Classroom Curriculum

Culture Kids provides qualifying children and their families free, year-round admission to some of the area’s top cultural facilities. Each of has created an activity to help introduce their organization to young children in a classroom setting.

Institution  Tacoma Art Museum
Title  Recycled Animal Sculptures
Length  45 minutes
Objective  Social/Emotional: Regulates own emotions and behaviors.  
Physical: Demonstrates fine-motor strength and coordination.  
Language: Listens to and understands increasingly complex language. Uses language to express thoughts and needs.  
Cognitive: Demonstrates positive approaches to learning. Uses symbols and images to represent something not present.
Vocabulary  Sculpture: a type of art that is three-dimensional and can be viewed from many sides
Purpose  Students will be better able to make creative choices to express an idea.
Preparation  1. Collect recycled materials such as boxes, plastic containers, bottle caps, etc.  
2. Cut down cardboard into small pieces of all different shapes.  
3. Set out recycled materials in a central location for all students to access. Place trays of index cards, cardboard scraps, scissors, glue, and masking tape on tables.
Materials  Index cards  
Cardboard scraps  
Recycled materials  
Scissors  
Glue  
Colored masking tape
Procedures  1. Show students an image of Leroy, the Big Pup (picture available here) by artist Scott Fife.

2. Discuss the sculpture. Have them consider what materials Fife chose, how he made the sculpture, why he chose to make the
sculpture so large, and why he chose to make a sculpture of a dog. Share that Leroy, the Big Pup is made out of cardboard and was inspired by Fife’s real dog, Leroy.

3. Show students pieces of cardboard. Ask them to describe how it feels. Ask them to think of ways we might be able to turn this into a shape, e.g. cutting, bending, ripping, taping, etc.

4. Optional: Read and discuss the book *The Tin Forest* by Helen Ward & Wayne Anderson. Ask students to consider the different artist choices that Scott Fife and the old man made. How were their materials different? What kinds of sculptures did they make?

5. Ask students to think about an animal that they would like to make a sculpture of. Their animal can be a favorite pet, an animal they love, or an imaginary animal.

6. Invite students to choose recycled materials, cardboard scraps, and index cards they can cut with scissors to make their sculptures. They can use glue and masking tape to attach the pieces together.

7. Once students have completed their sculptures, ask them to share what animal they made and why they chose the materials.

**Extension**
Explore other materials you could mold or shape into a sculpture, e.g. wire, ice cubes, wood, etc.

**Suggested Books**
*The Tin Forest* by Helen Ward & Wayne Anderson
*Not a Box* by Antoinette Portis
*Iggy Peck, Architect* by Andrea Beaty and David Roberts