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06.24

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## style



### Crafters invited to repurpose one another's clothing at Swap-O-Rama event



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"We even had a group of guys make wallets out of neckties. People get really creative, and that's what we want to encourage with the Swap-O-Rama Rama," said swap organizer Christine Sharp-Crowe. Courtesy

By BRANDI BALL World Scene Writer  
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#### Jess Fielding doesn't throw anything away - ever.

"That doesn't really mean that I'm a hoarder, I promise," Fielding said. "I organize and keep things neat. I have a respect for the things I have. I just like to pull things out one day and find a way to reintroduce them to my life."

Fielding is one of many who will be taking her old clothing to the Philbrook Museum on Saturday from noon to 4 p.m. for the Swap-O-Rama Rama, which is being hosted by the crafting group Make Tulsa.

Swap-O-Rama Rama is a clothing swap and series of do-it-yourself workshops that aims to help the community explore creative reuse through the recycling of used clothing. It is a free event, as long as you bring any item of clothing.

At the swap, you are only limited by your imagination.

"Last time a woman took a suede jacket and made it into a purse," said swap organizer Christine Sharp-Crowe, who also heads up the Indie Emporium. "We even had a group of guys make wallets out of neckties. People get really creative, and that's what we want to encourage with the Swap-O-Rama Rama."

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At the museum, swappers will toss old clothing into a pile and then get an opportunity to scour it for items to repurpose. At DIY stations, representatives from Sew Flakes in Broken Arrow will be on hand to assist people of all sewing skill levels.

The Swap-O-Rama Rama is a national movement that encourages people in different cities to organize their own event. A few years ago, Sharp-Crowe took action in Tulsa after attending a swap in Oklahoma City.

"I thought, 'We need this in Tulsa,' " she said. "We have a lot of people locally who like making things and reclaiming things. The first time we held the swap, we did it at a coffee shop because we didn't know what to expect as far as interest level."

Sharp-Crowe quickly realized the need for another swap, and for a bigger venue. Staging it at the Philbrook Museum seemed like a perfect fit, because she said, reclaiming, reusing and recycling things is its own art form.

Fielding's penchant for saving things is going to come in handy, and she is even hoping to trade for someone's old prom dress. "I have an idea for it," she said.

"The main thing I wish people would understand is that you don't have to be a hoarder or a hipster - or whatever other buzz word of the week is - to not want to waste things. And you can turn it into an insightful art."

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### **Inexpensive solution**

One of the demonstrations at Swap-O-Rama Rama will be how to make a duct tape dress form, according to Christine Sharp-Crowe. Making a form allows you to alter your creations to your exact measurements.

### **DUCT TAPE DRESS FORM**

Supplies:

Loosely fitted T-shirt

2 to 3 rolls of duct tape

Pair of sharp scissors

An assistant

Cardboard and cardboard tubing

Something to stuff the completed form with (polyfil, newspaper, old clothes, be creative)

**Step 1:** Put on your T-shirt (with properly fitting undergarments underneath). Have your assistant wrap your torso horizontally with duct tape. Wrap tightly but with natural posture and not so snug that it compresses your body. Avoid gaps and bumps by tearing the tape into manageable strips. Tape in this manner from hips to just below your bust.

**Step 2:** Tear off four or five 8-inch strips of tape and apply in sunburst pattern over bust for a natural looking fit. Continue taping in this manner until the bust is covered.

**Step 3:** Apply tape over shoulders and back. You can choose to create arms, or stop at the shoulders. You'll need to use smaller pieces of tape around the curves of the shoulders so there aren't gaps and bumps in the tape.

**Step 4:** Repeat all steps until the form is three layers thick so your form will be sturdy.

**Step 5:** Draw a vertical line up the back to mark the center of the form.

**Step 6:** Using the scissors, cut the tape and T-shirt along the line. Make small cuts, being careful to only cut the T-shirt and tape.

**Step 7:** Carefully remove the form from your body and tape along the cut line.

**Step 8:** Use the base of the form to trace the shape onto cardboard. Cut out the cardboard and tape to bottom of the form as a base. Do the same for the armholes and stuff the form with your desired stuffing. Close the top with tape or cardboard

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and stain the form with your desired staining. Close the top with tape or cardboard. If you wish to, you can use PVC or a cardboard tube to create a pole for your dress form to stand on.

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## Swap-O-Rama Rama

**Where:** Philbrook Museum of Art, 2727 S. Rockford Ave.

**When:** Saturday, Noon to 4 p.m.

**What:** Bring an item of clothing for the swap pile and get free admission. Six DIY stations will be set up to help crafters of all levels as they repurpose others' clothing for their own use or as gifts.

**For more:** [tulsaworld.com/maketulsa](http://tulsaworld.com/maketulsa)

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By BRANDI BALL World Scene Writer

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