

**ART EASE**

A Regional Convening on Arts & the Military  
THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 2018 | 10AM-3PM  
KANSAS CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
401 N. MAIN STREET  
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64102

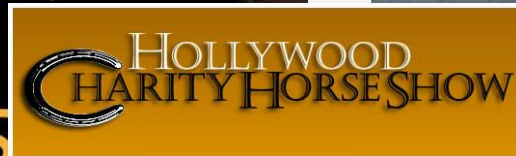
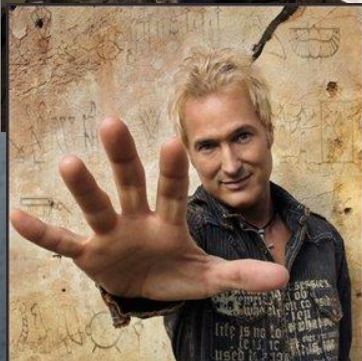
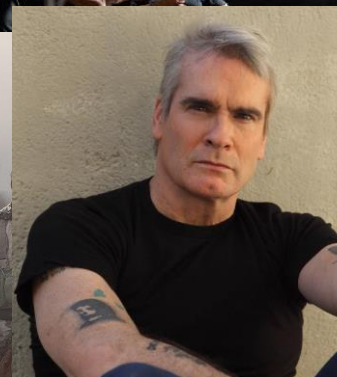
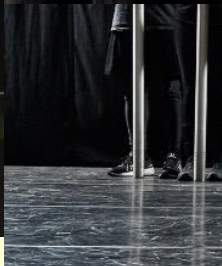
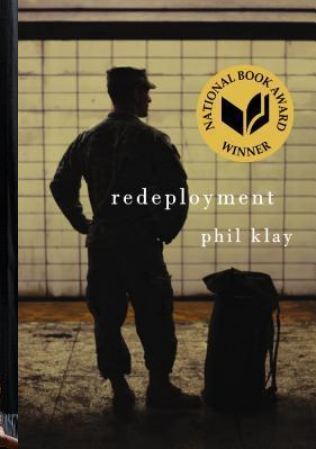
# Arts-Based Military Affairs: A University Approach

Dr. Art DeGroat, Ed.D. , Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.), USA  
Executive Director of Military & Veterans Affairs  
Kansas State University

# My Work in Our Field

- o 18 Major nationally touring arts & military projects
  - o (5) Theater, (2) Music, (2) Live Film Premiers, (2) Dance, (1) Magic, (1) Comedy, (1) Spoken Word, (1) Literary Performance, (1) Culinary Performance, (1) Equine Arts, (1) Documentary Film
- o 1 University-based theater project (Shakespeare) Prof David Mackay
- o Personal Research
- o Advisory Boards to Arts Makers & Presenters







# What Good Do Military-Related Arts Projects Serve?

- o Catalyst to Social Change – Military-Civilian Gap
- o Individual Veterans' Rehabilitation, Restoration & Well Being
- o Veterans Transition & Reintegration to workforce and society
- o Builds cultural capital for the serving military & its institutions

# The Arts as **Catalyst** for Social Change ...





# VETERANS REINTEGRATION



*Veterans need:*

- ☐ **APPRECIATIVE UNDERSTANDING** OF THEIR CHALLENGES & VALUE
- ☐ NEW **HUMAN DEVELOPMENT** PRACTICES IN MILITARY SERVICES
- ☐ **EVIDENCE-BASED** APPROACHES TO TRANSITION ASSISTANCE
- ☐ **BETTER PATHWAYS** TO CIVILIAN EMPLOYMENT
- ☐ **COMMUNITY-BASED** OUTREACH AND INTEGRATION

Fellow citizens to move away from a sympathetic (“Thank you for your service) – to an empathetic posture of true understanding (May I include you in my community)

# Why Are Arts-Based Projects Unique & Effective?





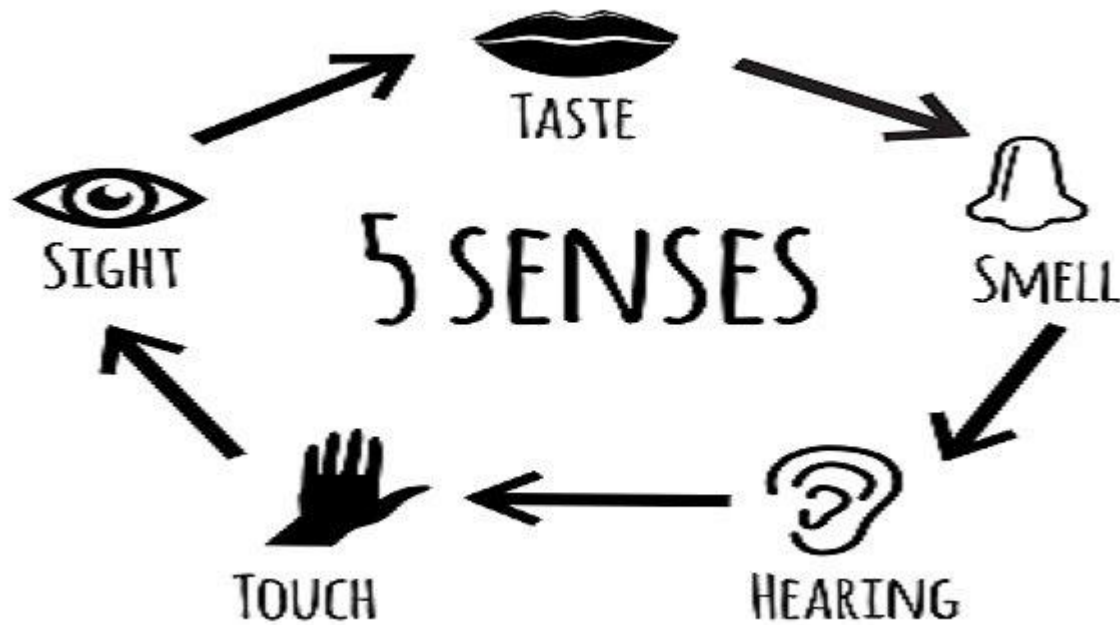
“Art has the particular power to reconfigure the **terms, images and affects** of matters of our concern.”

Dr. Timon Beyes  
Copenhagen Business School



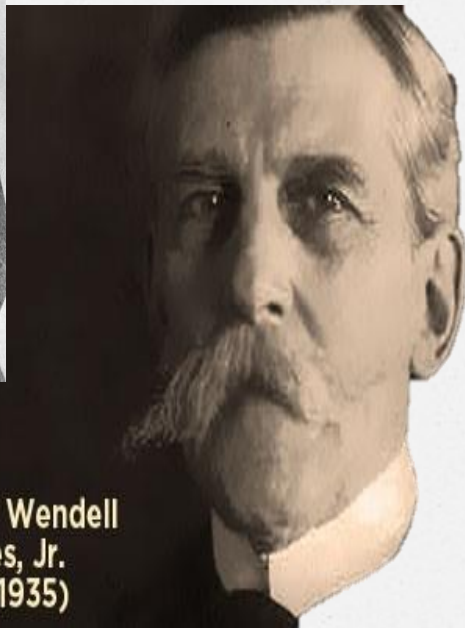
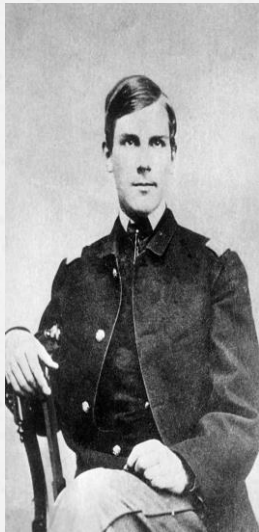


# Aesthetic Knowledge



Knowledge created by direct sensory experience

# “The **incommunicable** experience of war”



Oliver Wendell  
Holmes, Jr.  
(1841-1935)





# Theoretical Impetus- Live Arts

## Intrinsic Impacts of Live Arts



- o CAPTIVATION
- o INTELLECTUAL STIMULATION
- o EMOTIONAL RESONANCE
- o SPIRITUAL VALUE
- o AESTHETIC GROWTH
- o SOCIAL BONDING

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# Role of “Intermediary”

FUNCTION	TASKS
<b>Arts Project Design</b>	Create objectives (what) that serve military/society/community; Identify specific military (who) to be served; Create rationale (why) for project; Create method (how) project succeeds
<b>Creative Process (art making)</b>	Content advising; cultural advising (military); Production support; Residency assistance
<b>Arts Project Fundraising &amp; Sponsorship</b>	Marketing /promotion design; Development of prospective donors and sponsors; Develop benevolent need rationale; Represent military perspective/needs to donors (why give)
<b>Design Outreach &amp; Collateral Engagements</b>	Public engagements as social catalyst; Community building; Connect to local vet arts efforts; Therapeutic & well-being interventions
<b>Presentation Support</b>	Media support (expert commentary); Military audience development; Hosting military-connected VIPS and donors; Conduct on-stage “talk backs”
<b>Post Performance/ Project</b>	Assess project outcomes; Strategic advising; Project sustainment & expansion; Sharing of insights with other arts makers

# Theoretical Perspectives Enabling Evidence-Based Work

- o Social Science
  - o *Military Socio-Culture* (sociological)
  - o *Impact of Military on the Life Course* (social psychology)
  - o *Intrinsic Impacts of Live Performance* (arts research)
  - o *Military Transition as a Life Event* (Human science phenomenology/lived experience)
  - o *Institutional Logics* (organizational behavior)



# Insights from A Recent Project...



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