

June 24, 2026

Vinyl Records

In the year 1857, a brilliant French inventor by the name of Edouard-Leon Scott, created a specialist device which utilized a vibrating pen which graphically represented sounds, onto small paper discs. This device was known as a Phonograph, and it was primarily created to help us get a better understanding of the characteristics of sound. It wasn't until Thomas Edison began showing an interest in this device however, that things really got interesting. In 1878, Edison took this concept and turned it into a machine that was capable of replaying the sounds that it recorded. The device utilized a stylus that was designed to cut grooves of sound onto cylinders and discs made of tinfoil.



In 1948, thanks to CBS, we were introduced to the world's first LP (Long Play) vinyl record. Created by Peter Goldmark, this vinyl record had a capacity of around 21 minutes per side and was 12 inches wide, playing at a speed of 33 1/3 RPM. This changed the face of the music industry to the album-centric format we all still abide by today. Shortly after, RCA Victor introduced their own LP, which turned at 45 RPM and was just 7 inches in size. These vinyl record formats are the very same that we use today, and that is once again growing in popularity.

(Excerpt taken from <https://www.victrola.com/blogs/articles/beyond-the-needle-history-of-vinyl-records>)

Album Art

Materials:

- vinyl record
- acrylic paint
- primer
- paint brushes

Process:

1. Find a comfortable place to work and open up your packet.
2. Cover your table with newspaper, paper bags, butcher paper or some other protective sheet.
3. **PARENTS – PLEASE NOTE! – We are working with acrylic paints. While they are non-toxic, they can stain clothes. Please make sure your children have paint-appropriate clothes. When possible, painting in a well-ventilated area is best. Please make sure your children clean their hands afterwards!**
4. Clean off your vinyl record with a damp paper towel to remove any dust or dirt.



5. Prime your record using the white gesso which is labeled with a "P" in your paint set. Primer gives your paint job a foundation. Feel free to prime the whole record or leave the label and incorporate it into your piece.
 - a. Feel free to add many coats of primer before painting.
 - b. Make sure you let each coat of primer dry before adding another layer or before painting.
6. Once your primer is dry, get busy on your design. Throw on some music while you paint for inspiration! Have fun painting and feel free to use any extra adornments.
7. Be proud of your creation and bring it back to Old Town Square. We will NOT be hanging these pieces up in our kiosk. If we did they would surely melt! We will be taking photographs of each record and we will put up the photographs for display.

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/>

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.