



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS
and BLUE STAR FAMILIES present
arts.gov/bluestarmuseums
BLUE STAR MUSEUMS

Date: May 15, 2021

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BONITA MUSEUM & CULTURAL CENTER IS A 2021 BLUE STAR MUSEUM

The Bonita Museum & Cultural Center's New Summer Military Exhibition

Bonita Museum & Cultural Center (BMCC) announced it will join museums nationwide in the Blue Star Museums initiative, a program that provides free admission to currently-serving U.S. military personnel and their families this summer. The 2021 program will begin on Armed Forces Day, Saturday, May 15, 2021, and end on Labor Day, Monday, September 6, 2021. Find the list of participating museums at 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 participating museums nationwide.

Media Events:

June 14, 2021 Flag Day ceremonies from 10:30 – 11:30 AM presented by the Military order of The World Wars in cooperation with the Daughters of the Revolution, Girls Scouts San Diego and Scouting BSA.

June 25, 2021 will feature a golf tournament “Salute to the Military” from 1 - 5 PM at the Chula Vista Golf Course followed by a preview of the new history exhibition **Permission To Come Aboard: The History of Navy Ship Design** from 5PM to 8PM. The evening event will feature a gala dinner and walk through of the exhibition with curator and veteran Joe Frangiosa, Jr. There will be photo opportunities throughout the day at the golf course and in the museum.

More About the Exhibition Opening This Summer
Permission To Come Aboard: The History of Navy Ships Design



Pictured: sailor built model of U.S.S Indiana BB-1, 1895

The Bonita Museum & Cultural Center is excited to present the history and legacy of the Navy through a major exhibition opening in the Summer of 2021. The exhibition will include sailor-built models, ship artifacts, photographs, uniforms, films and toys detailing the history of the Navy including the Marines and the start of naval aviation from the 1760's through the 1940's.

Visitors can walk through environments representing the early wooden hull period of ships of the United State Navy and experience the transition to the ironclad ships of the Spanish American War. Naval history of WWI and WWII introduce steel shipbuilding as well as aviation and Marine Corps history.

Navy sailor, Marine, and model builder Joe Frangiosa, Jr. tells the story of naval history through his diverse and fascinating collection of hand-built models displaying the components aboard a ship, including miniature operations rooms and daily on-board activities. A special hands-on-interactive in the exhibition *Permission to Come Aboard* provides a quarterdeck environment for visitors to explore. The exhibition features information about local veterans as well as providing free hands-on PTSD workshops with the curator. Exhibition dates: July 3 - Sept. 18, 2021.

“Like the resilience that military families demonstrate time and again BMCC is an example of resiliency in the arts sector over the past year,” said Ann Eilers, acting chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts. “We are grateful to BMCC for their leadership in strengthening

community through their participation in the Blue Star Museums program this summer.”

Blue Star Museums include children’s museums, art, science, and history museums, zoos, gardens, lighthouses, and more, and hail from all 50 states, as well as the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The [current list of participating museums](#) will continue to develop over the summer as organizations are welcome to [register to be a Blue Star Museum](#) throughout the summer.

Follow Blue Star Museums on Twitter @NEArts and @BlueStarFamily, #bluestarmuseums.

About

The Bonita Museum & Cultural Center houses the Bonita Historical Society and over 2,000 objects connected to our region. It is the largest museum in South Bay San Diego dedicated to documenting the art, history and culture of the Sweetwater Valley. The Bonita Historical Society is dedicated to preserving, for public education and enjoyment, the culture, history, arts, crafts, and aesthetic facets of the region, specifically El Rancho de la Nación in South San Diego County. The nonprofit museum provides a thriving cultural center for local residents through a rotating selection of history, culture, and fine art sculpture, painting, photography, architecture, design and media arts, housed in two interior galleries and an outdoor patio.

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 to learn more.

About Blue Star Families

Blue Star Families is the nation’s largest grass-roots military family support organization, with a mission to support military families to improve military readiness. Its distinctive approach builds stronger communities around military families through knowledge and programs that address the unique needs of those who serve. Blue Star Families’ nationally recognized surveys and analysis give military families an important voice that informs policymakers and its military family programs. It uses the power of its collective resources and cross-sector collaborations to make a difference in the lives of hundreds of thousands of members of military families to strengthen the troops, their families, and our nation as a whole. For more information, visit bluestarfam.org.

#BlueStarMuseums and cc @NEArts, @BlueStarFamily.

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