

Upcycled Self-Portrait

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

As part of the 'Who I Am' unit, this activity is designed to help staff and youth get to know each other, and for youth get to know their peers. In this art activity, youth will use recyclables to create self-portrait sculptures. This activity supports the development of creative thinking, self-awareness, problem-solving and perseverance.

SUPPLIES

- Any recyclables that you can find such as cardboard, straws, plastic bottles, bottle caps, toilet paper and paper towel tubes, boxes, paper, cardboard, straws, egg cartons, etc. (Note: be sure to clean these items.)
- Scissors
- Glue or tape

STEPS

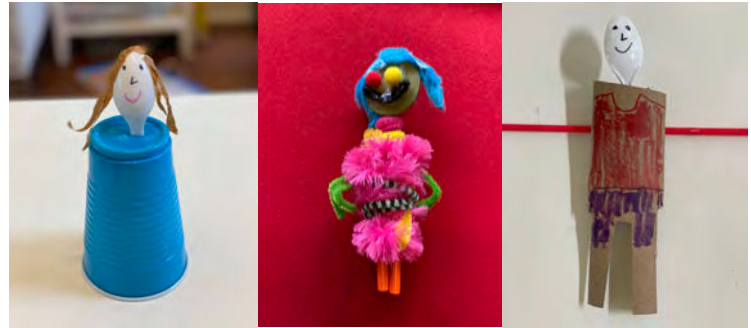
- A sculpture is a 3-dimensional piece of art. Sculptures can be really large (like the size of a building) or really tiny (like the size of your hand). An example of a sculpture is the Statue of Liberty.
- For a great description of a sculpture, watch this clip from Sesame Street:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cTslqS_H7Jg
- Cut and glue or tape your materials together to build a sculpture that looks like you.
- Think about what you look like – your skin color, hair color, eye color, the shape of your face, your height, and more. Try to add those features to your sculpture.
- Think about things that you like – your favorite clothing, hobbies you like, your pet, and more. Try to add things that you like to your sculpture.

ADAPTATIONS

- If facilitating in person, create a mystery box of materials and challenge kids to create sculptures using those materials. See <https://tinkerlab.com/recycled-art-sculpture-mystery-box-challenge/> for more information.

CREDITS

- Tinkerlab's Recycled Art Sculpture/Mystery Box Challenge, available at: <https://tinkerlab.com/recycled-art-sculpture-mystery-box-challenge/>



EXTENSIONS

- Make a sculpture of one or more of your family members.
- Make some sculptures that show some of your feelings – like when you are happy, sad, frustrated, and excited.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- Where have you seen a sculpture? What did it look like?
- What materials can sculptures be made of?
- How does your sculpture look like you?
- How does your sculpture show some of the things that you like?
- How do our sculptures show some of our differences?
- How do these differences make us special?