



Pikes Peak Library District Maker in Residence Program

The theme of the Spring 2020 Maker in Residence program is *Celebrating our Home, the Pikes Peak Region*. The Textiles West team designed a community Create Together project to showcase the beautiful region we live in. Their goal is to bring the fun of collage with fabric and stitch to the community to share our favorite stories of our community. Every participant would make two collages: one to take home and one for the community art installation project. Little did we know that home would have a new meaning during their residency and all the classes would be cancelled. We know that now more than ever, it is important to be creative, make art, and share our stories.

Since you can't come to the classes, we are bringing them to you!



How this will work:

The Textiles West team created patterns for you to use. You can use them exactly or you can mix and match pattern pieces to create something unique. You can also create your own pattern to express your unique view of our region. Your collages do not have to be representational. They can be abstract.

Create one collage for your home or for a friend and make one for the PPLD Create Together Art Installation. You will take them to your library once it re-opens.

Post your photos on Facebook and Instagram so we can all be inspired. Use the hashtags #textilewestathome and #PPLDMIR

Gather some supplies:

While our original project was fabric collage with hand-stitching you can make your collage out of paper or fabric. Use what you have on hand. Be creative! Up-cycle old garments or junk mail. Use magazine images or old book pages.

Gather up fabrics and papers that you could use. Give yourself lots of options.

Hint: Fabric has a 'right/front' side and a 'wrong/back' side. You can use both!

We created a video for you of all the steps with some ideas on how to use what you have. [Click here to view the video.](#)

Other tools (again, use what you have):

- Needle and thread
- Markers, crayons or paint
- Glue or iron on fusible web
- Scissors
- Iron if working with fabric

We kindly ask that you do not use glitter on the PPLD Create Together Installation collage.

Dimensions:

The collage you make for yourself can be any size.

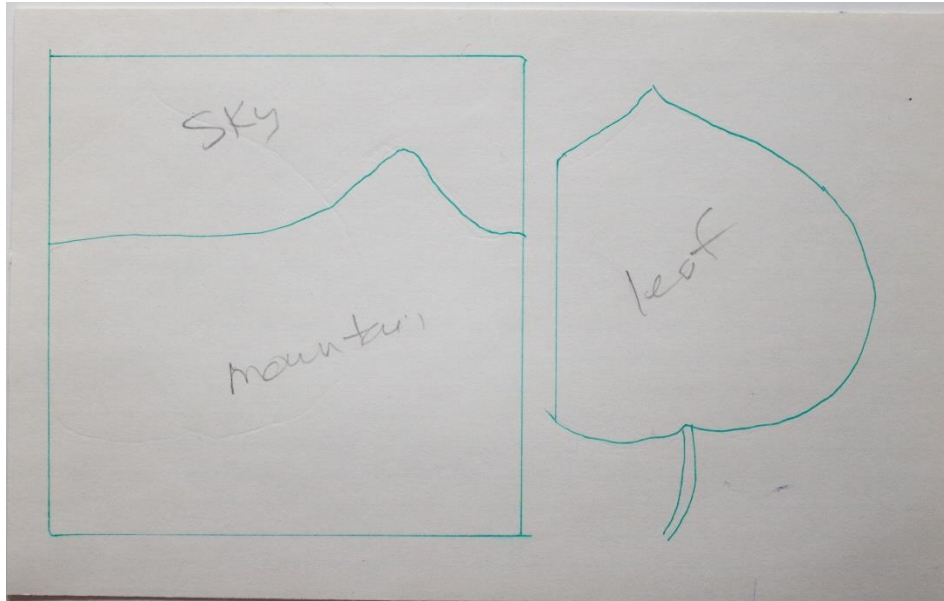
Collages for the Create Together Installation project need to be one of the following sizes:

- 4"x4"
- 4"x6"
- 6"x6"

You need a base to work on:

Fabric: Our fabric collages are layered on a flannel base. You could use just about any fabric for your base. Choose one that is easy to push a needle through. Denim or craft felt would be good options.

Paper: If you are working with paper it will be easier with a firm base paper cut to the correct size. You could use a piece of card stock, tag board/poster board, cereal box, or another thin, firm paper



Make a pattern:

Print one of our patterns to use or make up your own design. You can also mix and match elements from our different patterns to make something new. If you can print on card stock your pattern will be sturdier and easier to use. Or, you can trace it on a cereal box to create a sturdy pattern.

Cut out the pattern pieces from the pattern you printed.

Start Creating:

Start with one pattern piece. Choose the paper or fabric you want to use for that part of the collage. Use a pencil or thin marker to draw around the pattern piece onto your fabric or paper. Then cut out that piece of fabric or paper to the correct size. Place it on your base but don't glue it down yet.

It usually takes some playing around with the pieces to decide what you like best. The first piece you cut out may not work in the end. They are small pieces so feel free to experiment and cut a new one if you don't like it after you have worked on it for a while.

When you are happy with your collage glue your pieces to your base.

Fabric: If you are using fabric and have fusible web you can place the fusible web on the base layer, lay your pattern pieces on top and iron down. If you don't have fusible web you can use pins or a glue stick to put the pieces where you want them and then stitch them down.

Paper: Glue your pieces down to your base with either a wet glue (in a bottle) or a glue stick. If you use a wet glue, you may have to weight down the piece as it dries so it doesn't curl up. If you use a glue stick, be generous with the glue so it will not lose its hold.

Finish: There are lots of choices to finish your collage

If you are working with fabric the obvious choice is stitch. We love hand stitching but you can machine stitch if you prefer. Stitching is a great way to add texture and color. You can stitch around the edge or leave it raw.

You can stitch on paper too!

Markers, crayons, and paint can be used on both paper and fabric.



The Secret

Here is the big secret about collage and art... are you ready? There is no right. There is no wrong. It only matters that *you* like it. If you don't like it keep playing with it until you do, or start over if you like. It is very important that you have fun and use your creative muscle.

Second secret: You don't have to be literal. Giraffes can be purple and the sky yellow.