



Art Revealing the Gunfire Epidemic. COUNTING. CARING. CONNECTING.

How to Host Box-Making Gatherings

SoulBoxProject.org

Box-making gatherings can be meaningful, fun experiences. People talk about the issues, share stories, and find healing through taking action. We need Boxes of all kinds: plain and decorated, with and without names or messages. Email info@soulboxproject.com to obtain names of victims killed or injured by gunfire and to share your Box-making stories and photos (or post online @soulboxproject).

Here are a few tips to help your Soul Box-making gathering be satisfying to those who attend:

- Include the SoulBoxProject.org link in your announcement and invite people to watch [the instructional video](#) before they arrive to make Boxes. You can also print the informational flyer and "How to" instructions on our website--one for each participant to take home. (Print landscape, double-sided to save paper.)
- Have some well-made Box samples ready to show - some very simple, some more complex. You can find examples in our [online exhibit](#) and [Make a Soul Box](#) webpage.
- The first key to a successful gathering is having the paper pre-cut to 8 1/2" square. This cannot be overemphasized. At least have a paper cutter available. Boxes should all be of equal size.
- Paper should be letter-weight or slightly heavier (scrapbooking paper, calendar pages) to make a sturdy box. Use a "credit" card as a creasing tool, otherwise the folds will be faint and hard to distinguish when folding. Office Depot and similar stores sell packs of colored paper and will cut it to size for a nominal fee.
- You should have someone who knows how to make Boxes available to teach every three or four beginners. It's easy--after the first or second time. People get too discouraged to continue if they are not successful.
- Not every gathering is appropriate for collage materials, but it is an inspiring medium for Soul Boxes. When announcing your gathering, ask people to start collecting images and text from magazines, mail or printed from the Internet. Remember when decorating, these Boxes get a lot of handling so adhere your additions well and avoid 3-D elements.
- Please stuff the Boxes. A firmly stuffed box with a well-fitting lid is very sturdy. One piece of letter paper from the recycle bin works. If the Box flexes when gently squeezed, it needs more stuffing (but not so much that it pops its top).
- Put a jar out and ask for small donations to help cover the costs of your event. Your friends will be glad to help.
- We encourage you to find a place, locally, to exhibit your Soul Boxes after your event. If individuals would like their memorial Boxes made for a friend or family member to become part of the Soul Box Project collection, they may be mailed to 7830 SW 40th Ave., Suite B1, Portland, OR 97219.
- In-person, local workshops are ideal, but if you prefer, you may schedule a 1-hour Box-making session for any number of attendees hosted by a Soul Box staff member or with the Soul Box founder, Leslie Lee. Call for pricing and availability.