



ALBANY MUSEUM OF ART

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **ALBANY MUSEUM OF ART PARTICIPATES IN BLUE STAR MUSEUMS PROGRAM**

Museum Program for Military Personnel and Their Families Marks 10<sup>th</sup> Year

**[For Release May 16, 2019 – Albany, GA]** — On Saturday, the Albany Museum of Art will join museums across the nation in participating in the 10th summer of Blue Star Museums.

The program, which provides free admission to our nation's active-duty military personnel and their families this summer, is beginning earlier than in past years. It launches on Armed Forces Day on Saturday, May 18, 2019, ends on Labor Day, Sept 2, 2019. Military can find the list of participating museums at [arts.gov/bluestarmuseums](https://arts.gov/bluestarmuseums).

Blue Star Museums is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts in collaboration with Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense, and more than 2,000 museums nationwide. First Lady of the United States Melania Trump and Second Lady of the United States Karen Pence are honorary co-chairs of Blue Star Museums 2019.

Active military families will receive a 10% discount on programs, activities and camps at the Albany Museum of Art.

"Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day and Independence Day are all coming up, and with them come often poignant reminders of the sacrifices our military personnel and their families make for our country," AMA Executive Director Paula Williams said. "While the Albany Museum of Art offers free admission every day to everyone, we want those who are serving in the military, their families and our veterans to know they are always welcome and always appreciated."

The Blue Star Museum Program coincides with the busiest travel period of the year. Williams said she hopes that military and veteran families in the area—as well as those visiting or passing through Albany—will visit the AMA and take in the exhibitions.

"The National Endowment for the Arts is proud to celebrate the tenth summer of collaborating with Blue Star Families, Department of Defense, and especially the more than 2,000 museums across our

nation that make this program possible," said Mary Anne Carter, acting chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts. "Organizations such as the Albany Museum of Art are providing wonderful opportunities for military families to share a memorable experience together this summer."

This year's participating organizations include fine art, science, history, and children's museums, as well as zoos, aquariums, gardens, and more. Museums are welcome to sign up for Blue Star Museums throughout the summer at [arts.gov](http://arts.gov).

"We've seen the tremendous impact the Blue Star Museums program brings to our military families, and we're thrilled to be celebrating a decade of support," said Kathy Roth-Douquet, chief executive officer of Blue Star Families. "Not only are museums fun to explore, but are also great for making memories and strengthening military families as a whole."

"The Defense Department congratulates Blue Star Families and the National Endowment for the Arts on reaching an incredible milestone: ten years of service to the military community through Blue Star Museums," said A.T. Johnston, deputy assistant secretary of defense for Military Community and Family Policy. "We offer our sincere gratitude to the more than 2,000 museums across the country who open their doors through this wonderful program. Your patriotism and generosity have enriched the lives and experiences of our military families."

The free admission program is available for those currently serving in the United States Military—Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard as well as members of the Reserves, National Guard, U.S. Public Health Commissioned Corps, NOAA Commissioned Corps, and up to five family members. Qualified members must show a Geneva Convention common access card (CAC), DD Form 1173 ID card (dependent ID), or a DD Form 1173-1 ID card for entrance into a participating Blue Star Museum. Follow Blue Star Museums on Twitter @NEAarts and @BlueStarFamily, #bluestarmuseums.

## CURRENT AMA EXHIBITIONS

- *Memory and Meaning*, works by Masud Olufani, is in the Haley Gallery through June 15, 2019;
- *Undercurrents*, works by Jerushia Graham, is in the East Gallery through June 15, 2019;
- *Ghost Yonder Moonscape*, works by Zipporah Thompson, is in the West Gallery through June 15, 2019;
- *A Life Well Lived*, works by Alex Mixon, is in the Haley Regional Gallery.

## ABOUT THE ALBANY MUSEUM OF ART

The Albany Museum of Art, located in Albany, Georgia, adjacent to Albany State University West Campus just off Gillionville Road is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. The Albany Museum of Art is open 10 am through 5 pm Tuesdays through Fridays and noon until 5 pm on Saturdays. Admission is free.

For more information about the AMA please visit our website, [albanymuseum.com](http://albanymuseum.com) or call **229.439.8400**. Follow the AMA on Twitter at [@albanyartmuseum](https://twitter.com/albanyartmuseum) and like us on Facebook at [facebook.com/AlbanyMuseumOfArt](https://facebook.com/AlbanyMuseumOfArt).

## ABOUT THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

Established by Congress in 1965, the National Endowment for the Arts is the independent federal agency whose funding and support gives Americans the opportunity to participate in the arts,

exercise their imaginations, and develop their creative capacities. Through partnerships with state arts agencies, local leaders, other federal agencies, and the philanthropic sector, the Arts Endowment supports arts learning, affirms and celebrates America's rich and diverse cultural heritage, and extends its work to promote equal access to the arts in every community across America. Visit [arts.gov](https://www.arts.gov) to learn more.

#### **ABOUT BLUE STAR FAMILIES**

Blue Star Families builds communities that support military families by connecting research and data to programs and solutions, including career development tools, local community events for families, and caregiver support. Since its inception in 2009, Blue Star Families has engaged tens of thousands of volunteers and serves more than 1.5 million military family members. With Blue Star Families, military families can find answers to their challenges anywhere they are. For more information, visit [bluestarfam.org](https://www.bluestarfam.org).

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