



VA MARYLAND HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

2023 CREATIVE ARTS COMPETITION UPDATES

Dear Veteran Artists,

We are now accepting entries for this year's 2023 VAMHCS Veterans Creative Arts Competition! Submission and showcase information are now available. If you are interested in receiving an entry packet, please contact Kelsey Eisenhauer by email: kelsey.eisenhauer@va.gov and indicate what division(s) you are interested in (Art, Music, Dance, Drama, Creative Writing). You can also contact by phone at 410-585-4477.

Arts in the Community/Adaptive Sports – We are now offering a monthly workshop/clinic series for outpatient Veterans. These are single-day events where Veterans can try out a wide variety of arts or sports modalities (glassblowing, pottery, creative writing, hiking, horseback riding, kayaking, and more!) These workshops are a great way to learn new skills, try new modalities, and connect with other Veterans. Most workshops/clinics are held in the community. 1-time pre-screening required for participation. For more information or to sign up for pre-screening go to: <https://www.smores.com/tr5yq> or e-mail VAMHCSRCATS@va.gov.

Upcoming workshops include:

Creative Writing & Clayplay - May 22nd 10AM-1PM

Polishing Your Performance – June 1st 12:30PM-3PM

Get Your Improv On – July 10th 2-4PM

Open Studio at Perry Point & Loch Raven VAMC – These open studio times are a great opportunity to ask questions about the competition, complete registration paperwork, work on creative projects, and get creative feedback. (see dates listed to the right).

Art Supplies Available – If you are in need of supplies for participation in the VAMHCS Veterans Creative Arts Competition, please contact Kelsey Eisenhauer.

Returning to the Fair! – This year's showcase will be held again at the **Maryland State Fair!** The visual arts display will be available throughout the duration of the fair for community viewing, but a formal showcase will be held on Saturday, September 9th, 2023. This showcase will include a visual arts display, creative writing readings, and a stage show for performing arts entries. Competition participants should plan to attend this showcase. More details to follow.

**See General Competition Information and
Contact Info on Back →**

Open Studio Times:

Perry Point VA (Bldg 24H, Rm 013)

- Thursday, May 18th 2-5PM

- Thursday, June 8th 2-5PM

- Thursday, July 13th 2-5PM

Loch Raven VA (CLC Bldg 1, Multipurpose Rm 138)

- Thursday, May 25th 2-5PM Loch Raven VAMC

- Thursday, June 22nd 2-5PM Loch Raven VAMC

IMPORTANT DATES:

Tuesday, July 11, 2023 –

Registration and Submission Deadline (all paperwork & writings)

Tuesday, July 18th – Art

Drop-off Deadline (all art must be received by this date)

Tuesday, August 8th - Evening performance recordings

Friday, August 11th - Additional performance recordings

Wednesday, September 6th – Performer Dress Rehearsal at State Fair

Saturday, September 9th, 2023 – Veteran Showcase at the Maryland State Fair.

VAMHCS Veterans Creative Arts Competition General Information

- To enter the competition, the Veteran artist must be enrolled for care in the VA Maryland Health Care System.
 - o See link below to enroll if not already:
<https://www.va.gov/maryland-health-care/register-for-care/>
- Veterans may only submit competition entries through one VA facility per year.
 - o Entries are submitted through Kelsey Eisenhower who is the staff POC for the VA Maryland Health Care System.
- All work must have been created/performances filmed after October 1, 2022. (except for Visual Art: Military Combat Experience entries).
- There are 5 Divisions – Art, Creative Writing, Dance, Drama, and Music with multiple categories for entry within each division.
- A Veteran can enter up to 3 categories in EACH Division, but ONLY 1 entry per category. (Entries beyond this will be considered non-competitive entries)
 - o Common categories from previous years include:
 - Fine Arts – photography, acrylic, watercolor, drawing, pottery, etc.
 - Applied Arts – collage, carving, glasswork, beadwork, etc.
 - Kits – painting kits, model kits, coloring kits, etc.
 - Poetry, Personal essay, short story, short script, military experience, etc.
 - Vocal solo, vocal group, instrumental solo, instrumental group, band entries in various genres, original songwriting, etc.
 - Dance in various styles – latin, ballroom, modern, freestyle, etc.
 - Dramatic performances of prose, poetry, or interpretive performance, etc.
- Performances should be limited to 3 minutes in length.
- Performers will participate in a dress rehearsal scheduled prior to showcase date.
- Submission includes completion of entry form and photo/video consent form.
- Artwork will be submitted for in-person display for 2023 competition.
- Creative writing entries will be submitted via Microsoft Word document and should be e-mailed.
- Performances will be recorded for judging prior to the stage show at formal showcase on 9/9/23. All entries should be **performance ready** at the time of recording.



For more information contact:
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Email: kelsey.eisenhauer@va.gov
or visit
<https://www.blogs.va.gov/nvspse/national-veterans-creative-arts-festival/>