



VETERANS ART

COALITION

connects veterans with available creative resources to improve their daily lives.
VAC aims to inspire veterans through community building to experience the arts as an accessible path toward resiliency, reintegration, and camaraderie.

JOIN US!

www.facebook.com/VACCFL
veteransartcoalition@gmail.com

VA U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Ormond MEMORIAL ART MUSEUM & GARDENS

ACA atlantic center for the arts

DAYTONA BEACH BLUES SOCIETY

GUITARS 4 VETS the healing power of music with hands of heroes

the HUB on canal with community in community

VETERANS' ART COALITION: PROMOTING RESILIENCY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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VA PSYCHOSOCIAL REHABILITATION AND RECOVERY CENTER/PRRC

WHY AM I HERE TODAY?

- To share how and why we started the Veterans Art Coalition
- To share ideas about how to form a coalition at your facility
- To provide resources to help you form a coalition



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- ✓ List two benefits of establishing an art coalition in your community.
- ✓ Identify two area resources that will be helpful to establish an art coalition.
- ✓ Identify one step in the process of starting an art coalition.

HOW DID THIS IDEA COME ABOUT?



-
- Veterans came to me and other staff members to ask for help connecting with art and music activities in the community.
 - Our Program Manager is always looking for ways to improve our ability to achieve our program mission (meaningful community engagement) and was pushing for this idea to be explored.
 - Current VA partners wanted to have more Veteran involvement.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS of an ARTS COALITION

- Opportunity to reduce the stigma of seeking help or recognizing mental health issues
- Make cross-sector connections between the arts, military, health, and business organizations in the community
- Increase the accessibility and visibility of the arts to the public and your clients
- Use this group as a “think tank”
- Positive networking opportunity for all involved



WHAT DID WE DO?

- Sought approval from our leadership.
- Formed a group of like-minded people and organizations.
- Settled on a location and time for our first meeting.
- Sent out e-mail invitations to our first meeting.
- Introduced each other and brainstormed at the first meeting.
- A Veteran designed a logo for the group.



WHO WAS INITIALLY INVOLVED?

- Several PRRC staff members volunteered to work on this.
- The VA Administration and Legal Counsel gave its approval to proceed.
- Our current art and music partners were contacted and invited to participate.



WHAT PARTNERS WERE INVOLVED?

- Daytona State College, SE Museum of Photography
- HUB on Canal
- Halifax Art Festival
- Ormond Memorial Art Museum & Gardens
- Daytona Beach Blues Society
- Atlantic Center for the Arts/ACA
- Museum of Arts And Sciences



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MISSION & VISION OF THE VAC

MISSION: The Veterans Art Coalition connects Veterans with available creative resources to improve their daily lives.

VISION: The Veterans Art Coalition aims to inspire Veterans through community building to experience the arts as an accessible path toward resiliency, reintegration, and camaraderie.

GETTING STARTED

- Check with your legal department and leadership for permission
- Find a meeting place and decide how often you will meet
- Put together a list of organizations to invite
- Meet and brainstorm
- Develop a mission and vision for the organization
- Decide whether you will become a 501c organization
- Develop public awareness
- Tour each other's facilities



MOVING FORWARD: adding more partners

- Guitars for Vets/G4V
- National Initiative for Arts & Health in the Military at Americans for the Arts
- Veteran Student Service representatives from local colleges and universities
- The Daytona Vet Center



VA PARTNERS: local and national

- Guitars for Vets/G4V local chapter
- Hope Reins – local equine assisted therapy for Veterans
- Project Healing Waters (fishing flies)
- National Veterans Creative Arts Festival



ORGANIZATION STATUS?

Coalition decided not to pursue this:

- No need for a board or bylaws
- No need for fund raisers
- Use of In-kind donations
- Not cost efficient



PROGRAM BENEFITS

- Increases visibility and promotes partnerships
- Increases your volunteer base
- Adds to your creative arts supplies and inventory
- Provides a path to connect with emerging leaders in the community
- Promotes the creative economy: Community arts and music activities
- Free or discounted arts experiences for Veterans, their families, and caregivers



THINGS WE'VE LEARNED: We Are Stronger Together!!

- Invite area newspapers to join and report on Coalition activities for free publicity
- Have a person on the Coalition that can write press releases for your events
- Ask members to supply copies or make fliers (In-kind donations)
- Include a member that can maintain a Facebook page with updated events
- Have a booth at area events – community fun days – for publicity and visibility
- Have a central calendar of local events, Coalition classes and workshops, and partner events at all locations.





Painting for Veterans

Atlantic Center for the Arts is proud to support the *100 Faces of War* Smithsonian exhibition by offering a workshop with renowned Florida artist, Joseph Palmerio. This is a unique experience designed for veterans to express themselves using paint and canvas. Try your hand at a landscape or still life painting.

Mr. Palmerio is a graduate of the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts and has a diverse background ranging from boat captain to Recreation Director for the Ute Mountain Indian tribe in Colorado. In recent years, he has developed workshops designed for physically challenged adults, including sculpture classes for the blind. He looks forward to sharing his experience working with veterans, and comments, "All I ask is that they bring their enthusiasm and we will have a fun and exciting painting event."



Free for veterans / \$90 for non-veterans.

Limited to 20 participants.

Beginners welcome. All supplies provided.

NOVEMBER 17th, 2-5 PM

RSVP online to secure your spot:

atlanticcenterforthearts.org or call 386-423-1753.

<http://www.palmerioart.com>

<https://artsondouglass.net/collections/joseph-palmerio>

This exhibition is sponsored locally by the [Florida Humanities Council](#). *100 Faces of War* is an exhibition organized for travel by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service in collaboration with artist Matt Mitchell. With support to ACA by Brown & Brown Insurance.

ACA Atlantic Center for the Arts | Community Programs
Arts&Wellness

EVENT PARTNERSHIPS

EVENT: Smithsonian Travelling Arts Exhibitions: *100 FACES OF WAR*

- Daytona Museum of Arts and Sciences
- Art Therapy Panel: National Endowment for the Arts & Florida Humanities Council
- Arts for Health Florida: MOAS Mask Making Workshop
 - *Heather Spooner, MA ATR-BC – artist/art therapist/facilitator*
- Atlantic Center for the Arts: Visual Arts Workshops off-site
 - *Joseph Palmerio – artist/facilitator*
- Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University: Literary Arts Workshops off-site
 - *M.B. McClatchey – writer/poet/professor/facilitator*

FUTURE GOALS

- Develop a speakers' bureau to visit schools, libraries, other organizations
- Visit the city and county councils
- Develop a centralized area/coalition activity calendar
- 12 art locations highlighted in one year at monthly meetings
- Visit interested community organizations and healthcare facilities as an example program and resource.
- Develop a local Directory of arts organizations, artists and Veteran Service Organizations



WHAT CAN YOU DO AS A PARTNER?

- **Communicate** the importance of art as a lifestyle choice.
- **Promote** artistic endeavors in your community.
- **Enhance** accessibility for your clientele.
- **Look for ways** to form partnerships and offer art activities & programs.



HOW LIVES HAVE BEEN CHANGED THROUGH THE ARTS

- Sunshine House Project – murals and tote bags
- Art in Action – free art activities in the community
- G4V – learn a hobby and join a band
- Halifax Art Festival – display and sell art work
- Annual Resource Fair – connect with the community
- Our own art display at the OMAM & G – sell art
- The Vet Center started a Creative Expressions Group
- One Veteran spoke at a Veteran's Day Program
- Murals – Brain and Snoezelen (controlled multi-sensory environment)
- One Veteran has spoken at three organizations about how art has improved her self-worth



SHARED ACTIVITY

- 1) How would you go about finding interested organizations?
- 2) List 3 organizations in your community that you would like to have as a partner.



REVIEW OF LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- List two benefits of establishing an art coalition in your community.
- List two area resources that will be helpful to establish an art coalition.
- Identify one step in the process of starting an art coalition.



RESOURCES & REFERENCES



- National Initiative for Arts & Health in the Military at Americans for the Arts

www.ArtsAcrossTheMilitary.org



- National Endowment for the Arts

[Creative Forces: NEA Military Healing Arts Network](#)

- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

[Whole Health for Life: Arts in Healing](#)

