

Veterans Wanted for Art Festival

VFW-supported event is looking for vets to exhibit, perform

May 19, 2022

The Veterans Suicide Prevention Channel (VSPChannel) is producing the 4th Annual Austin Veteran Arts Festival (AVAFEST) in the city of Austin, Texas, Oct. 12-Nov. 12. There will be eight art exhibits that veterans can participate in, and all of them will be shown online.

Glenn Towery, a member of VFW Post 856 in Austin and founder of the VSPChannel and AVAFEST, said through this collaborative effort, he plans to showcase the healing power of art.

“AVAFEST gives veterans a platform to show and practice their art and encourage them to enjoy the healing elements inherent in practicing the arts,” said Towery. “We invite veterans, military personnel and their immediate family members to participate in the festival, no matter how old or young they may be.”

Veterans who are visual artists, performers who act, sing, dance, perform in bands, write poetry/spoken word (to perform publicly), comedians, filmmakers, theater directors and more are welcome, Towery said.

“We also are in search of new one or two act plays by veterans,” Towery added. “All are invited to apply who use the arts as a form of mental, emotional and spiritual healing.”

Selected performances will be showcased either in a select venue in the city of Austin and/or appear on the VSPChannel ROKU television channel, which can be accessed online at: <https://veteransartsandwellnessnetwork.org/watch-live/>.

Select Artists’ Work to be Featured in Special Exhibit

Towery said this year’s AVAFEST will feature the Tom Lea American Combat Veteran Exhibit at the Old Bakery and Emporium Gallery in downtown Austin, just steps from the state capitol building.

Thomas C. Lea III was a muralist, illustrator, artist, war correspondent, novelist and

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historian. He was a correspondent in the South Pacific and Asia during WWII.

Ten combat veterans will have their art selected to be exhibited along with Lea's works. The call for art submissions is open now and ends Aug. 15. This exhibit will open on Oct. 22 and runs until Dec. 3.

Only veterans who have experienced combat are eligible to submit for this exhibit at: herlinda.zamora@austintexas.gov.

“This year’s AVAFEST will continue to showcase veteran and military talent and display the healing elements that can be found in practicing the arts,” Towery said. “It also will emphasize other forms of non-medicinal therapies such as a health and wellness seminar, EMDR, Yoga, Tai Chi, mindfulness, meditation and more.”

There will also be a veteran’s book fair to help veterans and their family members who are writers, to promote and sell their books.

AVAFEST is produced, in part, with the support of the city of Austin and is endorsed by several veterans organizations, including the VFW.

Be sure to check out the September issue of VFW magazine for an article on Towery and how the VSPChannel came to be.

To learn more about how you can sign up to be a part of AVAFEST 2022, contact AVAFEST at avafestgtowery@gmail.com, or visit www.vspchannel.com, or www.avafest.org. [Check out this video](#) about AVAFEST 2022.