“Stitching Us Together” Instruction Guide

Step 1: Read instructions and pick your focus topic. Check out books, research, and talk to friends and family about what the issue means to you. Jot down ideas on the “Mind Map.” Once you have a clear message about your topic, begin to work on your design. Remember, the Spring Hill Library may not post a submission if it intends to promote or incite violence, hate speech, or any form of discrimination.

Step 2: Think about what you want to say through pictures, words, and symbols. Draw and color your design on the included 10x10 paper design template. Ask friends and family what your design communicates to them. If your message isn’t being clearly communicated, think about what other words and symbols could be used to give clarity. Keep working on it until you feel like your message is coming through. Tune in to a live demo on the Spring Hill Public Library’s Facebook page Monday, September 21 @ 4:00 p.m. to learn more about design with imagery, words, and symbolism.

Step 3: Take out the fabric, the 10x10 quilt block template, the scrap fabric, glue and other materials. Look at your design and think about how you can work your design out with the included materials. You can use other resources from around the house like paint, permanent markers, and other scraps and craft materials.

Step 4: Cut out your design from the paper template and layout the pieces on the quilt block template. Once you have the pieces arranged within the quilt block template border, look through the colored fabric and pick out the fabric you’d like to trace your design on. Trace each cutout onto the selected fabric. For the background, you can use paint, dye or fabric to change the color or you can just leave it alone.

Step 5: Cut your design out from the fabric and lay it out on the fabric quilt block template. The quilt block template should not be cut or altered in any way.

Step 6: Glue down the design with the glue included in the kit, or any washable glue. A little glue will go a long way!! Just use a little. You can use permanent markers, iron on letters, paint, string, or pipe cleaners for lettering. Tune in to a live demo on the Spring Hill Public Library’s Facebook page Monday, September 28 @ 4:00 p.m. about design layout, color choice, creative use of materials, lettering, and glue-down.
Step 7: Allow the quilt block to dry completely. If any material, like a pipe cleaners, buttons, or beads, isn’t staying in place with glue, mark the location with a pencil to show where it should be sewn down. Place the template and any loose materials back in the bag.

Step 8: Fill out the included release form and the artist’s statement worksheet. The artist’s statement worksheet gives you another opportunity to share your opinions and ideas. If you’d like for your submission to be anonymous, make a note of that. Tune in to a live demo on the Spring Hill Public Library’s Facebook page Monday, October 5 @ 4:00 p.m. to learn more about writing an artist’s statement and project wrap-up.

Step 9: Return your completed quilt block to the library or email jgray@springhilltn.org for mail in instructions. Be sure to include the release form and artist’s statement worksheet in the bag with your completed project. Last day to turn it in is Monday, October 19.

Step 10: Your amazing quilt block will now be stitched down and sewn into an extraordinary quilt! For updates regarding the quilting process be sure to join the SHPL Teen Group on the Spring Hill Public Library’s Facebook page for live reports Mondays at 4:00 p.m., photographs, and more! You can also follow us on Instagram @springhillpubliclibrary.

This sample block was created by Jessica Gray, Teen Programming Coordinator at the Spring Hill Public Library. Jessica is passionate about Social Justice and the Arts. Thank you participating in the “Stitching Us Together” teen community quilt program!

jgray@springhilltn.org

Jessica’s Artist’s Statement

Classism is a topic that I am actively learning more about. I believe it affects most issues of social justice. My picture approaches voting rights. I think different voting guidelines impact minority voting status and rights. I believe convicted felons deserve the right to vote. I don’t believe that a past mistake should deny civic participation. I also think voter identification laws, limited polling locations in communities of color, and shortened voting times all impact voter turnout. I think voting day should be a holiday so everyone has time to vote. Everyone counts, count everyone!