



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

Veteran Arts Initiative
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Veteran Arts Initiative

Columbus VA Creative Arts Program



“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, artists, OU professor, and panel speaker of the 2018 Columbus Veterans Film Festival



“Life beats down and crushes the soul, and art reminds you that you have one.”

-Stella Adler

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
614-388-7607**

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

“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 Offerings

- **Open Studio**
- **Artist in residency programs**
- **Workshops:**
 - **Visual Arts**
 - **Theater**
 - **Writing**
 - **Dance**
 - **Music**
 - **Craft**
- **Choir & Jam night**
- **Exhibition opportunities**
- **Museum & gallery trips**
- **Research on the health and psychological benefits of art**

