

July 16, 2025

Aprons

In the 14th century a small tablecloth, known as a “naperon” in medieval French, was used to place over the larger tablecloth to protect it from spills. Around the 17th century, the word “apron” had evolved into what we know today and was an article being worn as a layer atop clothing to protect it. In the time before washers and dryers, wearing an apron meant the clothing beneath was protected. The apron could more easily be washed leaving the clothing to be worn longer between washes. Early Americans owned very few garments, especially those settling the earliest colonies. Pilgrims are often depicted wearing aprons because of the need to keep whatever they did own, clean and protected for as long as possible.

The 1920s and 40s brought about the flour sack or feed sack aprons. Due to the Great Depression, aprons were made from repurposing old flour sacks. Manufacturers recognized that customers were reusing their packaging and seized the opportunity to offer different prints like florals, bordered designs and even doll and toy patterns. Around the 1950s America was introduced to the iconic American housewife, a domestic genius. This time period conjures up images of baked goods and family dinners and are always depicted with the wife wearing her ever present apron.

Through the remainder of the century the popularity of aprons ebbed and flowed. The following decade was met with women stepping away from the role of an ordinary housewife and the apron was suddenly deemed old-fashioned. Whether the apron was popular in the household or not, throughout the years the apron has always remained a necessity in the workplace.

(Excerpt taken from <https://alsco.com/resources/aprons-history-industries-evolution-modern-usage/>)

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

- apron
- fabric markers
- adornments

Process:

1. We thought it might be fun to have your own custom apron. This way you can keep your clothes clean as you keep creating art!



2. Take those fabric markers and customize!
3. We will not be displaying this project so you do not have to bring it back to us. If this project helps you obtain your fifth completed project and you would like to collect your t-shirt, you can either bring it or take a picture of it and come see us on July 23.
4. We will be in the Square on Wednesday, July 23 from 11am – 12pm for a final pick up of all art and distribution of t-shirts.
5. Thank you for joining us for Art for the Heart this summer. We hope you learned something new and enjoyed working with some new materials. We will be back again next summer!

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

