Folks visit the 577 Foundation for a whole variety of reasons. One of them that we don’t discuss enough is to process grief. With the past year we’ve all experienced, do you know anyone who isn’t grieving or feeling loss on some level? Regardless of whether we’ve had a personal experience with a loved one’s death, and regardless of whether we’ve fallen gravely ill, we are all collectively grieving something.

Disruption. Challenges. Insecurity. Isolation. Financial difficulty. Denial. Confusion. Anger. Sadness. Bargaining. We’ve been grieving many kinds of loss this year, separately and collectively. We started to wonder: what if we could move through the last two stages of grief (acceptance and meaning) together, as a community?

From this question was born a community art project at 577. In commemoration of the past year, the metamorphosis it inspired within each of us and our connection to one another, The 577 Foundation invites you to participate in a community art installation featuring origami butterflies folded by and for each other.

"The butterfly is Nature’s way of reminding us that there is hope in grief. When the caterpillar is no more the butterfly exists in ultimate freedom and beauty." ~Elle Harper
JOYFUL EMERGENCE 🦋 COMMUNITY ART INSTALLATION

We have chosen the butterfly to represent this emergence we are all now experiencing. Just like the butterflies in our Flutter Hut experiencing a mystical transformation from caterpillar to soupy enzyme goo to butterfly, we too find ourselves as a community transitioning—from a time of uncertainty, fear, and confusion to hopeful days ahead of deeper understanding, connection, and joy.

To join in our celebration, we invite you to fold at least one origami butterfly and bring it to us. These butterflies – your butterflies – will be installed inside each of the buildings at The 577 Foundation. As each building reopens to the public, they will be welcomed by a joyful flutter of origami butterflies from people across the community.

As you fold your butterfly, please do so with healing thoughts of joy, connection, peace, and good wishes to shower down upon the visitors who see them. You’re welcome to fold as many as you want (One? Five? 577? Your choice!) We can even provide the origami paper and folding instructions.

You can fold butterflies inside the Log House and Bee Room, or if you’d like to fold at home, you can pick up origami paper and instructions by contacting our outstanding Program Intern at hello@577foundation.org.

Visit our website at www.577foundation.org to view video and written instructions.

So far, we have installed 1,667 butterflies in the Book Center (465), Dome (377), Log House (170), Bee Room (175), Pottery Studio (169), and the House Porch (311). The project is ongoing.

Find updates on our social media pages at

Facebook: @577Foundation
Instagram: @577foundation