



Overview of Daisy Chain Link ArtBuild

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Activity: Make large-format, cardboard daisy chains of mom and kid figures with key messages on them about climate change. Be as creative with messages. They can include supporting the young climate activists, to hopes for a livable planet, transition off dirty gas, etc. Add Mothers Out Front logo to some figures for publicity. When made of sturdy cardboard, the figures should last through several outings as long they don't get rained on.

Goals:

- (1) Create a photogenic and memorable visual to support for the Sept. 20 Youth Climate Strike.
- (2) Hold an ArtBuild event to build team solidarity among existing members and engage new members.
- (3) Include kids.
- (4) Use the ArtBuild to reach out to local media to publicize the Sept. 20 Climate Strike, Mothers Out Front and why we have to rapidly increase our collective response to the climate crisis. Take a few photos, maybe a 2-minute video, write a short media advisory to send in to your local paper. Post on social media.
- (5) Build momentum and engagement for Sept. 20.
- (6) Bring daisy chain(s) to Climate Week events.

Materials:

- Sturdy cardboard
- Acrylic paint (light shades of blue for mom figures, green, orange, yellow, pink for kids; white paint for mixing lighter colors)
- Duct tape to attach grips to back of some figures
- Sturdy string, ribbon, pipe cleaners
- Newspapers, drop cloth to cover table or floor while painting
- Temporary cutting surface (e.g., heavier cardboard, light plywood, particle board)

Tools:

- Pencils, permanent black marker
- Retractable utility knife/box cutter
- Scissors
- Brushes (suitable for acrylic paint, wider will be faster); also painting sponges on a stick
- Small bowls, plates for paint
- Jars or bowls to rinse brushes, painting sponges

The [Daisy Chain Figures ArtBuild folder](#) includes a mock up of daisy chain figures and patterns. The patterns are described as "tiled" meaning they will need to be printed out on a series of **8.5 x 11 sheets of paper** that can then be taped together to form a full-sized pattern (**20" x 16" for kids and 28" x 16" for mom**). Each pattern is shown on a grid so it can be scaled up easily (either by hand on a larger grid or by enlarging on your printer).

The three sample figures are made from cardboard, then painted with acrylic paint. The next step is to add the messages. Trace, draw, or paint words onto the painted cardboard figures. Homemade cardboard grips can be attached to the back of the mom figures to make daisy chains easier to hold and carry. Finally, connect figures into daisy chains using sturdy string, ribbon or pipe cleaners. Make sure figures will fold or accordion for easy transportation.

To make individual figures to hold up high, use cardboard tubes from mailers, wrapping paper, etc. **Do not use wooden sticks** as these are not allowed at most public events.

To expedite ArtBuild: Pre-cut cardboard blanks for mom and kid figures. Use the first 3 figures (mom, 2 kids) to trace all the rest.

Free cardboard: Framing shops often have big cardboard sheets from packaging and often just throw them away. Bike shops get bikes in heavy cartons (check if clean and not bent, watch out for heavy copper staples), Amazon's larger delivery boxes, Moving boxes, Free Cycle.

Notes: Making these is lots of fun and an enjoyable group event. Feel free to customize this basic concept to suit your group. Keep messages short and clear. For maximum effect, words need to be in large, heavy, dark print and easily at a distance. Paint cardboard figures light and bright colors. Don't go too dark or the message won't show up well.

Have fun and make sure to include kids/young people!

Wear older clothing, apron, etc while painting.