Donate Objects to the Sheldon Community Mosaic

Sheldon Food Distribution Center Public Art Project

Small Objects, Shared Stories

Everyday objects carry pieces of our lives: a chipped plate from a family kitchen, a button from an old coat, a small toy, or a tile left over from a home project.

We invite community members to contribute objects that may become part of a permanent public mosaic at the Sheldon Food Distribution Center. Together, these materials will help create an artwork rooted in the people, memories, labor, and relationships that shape food and community in Sheldon and the surrounding region.

Objects connected to food, farming, kitchens, gathering, or local history are especially welcome, but your contribution does not need to follow a particular theme.

Please note, not all that is donated is guaranteed inclusion. If you are sharing a special object that is important to know whether and how it is incorporated, please email: corrinemarie.yonce@gmail.com

What Can I Donate?

We need plenty of flat, color material that can withstand weather: tile, plates, tesserae

Ceramics and Pottery

- Plates (**preferred!**), bowls, cups, and saucers
- Chipped or broken dishes
- Handmade ceramics and pottery
- Ceramic figurines and decorative pieces

Tiles, Glass, and Mirrors

- Ceramic, porcelain, glass, or stone tiles
- Leftover or mismatched tiles
- Small mirrors or mirror pieces
- Pieces of decorative glass suitable for outdoor use

Everyday Objects and Small Treasures

- Beads and buttons
- Small toys, figurines, or game pieces
- Scrabble-style tiles and plastic letters
- Jewelry, charms, and small metal objects
- Bottle caps, bike-chain links, and small gears
- Personal trinkets or keepsakes

Natural Materials

- Smooth stones
- Shells
- Other small, durable, weather-resistant materials

What Makes a Good Donation?

The most useful objects are:

- **Weather-resistant:** Able to withstand outdoor conditions, including Vermont winters.
- **Clean and dry:** Free of food, dirt, and other residue.
- **Small or manageable:** Relatively flat, shallow, or able to be securely attached to a mosaic surface.
- **Durable:** Made from materials that will not quickly decay or deteriorate.
- **Ready for transformation:** Something you are comfortable having broken, cut, sealed, painted, grouted, or permanently incorporated into an artwork.

Materials That Need Prior Approval

Please contact the artist before donating:

- Large, heavy, or very thick objects
- Strongly three-dimensional items
- Fragile, porous, or painted materials
- Sharp glass or objects with exposed edges
- Mixed-material objects with uncertain outdoor durability
- Objects containing electronic components
- Highly valuable or irreplaceable items

Materials We Generally Cannot Accept

- Food, liquids, or items with food residue
- Hazardous, leaking, flammable, or contaminated materials
- Batteries or intact electronics
- Moldy or deteriorating objects
- Paper, fabric, unfinished wood, or other materials that cannot withstand outdoor exposure without special treatment

What Happens to My Object?

Donated objects may be broken, cut, rearranged, painted, sealed, or embedded in grout as part of the mosaic-making process.

Not every donated object can be incorporated into the final artwork. Selection depends on safety, durability, size, design, and available space. Unless otherwise arranged, donated objects cannot be returned.

The artist will make final decisions about how materials can be safely used.

Share the Story Behind Your Object

Objects are welcome with or without a story. If you would like to share something about your contribution, consider:

- What is this object, and where did it come from?
- Does it remind you of a person, place, or experience?
- Is it connected to food, work, home, family, or community?
- Why did you choose to contribute it?

You may include a short written note with your object. Please indicate whether your story may be shared publicly, anonymously, or only with the artist.

Donation Details

Collection location: [Add collection site]

Collection dates: [Add dates]

Questions or unusual items? Contact Corrine Yonce at CorrineMarie.Yonce@gmail.com.

Thank you for contributing a small piece of your life to a shared work of public art.