



CAL HUMANITIES
WAR COMES HOME



Our Veterans, Our Communities

Cal Humanities Announces Statewide Veterans Project: *War Comes Home*

In 2014 Cal Humanities is embarking on a multi-year initiative focused on the experience of veterans returning from war. *War Comes Home* will create opportunities for communities across California to grapple with the tough questions:

What do we owe to those whom our country has sent into harm's way?

How can we build bridges of understanding between those who have served and those who have not?

War Comes Home will include hundreds of events throughout California. These events will bring communities together with veterans and their families, writers, and historians to explore how California is welcoming its veterans home. Here are the main components of the initiative:

California Reads: Californians will read *What it is Like to Go to War*, by Vietnam Marine First Lieutenant and Rhodes Scholar, Karl Marlantes, who will do a statewide speaking tour in Fall of 2014. Through Cal Humanities grants, 43 different library systems and hundreds of branches will present more than 800 public programs about veterans throughout California. (A partnership with the California Center for the Book)

Public Conversations: Cal Humanities will host five public forums focusing on the theme of returning veterans, from the special challenges faced by women to Don't Ask, Don't Tell and its impact back home. Conversations will take place in Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, Riverside, and Los Angeles. (A partnership with the University of California Humanities Research Institute and the CA State Library)

Community Stories: This Cal Humanities program has been supporting community-based projects across California related to veterans, ranging from oral histories of black veterans to an online exhibit of veterans' tattoos.

In Schools: Cal Humanities is sponsoring a year-long teacher professional development program on how to incorporate veterans' stories into the teaching of history. (A partnership with the California History-Social Science Project)

Literature and Medicine: Cal Humanities supports discussions of literature for healthcare professionals to deepen their understanding of and empathy for their patients. We are partnering with major VA medical centers in California.

War Comes Home: The Legacy: *War Comes Home: The Legacy* is a banner exhibit that will bring to light veterans' perspectives throughout history through their letters and journals. Available this fall, the exhibit will be easy to install and travel, and available for libraries, colleges, small museums, cultural centers, and more. (A partnership with Exhibit Envoy)

For more information and specific details on the projects above, please contact: Vanessa Whang, War Comes Home Project Director, Cal Humanities vwhang@calhum.org (415) 391-1474 x305

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