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Mesa Arts Center awarded \$72,450 *Creativity Connects* grant for Arts and Aging Projects
Creative Aging Programs announced for 2016-17



September 8, 2016 (Mesa, AZ) – Mesa Arts Center is among six recipients of the *Creativity Connects: National Demonstration Projects* grant, a special initiative undertaken by the U.S. Regional Arts Organizations through generous support from the Mellon Foundation. Mesa Arts Center will receive \$72,450 in support of its Creative Aging programs offered for adults 55 and older.

The *Creativity Connects* funding initiative is part of the NEA's 50th anniversary celebration, investigates the ways in which the arts can connect with other sectors, including education, healthcare, social justice, and the like, that want and utilize creativity.

Mesa Arts Center Creative Aging: Expanding on a Foundation will further develop programming the organization has in place for lifelong learning opportunities for senior citizens living independently as well as in various assisted-care facilities. Partners for these programs include with Oakwood Creative Care, Inc., Banner's Alzheimers' Institute and Mesa Public Libraries. Arizona Commission on the Arts from Western States Art Federation's region nominated the City of Mesa and Mesa Arts Center.

Mesa Arts Center's current Creative Aging programs include Mature Moving Me (creative movement for the mature mover over age 55), Entangle (hands-on sessions where participants create mixed media, abstract sculptures), Duende (Flamenco movement and culture for older adults), Works-in-Progress (feedback sessions for those looking to develop an independent creative practice) and Ageless Wonders, a performing troupe for adults 55 and older presented in partnership with Mesa Public Libraries. Additional Creative Aging programs will be announced later this season.

Dates and details of each offering are included below. To RSVP or for more information, email engagement@mesaartscenter.com.

Creative Aging Programs at Mesa Arts Center

The Mature Moving Me

Thursdays | OCT 6 - DEC 8

9-10:30AM

Instructor: Allyson Yoder, Dance Artist

Creative movement for the Mature Mover age 55plus. Exercise your mind, body and creativity in a joyful, supportive community environment.

RSVP: engagement@mesaartscenter.com

Entangle

Tuesdays | SEPT 27 - NOV 22 (no class Oct 11)

9-11AM

Instructor: Tessa Windt, Visual Artist

8 hands-on sessions creating mixed media, abstract sculpture that prompt us to ask the question of how we make connections.

RSVP: engagement@mesaartscenter.com

Ageless Wonders

SEPT 20, 2016

10:00AM

Saguaro Room | Mesa Main Public Library

Done working and have time to spare? Ever wanted to be on stage or in the spot light? Come get involved with Ageless Wonders, a performing troupe for older adults 55+. A partnership between Mesa Arts Center and Mesa Public Libraries.

RSVP: Billy Jones | 480-644-6541

WORK-IN-PROGRESS

SEPT 6, DEC 6 2016 | MAR 7, MAY 9, 2017

9-11:30AM

Instructor: Tessa Windt, Visual Artist

These sessions are for anyone looking to develop an independent, creative practice. You'll bring artwork at any stage to these sessions and receive group feedback.

RSVP: engagement@mesaartscenter.com

DUENDE: Flamenco Movement and Culture (Flamenco for Older Adults)

Tuesdays | SEPT 6 - OCT 11 | 10-11:15AM

Instructor: Angelina Ramirez, Flamenco Dance Artist

When we age, we have life experiences to share. This class guides you to tell your story through movement, song and dance, through the mystical language of Flamenco.

RSVP: engagement@mesaartscenter.com

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About Mesa Arts Center

Mesa Arts Center, owned and operated by the City of Mesa, is a unique, architecturally stunning facility located in the heart of downtown Mesa. Arizona's largest multidisciplinary arts center is home to four theaters, five art galleries in the MCA Museum, and 14 art studios. Guests, patrons, and students come to Mesa Arts Center to enjoy the finest live entertainment, performances and festivals, world-class visual art exhibitions, and outstanding arts education classes. The Mesa Arts Center mission is to inspire people through engaging arts experiences that are diverse, accessible, and relevant. For more information, visit [mesaartscenter.com](https://www.mesaartscenter.com).

About Mesa Arts Center's Engagement Programs

The Engagement Office at Mesa Arts Center offers programming that supports engagement in the arts as a critical component to a healthy and active community. Programming endeavors to ensure that lifelong learners have access to unique and high quality arts opportunities, students engage in meaningful learning opportunities in creating art, experiencing live performances and developing skills critical to a 21st Century education, and community members participate in relevant and accessible arts initiatives. For more information, visit [mesaartscenter.com/engagement](https://www.mesaartscenter.com/engagement).