



Media Contact:

Casey Blake

480-644-6620

casey.blake@mesaartscenter.com

Mesa Arts Center Launching Arts in Service program with Free Open House for Military
Program to offer free arts classes for veterans and active service members

For immediate release:

Jan. 4, 2018

(Mesa, AZ) – Mesa Arts Center (MAC) will host an open house for veterans, military and their families, January 13, 2018, 10 a.m. to noon, to introduce the newest Engagement program, Arts in Service. The open house will provide an opportunity for veterans, service members and their families to explore MAC Art studios, try various art forms and meet studio instructors for the program. In-person registration for the Arts in Service class will begin during the open house on Jan. 13.

Thanks to a generous grant from The Boeing Company, Mesa Arts Center will provide free creative pathways for veterans and active duty 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.

Classes to be offered through the Arts in Service program include:

- Intro to Printmaking for Military Personnel
- Beginning Flameworking for Military Personnel
- Learn to Paint with Watercolors for Military Personnel
- Jewelry: Beginning Fabrication for Military Personnel
- Beginning Welding for Military Personnel
- Discover Clay for Military Personnel

For those not attending the open house event, Arts in Service class registration will begin Sunday, January 14, at 10 a.m. online and by phone at mesaartscenter.com or 480-644-6520.

"We are so excited to develop our programs 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 of therapeutic benefits, from reducing feelings of isolation to providing new means of self-expression, in addition to offering fun, relaxation, and creative exploration."

"Boeing supports our veterans and active military members by investing in community programs such as Arts in Service, which eliminate barriers and create pathways for our heroes and their families to successfully reintegrate back into society and our workforce," said Boeing Arizona Community Investor Mary Baldwin.

To inquire about the specifics of this program, email engagement@mesaartscenter.com.

[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.

ABOUT THE ARIZONA COALITION OF MILITARY FAMILIES

The **Arizona Coalition for Military Families** is a nationally-recognized public/private partnership focused on building Arizona's statewide capacity to care for and support all service members, veterans and their families. For more information, visit arizonacoalition.org.

Mesa Arts Center is a partner organization on the Military/Veteran Resource Network, in partnership with the Arizona Coalition for Military Families.

ABOUT BOEING

Through purposeful investments, employee engagement and thoughtful advocacy efforts, Boeing and its employees support innovative partnerships and programs that align with our strategic objectives, create value and help build better communities worldwide. This includes improving access to globally competitive learning as well as workforce and skills development, and supporting our military and veteran communities. In 2017, Boeing and its employees contributed more than \$167 million to improve communities across the globe.