



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS  
and BLUE STAR FAMILIES present  
[arts.gov/bluestarmuseums](https://arts.gov/bluestarmuseums)  
**BLUE STAR MUSEUMS**



**Date:** May 25, 2022

**Contact:** *Jim Bland, Executive Director*

Hands-on House Children's Museum of Lancaster

721 Landis Valley Rd.

Lancaster, PA. 17601

(717) 569-5437

[Hands-On House | Children's Museum of Lancaster, Pa \(handsonhouse.org\)](https://handsonhouse.org)

[Instagram](#)

[Facebook](#)

## **HANDS-ON HOUSE IS A 2022 BLUE STAR MUSEUM**

***Hands-on House to offer free admission to military personnel and their families this Summer!***

Lancaster, PA. – *May 25, 2022* – Hands-on House 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 21, 2022, and end on Labor Day, Monday, September 5, 2022. Find the list of participating museums at [arts.gov/bluestarmuseums](https://arts.gov/bluestarmuseums).

Blue Star Museums is a partnership between the National Endowment for the Arts and Blue Star Families, in collaboration with the Department of Defense and museums across America.

“Our focus for 2022 at Hands-on House is to reach more, engage more, provide more, and become more,” said Jim Bland, executive director of Hands-on House. “Our partnership with the Blue Star Museum program allows us the opportunity to provide more and give back to military families. We’re honored to offer free admission to these families that grant kids and their grownups a chance to learn through play together!”

“Museums educate and inspire, cause us to wonder and imagine, dream and remember,” said Dr. Maria Rosario Jackson, chair of the National Endowment for the Arts. “By participating in the Blue Star Museums program, Hands-on House is offering military personnel and their families an opportunity to feel connected to the Lancaster community and to explore the world through the power of arts, culture and design, contributing to each person being able to live an artful life.”



Blue Star Museums include children’s museums, art, science, and history museums, zoos, gardens, lighthouses, and more, and hail from all 50 states, District of Columbia, 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.

"Our military community looks forward to the Blue Star Museum program each year and I am excited to celebrate the 2022 season along with them!" said Kathy Roth-Douquet, CEO of Blue Star Families. "Thank you Hands-on House for participating in this impactful program and offering military families the opportunity to enjoy the arts with you this summer."

The free admission program is available for those currently serving in the United States Military—Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Navy, and Space Force, members of the Reserves, National Guard, U.S. Public Health Commissioned Corps, NOAA Commissioned Corps, and up to five family members. Qualified members must show a [Geneva Convention common access card \(CAC\)](#), [DD Form 1173 ID card \(dependent ID\)](#), [DD Form 1173-1 ID card](#) or the [Next Generation Uniformed Services \(Real\) ID card](#) for entrance into a participating Blue Star Museum.

Follow #bluestarmuseums on Twitter @NEAarts and @BlueStarFamily.

### **About Hands-on House**

At Hands-on House Children’s Museum, children and their families learn through play. In our interactive exhibits and Clubhouse classroom, they cooperate and problem solve. They experiment with science and engineering. They imagine and create. We believe that learning through play is a fundamental part of early education, an opportunity that should be available for all children, so we have made free and reduced admission available for eligible families in our community. Learning is active. It happens when children watch bee’s buzzing to and fro pollinating flowers. It happens while shopping at the farmer’s market, while helping a grownup with a building project, while getting messy with art supplies. It's these landmark learning experiences that stick with children long into adulthood.

### **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. To learn more, visit [arts.gov](https://www.arts.gov) or follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [YouTube](#).



### **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](http://bluestarfam.org).

###