TIES THAT BIND:
LEARN TO SEW ON A BUTTON AND CONNECT

by Lorenzo Cardim
with Charlene Wallace and Angela Latson

TOOLs YOU’LL NEED:
• NEEDLE
• TOOTHPICK (OR ANOTHER NEEDLE)
• THREAD (12” TO 24”)
• BUTTON
• CUTTING TOOL

1. THREAD THE NEEDLE & KNOT THE END
   Tie a knot in the thread using your fingers or use the needle to guide the thread through a knot.

2. POSITION THE BUTTON

3. CREATE ANCHOR “X” POINT
   Hold the button in place, and send the needle from the back of the fabric up through one of the holes.

4. ADD SPACER (TOOTHPICK)
   Place a toothpick over or under the button, then stitch down over it into an adjacent hole.

   A button usually has two or four holes; stitch until each pair of holes has been bound five or six times.

5. CREATE THE THREAD SHANK
   Hold the needle and thread between the fabric and the button, remove the toothpick. Lift up the button and wrap the thread around the exposed threads between the button and fabric 6 times.

6. TIE IT OFF
   Tie off the thread under the button. Cut off the excess thread and it’s done!
LEARNING TO REPAIR YOUR CLOTHING IS A GREAT WAY TO CONSERVE RESOURCES.

For the Fall Arlington Art Truck activation, artists Lorenzo Cardim with Charlene Wallace and Angela Latson will teach you how to sew a button. Learn by sewing fun colorful buttons of all shapes and sizes onto fabric shaped like Arlington civic associations or neighborhoods.