

VOICES OF VETERANS

Sponsorship information

A veteran who feels alone is a veteran at risk of suicide

Creating veteran connections, building veteran communities and bringing attention to the mental health crisis in Australia is needed. Allowing veterans living with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) to feel heard and supported is a critical step to healing and demonstrates the worth of their individual experience.

Voices of Veterans is a veteran lead initiative by Australian artist Major Michael (Mike) Armstrong (Retd) that aims to take action, build communities of support and create valued roles for our veterans. Mike is pleased to offer companies or individuals the opportunity to help build art based veteran communities, create a platform for veterans to share their experiences and resource art-based community initiatives.

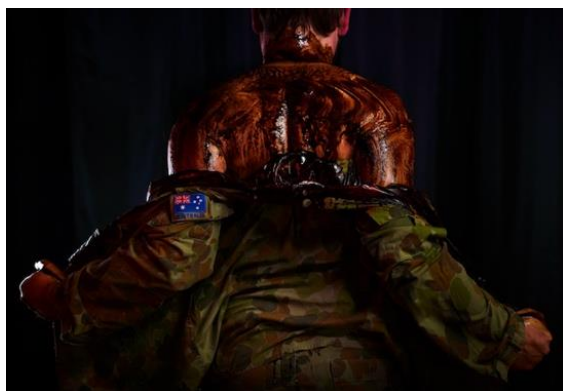
The action

Voices of Veterans art exhibitions - will explore and create awareness of the mental health crisis currently being experienced within the veteran community through art and discourse. Using molasses as a metaphor for mental illness in combination with powerful storytelling the resulting works reflect personal experiences of the veterans involved. They raise what it means to live with PTSD; the symptoms and emotions battled daily, and the weight of service carried by our veteran community and their families. Works will be traveling and exhibiting throughout Australia over 2022.

Voices of Veterans will launch in Canberra at Government House in April 2022 under the patronage of His Excellency, General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd) and Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley.

Voices of Veterans art workshops – will be delivered across Australia by Mike Armstrong. They aim to build veteran communities and support suicide prevention through education and connection. Workshop locations include Melbourne, Adelaide, Sydney, Brisbane, Toowoomba, Canberra, Townsville.

Ongoing veteran community art initiatives – art based programs designed and delivered by veterans may encourage the formation of communities of support and create valued roles for our veterans. Veterans who have ideas to action may apply for funding through a Voices of Veterans grant fund. This will be promoted as an opportunity for people at the exhibitions and workshops.



The artist

Michael (Mike) Armstrong is the director and artist of Voices of Veterans. Mike initiated and ran the Australian National Veteran's Art Museum (ANVAM) art mentoring program in Canberra. He served in the Australian Army for 23 years and completed tours in East Timor, Afghanistan, Iraq and the Tactical Assault Group (East) counter terrorism unit. He holds a Master of Arts and a Master of Cyber Security.

Mike was diagnosed with PTSD in 2020. He had treatment for PTSD and is now a vocal advocate for veteran mental health. Mike mentors veterans from his studio in Canberra and creates powerful artwork including photographs, painting, sketches and sculptures. He's held solo and group exhibitions around

Australia, been a finalist and winner of prestigious art prizes, and is a published author. You can find out more at michaelarmstrong.com.au

Sponsorship opportunities

- Support logistics and art curation of the national travelling art exhibitions. Events will include around 50 printed, framed and mounted artworks that will travel with the artist around Australia in 2022.
- Support logistics, supplies, administration and delivery of the national art workshop series to encourage community building and provide art education for veterans.
- Contribute to the Voices of Veterans grant fund. The fund will include any funds generated by the project. Veterans may apply for grant funding to deliver community art programs.

Community sponsor: \$5,000 (8 required)

- Community sponsors will support art workshops to connect people and build veteran communities. Sponsorship benefits will be minimal.

Supporting sponsor: \$10,000 (4 required)

- Supporting sponsors will help the exhibitions come to life and travel around Australia. These companies or individuals will provide funds that will support Australian veteran communities. Funds will help the project be delivered, curated and sustained. Sponsorship benefits will be medium.

Executive sponsor: \$20,000 (3 required)

- Executive sponsors are major project contributors. These companies or individuals will provide substantial funding that will support Australian veteran communities. Funds will help the activities be delivered, curated and sustained. Sponsorship benefits will be high.

Corporate sponsor: \$50,000 (1 required)

- Corporate sponsors are the premium contributor to Voices of Veterans. These sponsors will substantially support Australian veterans and mental health awareness. Funding will exceptionally enable the project as a whole. Sponsor benefits will be extensive.

Sponsor benefits

- Nationwide brand exposure to the Australian veteran community
- Nationwide brand exposure to the Australian arts community
- Branding and/or written acknowledgement in catalogues, books, media, posters and website
- Tailored sponsor content on Voices of Veterans social media
- Access to a library of still and video content for sponsor social media network sharing
- An invitation to Government House to the launch of the Voices of Veterans in April 2022
- Verbal recognition at Voices of Veterans events including the launch at Government House
- The opportunity to host your own private event or photoshoot at exhibition spaces (excluding launch)
- The opportunity to facilitate a private exhibition tour with director, artist and curator, Mike Armstrong

*To sponsor or donate to Voices of Veterans email
admin@voicesofveterans.com.au*