
New Mexico Arts and the Military Roundtable

New Mexico Military Institute
Roswell, New Mexico - January 9, 2018



Convener

New Mexico Arts, a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs

Facilitators

Martell Services and Military OneSource



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Executive Summary

New Mexico Arts is part of an expanding group of

State Arts Agencies that are engaged in community outreach regarding the arts and the military. The Roswell roundtable was the third Arts and the Military Roundtable to be held since the project's initiation in 2015 and the first to be held in Roswell, New Mexico. The thirty-five participants represented education, active-duty as well as retired military, artists, musicians, actors, art and music therapists, librarians, a horse rescue operation owner and others who support the arts in military settings. The event was hosted by the New Mexico Military Institute (NMMI).

After presentations and discussions indicating the salutary effects of art and music therapy on those suffering from trauma and brain injuries, the group described what they would like to see in New Mexico related to this work by 2020. Four themes emerged: desire for systemic means for encouraging collaboration and cooperation between the arts and the military, the development of a notable culture of artistic expression in the military, provision of opportunities for sharing arts and the military products with others, and enhanced sustainability of arts and military work.



Foreward

Purpose of the Roundtable

The purpose of organizing a roundtable about the arts and the military was to build awareness about the important role that artistic expression plays in addressing brain injuries and relieving trauma, to strengthen the bonds between the military and the artistic communities in New Mexico, to share experiences where the two are already intersecting and discuss ways to better connect the arts and the military.

Convener

New Mexico Arts is the state arts agency and a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs. The 15-member governor-appointed New Mexico Arts Commission serves as their advisory body. Their primary function is to provide financial support for arts services and programs to non-profit organizations statewide and to administer the 1% public art program for the state of New Mexico.

New Mexico Arts funds nonprofits and governmental organizations for arts activities in the following discipline areas: performing arts, visual arts, literary arts, media arts, multidisciplinary arts (involving more than one artistic discipline), and interdisciplinary arts (relating two or more artistic disciplines).

The division supports programs that foster arts education, arts economic development; performing and visual arts, and contemporary and traditional folk arts in New Mexico. The NM Arts and the Military initiative explores the intersection of the arts, arts organizations, local & state agencies, and health and reintegration for veterans and military families.

The Facilitators

Toni Martorelli, founder of **Martell Services**, helps communities, organizations and businesses to resolve issues. Her background is in education, public administration and policy development, and small business management. She has taught high school level courses to enlisted personnel at U.S. Army bases in South Korea and volunteered on numerous arts and human services related governing boards.

Debra Roane is the New Mexico Consultant to **Military OneSource**, an Office of the Secretary of Defense national organization whose goal is to help active duty, Guard and Reserve service members and their families successfully navigate life in the military. Military OneSource offers a wide variety of resources, programs and services, all at no cost to those in the military and their families. Her work in vocational rehabilitation and traumatic brain injury informs her work with New Mexico's civilian and military communities.

Report Authors

This report was prepared by Toni Martorelli and edited by Phyllis Kennedy and Debra Roane.

Next Steps

The New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs and the New Mexico Department of Veterans Services will review the results of the Roundtable and make recommendations regarding how to proceed with the New Mexico Arts and the Military initiative.

Introduction

New Mexico Arts is part of a group of State Arts Agencies that are engaged in community outreach regarding the Arts and the Military. The effort strives to create a community-based military and veteran family support network made up of state, regional, and local arts agencies, and other local partners. The community network provides increased arts opportunities for military and veteran family populations and extends support for current and former creative arts therapies patients and their families as they transition from treatment in a clinical setting to arts programming in their community.

The New Mexico Arts division of the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs collaborated with Military OneSource and with the New Mexico Military Institute, which hosted the event at the Bill Daniels Leadership Center on their campus in Roswell.



Roundtable Discussion

The Roundtable included three sections. During the first part of the gathering we learned from key leaders, Major General Grizzle, President/Superintendent of NMMI; BG Jack Fox, Secretary of the New Mexico Department of Veteran's Services and Phyllis Kennedy, Program Coordinator, New Mexico Arts, a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs. They talked about why they felt this work is important. The group learned what to expect from the morning, a little about each participant's work and what brought them to the roundtable. The second section was devoted to learning more about the research and work that has demonstrated the value of the arts in helping military personnel and others to deal with post-traumatic stress. The group then launched into identifying what they hoped this work would look like in two years. The roundtable closed with a report of the group's identified priorities to NM Lt. Governor John Sanchez and a moving song co-written by Jose Antonio Ponce and a New Mexico veteran.

The Agenda and Summaries of Related Work

Welcome and Introductions

- ★ MG Jerry Grizzle, NMMI President/Superintendent
- ★ BG Jack Fox, Secretary of the NM Department of Department of Veteran's Services
- ★ Phyllis Kennedy, Program Coordinator, New Mexico Arts, Department of Cultural Affairs

Participant Introductions

Participants introduced themselves and their related affiliations. They each identified one reason they decided to attend and described how they would know if their time participating at the roundtable had been well spent.

Most identified that they attended because they want to help do work that is dear to their heart and learn more so they can share it with others. They indicated that they would know their time was well spent if they networked and shared with others, learned something new about the topic and available resources.



Invited Speakers and TED Talk

- ★ Melissa Walker, Art Therapist at Walter Reed Hospital, [TED Talk](#)
- ★ Mindy Jones, LCSW, Dir. of Psychological Health, Suicide Prevention Program Manager, New Mexico National Guard
- ★ Sheila Johnson, Music Therapist, NMVA Hospital, Albuquerque, NM
- ★ Special Contributor, Kayt Peck, Director of the Nat Gold Players, Las Vegas, NM

Future Planning

The participants worked in small groups at round tables to respond to the query, “In the best of all possible worlds, what will the status of arts and the military work look like in New Mexico in the year 2020?”

Each table reported their work to the rest of the group. The flip charts included the following ideas grouped by theme:

Theme 1 - Easily Accessible Means for Collaboration and Cooperation

By 2020, the status of the arts and the military will include easily accessible means for collaboration and cooperation.

- ★ A paid intern to work on Arts and the Military (8 votes)
- ★ A centralized Listserv/Email management system to share information with the people doing this work (7 votes) [*already in place*]
- ★ One resource for all (6 votes)
- ★ Coordination of efforts/cooperation /support (3 votes + 2 below = 5 votes)
 - ★ A coordinated state effort
 - ★ Coordinated support
- ★ Strength by connecting the resources of the arts, military and others (4 votes)
- ★ Sustainability of existing programs (3 votes)
- ★ Online sharing of events/strong board (2 votes)
- ★ Information availability for resources (2 votes)
- ★ Community volunteer



Theme 2 - A Notable Culture of Artistic Expression in the Military

By 2020, the status of the arts and the military will include a notable culture of artistic expression in the military.

- ★ Direct veteran involvement; [apply] already developed skills to the arts (7 votes)
- ★ Travel, resources, and funding of Bella Vista (Arts Elementary School) in Clovis (4 votes)
- ★ A children's performance group for military families at NM military bases (4 votes)
- ★ No more stigma about art; we will have created an artistic presence (4 votes)
- ★ Incorporate books (3 votes)
- ★ Providing arts for those who need it (3 votes)
- ★ Opportunities on military bases for arts for military personnel and their families (2 votes)
- ★ Veterans are no longer invisible (2 votes)
- ★ An Art and Wine concept renamed as Veteran Happy Hours. Potentially partner with the fraternal organizations (1 vote)
- ★ Mosaic classes
- ★ History and culture of the military at schools
- ★ A teacher/director hired on the base to provide education in the arts.
- ★ Trauma training



Theme 3 - Means for Sharing Arts & the Military Products with Others

By 2020, the status of the arts and the military will include means for sharing arts & the military products with others.

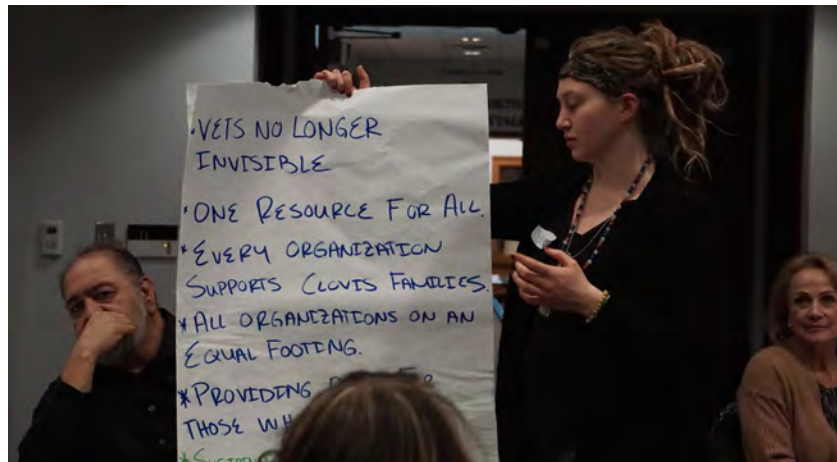
- ★ A central art gallery for all the bases, for veterans, active-duty and their families (5 votes)
- ★ A juried show of NM National Guard Art, through the [VA} Family Programs unit (5 votes)
- ★ Outreach Van Go Van (5 votes)
- ★ Incorporate books 3 votes)
- ★ A book discussion on the anthology *Five & Twenty-Fives*
- ★ Cooperation with the Roswell Museum on Veteran art display (2 votes)
- ★ Advertisement/outreach about programs (2 votes)



Theme 4 - Sustainable Arts and the Military Programs

By 2020, the status of the arts and the military will include sustainable arts and the military programs.

- ★ The VA will have an outlet with an active duty component that adopts programs that work. (2 votes)
- ★ Hope for more funding (2 votes)
- ★ Reimbursement for art therapists' work with veterans (1 vote)
- ★ Goals (1 vote)
- ★ Fund raising from events
- ★ Vet support services and Vet medical services
- ★ Coordinated tool box/lesson plans
- ★ Every organization supports Clovis families
- ★ All organizations are on equal footing



Lt. Governor John Sanchez Addresses the Roundtable

Lt. Governor Sanchez congratulated the group on their efforts to advance the Arts and the Military and informed us about the efforts of the National Lt. Governor's Association, for which he currently serves as Treasurer.



The **National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA)** and **Americans for the Arts** are collaborating to increase visibility, understanding, and support for the care of persons across the military continuum (active duty and reserve service members, veterans, their families, and caregivers) and the role the arts can play in their health and wellness. The goal is to make arts, in its various forms, available to the military continuum as a tool to improve health and wellness. The Initiative aims to advance the policy, practice, and quality use of arts and creativity as tools for health in the military and for veterans.

NM Arts and the Military Roundtable Reports to Lt. Governor John Sanchez

On behalf of the Roundtable participants, Kayt Peck explained the process used to identify the items the group would like to see in place regarding the arts and the military by the year 2020. Those voted likely to have the most impact are listed below:

- ★ A paid intern to work on arts and the military (8 votes)
- ★ A centralized Listserv / Email management system to share information with the people doing this work (7 votes) [*already in place*]
- ★ Direct veteran involvement; apply already developed skills to the arts (7 votes)
- ★ Coordination of efforts / cooperation / support (5 votes)
- ★ A central art gallery for all the bases, for veterans, active-duty and their families (5 votes)
- ★ A juried show of NM National Guard Art, through VA Family Programs unit (5 votes)
- ★ Outreach Van Go Van (5 votes)



Participant José Antonio Ponce, sang "These are Not My Stars" a song he co-wrote with a veteran who served in Afghanistan.

Closing

Attendees

2Lt. Christal Amar
Anne Baker
Mary Alice Balderrama
Dalton Boyd
Jim Cassidy
Enid Costley
Jack R. Fox
Tomás Gonzalez
Deborah Good
MG Jerry Grizzle
Robert Henssler
Mary Rose Henssler
Maddie Henssler
Elaine Howe
Miranda Howe
Sheila K. Johnson
Mindy Jones
Phyllis Kennedy

Michael Kerkhoff
Shirley Klinghoffer
Peggy Krantz
Amberly Meli
Kayt Peck
Jose Antonio Ponce
Michelle Quisenberry
Dale Rose
Laurie Rufe
SrA Tyler Ruchert
Kent C. Taylor, CEFP
Danielle Thompson
Lt. Gov John Sanchez
Kalith Smith
Abbye Smith
Tony Souza
Summer Souza

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Resources

TED Talks

[Adam Driver, My Journey from Marine to Actor](#)

[Melissa Walker, Art Therapist at Walter Reed Hospital](#)

[The National Initiative for Arts and Health in the Military](#)

[NM Arts and the Military Facebook Page](#)

Photo Credits

Roundtable photography by NM Arts Program Coordinator, Phyllis Kennedy

New Mexico Cottonwood Triptych

13 x 40 photograph

Terry Thompson, USAF retired

Thompson's photograph was juried into the selection pool for the NM Art in Public Places purchase program.

