

# “From War to Home: Art, Creativity, and Advocacy as Pathways to Recovery from Trauma”



Photo by Lawrence Davidson



Photo by Thomas Cotter



Photo by Chantelle Bateman

Wednesday, February 4th  
4:30 pm - 6:00 pm  
Terrace Room, Claudia Cohen Hall  
249 S. 36th Street

The Penn Center for Public Health Initiatives will host a reception and panel discussion with Dr. Gala True, Project Director of From War to Home and CPHI Senior Fellow, and Lovella Calica, Director of Warrior Writers. The event will feature Veterans who contributed works to the art exhibit and to Warrior Writers' Anthology. Dr. True will discuss her work with Veterans and the role of visual methods and community-engaged research in improving mental health after trauma. Ms. Calica will discuss the work of Warrior Writers in creating safe spaces for artistic expression, healing, and creating community among returning Veterans. Veterans will discuss their experiences with advocacy, research, and expressing themselves through writing, photography, and other media.



**Gala True, PhD** is a Research Assistant Professor at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and Core Investigator with the Center for Health Equity Research and Promotion, Department of Veterans Affairs. Her work over the past 20 years has focused on the essential role of community-engaged research in providing opportunities for individuals and communities to have a voice in identifying the root causes of health disparities as well as innovative solutions for addressing disparities.



**Lovella Calica** is the Founder and Director of Warrior Writers, a national non-profit based in Philadelphia. A community of military veterans, service members, artists, allies, civilians, and healers, the mission of Warrior Writers is to create a culture that articulates veterans' experiences, provides a creative community for artistic expression, and bears witness to the lived experiences of warriors. Warrior Writers fosters artistic exploration and expression through casual, welcoming workshops and retreats.

## Art Exhibit: From War to Home

### When & Where

February 1st - 6th  
Penn Fox Art Gallery,  
249 S. 36th Street  
Philadelphia PA, 19104

### What

A moving exhibit of photo-narratives and artworks by Veterans of the Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan will be on display.

The exhibit will display works by U.S. Veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan around the theme of art, creativity, and advocacy as pathways to recovery from trauma. Works will include photo-narratives created by Veterans who collaborated with a Penn/VA researcher on a photovoice project titled From War to Home: Through the Veteran's Lens, focused on expressing Veterans' experiences of deployment, homecoming, and healing. The installation will feature mixed media artwork from Veteran artists who are part of Warrior Writers, a national non-profit that provides Veterans with a creative community for artistic expression. This powerful exhibit gives voice to Veterans' diverse experiences and perspectives, and explores the connections between art, advocacy, public health, and community-engagement. **The exhibit is open to the public.**