

# Recyclable Art Showcase Toolkit

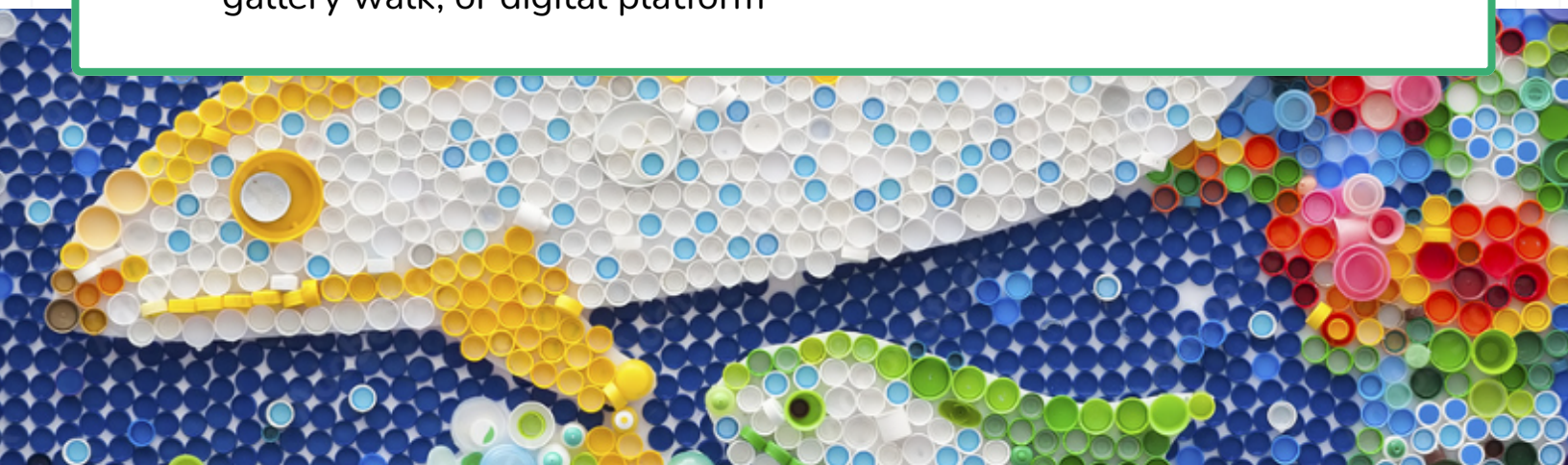
## Challenge Objective:

Give recyclables new life by turning them into art and sharing with your community.

## Challenge Overview:

Through this toolkit, you'll become both an artist and an activist. You can do this on your own, with friends, as a club, or with your class. You can...

- Collect clean recyclable materials and explore their uses
- Design and create an art piece, sculpture, or functional item
- Share your work with your school or community through a showcase, gallery walk, or digital platform



## Short on Time? Choose Your Path:



### Maker:

Focus on the Design and Create steps.



### Advocate:

Skip to the Create and Take Action steps.

# RESEARCH & EXPLORE

## Goal:

Understand what counts as recyclable & pick materials for your art piece.

## Activity:

- Research what materials are commonly recycled in your area.
- Collect clean, recyclable items (plastic bottles, cans, cardboard, paper, egg cartons, etc.).

## Brainstorm:

What could these materials become? Functional (like a pencil holder, tote bag) or aesthetic (sculpture, collage)?

## Guiding Questions:

- What story do you want your art to tell?
- How could your piece inspire people to think differently about “waste”?



# DOCUMENT & DESIGN

## Goal:

Plan your piece out before you build.

## Activity:

- Sketch out some designs, with different options and angles
- List any materials you'll need
- Think through size, sturdiness, and assembly method (glue, tape, string, weaving)
- Think about how your piece will be displayed (tabletop, hanging, wall-mounted, or free-standing)
- Consider the environmental story: can your design highlight recycling, reduce waste, or reuse materials in surprising ways?



## Tips:

- *Test different ways to attach materials*
- *Mix materials for texture and creativity*
- *Safety first: avoid sharp edges, dirty items, or hazardous materials*

# CREATE

## Goal:

Construct your art piece!

## Activity:

- Follow your design, but stay flexible: sometimes materials inspire new ideas
- Take progress photos to show your process
- Document your materials list (what recyclables went into it)



# TAKE ACTION

## Goal:

Showcase your work to your community.

**What's one way you can bring this to your community? Choose one of the following actions (or create your own!):**

- **School-Wide Showcase:** Put your project in a hallway, library, or classroom with a label or short “artist statement” explaining your materials and inspiration.
- **Online Gallery:** Photograph your piece and share via social media, your school paper, or a slideshow.
- **Inspire Action:** Pair your display with a small call-to-action, like encouraging viewers to recycle a certain type of item or reduce waste at home.



# REFLECTION

## Ask yourself:

- What was challenging about working and designing with recyclables?
- How does art help people, or you, see waste differently?
- Would people think twice about reusing or recycling after seeing your work?

By turning recyclables into art, you've shown that reusing materials can be creative, fun, and meaningful. You can continue to find ways to inspire others to see everyday items in a whole new light.

