through harnessing the power of music.

San Benito County Arts Council, San Benito

\$9,700

With support from the California Arts Council, the San Benito County Arts Council will partner with the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars to engage veterans and their families in the "Veterans' Voices of San Benito County" project. Veterans will create a collaborative mural on the East St. side of the Veterans' Memorial Building and will interweave documentation of the mural project along with personal narratives to create 5-10 short films to be shared at a final public celebration.

San Francisco Arts Commission, San Francisco

\$8,500

With support from the CAC the San Francisco Arts Commission (SFAC) continues to build the foundation for a long-lasting relationship between the SFAC and local veterans' organizations. After moving into its new home in the Veterans Building in October 2015, the SFAC began outreach to veterans' services groups, and hired a Veterans Arts Coordinator who is helping develop public programs meaningful to veterans, and soliciting input to increase engagement in all SFAC exhibitions and services.

San Francisco Veterans Mural Project, San Francisco

\$9,306

With support from the California Arts Council, the San Francisco Veterans Mural Project (Veterans Alley) will partner with the SF Vets Center and the VA downtown clinic to engage veterans in the creation of publicly-facing murals which will be envisioned, created and documented by the individual veterans themselves with the guidance of fellow veterans from Veterans Alley. The project encompasses basic storytelling with an emphasis on visual expression through mural painting.

Shasta County Arts Council, Shasta

\$9,700

With support from the California Arts Council, the Shasta County Arts Council will establish the Veterans Big Star Project - employing primarily veterans (and a couple of non-veteran artists) to teach jewelry-making, painting, photography, sculpting and blacksmithing to residents of Redding's CalVet Home.

So Say We All, San Diego

\$9,700

With support from the California Arts Council, So Say We All (SSWA) and its partners will conduct a literary arts project, "Incoming," that engages veterans in storytelling through writing workshops facilitated by published authors, actors and comedians. Veterans will be professionally recorded telling their stories for broadcast on KPBS radio and interested PRI stations. A live performance featuring storytelling by participating veterans will also be offered for the general community.

South Coast Dance Arts Alliance, Los Angeles

\$8,800

With support from the California Arts Council, Nannette Brodie Dance Theatre and the American Legion Post 266 will create "Veterans Expressions," an arts project for veterans, active military and their families. The project goals are artistic learning, creative expression, family bonding and community connection. Funds would go toward pay for artists, studio space, transportation, production costs and program development. The project combines dance, music, image and theater.

SpectorDance, Monterey

\$9,100

With support from the California Arts Council, SpectorDance will partner with the Veterans Transition Center to implement Dance for Veterans, a new dance program at the Veterans Transition Center. This

program will provide dance classes for veteran populations. This program will encourage veterans to engage in dance learning and artistic expression through movement. This program will contribute to public understanding of veterans' experiences.

The AjA Project, San Diego

\$8,930

With support from the California Arts Council, The AjA Project, in partnership with the San Diego Military Families Collaborative, will bring innovative photography based programming to kids in military families at Farb Middle School and Serra High School in San Diego. The "Through my Lens" project will support students to process experience, reclaim narrative and advocate for community change through the arts.

The Big Show Co., Los Angeles

\$8,500

With support from the California Arts Council, Arianne MacBean and The Big Show Co. will facilitate seven Memory Writing Workshops for US military veterans and their families, and at least one public culminating performance event that inter-weaves staged readings by veterans and dance-theater by The Big Show Co.

The Pacific Art League of Palo Alto, Santa Clara

\$9,100

With support from the California Arts Council, the Pacific Art League will collaborate with the Peninsula Vet Center in Menlo Park to provide veterans with equitable access to quality visual arts instruction. Veterans currently in readjustment counseling programs will participate in weekly visual arts lessons designed to assist them in making a successful transition from military to civilian life.

The PGK Project, Inc., San Diego

\$8,800

With support from the California Arts Council, The PGK Dance Project will partner with the Veterans Museum & Memorial Center and The Veterans Service Center at California State University San Marcos on the creation of 3 works inspired by 3 living Veterans including one female and include public events with the creative process, and minimum 3 public performances split between the partner sites. Funds will compensate artists, subjects, support public activities, public performances.

United States Veterans Artists Alliance, Los Angeles

\$9,700

With support from the California Arts Council, USVAA will utilize the requested funds to write, direct, produce and distribute the first segments of Pen, Brush and Sword, a web-based documentary series about the history of veterans participating in the arts and humanities. This series is comprised of four 3-minute biographical segments about two female and two male veterans currently working as artists in a variety of disciplines, including fine art, acting, writing and directing.

Upstate Community Enhancement Foundation, Butte

\$9,400

With support from the California Arts Council, Friends of the Arts Big Star Veterans Project will collaborate with Chico Veterans Resource Center to identify 24 veterans to paint silk flags, symbolizing their service experience (both female and male from diverse service branches and eras - Korean, Vietnam, Iraq & Afghanistan) that will culminate in a September 11, 2016 memorial service in the Chico Downtown Plaza. The 24 flags will be flown at that time and will include artist statements.

Writers Guild Foundation, Los Angeles

\$9,100

With support from the California Arts Council, the Writers Guild Foundation will be able to host a second track of our very successful Veterans Writing Project in the Fall of 2016, and double the number of veterans served.

Yolo County Arts Council, Yolo

\$9,100

With support from the California Arts Council, YoloArts will engage veteran artists on Yolo County farms through a series of 3 master artist workshops held on farms owned by veterans. A partnership with the Yolo County Veterans Service Office and the Veteran Farmer Coalition will serve to support outreach to veterans, veteran farmers and will be celebrated with a culminating afternoon art festival with veteran artists, artists, veterans, farmers and families.