

Dallas Museum of Art to Participate for the Third Year in the Blue Star Museums Program Beginning Friday, May 25

One of More Than 1,500 Museums Across America to Offer Free Admission to Military Personnel and Their Families This Summer

Today the Dallas Museum of Art announced their involvement for the third year in the Blue Star Museums program, organized by the National Endowment for the Arts in collaboration with Blue Star Families and the Department of Defense. The DMA joins over 1,500 museums in this nationwide initiative to honor the millions of Americans, and their families, serving in our military. Beginning **Friday, May 25, 2012**, in observance of Memorial Day, **through Sunday, September 2, 2012**, in observance of Labor Day, the DMA will offer **free admission to all active military personnel and their families**. The free admission also extends to the special ticketed exhibition *Legacy of the Plumed Serpent in Ancient Mexico*, on view July 29 through November 25, 2012.

"The DMA is pleased to participate in the Blue Star Museums program for a third consecutive year," said Maxwell L. Anderson, The Eugene McDermott Director of the Dallas Museum of Art. "We are proud to thank the numerous military families in our community with the opportunity to experience the Museum's collection, the *Legacy of the Plumed Serpent* exhibition, and many of our summer programs free of charge through Labor Day."

"Through Blue Star Museums, the arts community is extending a special invitation to military families to enjoy over 1,500 museums this summer," said NEA Chairman Rocco Landesman. "This is both an opportunity to thank military families for their service and sacrifice, as well as a chance to create connections between museums and these families that will continue throughout the year. Especially for families with limited time together, those on a limited budget, and ones that have to relocate frequently, Blue Star Museums offers an opportunity to enjoy one another and become more fully integrated into a community."

Blue Star Families was founded in 2008 by a group of military spouses to raise awareness of the challenges military families face. The mission of the organization is to support, connect, and empower military families. Blue Star Families has established online and physical chapter-based communities as well as promoted community involvement, such as the Blue Star Museum program, in order to provide support to military families

"As we enter the third consecutive year of the Blue Star Museums program, we are happy to provide an opportunity for our nation's service members and their families to connect with our national treasures," said Blue Star Families CEO Kathy Roth-Douquet. "Through this distinctive collaboration between Blue Star Families, the National Endowment for the Arts, and more than fifteen hundred museums across the United States, military families have an unparalleled opportunity to visit some of the country's finest museums for free."

Blue Star Museums, a free admission program throughout the summer, is available to active-duty military and their immediate family members (military ID holder and five immediate family members). Active-duty military includes Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, and active-duty National Guard and active-duty Reserve members.

The Dallas Museum of Art is one of eight museums in Dallas participating in the nationwide event. The other museums in Dallas are the Dallas Heritage Village, Dallas Holocaust Museum/Center for Education and Tolerance, Frontiers of Flight Museum, International Museum of Cultures, Meadows Museum, Nasher Sculpture Center, and The Virtual Steam Car Museum, Inc. Visit arts.gov/bluestarmuseums for details and a complete list of participating museums.

This year, more than fifteen hundred (and counting) museums in all fifty states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and American Samoa are taking part in the initiative, including more than three hundred new museums this year. Museums are welcome to join Blue Star Museums throughout the summer. The recruitment of museums has involved the partnership efforts of the American Association of Museums, the Association of Art Museum Directors, the Association of Children's Museums, the American Association of State and Local History, and the Association of Science-Technology Centers. This year's Blue Star Museums represent not just fine arts museums but also science museums, history museums, nature centers, and seventy children's museums.

About Blue Star Families

Blue Star Families is a national, nonprofit network of military families from all ranks and services, including guard and reserve, with a mission to support, connect and empower military families. In addition to morale and empowerment programs, Blue Star Families raises awareness of the challenges and strengths of military family life and works to make military life more sustainable through programs and partnerships like Operation Honor Cards, MilKidz Club, and Blue Star Museums. Membership includes military spouses, children, and parents, as well as service members, veterans, and the civilians who strongly support them. To learn more about Blue Star Families, visit bluestarfam.org.

About the National Endowment for the Arts

The National Endowment for the Arts was established by Congress in 1965 as an independent agency of the federal government. To date, the NEA has awarded more than \$4 billion to support artistic excellence, creativity, and innovation for the benefit of individuals and communities. The NEA extends its work through partnerships with state arts agencies, local leaders, other federal agencies, and the philanthropic sector. To join the discussion on how art works, visit the NEA at arts.gov.

About the Dallas Museum of Art

Established in 1903, the Dallas Museum of Art (DMA) ranks among the leading art institutions in the country and is distinguished by its innovative exhibitions and

groundbreaking educational programs. At the heart of the Museum and its programs is its global collection, which encompasses more than 25,000 works and spans 5,000 years of history, representing a full range of world cultures. Located in the vibrant Arts District of downtown Dallas, the Museum welcomes more than half a million visitors annually and acts as a catalyst for community creativity, engaging people of all ages and backgrounds with a diverse spectrum of programming, from exhibitions and lectures to concerts, literary events, and dramatic and dance presentations.

The Dallas Museum of Art is supported in part by the generosity of Museum members and donors and by the citizens of Dallas through the City of Dallas/Office of Cultural Affairs and the Texas Commission on the Arts.

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