

Washington State Arts Commission Board

RESOLUTION 17-003



WASHINGTON STATE
ARTS COMMISSION

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Supporting Creative Forces: Healing Arts Network

WHEREAS, the Creative Forces: NEA Military Healing Arts Network is a partnership of the National Endowment for the Arts, the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and Americans for the Arts that serves the unique and special needs of military patients and veterans who have been diagnosed with traumatic brain injury (TBI) and psychological health conditions (PTSD); and

WHEREAS, the NEA funds creative arts therapists, equipment, and supplies at clinical military and veteran hospital sites across the nation, and a telehealth program for patients in rural and remote areas. In clinical settings, creative arts therapists provide art and music therapy, as well as creative writing instruction for military patients and veterans who have been diagnosed with TBI and PTSD; and

WHEREAS, the Creative Forces 11 clinical sites are based at the the National Intrepid Center of Excellence (NICoE) Walter Reed, Maryland; Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska; Camp Pendleton, California; Fort Carson, Colorado; James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital, Florida; Fort Campbell, Kentucky; Camp Lejeune, North Carolina; Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Belvoir, Virginia; Joint Expeditionary Base, Virginia; and Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington; and

WHEREAS, the NEA is creating a community-based military and veteran family support network made up of state, regional, and local arts agencies, and other local partners. The community network provides increased arts opportunities for military and veteran family populations and extends support for current and former creative arts therapies patients and their families as they transition from treatment in a clinical setting to arts programming in their community; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Arts Commission (ArtsWA) is tasked with helping develop our state's Creative Forces, community-based arts and healing programming, including an innovation project for the Creative Arts Healing program focused on Joint Base Lewis McChord (JBLM) military patients, veterans, and their families; and

WHEREAS, ArtsWA will convene a Creative Forces Summit on September 26, 2017 at the Tacoma Museum of Glass to gather and share expertise from our national Creative Forces partners, local leaders, arts organizations, arts therapists, Madigan Army Medical Center, and JBLM representatives;

NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Washington State Arts Commission supports the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Creative Forces: Healing Arts Network in our state, and will work with arts and military organizations, and community leaders to promote arts and healing programs that benefit local, active duty military, veterans, JBLM families, and their caregivers.

Bassem Bejjani, MD, Board Chair