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## **Mesa Arts Center Recipient of Boeing Grant**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**January 10, 2022 (Mesa, AZ)** Mesa Arts Center is excited to announce they are the recipient of a \$75,000 grant from The Boeing Company. This grant will support **Mesa Arts Center's Arts in Service** program for 2022.

*"Boeing is proud to support the Arts in Service program. When we hear from participating veterans about how the program has helped them overcome a fear of public places, deal with feelings of isolation and issues associated with PTS, we know that we are making a difference,"* said Leann Shaffer, Boeing Global Engagement Community Investor. *"Improving the lives of military veterans, active service members, their families and supporting our broader veteran community is what it is all about."*

With nearly 600 participants expected in 2022, the funds provide free professional studio art classes and workshops for veterans, service members and spouses.

**Arts in Service** immerses veterans and service members in Mesa Arts Center's expertise in facilitating community participation in artmaking as a tool for building self-esteem, creating opportunities for self-expression, reducing isolation, building a sense of community and relieving stress.

*"It is beyond joy to watch each veteran develop into a budding artist. I observe them learning using critical thinking, decision making, and problem solving,"* said Matt Smith, Lead Teaching Artist in Metals and Sculpture. *The experiences I have shared with them shows me the comradery, encouragement, pride, and the laughter they share with each other which is unique from other classroom settings. The smiles on their faces when leaving class is a sign that the program is a success."*

For more information on **Arts in Service**: <https://www.mesaartscenter.com/artsinservice>

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### **About The Boeing Company**

As a leading global aerospace company, Boeing develops, manufactures and services commercial airplanes, defense products and space systems for customers in more than 150 countries. As a top U.S. exporter, the company leverages the talents of a global supplier base to advance economic opportunity, sustainability and community impact. Boeing's diverse team is committed to innovating for the future and living the company's core values of safety, quality and integrity. Learn more at [www.boeing.com](http://www.boeing.com).

### **About Mesa Arts Center**

Mesa Arts Center, owned and operated by the City of Mesa, is a unique, architecturally stunning, international award-winning facility located in the heart of downtown Mesa. Arizona's largest arts center is home to four theaters, five art galleries, and 14 art studios. Guests, patrons, and students come to Mesa Arts Center to enjoy the finest live entertainment and performances, world-class visual art exhibitions, and outstanding arts education classes. The facility is an architectural showpiece and a destination for visitors to the Phoenix area. Mesa Arts Center's mission is to invite all people to create and discover entertaining, challenging and diverse art and arts experiences within joyous, dynamic and welcoming environments. For more information, visit [mesaartscenter.com](http://mesaartscenter.com).