

Talking Points: Creative Forces Community Engagement Grants

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Creative Forces®: NEA Military Healing Arts Network

- Creative Forces®: NEA Military Healing Arts Network is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with the U.S. Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs that seeks to improve the health, well-being, and quality of life for military and veteran populations exposed to trauma, as well as their families and caregivers.

Creative Forces Community Engagement Grant Program

- The Creative Forces® Community Engagement Grants is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in partnership with Mid-America Arts Alliance (M-AAA). This grant program aims to improve the health, well-being, and quality of life for military service members and veterans exposed to trauma as well as their families and caregivers through experiences of art or art making.
- This is the third year that the Creative Forces Community Engagement grant program has awarded grants open to arts organizations nationwide to provide non-clinical, community-based arts engagement programming to military-connected populations.
 - **The 2024-25 program awarded 41 grants to organizations totaling \$769,136.**
 - **Talk about the programming that your organization plans to carry out.**
- Organizations that are partnering with grantee arts organizations to facilitate/accomplish these projects include arts and culture organizations and veteran support organizations, and are in communities across the country.
 - *Talk about the organization(s) you are partnering with and how the connection with them and your organization came about. What do you both bring to the table?*
- Participants in these programs can gain a better understanding of themselves and others through one or more of the following: creative expression, social connectedness, resilience, and independence and successful adaptation to civilian life.
 - *If you have experience with this type of programming, what are some of the successes you have seen? When communicating with the media, do you have images to share?*

Creative Forces Social Media

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