



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES

Narrative Section of a Successful Application

The attached document contains the grant narrative and selected portions of a previously-funded grant application. It is not intended to serve as a model, but to give you a sense of how a successful application may be crafted. Every successful application is different, and each applicant is urged to prepare a proposal that reflects its unique project and aspirations. Prospective applicants should consult the current Dialogues guidelines, which reflect the most recent information and instructions, at <https://www.neh.gov/grants/education/dialogues-the-experience-war>

Applicants are also strongly encouraged to consult with the NEH Division of Education Programs staff well before a grant deadline.

Note: The attachment only contains the grant narrative and selected portions, not the entire funded application. In addition, certain portions may have been redacted to protect the privacy interests of an individual and/or to protect confidential commercial and financial information and/or to protect copyrighted materials.

Project Title: *Echoes of War*

Institution: Minnesota Humanities Center

Project Director(s): Casey DeMarais

Grant Program: Dialogues on the Experience of War

Intellectual Rationale and Overview

A central dialogue in the remembrance of war is between personal history and public memory. In examining lived experience, historical analysis, and cultural and personal memories of war, *Echoes of War*, a project of the Minnesota Humanities Center, engages with themes of duty, suffering, and heroism as they are reflected in the motivation for, perception of, transformation through, and reintegration after military service. The program highlights the multiplicity of Veterans' experiences by exploring both the roots of war in a place and its past and the echoes of war in a people and their memories.

Behind the public memory of a war lies a wealth of diversity; each service member's personal experience is rooted in his or her own past. In the same way, each war in which Veterans have participated has its own roots – the historical causes and consequences of pasts that profoundly shape the context in which American and foreign soldiers do battle. Personal histories and national histories – each Veteran's roots and each conflict's roots – are the vitally important (and often untold) underpinnings of experiences of war. *Echoes of War* will engage Veterans and members of the public in deepening our understanding of the diverse stories of military service while broadening our perspectives on those experiences through an exploration of the longer historical context in which our modern wars in Vietnam and Iraq have been fought, situating them in the context of colonial conflicts and World War I.

The starting point for this consideration will be the voices of Veterans – American-born, American allies, and non-American. Due to Minnesota's large Hmong and Vietnamese communities, there is an urgent need to include Veterans' voices from the nine Allied Forces in Southeast Asia who fought alongside the U.S. during the Vietnam War; we will amplify these stories in particular. Through exploration of the literature and historical analysis generated by

these wars, we will engage communities in discussions of the experiences of war with emphasis on how those experiences are rooted in the personal histories and identities of Veterans. The lived experiences of Minnesotans who have served in the military, alongside the memoirs, oral histories and poems of Veterans from other regions and earlier wars will be our entry point for exploring the deeper histories of U.S. involvement in Vietnam and Iraq. We will examine the colonial past and the previous conflicts that set the stage for American armed conflict in these regions. In the case of Vietnam, we explore the long history of French colonialism; in the case of Iraq, we center our historical analysis on the nature and effects of World War I.

With the help of outstanding scholars and leading voices from Minnesota's Veteran communities, *Echoes of War* will train 10 Discussion Leaders and initiate three series of public discussions that will run throughout the year in three different Minnesota communities and with a range of partners. In St. Paul, we will partner with the public library system as we bring diverse Veterans' voices into conversations in the metro region. In Northfield, in Southern Minnesota, we will build on the considerable ties that our previous NEH grant enabled us to form in that community via a partnership with Carleton College and local Veterans. In Winona, in far Southeastern Minnesota, MHC's longstanding relationship with the Winona County Historical Society through the Museum on Main Street program will allow us to bring our programming to yet another community of Veterans. The *Echoes of War* public discussion will build on existing community conversations in Winona around the museum's new rotating exhibit component dedicated to Winona's role in different American wars.

MHC used a *Dialogues on the Experience of War* grant in 2016 to build a network of trained leaders who are now engaged in community conversations with Veterans and non-Veterans in two communities, and such community discussions are already an important programming

feature of our organization at sites throughout Minnesota. With the *Echoes of War* initiative, we will deepen the relationship we have with our current grant partners, while also expanding the reach of our programming. Because of Minnesota's national leadership in Veterans' affairs, we also anticipate that this project will serve as a model for discourse elsewhere.

Echoes of War will use *Standing Down: From Warrior to Civilian*, an anthology published by the Great Books Foundation, as a core resource. From Homer's "Iliad" to "Perimeter Watch" by Brian Turner, this collection of fiction, nonfiction, poems, oral history, and memoirs speaks to the experience of military service, combat, and homecoming through the ages. MHC has already partnered with Great Books to use *Standing Down* to engage high school students in important conversations about war. *Echoes of War* will draw on it to engage adult audiences of Veterans and non-Veterans in public discussions around WWI and the wars in Vietnam and Iraq.

In the training sessions for our discussion leaders, as in our public discussions, we will supplement works in *Standing Down* with selections from the literature of and about Vietnam and Iraq, in each case digging back into the earlier history of the conflicts in those countries that emerged from their colonial pasts. We will examine both literary productions from, and historical analyses of, the long era of French colonization in Vietnam and learn about Vietnam's past from a variety of perspectives. Dr. Ron Milam, a Vietnam War combat Veteran and Professor of History at Texas Tech University will deliver a lecture and discussion session around his research into the history of American engagement in Vietnam. Through additional guest lectures and guided discussions of selected readings, our discussion leaders will also receive training in the colonial history of Iraq during and after the Great War, when the stage was so clearly set for the conflicts that are ongoing today.

The *Echoes of War* training program will feature two immersive, two-day residential workshops for the Discussion Leaders, taking full advantage of MHC's historic facility. The MHC Event Center is a full-service conference/retreat facility with 15 overnight rooms and private baths. Located on park land, our facility provides an ideal setting for Discussion Leaders to spend intensive time learning together, interacting with one another, engaging with outstanding scholars and experienced trainers, and studying rigorous humanities texts.

Design, Content and Implementation

a. Preparatory program for NEH Discussion Leaders

A highly experienced team of two lead academic scholars, two Veteran scholars, six visiting scholars, and three Veteran community members will lead the 10 Discussion Leaders in two intensive weekends of training and preparation. The project director will be Casey DeMarais, director of programs at MHC, and the primary project coordinator on staff will be Kirk MacKinnon Morrow, program officer. The workshop will feature both professional training in the facilitation of discussions and intensive grounding in the literature and histories of the wars of our focus. Humanities content will reflect the interplay of themes set forth both in the NEH guidelines and by Veterans participating in MHC's Veterans' Voices program. Combining Veterans' firsthand accounts of the lived experience of war, and its aftermath, with historical inquiry into the roots of war sheds light on the issues of patriotism and motivation; duty and service; loyalty and family; and suffering, reintegration, and transformation.

Readings will allow us to explore a wide range of personal narratives from our focal wars (WWI, Vietnam, Iraq). They include excerpts from: *Under Fire* by Henri Barbusse, *A Testament to Youth* by Vera Brittain, *Patriots* by Christian Appy, *The Sacred Willow* by Duong Mai Van Elliott, and *When Heaven and Earth Changed Places* by Le Ly Hayslip and Jay Wurts.

Additional works or excerpts in the *Standing Down* anthology will provide further depth in exploring Veterans' experiences of these wars: *In Pharaoh's Army* by Tobias Wolff, an oral history of Anne Simon Auger by Keith Walker, *Dust to Dust* by Benjamin Busch, *You Know When the Men Are Gone* by Siobhan Fallon, "Facing It" by Yusef Komunyakaa, "An Irish Airman Foresees His Death" by W.B. Yeats, and *The Good Soldiers* by David Finkel. Project scholars will develop discussion questions for these pieces in conjunction with Great Books.

The experiences conveyed in the literature selections will be considered in light of an ambitious reading list compiled by academic scholars Dr. Susannah Ottaway and Dr. Kim Heikkila, and Veteran scholars Scott Glew and Trista Matascastillo. These selections will help Discussion Leaders contextualize Veterans' lived experiences within the historical roots and cultural memories of the wars under discussion. These readings will include selections from: William Duiker, *Sacred War: Nationalism and Revolution in a Divided Vietnam* (McGraw-Hill, 1995); Paul Fussell, *The Great War and Modern Memory* (Oxford, 1975); Andrew Bacevich, *America's War for the Greater Middle East* (Random House, 2016); Mark Atwood Lawrence, *The Vietnam War: A Concise International History* (Oxford, 2008); Lawrence Sondhaus, *World War I: The Global Revolution* (Cambridge, 2011); Leila Tarazi Fawaz, *A Land of Aching Hearts* (Harvard, 2014); Dexter Filkins, *The Forever War* (Vintage, 2008); George Mosse, *Fallen Soldiers* (Oxford, 1990); Rashid Khalidi, *Resurrecting Empire* (Beacon, 2004); J.M. Winter, *The Experience of World War I* (Oxford, 1988); Fred Allison, "Remembering a Vietnam War Firefight" *Oral History Review* (Summer/Fall 2004); Mary Karr, *The Art of Memoir* (HarperCollins, 2015); David Thelen, "Memory and American History," *Journal of American History* (1989); and Viet Thanh Nguyen, *Nothing Ever Dies* (Harvard, 2016).

In an opening session, Veteran and award-winning writer Brian Turner will do a reading of poetry written about his service in Iraq, as well as participate in a discussion session around his memoir *My Life as a Foreign Country* (which Discussion Leaders will have read in advance) in order to introduce the imbricated themes of war, place, and personal history. J.A. Moad will provide an overview of war literature from World War I, Vietnam, and Iraq that aligns with project themes and draws on his own experience as a Veteran and a writer. John Baker will weave together notions of place and World War I as passed down through generations in a poignant session on oral history and his grandfather's experiences on the European front.

Turner's poem "Perimeter Watch" will be the entry point into teaching and modelling the Shared Inquiry approach of the Great Books Foundation, in which participants read source material and are then guided in text-based discussion facilitation. This training will take place early in the program; subsequent days will be devoted to practicing the method through rigorous, text-based discussion sessions. The prompts that accompany "Perimeter Watch" in *Standing Down* illustrate the text-based nature of Shared Inquiry discussions: *Why does the poet hear a child's voice outside the front door...? Why does the poet dial 911? What is the extent of the perimeter the poet is watching?* Through such questions, closely tied to text, Shared Inquiry allows for deep, personal discussion with a minimum of political and emotional conflict among participants. The core scholar team of Dr. Ottaway, Dr. Heikkila, Mr. Glew, and Ms. Matascastillo is well-versed in this method and will use it during the preparatory program to engage in discussion of the scholarly and literary texts that Discussion Leaders will read.

During the preparatory program's second weekend, Discussion Leaders will engage with the concepts of war, place, and cultural memory through the writing and scholarship of Dr. Viet Thanh Nguyen, professor of English and American Studies and Ethnicity at the University of

Southern California and Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist. Having read his nonfiction *Nothing Ever Dies*, a National Book Award finalist and ground breaking mix of memoir and scholarship in memory studies, Discussion Leaders will engage in a roundtable discussion and subsequent evening lecture (open to the public) with Dr. Nguyen in a way that draws on his book and other readings to connect the American conflict in Vietnam to the longer history of colonialism and conflict in that place and on its people.

Also during the second weekend, Dr. Ron Milam will lead a session that draws on his experiences as a professional historian and combat Veteran of the Vietnam War to provide context and background on the American engagement in Vietnam and its roots in conflicts of the longer colonial past. Following his session, he will participate in a panel with John Lally and Bruce Richardson, Vietnam Veterans and 2016 *Echoes of War* Discussion Leaders, as well as Khao Insixiengmay of the Special Guerrilla Unit of the Royal Lao Army, to round out different experiences of war and place in Vietnam.

The 10 Discussion Leaders will be selected through an application process and MHC, with support from its host site partners in St. Paul, Northfield, and Winona, will draw from its extensive contacts forged in Minnesota's Veteran communities to attract a competitive pool of applicants. This opportunity will be promoted to the 100 Veterans who since 2013 have received MHC's annual Veterans' Voices Award in recognition of their outstanding community contributions, the 100+ Veterans who have served on Veterans' Voices advisory and selection panels and participated in performance and literature projects, as well as the organizations that have been our program partners, including the Royal Lao Army Veterans in Minnesota.

Discussion Leaders will be drawn from the host communities in the Twin Cities, Northfield, and Winona, so as to build local networks of support and dialogue that continue beyond the

public events. A selection committee primarily comprised of Veterans and 2016 Discussion Leaders will select 3-4 Discussion Leaders from each community to be 2017 *Echoes of War* Discussion Leaders based on demonstrated leadership or facilitation capabilities, experience with humanities content, and commitment to attending the residential workshop and conducting public discussions subsequent to the training. The training workshop is tentatively scheduled to be held at MHC across two weekends in August and September 2017.

Upon completion of the workshop, Discussion Leaders will be awarded specially-created coins that continue a long-standing tradition among members of the US Armed Forces. Such coins have long symbolized unit identity and camaraderie. Each piece usually bears unique unit symbols or mottos that identify the group they represent, and are often traded, presented, and collected among active-duty, retired, and civilian personnel within government agencies. This small, personalized token will help our team of trained Discussion Leaders feel a sense of unity.

b. Discussion groups for military veterans and others.

Community discussions will be held in Saint Paul at the Arlington Hills Public Library, in Northfield at Carleton College, and in Winona at the Winona County Historical Society. Three groups of 15-20 people, comprised of Veterans and non-Veterans, will participate in the discussions (one group per venue). The discussions will travel among the three host communities during the 2017-18 academic year. Each location will feature a series of two 2-hour sessions (once a month for two months). Participants at each venue will be encouraged to attend both sessions and they will receive the *Standing Down* anthology and copies of other readings. The discussions will be led by three or four Discussion Leaders, with one member of the 2016 Discussion Leader cohort designated as a mentor at each venue. The Discussion Leaders will conduct conversations on the topics of war, place, and personal history to explore how these

themes relate to experiences of Minnesota Veterans. Examination of literary selections in light of historical analysis is at the heart of each discussion group. All participants will receive the specially-created coin at the close of each discussion series. MHC's communications team will promote participation in discussion groups through social media and to our 3,500 e-newsletter subscribers. Participants will also be recruited via MHC's extensive network of Veterans and civilians involved in Veterans' Voices program events. Carleton College and the Winona County Historical Society will provide promotional assistance in Northfield and Winona, respectively.

Project Faculty and Staff

Dr. Susannah Ottaway (PhD History, Brown University), academic scholar for *Echoes of War*, is a historian of Early Modern Europe who has explored the intersection of history and memory. Dr. Ottaway served as the History department chair at Carleton College from 2011-2014, and has been on the faculty there from 1998 to present. Her teaching background includes a course in the history and memory of the Vietnam War, a topic at the heart of our *Echoes of War* project. Her tenure as director of Carleton's Humanities Center demonstrated both her commitment to promoting public history and her effectiveness at creating engaging, rigorous humanities programming. As a member of the MHC Board of Directors since 2015, Dr. Ottaway will be part of the project team leading the discussion leader's preparatory training. She recruited other scholars to join the project team; developed the training syllabus; prepared a list of challenging, relevant readings for inclusion in the syllabus; and commits to facilitating discussions of humanities content during the preparatory training.

Dr. Kim Heikkila (PhD American Studies, Univ. of Minnesota), academic scholar for *Echoes of War*, is an oral historian, scholar, author, and educator. From 2004 to 2016, she taught U.S. women's history, history of the 1960s, and the U.S.-Vietnam War as an adjunct professor at

St. Catherine University and other Minnesota colleges and universities. Dr. Heikkila has trained 200+ students to conduct oral history interviews, including with Vietnam Veterans for the Library of Congress Veterans History Project. In 2006, she was awarded the national Oral History Association's Post-Secondary Teaching Award. She has conducted many oral history interviews with women Vietnam Veterans and wrote *Sisterhood of War: Minnesota Women in Vietnam* (MN Hist. Society Press, 2011), a Minnesota Book Award finalist. Dr. Heikkila is part of the project team leading the *Echoes of War* preparatory program and contributed to the training syllabus and reading list. She was also a 2016 *Echoes of War* Discussion Leader.

Scott Glew (MA Social Studies Education, Univ. of Minnesota), Veteran scholar for *Echoes of War*, is a social studies teacher and Iraq War Veteran. Glew has made civic discussion the foundation of his students' classroom experience and a focus of his research. He has written, presented, and facilitated workshops on civic discussion and, as a 2016 *Echoes of War* Discussion Leader, has worked to bring Veterans and non-Veterans together in conversations about our nation's conflicts. Beyond discussion, his research has explored the topics of education for democratic citizenship and peace, the causes and consequences of war, and war's impact on people and societies. He received the MHC *Veterans' Voices* Award in 2015. Glew will be part of the team leading the preparatory program, and he contributed to the development of the training syllabus and program design.

Trista Matascastillo, Veteran scholar for *Echoes of War*, is Strategic Partnerships Officer at MHC. A former Marine, and Army military police commander in the Minnesota National Guard, Matascastillo is a 16-year Veteran of the military. In 2016, Matascastillo was awarded the prestigious Bush Fellowship for her work in the Veteran community. A nationally-recognized

speaker on topics related to Veterans' experience and well-being, Matascastillo has been instrumental in developing MHC's ground-breaking programming with Veterans.

Brian Turner (MFA, Univ. of Oregon), visiting scholar for *Echoes of War*, is director of the MFA program at Sierra Nevada College and prize-winning author of *Here, Bullet* and *Phantom Noise*. Turner's poetry and essays have been published in *The New York Times*, *National Geographic*, and other journals. Turner was featured in the documentary *Operation Homecoming: Writing the Wartime Experience*, nominated for an Academy Award. He received a USA Hillcrest Fellowship in Literature, an NEA Literature Fellowship in Poetry, the Amy Lowell Traveling Fellowship, a US-Japan Friendship Commission Fellowship, the Poets' Prize, and a Fellowship from the Lannan Foundation. Turner earned an MFA from the University of Oregon before serving seven years in the US Army. He was an infantry team leader for a year in Iraq with the 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division. Prior to that, he deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina with the 10th Mountain Division (1999-2000).

Dr. Viet Thanh Nguyen (PhD English, Univ. of California-Berkeley), visiting scholar for *Echoes of War*, is Aerol Arnold Chair of English and Professor of English and American Studies and Ethnicity at the University of Southern California. He is author of *Race and Resistance: Literature and Politics in Asian America* (Oxford, 2002) and the novel *The Sympathizer*, (Grove, 2015). *The Sympathizer* won numerous awards, including the 2016 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, the Dayton Literary Peace Prize, the Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction from the American Library Association, and a California Book Award. His current book is *Nothing Ever Dies: Vietnam and the Memory of War*, which is the critical bookend to a creative project whose fictional bookend is *The Sympathizer*. *Nothing Ever Dies*, a finalist for the National Book Award in nonfiction, examines how the so-called Vietnam War has been remembered by many countries

and people, from the US to Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, and South Korea.

Dr. Ron Milam (PhD History, Univ. of Houston), visiting scholar for *Echoes of War*, is an Associate Professor of History, a Fulbright Scholar to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, and the Faculty Advisor to the Veterans Association at Texas Tech University. He teaches U.S. History, the Vietnam War, and graduate and undergraduate courses in Military History. He is an Academic Fellow for the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies and serves as Academic Advisor for the TTU Vietnam Center's student trips to Southeast Asia. He has also taught at the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam under a Ford Foundation Grant. He serves on the Content Advisory Committee for the new Education Center at The Wall in Washington, D.C. Dr. Milam is author of *Not a Gentleman's War: an Inside View of Junior Officers in the Vietnam War*, published by UNC Press and wrote a chapter on the Vietnam War in the *Companion to Military History* published by Wiley-Blackwell. Dr. Milam is a combat Veteran of the Vietnam War.

Bill Siegel (MS Journalism, Columbia University), visiting scholar for *Echoes of War*, is vice president of school programs for the Great Books Foundation. Siegel conducts training in facilitating text-based discussions around the country and will serve as lead trainer for the preparatory workshop, using the Shared Inquiry methodology developed by Great Books.

J. A. Moad (MA English, Southern Illinois University & MFA Creative Writing, Augsburg College), visiting scholar for *Echoes of War*, is a former Air Force C-130 pilot. He served as a professor of war literature at the US Air Force Academy, where he still works as fiction editor and blog essayist for *War, Literature & the Arts*, an international journal of the humanities. He has been instrumental in development of MHC's Veterans' Voices Literature Project.

John Baker (JD, Hamline University), visiting scholar for *Echoes of War*, is a partner in the Baker Williams Law Firm in Maplewood, MN. Baker represents Veterans and service members

in the criminal justice system and was named an Attorney of the Year by Minnesota Lawyer in 2010. Baker retired from the U.S. Marine Corps after 22 years of service and is chair emeritus of the Minnesota State Bar Association Military & Veterans Affairs Section.

Khao Insixiengmay, Veteran community member for *Echoes of War*, served in the Royal Lao Army during the Vietnam War as Colonel of a Special Guerrilla Unit. The 3,000 men led by Khao secretly served for and were trained by the U.S. to intercept and interject supplies in Laos and were responsive exclusively to U.S. direction and control. After the war, he worked to evacuate many men to the U.S and continues to advocate for them at the state and federal level.

John Lally (MA, Univ. of Wisconsin-Superior), Veteran community member for *Echoes of War*, is a poet, retired educator, and Veteran. He was an infantry squad leader and platoon sergeant in the famed 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam. His poems trace his tour of duty in Vietnam and the challenges of coming home. Lally has been involved with MHC's *Veterans' Voices* program since its inception and was a 2016 *Echoes of War* Discussion Leader.

Bruce Richardson (MBA, Univ. of Pennsylvania), Veteran community member for *Echoes of War*, is a US Army Veteran who served at West Point as a cadet at the US Military Academy. He was an artillery officer with the 25th Infantry Division in Vietnam and currently serves on the St. Louis Park School Board. Richardson was a 2016 *Echoes of War* Discussion Leader.

Casey DeMarais (MA Anthropology, Univ. of Nebraska), project director for *Echoes of War*, is Director of Programs at MHC. During her tenure at MHC, she has overseen numerous national award-winning cultural and public education programs and served on a variety of Federation of State Humanities Councils committees and working groups, as well as review panels for NEH and the National Arts and Humanities Youth Awards. Casey has served on

MHC's senior leadership team since 2008. Prior to this, she worked as a professional archaeologist on projects with government, industry, and community stakeholders.

Kirk MacKinnon Morrow (MA Comparative Literature, Univ. of Toronto), project coordinator for *Echoes of War*, is a Program Officer at MHC. He has studied, written, and presented on a variety of topics in the field of memory studies and will be the primary staff liaison for *Echoes of War* scholars, partners, and participants.

Institutional Context

Established in 1971, the Minnesota Humanities Center engages Minnesotans in robust humanities programming through collaborative partnerships as it meets its mission to build a thoughtful, literate, and engaged society. MHC's relationship-driven programs explore our common humanity and bring into public life the stories and experiences of people and communities that have been absent or marginalized.

MHC draws on decades of experience delivering professional development services and resources to educators — particularly its intensive multi-day workshops — to conduct *Echoes of War*. Our commitment to amplifying voices that are often overlooked in public discourse, and our recent work with Veterans, informed development of *Echoes of War* in 2016 and its continuation in 2017/2018. Our highly successful 2016 *Echoes of War* project was funded by the NEH and concludes in November 2016. Discussion Leaders from the 2016 cohort play key roles in designing and delivering content in this proposed project. Carleton College continues as a longtime partner and venue for *Echoes of War* and other Veterans' Voices activities.

Since its launch in 2013, Veterans' Voices has emerged as a major program of MHC. Veterans' Voices uses the power of the humanities to explore the full life experiences of Veterans and complete the narrative about Veterans through literature, storytelling, art, theater,

and much more. Veterans' Voices programming is guided by eight themes that were developed with our Veterans advisors: Combat vs. Non-Combat, Duty, Family, Motivation, Perception, Reintegration, Service, and Transformation.

Closely tied to this project is the *Veterans' Voices Literature Project*, a professional development service for educators that prepares them to lead high school students in a meaningful examination of the experiences and narratives of Veterans through selected works from *Standing Down*. Additionally, we bring to this project a robust network of Veterans and Veterans organizations from across Minnesota that has developed since the launch of Veterans' Voices. We turn to this network for their expertise, advice, participation, and support.

Evaluation

MHC will use a developmental approach to evaluate this project. Dr. Michael Quinn Patton, originator of developmental evaluation at the Minnesota Evaluation Studies Institute, University of Minnesota, has guided MHC in adopting and refining this approach. Unlike traditional formative/summative evaluation, developmental evaluation assumes continued innovation. As such, near the conclusion of the preparatory program, Discussion Leaders will participate in semi-structured group interviews informed by the After Action Report (AAR) structure. The AAR structure is familiar to Veterans and is a useful framework that will provide the essence for group interview questions. Responses will inform the direction of proceeding evaluation efforts, as well as the public discussions design. Discussion Leaders will also convene by host community in an intermediary check-in to address evaluation needs and to inform planning for the second discussion in the series. Public discussion participants will complete a written reflection and survey following each portion of the discussion series. Participants, Discussion Leaders, and project team will complete a final survey to inform next steps beyond this project.



Echoes of War – 2017 NEH Discussion Leaders Preparatory Training Syllabus

Contrasting lived experience, historical analysis, and cultural memories of war, the immersive preparatory training program engages with the themes of duty, heroism, suffering, loyalty, and patriotism as they are reflected in the motivation for, perception of, and transformation through reintegration after military service. Participants will study the multiplicity of experiences of war, both combat and non-combat, by exploring the history and stories of where wars take place.

Required readings: Literature will be drawn from the anthology *Standing Down: From Warrior to Civilian* for a broad exposure to materials diverse in both timeframe and genre (see narrative page 4). Additional sources for a broad exposure to materials diverse in both timeframe and genre include (see narrative for complete list):

Historical and scholarly context for the places and conflicts of focus:

Appy, Christian. *Patriots: The Vietnam War Remembered From All Sides*.
Bacevich, Andrew. *America's War for the Greater Middle East: A Military History*.
Duiker, William. *Sacred War: Nationalism and Revolution in a Divided Vietnam*.
Fawaz, Leila Tarazi. *A Land of Aching Hearts: The Middle East in the Great War*.
Filkins, Dexter. *The Forever War*.
Fussell, Paul. *The Great War and Modern Memory*.
Khalidi, Rashid. *Resurrecting Empire: Western Footprints & America's Perilous Path in the Middle East*.
Lawrence, Mark Atwood. *The Vietnam War: A Concise International History*.
Milam, Ron. *Not a Gentleman's War: An Inside View of Junior Officers in the Vietnam War*.
Nguyen, Viet Thanh. *Nothing Ever Dies: Vietnam and the Memory of War*.
Sondhaus, Lawrence. *World War I: The Global Revolution*.
Winter, J.M. *The Experience of World War I*.

Selections on historical and cultural memory:

Karr, Mary. *The Art of Memoir*.
Nora, Pierre. *Realms of Memory: Rethinking the French Past*.
Thelen, David. "Memory and American History." *The Journal of American History*
"Afterthoughts: A Participatory Historical Culture." *The Presence of the Past*.

Memoirs, storytelling, and oral history:

Allen, Henry. *Toward the Flame*.
Brittain, Vera. *A Testament to Youth*.
Mai Elliott, Duong Van. *The Sacred Willow*.
Turner, Brian. *My Life as a Foreign Country*.

SCHEDULE DETAILS: Echoes of War Discussion Leaders Preparatory Training

Day One: Place and Identity

3:00 – 5:00 p.m.	Check-in at Humanities Center for overnight guests, Saint Paul, MN
5:00 – 6:30p.m.	Reception and Welcome Dinner
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	<i>Remembrance, Reality, and the Transnational Imaginary</i> with Brian Turner
9:00 p.m.	Close in circle (evaluation)



Day Two: War, Place, and Personal Narratives

- 8:00 – 8:30 a.m. Breakfast; reflective writing with a prompt (evaluation/assessment)
8:30 – 10:30 a.m. *War, Place, and Personal Narrative* with John Baker
10:45 – 12:15 p.m. *Intro to Shared Inquiry* with Bill Siegel of the Great Books Foundation
Lunch
1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Small group work to prepare discussion questions for each reading
3:00 – 5:00 p.m. Practice session and dinner
6:00 – 8:30 p.m. *Discussion: History and Stories of Where Wars Take Place* co-facilitated by Dr. Susannah Ottaway, Dr. Kim Heikkila, Scott Glew, and Trista Matascastillo
8:30 – 9:00 p.m. Close in circle (evaluation)

Day Three: Sharing the Stories of War

- 8:00 – 8:30 a.m. Breakfast; reflective writing with a prompt (evaluation/assessment)
8:30 – 10:30 a.m. Practice session of guided discussions co-facilitated by Dr. Ottaway, Dr. Heikkila, Mr. Glew, and Ms. Matascastillo
10:45 – noon *Bearing Witness: Sharing the Stories of War* with J.A. Moad
noon – 1:00 p.m. Lunch and closing in circle (evaluation); participants depart (with reading assignments to be completed for the second gathering)

two to four weeks later...

Day Four: The Roots of War

- 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. Check-in at Humanities Center for overnight guests, Saint Paul, MN
5:00 – 6:00p.m. Welcome and dinner
6:30 – 8:00 p.m. *Vietnam and the Roots of War* with Dr. Ron Milam, Texas Tech University
8:00 – 9:00 p.m. *One Place, One War, Many Stories* panel discussion with Dr. Milam, Khao Insixiangmay, John Lally, and Bruce Richardson
9:00 p.m. Close in circle (evaluation)

Day Five: Processing Meaning and Memory

- 8:00 – 8:30 a.m. Breakfast; reflective writing with a prompt (evaluation/assessment)
8:30 – noon Small groups/teams working on drafting discussion maps
Noon Lunch
1:00 – 5:00 p.m. Practice discussion maps among group/teams and feedback sessions
5:30 – 6:00 p.m. Dinner
6:30 – 9:00 p.m. *The Memory of War* with Dr. Viet Thanh Nguyen, Univ. of Southern California
9:00 p.m. Close in circle (evaluation)

Day Six: Launching Discussion Leaders

- 8:00 – 8:30 a.m. Breakfast; reflective writing with a prompt (evaluation/assessment)
8:30 - 10:00 a.m. Final evaluation – After Action Review
10:15 a.m. – noon Closing ceremony
12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Presentation of certificates and coins with lunch; participants depart



Echoes of War – 2017-18 Public Discussions Syllabus

Echoes of War public discussions are two-part community conversations on the topics of war, place, and personal history that explore how these themes relate to experiences of Minnesota Veterans.

Participants will study the multiplicity of experiences of war, both combat and non-combat, by exploring the history and stories of where wars take place. These public discussions are designed to prompt dialogue that continues within community spaces beyond the initial *Echoes of War* events.

During the preparatory program, Discussion Leaders will plan public discussion sessions that engage with both literary texts and judiciously chosen passages of historical analysis or scholarly criticism using the Shared Inquiry method. The primary resource for the public discussions will be the anthology *Standing Down: From Warrior to Civilian* published by the Great Books Foundation. Public discussions will kick off at Carleton College in October 2017 as part of Minnesota Humanities Center's month-long calendar of events in celebration of Veterans' Voices Month in Minnesota.

Fall 2017 – Carleton College, Northfield, MN

- October – *Session one*
- November – *Session two*

Winter 2018 – Arlington Hills Library, St. Paul, MN

- January – *Session one*
- February – *Session two*

Spring 2018 – Winona County Historical Society, Winona, MN

- April – *Session one*
- May – *Session two*

SCHEDULE DETAILS: Echoes of War Public Discussions

Session One

- 6:30 p.m. Introductions with participants – in circle
Overview of project themes
Shared Inquiry discussion of two literary selections and scholarly passage(s)
Review next session (readings) and evaluation process
Close in circle
- 8:30 p.m. Informal discussions and lingering

The first session of each discussion group will look at war, place, and personal history during World War I and the Iraq War by interspersing Shared Inquiry discussion of literary selections (oral history, memoir, poetry, and reportage) with short, illustrative passages from historical scholarship. Passages will be selected by Discussion Leaders from the preparatory program syllabus to enliven discussion of two literary works chosen from the following:

- “An Irish Airman Foresees his Death” by William Butler Yeats (WWI)
- “Dulce et Decorum Est” by Wilfred Owen (WWI)



- *Under Fire*, excerpt, by Henri Barbusse (WWI) – not in *Standing Down*
- *A Testament to Youth*, excerpt, by Vera Brittain (WWI) – not in *Standing Down*
- *Dust to Dust*, excerpt, by Benjamin Busch (Iraq)
- *The Good Soldiers*, excerpt, by David Finkel (Iraq)
- “Perimeter Watch” by Brian Turner (Iraq)

Session Two

- 6:30 p.m. Open in circle
Shared Inquiry discussion of one or two literary selections and scholarly passage(s)
- 7:45 p.m. Summary discussion of overarching project themes
Close in circle
- 8:30 p.m. Informal discussions and lingering

The second session of each discussion group will engage participants in dialogues focused on the project themes as they relate to the Vietnam War and the colonial conflicts that preceded it. Scholarly passages will be paired with one to two literary works in *Standing Down* chosen from the following:

- “Facing It” by Yusef Komunyakaa (Vietnam)
- *A Piece of My Heart*, excerpt, by Keith Walker/Anne Simon Auger (Vietnam)
- *In Pharaoh’s Army*, excerpt, by Tobias Wolff (Vietnam)

In the final portion of the second session, Discussion Leaders will facilitate a conversation around the project themes that weaves together insights from both sessions and regarding all three wars of focus. In addition to providing coherence and conclusion to the program, this conversation is designed to help both Veteran and non-Veteran participants connect text- and scholarship-based dialogues on the experience of war to the lived experiences of Veterans in their community.