

July 2, 2025

**Masks**

A mask is a form of disguise or concealment usually worn over or in front of the face to hide the identity of a person and by its own features to establish another being. This essential characteristic of hiding and revealing personalities or moods is common to all masks. As cultural objects they have been used throughout the world in all periods since the Stone Age and have been as varied in appearance as in their use and symbolism.



The masks of the world display virtually infinite variety, from the simplest of crude “false faces” held by a handle to complete head coverings designed with ingenious movable parts. Mask makers have shown great resourcefulness in selecting and combining available materials. Among the substances utilized are woods, metals, shells, fibers, ivory, clay, horn, stone, feathers, leather, furs, paper, cloth, and corn husks. Surface treatments have ranged from rugged simplicity to intricate carving and from gaudy adornments to polished woods and mosaics.

(Excerpt taken from <https://www.britannica.com/art/mask-face-covering/The-wearing-of-masks>)

**Let's Make Our Own Masks**Materials:

- paper mache mask
- pencil
- scissors
- glue
- string
- paint or acrylic makers
- different adornments

Process:

1. Find a comfortable space to work and pour out all of your materials.
2. This particular project does not need much explanation because there is no right way or wrong way to do this.

3. Older children/adults – perhaps take a little time to sit with the mask and come up with a concept. Younger children, let the paint, markers, glue and fun fly.
4. We tried to include some adornments that could be fun but as always, please use anything you have to make this mask yours.
5. Be proud of your creation and bring it back to Old Town Square next Wednesday so that we can hang it up for all of Fort Collins to see!

*Follow us on Instagram @nola\_creative\_company as we will be featuring artwork from each week. We will not use full names or identify your children in any way other than using their first name in order to give credit.*

*About the Art for the Heart Program*

*Art for the Heart is a program of the Fort Collins Downtown Development Authority and NOLA Creative Company.*

*All returned projects will be displayed in our outdoor kiosk located in between Coopersmith's Pub and Poolside restaurants. All projects will be returned to you the following week after they have been displayed.*

*Each art project returned will earn you a punch on our "Frequent Artists" punch card. Artists with consistent participation (5 punches or more) will be awarded a t-shirt at the end of the program.*

*You can find all of our past projects and more information about the program at <https://downtownfortcollins.org/art-for-the-heart/>*

This project is brought to you by:



and

