

Naj Wikoff

Naj Wikoff is a Fulbright Senior Scholar, a Distinguished Fellow and Ambassador of the Society for the Arts in Healthcare, a Senior Scholar of the Arts and Health Institute at Lesley University, serves on a national steering committee to expand the use of the arts to support the healing of active duty and veterans of military service, their families and caregivers, and is a consultant on arts and health to many institutions the world over.

Wikoff is the founder and president of Creative Healing Connections, which presents healing and reintegration retreats for active duty servicemen and women, veterans, their families and caregivers. In addition, Wikoff is the arts coordinator for Connecting Youth and Community using the arts to reduce the use of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs by teens.

Wikoff is a past president of the Society for the Arts in Healthcare, the former director of Arts & Healing for the C. Everett Koop Institute at the Dartmouth Medical School, director of Arts & Productions for the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine in New York City, arts coordinator for the Global Forum of Spiritual and Parliamentary Leaders and executive director of the Dutchess County Arts Council. He is the author of such AFTA monographs as *The Arts in Times of Trauma* and *Arts in Medicine: Linking Culture to Care* and is frequent speaker and leader of workshops on all aspects of developing, managing and evaluating arts and health programs, and training artists and others on how to work in institutional and community settings.

As a scholar in residence at the East Siberian Academy of Culture, Ulan Ude, Republic of Buryatia, Russia, Wikoff helped develop pilot arts programs in 5 hospitals and is currently assisting the Academy establish an arts in health initiative as an academic program of study and means of advancing community health. In addition, under the auspices of the Arts and Health Institute at Lesley, he is helping to plan a conference on arts in health in Israel for 2013 that includes a pre-conference using the arts to address such outcomes as stress, trauma and PTSD for security, military and police personnel.