



**Statement of Collaboration  
between  
The National Lieutenant Governors Association  
and  
Americans for the Arts  
regarding  
The State Military and Veterans Arts Initiative**

**PURPOSE**

This is a statement of collaboration between the National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA) and Americans for the Arts to develop and implement a joint, two-year “State Military and Veterans Arts Initiative.”

**OUR RELATIONSHIP**

The National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA) consists of 55 members, the officials first in line of gubernatorial succession in the fifty states and US territories. Americans for the Arts’ mission is to serve, advance, and lead the networks of organizations and individuals who cultivate, promote, sustain, and support the arts in America. The two groups have a 12-year working relationship and share a common commitment to strengthening the health and well-being of active duty and reserve military members, veterans, their families, and caregivers and to promoting the arts in America. Through The State Military and Veterans Arts Initiative (herein called The Initiative), NLGA will promote information resources, deliver education programs, and facilitate opportunities for the seconds-in-command in the states to promote and/or support arts-based services and programs aimed at strengthening the health and well-being of active duty and reserve military members, veterans, their families, and caregivers. When and where possible, NLGA will facilitate the active participation of said officials in select activities. Americans for the Arts will provide funding, collaborate in the creation of information resources and education programs, and lend expertise in helping the seconds-in-command execute work unique to their states (Attachment A).

**OUR MUTUAL GOALS**

The parties’ mutual goals are 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 parties share a general mutual goal to make arts, in its various forms, available to the military continuum as a tool to improve

health and wellness. The parties will work together as possible to advance the policy, practice, and quality use of arts and creativity as tools for health in the military and for veterans.

#### NLGA ACTIVITIES

To achieve the mutual goals, NLGA will make available to its members a range of information resources, education programs, and visibility/engagement opportunities. Attachment B includes a list of possible activities. These range from posting information about free arts opportunities available to active duty and reserve military members, veterans, their families, and caregivers in a state to initiating a personal meeting about the issue. NLGA will note or highlight items about The Initiative in its ongoing publications to its members. At each NLGA regular association meeting, members will receive information about the Initiative via written materials; opportunities for peer-to-peer sharing and exchange; or via presentation. NLGA will contact non-participating offices twice per year by telephone to ensure they are receiving information about The Initiative and are aware of its work. These activities ensure the education of these top officials on this topic in all 50 states. NLGA members may opt in for activities they choose (Attachments A and B) when they choose and have the flexibility to increase, or decrease their engagement in The Initiative as they see fit, or to engage on a one-time basis or to not engage.

#### FUNDING

Americans for the Arts will be responsible for the fundraising effort to support The Initiative. NLGA bears no fiscal responsibilities. Americans for the Arts will coordinate its fundraising work with NLGA to ensure that the development effort does not create any conflicts for NLGA. See Attachment C for program budget. The budget is subject to change depending on the outcome of the fundraising effort. The current budget for this two-year project is \$415,560. Americans for the Arts has identified potential funding prospects to support The Initiative. Americans for the Arts does not plan to raise funds from government sources.

#### REPORTING

NLGA will provide a written report of activity every six months to Americans for the Arts. NLGA staff will be available for one quarterly update call, in addition to the reporting/activity taking place at NLGA Meetings as noted in "Activities."

#### TIMING

The collaboration will begin July 26, 2017, and end July 26, 2019, based on award of funds contingent on successful fundraising efforts by Americans for the Arts. The goal is that fundraising results in the following award amounts and timelines:

1. An award of at least \$25,000 of NLGA's Year One \$50,000 program support costs would be made to NLGA by December 31, 2017, with the balance awarded on or by June 1, 2018.
2. An award of at least \$25,000 of NLGA's Year Two \$50,000 program support costs would be made by December 31, 2018, with the balance awarded by June 1, 2019.
3. It is mutually understood the desire and goal of the Parties is that funds for implementing Exhibit C, items 3 – 5 be available no later than March of 2018 to begin providing grants to NLGA members for work on the project(s).