

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Orlando Museum of Art to Offer Free Admission to Active Duty Military All Summer**

**Orlando, FL - (May 27, 2010)** Today the Orlando Museum of Art (OMA) announced its participation in Blue Star Museums, a partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and Blue Star Families to offer free admission to all active duty military personnel and their families from the day after Memorial Day through the day before Labor Day 2010. The OMA is closed on Memorial Day as well as Labor Day.

The OMA will officially launch the program on Tuesday, June 1, 2010 with free admission and a 10% discount in the Museum Shop for active duty military and their immediate family members. Active duty military includes Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, active duty Reserve, and active duty National Guard. The program will run through the day before Labor Day, Sunday, September 5, 2010.

"The OMA is proud to support this worthwhile program. We welcome these service members and their families to enjoy the OMA's wonderful exhibitions this summer," stated Linda Cegelis, Public Relations & Marketing Manager at the OMA.

"There have always been wonderful examples of partnerships between museums and military installations, but the scale of this gift from the museum communities to military families is thrilling," said Blue Star Families Chairman Kathy Roth-Douquet. "Military families work hard for this country, and it is gratifying for us to be recognized for that. We anticipate that thousands of military families will participate in the program and visit museums this summer - many of them for the first time. Blue Star Families will work hard to help our military families make the most of these opportunities."

In addition to being Chairman of Blue Star Families, Ms. Roth-Douquet is married to a Marine Corps officer, who is currently deployed to Afghanistan. They have two children, and Ms. Roth-Douquet and the children plan to take a road trip this summer to visit Blue Star Museums up and down the East Coast.

More than 600 museums in all 50 states and the District of Columbia are taking part in the initiative. The American Association of Museums, the Association of Art Museum Directors, and the Association of Children's Museums each sent a letter from NEA Chairman Landesman inviting museums to participate in this program. In addition to thirty children's museums across the country, participating museums represent a broad range of art, history, science, and cultural topics.

### **Blue Star Museums Details**

The free admission program is available to active duty military and their immediate family members (military ID holder and five immediate family members), which includes active duty Reserve and active duty National Guard.

This is the latest Arts Endowment program to bring quality arts programs to the military, veterans, and their families. Other NEA programs for the military have included Operation Homecoming: Writing the Wartime Experience, Great American Voices Military Base Tour, and Shakespeare in American Communities Military Base Tour.

### **About Blue Star Families**

Blue Star Families is a national, non-partisan, non-profit 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 empow-

**Orlando Museum of Art**  
2416 N Mills Ave.  
Orlando, FL 32803  
[www.omart.org](http://www.omart.org)



Hours: Tuesday – Friday 10 am – 4 pm, Saturday – Sunday noon – 4 pm, closed major holidays

Accredited by the American Association of Museums, the Orlando Museum of Art is supported by earned income, the Council of 101, donations from individuals, corporations and foundations, and sponsored in part by United Arts of Central Florida with funds from the United Arts campaign, State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Arts Council, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

erment programs, Blue Star Families raises awareness of the challenges and strengths of military family life with civilian community and leaders. Membership includes spouses, kids, parents, service members, veterans and civilians.

Operation Appreciation is an initiative of Blue Star Families that seeks to connect military families to the larger community. Blue Star Families 2009 annual survey shows that 94 percent of military families feel that the larger community doesn't truly understand or appreciate the sacrifices we make for the country. Through initiatives such as Blue Star Museums, Blue Star Families provides avenues for the larger community to show that they do understand, in meaningful ways that enrich the lives of military service members, spouses, children and parents. For more information, please visit [www.BlueStarFam.org](http://www.BlueStarFam.org).

### **About the National Endowment for the Arts**

The NEA is a public agency dedicated to supporting excellence in the arts - both new and established - bringing the arts to all Americans, and providing leadership in arts education. Established by Congress in 1965 as an independent agency of the federal government, the Arts Endowment is the largest annual national funder of the arts, bringing great art to all 50 states, including rural areas, inner cities, and military bases. For more information, please visit [www.arts.gov](http://www.arts.gov).

### **About the OMA**

\$8 for adults

\$7 for seniors and students

\$5 for children ages 4-17

Free for museum members and children ages 3 and under

Gallery Hours: Tuesday - Friday 10am - 4pm, Saturday & Sunday Noon - 4pm

The OMA is located in Orlando Loch Haven Park at 2416 North Mills Ave., Orlando, Fla. From I-4 take the Princeton Street exit 85. Drive east on Princeton Street, and at the corner of Princeton and Mills (US Highway 17 / 92), turn left. Go one block to east Rollins Street and turn left. The entrance is the first driveway on the left. Parking is free. For further information, call 407 896 4231 or visit [www.omart.org](http://www.omart.org).

The OMA has various exhibitions on view during this time:

*Transcending Visions: American Impressionism 1870-1940 Works from the Bank of America Collection*  
April 10-July 18

*Clyde Butcher: Big Cypress Swamp and the Western Everglades*  
March 20- July 25

*Knuffle Funny: The Art and Whimsy of Mo Willems*  
May 22 - August 29

*The American Collection*  
ongoing

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*Currents in Contemporary Art*  
ongoing

*Of Cloth and Culture: African Textiles from the William D. And Norma Canelas Roth Collection*  
ongoing

*Aztec to Zapotec: Selections from the Ancient Americas Collection*  
ongoing

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