



The Veteran Arts Initiative (VAI) is a diverse creative arts program that aims to facilitate mental wellness, increase social connectiveness, and create a supportive community to form positive connections with the VA.

Mission:

- Confidence through creativity
- Pride through accomplishment
- Healing through collaborative activity
- Understanding through expression

Whole Health
Veteran Arts Initiative
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Columbus, OH 43219

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Whole Health Veteran Arts Initiative

Columbus VA
Whole Health
Creative Arts
Program

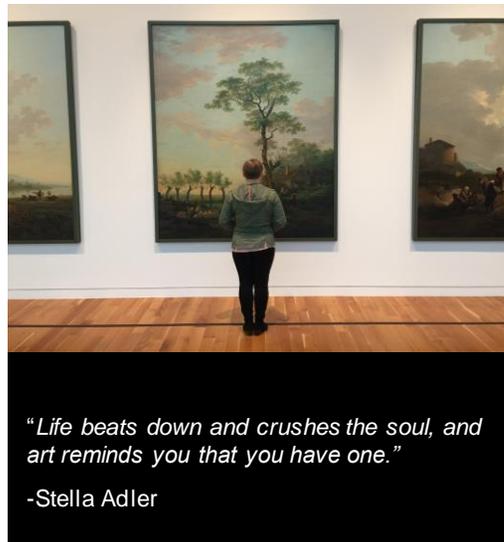


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“The main thing is to be moved, to love, to hope, to tremble, to live.” -Rodin

“The moment of trust comes through the artistic, creative trust. It’s a kind of opening-up to yourself, and to the people around you, and trusting in the next steps... There’s a healing process that people who have experienced major trauma — including veterans — go through with the creative process.”

- Daniel King, Veteran, artist, OU professor, and panel speaker of the 2018 Columbus Veterans Film Festival



Through a network of community collaborations with local and national stakeholders, **VAI** offers multi-disciplinary creative arts programs for Veterans and family members to foster therapeutic expression, promote resilience, and create social connections with purpose. **VAI** programs include visual arts, theater, dance, music, writing, group-based contemporary art interpretation, discussion, and exhibition.



VAI mission was developed by the Veteran Arts Council (**VAC**). The Veteran Arts Council is a self-governed group of Veterans that acts as an advisory board to **VAI**. **VAC** is part think-tank, part focus group developing innovative solutions to meet the needs of fellow Veterans.

**For more information
Contact Columbus VA Arts
Coordinator: Heather Seymour
Heather.Seymour@VA.gov**

“Art allows us to communalize the experience of being human.”

Kevin McClatchy founder of OSU Veteran Shakespeare Project

“My pain level from surgery seems to be nonexistent while being creative, I love this program.”

-Veteran

“I believe art is a form of relaxation and a way of communication which is incomprehensible.”

-Veteran

FREE VAI / Whole Health Offerings

- **Open Studio**
- **Workshops:**
 - **Visual Arts**
 - **Theater**
 - **Writing**
 - **Dance**
 - **Music**
- **Exhibition opportunities**
- **Museum & gallery trips**
- **Research on the health and psychological benefits of art**