



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – September 21, 2017**

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### **Arts and Military Summit Comes to Tacoma on September 26, 2017** ***Connection between arts, healing, and military to be explored and strengthened***

*Olympia, WA*—Helping military personnel heal from the complex wounds of our recent wars is a national priority that arts and military leaders in Washington State are embracing. On Tuesday, September 26, 2017, the Washington State Arts Commission (ArtsWA) and the Museum of Glass will host an arts and military summit as part of their participation in [Creative Forces: NEA Military Healing Arts Network](#). Madigan Army Medical Center, one of the clinical sites involved in Creative Forces, is joining ArtsWA in presenting the event at the museum, 1801 Dock St in Tacoma. The museum's Hot Shop Heroes - Healing in Flames partnership with the Warrior Transition Battalion (WTB) at Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM), has been particularly effective for participants with traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress, and will be featured during a summit demonstration.

Creative Forces is an initiative of the [National Endowment for the Arts](#) (NEA) in partnership with the U.S. Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs, plus state and local arts agencies. The partnership places creative arts therapies at the core of patient-centered care at 11 military medical facilities across the country and increases access to therapeutic arts activities for military personnel and their families in local communities. Americans for the Arts is working with the NEA to provide administrative support for Creative Forces. In collaboration with the NEA and its partners for the Creative Forces Healing Arts Network, ArtsWA is helping to identify and connect community leaders, artists, and programs that could provide increased community-based arts opportunities for military and veteran family populations.

“The summit is a gathering of arts organizations, city and state staff, artists, neurologists, arts funders, music and art therapists, active military members, and veterans who are interested in the connection between arts and healing for military members, veterans, and their families,” said Karen Hanan, ArtsWA Executive Director. “Studies have shown that the arts can contribute to the healing of post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injury and this is an opportunity to share resources, ideas, and inspiration.”

The program will include a keynote address by sculptor and veteran Jeffery Stenbom. Stenbom studied sculpture in college, but joined the U.S. Army as a cavalry scout one week after 9/11. After being wounded and returning from Iraq, Stenbom says he searched for a way to deal with emotional pain and found that art helped to ease his physical and psychological stress. The artwork he makes reflects his experiences as a soldier, and has been featured in galleries and exhibitions throughout the United States. Two of his pieces, *Every Year* and *To Those Who Have* are featured in the current Bellevue Art Museum exhibition, *Emerge/Evolve 2016: Rising Talents in Kiln-glass*.

**See the Creative Forces Summit lineup.**

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**CREATIVE** | NEA MILITARY  
**FORCES** ★ HEALING ARTS  
NETWORK

CREATIVE FORCES SUMMIT  
September 26, 2017  
Museum Of Glass  
Tacoma, Washington



WASHINGTON STATE  
ARTS COMMISSION

8:00-9:00 | Registration and Coffee Hour

THEATER

9:00-9:30 | Welcome

Karen Hanan, Executive Director, Washington State Arts Commission (ArtsWA)  
Governor Jay Inslee, Washington State (video)  
Bill O'Brien, Senior Advisor for Innovation, National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)  
Mayor Marilyn Strickland, City of Tacoma

9:30-10:00 | Keynote Address

Jeffery Stenbom, Sculptor and Veteran  
Introduction by Debbie Lenk, Executive Director, Museum of Glass

10:00-10:10 | Morning Break

THEATER

10:10-10:30 | *Beyond the MIST (Madigan Intrepid Spirit Transitions)  
Program: Transitioning from Clinical to Community*

Col. Beverly Scott, Director, Intrepid Spirit Program, Madigan Army Medical Center

10:30-11:30 | Panel | *Building Capacity: Getting from Clinical to  
Community*

Moderated by Nolen V. Bivens, Brigadier General, US Army (Retired)  
Alfie Alvarado-Ramos, Director, Washington Department of Veteran Affairs  
Brenda Maltz, Arts Therapist, Madigan Army Medical Center  
Amy McBride, City of Tacoma Arts Administrator  
Patty Morgan, Director of Family Programs, AUSA

HOT  
SHOP

11:40-11:45 | A Message from Senator Patty Murray

United States Senator Patty Murray, Washington State (video)

11:45-12:10 | Lunch | *Creative Forces Capacity: Building Support and  
Local Asset Mapping*

Bill O'Brien, Senior Advisor for Innovation, NEA  
AnnMarie O'Malley, Director of the National Resource Center, Creative Forces

THEATER

12:20-1:15 | Panel | *Finding and Funding Community Resources*

Moderated by Karen Hanan, Executive Director, ArtsWA  
Ken Ristine, Senior Program Officer, Ben B. Cheney Foundation  
Debra Twersky, Manager, Funding Programs, 4 Culture  
Huong Vu, Boeing Company

GRAND  
HALL

1:15-1:30 | Afternoon Break

Musical performance by Music YoU Jam: Vets

1:30-1:40 | Snapshots Overview

Karen Hanan, Executive Director, ArtsWA

1:40-2:10 | *Music as a Bridge: The Role of Music Therapy for Continuum of Care in Military Communities*

Megumi Azekawa, Founder, Puget Sound Music Therapy, LLC

John Selzler, Program Manager, Music Works 4 Veterans

2:10-2:30 | *The Blessing of Creativity*

Matthew “Griff” Griffin, Co-Founder and CEO, Combat Flip-Flops

2:30-2:50 | *Shakespeare for Veterans*

Amy Erickson, Producer and Director, *Visceral* Documentary

2:50-3:10 | *Battling PTSD with Dance*

Debbie Simpson, Founder and CEO, Battlefield to Ballroom

3:10-3:30 | *The Telling Project in Your Community*

Dan Overton, Traumatic Brain Injury Specialist, Washington Dept. of Veterans Affairs

3:30-3:50 | *Finding My Voice*

Steven Markussen, Artist and Veteran

THEATER

4:00-4:45 | Demonstration | *Hot Shop Heroes*

Greg Owens, Emcee Coordinator and Project Manager, Museum of Glass

4:45-5:00 | Closing Remarks

Nolen V. Bivens, Brigadier General, US Army (Retired)

Karen Hanan, Executive Director, ArtsWA

HOT  
SHOP

5:00-6:00 | After-Event Gathering | Social Bar & Grill

1715 Dock Street Tacoma, WA 98402