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**Veteran-Led Canvas of Courage Celebrates Cohorts 1 and 2, Bringing Veteran Stories to Phoenix Through Art**

**PHOENIX, AZ – March 11, 2026** – Phoenix Center for the Arts proudly celebrates the completion of Cohorts 1 and 2 of Canvas of Courage: Expressive Art Therapy for Veterans, a veteran-led program creating a brave, creative space where veterans, their families, and their supporters can connect, heal, and build community through the power of art.

Developed to offer veterans a place to exhale, explore, and rediscover themselves, Canvas of Courage uses guided expressive art sessions to strengthen trust, nurture resilience, and support storytelling in a structured, welcoming environment. This program is a growing community of veterans committed to healing individually and together.

Cohort 1 concluded in November 2025 while Cohort 2 ran from January 14 through February 18, 2026, and closed with a gallery showcase that honored each participant's courage, creativity, and commitment.

True to its mission, the program embraces not only veterans but also their families and the community members who stand alongside them. Participants are invited to share their stories at their own pace, recognizing that healing is often found in being seen, heard, and understood.

"Canvas of Courage is more than an art class. It brings veterans, families, and community supporters together to share their experiences, not for attention, but to foster connection. Healing begins when people feel seen."

— Christopher Watts, U.S. Army veteran and Co-Director, Canvas of Courage

"We are building a community where veterans are encouraged to share their stories fully. We provide space to create, connect, and be heard. This is our purpose."

— Joe Kane II, U.S. Army veteran and Co-Director, Canvas of Courage

A curated selection of artwork created by Cohort 2 will be on display at Cambria Hotel Downtown Phoenix. Each piece is accompanied by the artist's personal story, offering guests and community members a rare opportunity to witness the depth and impact of the Canvas of Courage journey.

"The Cambria Hotel Downtown Phoenix is honored to house these pieces in our lobby. Sometimes only veterans can truly understand veterans and Joe and Christopher have done an amazing job at bridging the gap between veterans and families!"

- Chris Rhoades, USMC Veteran and General Manager of the Cambria Hotel DTPHX

Canvas of Courage continues to grow in Phoenix, with Cohort 3 beginning March 11, 2026. The program remains committed to creating accessible, meaningful opportunities for veterans and families to engage in artmaking, build community, and experience healing through creative expression.

**About Phoenix Center for the Arts:**

*Phoenix Center for the Arts provides arts and culture opportunities for all through education, programming, and advocacy. The Center strives to be the premier provider of arts and cultural experiences that improve, stimulate, and unite the communities we serve.*

**About Cambria Hotel:**

*We are an upscale hotel in the heart of the Downtown Phoenix Arts District, aiming to put community first and facilitate creativity through collaboration with our neighbors and supporting our local artists!*

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