



ARTS & HEALTH IN THE MILITARY NATIONAL ROUNDTABLE

Thursday, November 15, 2012, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington, DC

Background

The first *National Summit: Arts in Healing for Warriors* was held in October, 2011 at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and the National Intrepid Center of Excellence (NICoE). The groundbreaking event was hosted by Rear Admiral Alton L. Stocks, in partnership with a national planning group of leaders from military, government, and nonprofit organizations. The Summit marked the first time various branches of the military collaborated with civilian agencies 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 the success of the Summit, plans are underway to establish a multi-year “National Initiative for Arts & Health in the Military” 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, family members, and veterans.

To lay the groundwork for the National Initiative, its Steering Committee is embarking on a series of strategies to encourage further discussion and involvement from the field of arts, military, and health professionals and practitioners, as well as engagement with policy leaders. The first of these events is the National Roundtable in 2012.

Purpose of the Arts & Health in the Military National Roundtable

The *Arts & Health in the Military National Roundtable* is charged with creating a framework for a National Action Plan for Arts & Health in the Military that will ensure the availability of arts interventions for our service men and women and their families, and integrate the arts as part of the “Standard of Care” in military clinical (VA and military hospitals) as well as programs in community settings across the country. Roundtable participants will review the science, design principles, and current state of effective practice that justifies the urgent need and presents the opportunity for the development of such a framework. Participants will hear from experts and practitioners in medical research and the use of creative arts modalities to address critical health issues—such as traumatic brain injury and post traumatic stress—as well as those engaged in cutting edge policy, partnership, and program development. A White Paper will be issued at the conclusion of the event that outlines the major results of the discussion and helps set the goals, standards, and strategies for a National Action Plan for expanding the use of the arts in health through the military and VA medical system. Roundtable participants will be invited to join a National Advisory Board that will oversee and monitor the implementation of the National Action Plan.

Participants in the Roundtable

20 – 25 high level leaders from military, health, and government agencies; elected officials; business and foundations; national nonprofit arts, health, and military support groups; and others in positions of impact.

Partners in the National Initiative

Americans for the Arts and **Society for the Arts in Healthcare** have made a joint leadership commitment for this initiative, in collaboration with military and government agencies, including the National Endowment for the Arts, The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts/VSA, NICoE, and the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, along with military and civilian businesses and nonprofit agencies such as Creative Healing Connections, Foundation for Arts & Healing, National Center for Creative Aging, New York Army National Guard Chaplaincy, Oasis by Design, LLC, Parkfairfax, Planetree Residential Facilities, Rollins & Associates, Smith Center for Healing and the Arts and the Joan Hisaoka Healing Arts Gallery, The Epidaurus Project, USO Metro, and Vet Art Project.