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**Mesa Arts Center to continue Arts in Service program with support from the Boeing Company**

*Arts in Service offers free arts classes for veterans and active service members*

**For immediate release:**

Nov. 13, 2018

**(Mesa, AZ)** – Mesa Arts Center is pleased to announce the continuation of Arts in Service, a program which offers free arts classes for veterans and active-duty service members. The next session will kickoff with a free open house 10 a.m.-noon on Saturday, Dec. 15, 2018. Attendees may pre-register for classes at the event. Registration online and by phone will be available Monday, December 17, 2019.

The program, which is generously supported by a grant from The Boeing Company, provides creative pathways for veterans and active duty service members to use studio arts experiences in reaching their personal goals, whether those are finding a supportive community, stress relief, working toward overall health and wellness, or pursuing career interests in art making.

"The Arts in Service program is valuable for many reasons," said United States Air Force Veteran and Arts in Service participant, Caryn Walsh. "Being in a group of veterans who share the experience of military service is indescribable. Seeing my peers with service-related injuries, and stresses alongside me means many things. Not having to explain my experiences which define me and are, frankly, unrelatable to the majority of Americans is a relief... I feel comfortable to learn what I can, at my own speed."

Classes to be offered through the Arts in Service program include:

- Intro to Printmaking for Military Personnel
- Beginning Flameworking for Military Personnel
- Learn to Paint with Watercolors for Military Personnel
- Jewelry: Beginning Fabrication for Military Personnel
- Beginning Welding for Military Personnel
- Discover Clay for Military Personnel
- Beginning Bellydancing for Military Personnel

"We are so excited to these programs and to further engage those who serve our country," said Cindy Ornstein, Executive Director of Mesa Arts Center. "There is tremendous evidence from both research and experience that the arts offer many kinds of therapeutic benefits, from reducing feelings of isolation to providing new means of self-expression, in addition to offering fun, relaxation, and creative exploration."

To date, nearly 120 individuals have participated in Arts in Service arts classes offered through the program. In its second season, the program is offering twice as many opportunities to enroll with two sessions; the first from January-March 2018, and the second March to May 2018. Every class option will repeat to serve many more participants this year.

Those planning to attend are encouraged to RSVP by emailing [engagement@mesaartscenter.com](mailto:engagement@mesaartscenter.com), or by calling 480-644-6564.

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### **ABOUT MESA ARTS CENTER**

The Mesa Arts Center mission is to inspire people through engaging arts experiences that are diverse, accessible, and relevant. Owned and operated by the City of Mesa, Arizona's largest arts center is recognized as an international award-winning venue. The unique and architecturally stunning facility is home to four theaters, five art galleries, and 14 art studios and an artist cooperative gallery. For more information, visit [mesaartscenter.com](http://mesaartscenter.com).

### **ABOUT THE ARIZONA COALITION OF MILITARY FAMILIES**

The **Arizona Coalition for Military Families** is a nationally-recognized public/private partnership focused on building Arizona's statewide capacity to care for and support all service members, veterans and their families. For more information, visit [arizonacoalition.org](http://arizonacoalition.org).

Mesa Arts Center is a partner organization on the Military/Veteran Resource Network, in partnership with the Arizona Coalition for Military Families.

### **ABOUT THE BOEING COMPANY**

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