

Press Release

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The Brentwood Art Center Awarded California Arts Council “Veterans in the Arts” Grant

State funds support arts projects to enrich the lives of our veterans and their families

Los Angeles, CA – Today the California Arts Council announced a grant award of \$5,846 to the Friends of the Brentwood Art Center as part of its Veterans in the Arts program. Veterans in the Arts addresses the needs and improves the lives of California’s veterans by increasing equity, access, and opportunities for veterans to participate in quality arts programming that is sensitive and responsive to their unique experiences. VIA provides project support for nonprofit arts organizations, local arts agencies, and veteran’s assistance agencies to reach veterans and their families.

With support from the California Arts Council, the Brentwood Art Center will offer a free, year-long art program for veterans at the Westwood and Long Beach Veterans Administrations. The goals of the program are to teach visual literacy skills, to empower veterans to express their creativity in a safe and nurturing environment, to support and respond to the unique needs and abilities of veterans, and to elevate the voices and experiences of veterans with opportunities to exhibit and promote their work publicly. Rooted in its mission to cultivate creative growth, “Veterans in the Arts” aims to inspire, nurture, and empower.

“The grant from the California Arts Council grant is a wonderful recognition of the work we started in 2014 to provide art opportunities to veterans,” said Adrienne Luce, Brentwood Art Center executive director. “We believe in the transformative power of art and this grant will empower veterans to explore and express their creativity. We are very proud to be a CAC grantee and part of California’s vibrant creative economy,”

The Brentwood Art Center is one of 46 grantees chosen for the Veterans in the Arts program. The award was featured as part of a [larger announcement](#) from the California Arts Council, with grant funds totaling a projected \$24,508,541 for 2018-19, the highest investment in statewide arts programming since the 2000-01 fiscal year.

“Arts and culture are inextricably linked to our humanity,” said Nashormeh Lindo, California Arts Council Chair. “They serve as a universal touchpoint for understanding and addressing our societal issues— dismantling inequity, healing trauma, reframing justice, inspiring truth and shaping futures. The Council is humbled to support the vital work of the Brentwood Art Center and its passionate efforts to make a better California for us all.”

To view a complete listing of all Veterans in the Arts grantees, visit [http://arts.ca.gov/programs/program_files/1819/CurrentGrantees/FY18-19 Project Descriptions VIA.pdf](http://arts.ca.gov/programs/program_files/1819/CurrentGrantees/FY18-19_Project_Descriptions_VIA.pdf).

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The Brentwood Art Center (BAC) is a nonprofit community-based arts organization founded in 1970. The mission of the Friends of the Brentwood Art Center is to operate an art school to provide high quality education and instruction in the fine arts to both children and adults of all levels, to conduct outreach programs in arts education, and to otherwise promote and foster arts education in the community. The Brentwood Art Center offers art classes to students of all ages and abilities and our scholarship program ensures that all students have equitable access to the arts. The Brentwood Art upholds high artistic standards within a safe and nurturing environment that empowers self-expression.

Additional information: www.brentwoodart.com

Follow the Brentwood Art Center on social media:

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/brentwoodart> Twitter: <http://twitter.com/brentwoodart>

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The mission of the California Arts Council, a state agency, is to advance California through the arts and creativity. The Council is committed to building public will and resources for the arts; fostering accessible arts initiatives that reflect contributions from all of California's diverse populations; serving as a thought leader and champion for the arts; and providing effective and relevant programs and services.

Members of the California Arts Council include: Chair Nashormeh Lindo, Vice Chair Larry Baza, Juan Devis, Jodie Evans, Kathleen Gallegos, Jaime Galli, Donn K. Harris, and Louise McGuinness. Learn more at www.arts.ca.gov.