

MEND.

THE COLLECTIVE MENDING SESSIONS

- [*The Collective Mending Sessions*](#) (2018-present) is a socially engaged project by Iowa-based artist Catherine Reinhart. Read more about Reinhart's practice [here](#).
- The artist facilitates workshops where participants repair an abandoned quilt, together
- Workshop participants learn basic mending and textile care; as they stitch, the artist engages them in discussion
- The question driving *The Collective Mending Sessions* is "How do we MEND our communities?"

OBJECTIVES

- To cultivate care for cloth and community
- To use craft as a catalyst for social repair
- Many hands collaborate to transform abandoned quilts into fiber art objects

COMMUNITY BENEFIT

- Build community through the shared work of mending a quilt
- Approach social fractures with a care-based ethic of work
- Hold space for stories of repair, loss, and kinship

"I can see how this project can help bring together disparate groups and people of various backgrounds to learn and get to know each other. Face-to-face interactions help dissolve prejudice."

- Workshop Participant, The Surface Design Association

10-YEAR VISION

The Collective Mending Sessions will repair ten quilts in ten years, or by 2028. As mended quilts accumulate, a traveling exhibition will become available to partnering institutions. In addition to the mended quilts, the exhibition will showcase an archive of the dialogue about social repair that is generated during mending sessions--in the form of images, videos, and audio. Community programming, such as workshops, performances, and artist talks, will accompany the exhibition.

BUDGET

What should an arts organization budget to host *The Collective Mending Sessions*?

Virtual cohort of menders

- 4 virtual sessions at an artist fee of \$250 per session
- \$200 for materials and shipping

In-person

- Artist fee: \$500 per session
- Materials: \$100
- Beverages / snacks: \$100
- Artist's travel costs

Project website: collectivemendingsessions.com

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