“A SYSTEM OF CHANGE”

Project Instructions

With Artist Shannah Warwick

A system is a set of things working together as parts. Think of, for example, a Railroad System or the Solar System!

In this project you will make an imaginary system by creating a box-like shape with pipe cleaners. Next you will add fabric and use colorful paper to explain how your system would work.

As you follow these instructions, remember that all of the straight lines you see represent pipe cleaners. Once you’ve completed step 3, flip over to see the rest of the instructions!

1. Take 4 of the longest pipe cleaners and fold them in half to make an L shape
2. Lay down 2 L shapes to form a square, twist the 2 ends of each L to connect the square
3. Connect 1 of the remaining L shapes to any corner of the square by twisting the end and bending it up as if you were making the outline of a box
Connect the other L shape to the opposite corner of the square and bend up the same way as the first. Connect the other ends of the L shapes to each other.

Take a short pipe cleaner and twist it around the last connection you made between the two L shapes, connect the other end to the corner of the square. This creates 2 “walls” and the base of a box. (see video instructions)

Use 4 or 5 of the remaining short pipe cleaners to add to one of the “walls” by bending over to connect them at the top and bottom, leave a little space in between.

7. Connect the rest of the pipe cleaners to your box or SYSTEM in any way you want.

8. Add pieces of fabric by tying, weaving, or wrapping them around the pipe cleaners.

9. Use the paper to show how your System works. Some ideas: cut smaller pieces and draw arrows, draw other things like pipes or screws and cut them out, use the whole piece of paper to draw and show how the System would work (use your imagination)

10. Give your System a name. Show your friends and family how it works and how you can change things for it to work differently.