



Media Contact:

Casey Blake

480-644-6620

casey.blake@mesaartscenter.com

Free arts classes and workshops offered for veterans and military service members
Mesa Arts Center's Arts in Service program to offer weekend workshops July 13 and 14
Open House event: August 3, 2019



July 1, 2019 (Mesa, AZ) – Mesa Arts Center's Arts in Service program will offer a weekend of free arts workshops to veterans and military service members July 13 and 14, 2019, and an open house August 3, 2019 4-6 p.m. Mediums offered in the weekend workshops include printmaking, glass, jewelry and welding, and those interested in participating can register and learn more by emailing engagement@mesaartscenter.com or by calling 480-644-6564.

The Arts in Service program provides creative pathways for veterans and 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.

Veterans, service members and their families are encouraged to attend the **August 3 Arts in Service Open House** event. Potential participants can observe demonstrations in glass, printmaking, ceramics, metal sculpture and more, and may register for the upcoming session during the event. No prior arts experience is necessary for participants.

"This is my second welding experience through the Arts in Service program," said army veteran Luisa Hall Valdez. "There's something so therapeutic about metals and hammers and fire! I'm really loving the creativity and freedom of expression this medium offers and am so grateful for these organizations supporting veterans through art!"

Arts in Service 2019-20 programming is generously sponsored by the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services. To date, nearly 200 individuals have participated in this program, which has also been generously sponsored by The Boeing Company.

"We are so excited to offer 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 benefits, from reducing

feelings of isolation to providing new means of self-expression, in addition to offering fun, relaxation, and creative exploration."

Those seeking additional information about the available programs or with questions are encouraged to contact engagement@mesaartscenter.com, or 480-644-6564.

<https://mesaartscenter.com/artsinservice>

END

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.