



**Fine Arts Awarded \$10K Modern Warrior Series Grant
From the National Endowment for the Arts
to Support Veterans and Military Families Through Creative Arts Therapies**



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LAKE COUNTY, OH-- The National Endowment for the Arts announced the first round of recommended awards for their fiscal year 2021 totaling \$27,562,040. The awards will support projects that span 14 artistic disciplines in communities throughout the United States.

The Fine Arts Association (FAA) is honored to be a 1st round recipient receiving a generous grant award of \$10,000 to present in-person screenings of the film, *Modern Warrior Live*: the story and sound of a combat veteran's journey by musician Dominick Farinacci and military veteran Jaymes Polling.

“Experiencing a story told directly from the person who went through it integrated with the power of a unique artistic environment provides accessibility and empathy into an otherwise hard-to-relate-to experience,” stated Farinacci.

The delivery of performances will be through a series of screenings—free to our veteran community. The film is designed for veterans, active military, and their families, health professionals, high school students and others interested in the health and well-being of our veteran populations. FAA will also be developing and offering artistic programs and services adapted to meet the needs of veterans and their families. The purpose of the project is to encourage dialogue and broaden understanding of the challenges faced by veterans helping to de-stigmatize veterans as victims by focusing on shared human experiences, providing hope and a deeper understanding across communities.

Veteran Polling explains, “With the best of intentions, well-meaning individuals and organizations have crafted a dark narrative around veteran mental health. For those experiencing it, the recognition of post-traumatic stress can often feel insurmountable. Through entertainment, Modern Warrior LIVE provides an alternative viewpoint. If we agree there is an opportunity for growth in adversity, then we have an obligation to ourselves and our loved ones to do everything in our power to define a new path and find what it means to be forged in combat.”

The screenings will take place from June 14-16, 2022 at The Fine Arts Association’s Corning Auditorium and will comply with any required social distancing requirements at that time. Veteran support services and other community service agencies will be invited to host tables in the gallery during and after the screenings for ease of access to resources and support.

“Modern Warrior reminds veterans they are not victims and that they can use their experiences to grow and make significant contributions to society.” added Anthony Principi, Secretary of Veterans Affairs (2001 - 2005) and Vietnam Combat Veteran

This project is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts. To find out more about how National Endowment for the Arts grants impact individuals and communities, visit www.arts.gov.

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The Fine Arts Association serves the community by enhancing lives through arts education, creative arts therapies, performance, community partnerships, and advocacy.

The Fine Arts Association is located at 38660 Mentor Ave. Willoughby, Ohio 44094. To learn more, visit, fineartsassociation.org