"Tinkering is meant to be fun and most importantly it is about teaching kids life skills and problem-solving"
ArtsECO Fellows 2020-2021 Julia Stacey

Briefly explain what the artifact is and where it came from.

My artifact comes from an exercise I have been doing since the summer. Every day I would write down one thing I love, am thankful for, or something good I needed to remember in order to improve my mental health over quarantine. It is extremely important to find little ways to make yourself happy. So, for this project, the kids would make themselves a box of any size or shape and write down on a little sheet of paper one thing that makes them happy and then put it into the box. A year later (or whenever they need to) they can open the box and read all the good things inside. The box is fully customizable and more about the decoration than anything. These boxes are supposed to radiate happiness, so all the decisions about the box will be made by the individual creating it.

Explain how the artifact represents your current thinking on tinkering.

Tinkering is meant to be fun and most importantly it is about teaching kids life skills and problem-solving. I believe these kinds of skills are super important for everyone to have in their toolbox. Although my project does not require them to use much heavy machinery, it does teach them an important lesson on caring for one’s wellbeing. Mental health is often overlooked in children which can be very damaging later in life, so by doing this project these kids can learn little ways to make themselves happy. As I said before, these boxes are meant to be whatever the owner wants them to be, so if they want to make some weirdly shaped box they can, they will just have to figure out how (that’s where more of the problem-solving aspect of tinkering comes in handy).

Link to artifact:

drive.google.com/open?id=1DVRzjGNSiqtGsuMcOUDyKfMmWp98U3tg