

## SUBMISSION FORM

All submission forms must include the following information. Separate submission forms must be turned in for each eligible program. **Deadline: July 1, 2025.** Please include this submission form as the first page of your electronic entry. If you do not receive an email confirming receipt of your entry within 3 days of submission, please contact [Gage Harter](#).

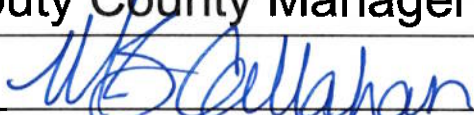
### PROGRAM INFORMATION

County: Henrico County  
Program Title: Make It Monday  
Program Category: Parks & Recreation

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Angela Bennett  
Title: Assistant Library Director  
Department: Library  
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### SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR DEPUTY/ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Name: Monica Smith-Callahan  
Title: Deputy County Manager for Community Affairs  
Signature: 

## **Program Overview**

Henrico County Recreation and Parks (HCRP) created Make It Monday to provide a walk-in program that utilizes remaining resources from previous programs and activities to conserve funds and free up storage space. The recurring program is held on the fourth Monday of every month from 10 AM to noon. Staff review housed items and create a program reflecting seasonal occurrences.

## **Problem/Challenge/Situation Faced by Locality**

Henrico offered 141 creative arts programs in 2024. Any leftover supplies are kept for future use. Typically, there are not enough remaining supplies for additional full programs, leaving partial kits and extra items to be stored. A challenge was presented at a team meeting to create programs using leftover equipment and supplies. Included in this meeting was the financial controller. The controller's reaction to unused items encouraged staff to find alternative ways to save money and offer programs at no cost. This exercise prompted staff to create an ongoing program that reflects the need to reduce and reuse.

## **How The Program Fulfilled Award Criteria**

This program meets the award criteria in that it is an innovative solution to decrease waste and save money, while creating a new programming option for our citizens. We have a regular following of participants and new attendees have discovered aspects of recreation they were originally unaware of, whether it be a program, facility, or park. Programs such as Make It Monday allow for conversations amongst county residents where new friends are made and community engagement is at its peak. This has allowed staff to reflect on ideas and offer future programs per the community's interests.

## **How The Program Was Carried Out**

The objectives of the Make It Monday program are as follows:

- Utilize existing supplies to make crafts and encourage creative mindfulness.
- Free up storage space.
- Use existing supplies for a no-cost program.
- Offer a program to all ages and abilities.
- Offer activities that could be mostly self-directed.
- Offer activities that appeal to all ages and abilities.
- Offer an added walk-in program allowing open-ended participation.

The Make It Monday program was created to have a low impact on planning, low overhead, and no cost. Time and space were considered to enhance access to the Recreation Center and not impede other public programs. Mondays were selected due to the facility's low activity levels, making the program an idea choice for our needs. To further streamline operations, we identified an unused space within the same building as the supply storage, which helped to keep the transportation of supplies to a minimum. Recreation staff reviewed what supplies were available and used these items to replicate activities or generate new ideas using current inventory. Seasonal interests play a part in Make It Monday, such as January's theme of Chinese New Year.

## **Financing and Staffing**

The cost of the program consists of staff time for supply gathering, example creation, program implementation, and cleanup, which is estimated at 4.5 hours.

## **Program Results**

This program began in September 2023 as a way to use existing supplies and has since become an established community program. The first class garnered 57 participants as a new program, already exceeding the room capacity. It has since increased to as many as 80 participants and required relocation to a larger room in the same facility. Ages range from toddlers to seniors with most participants coming from group homes located in Henrico and surrounding counties.

## **Brief Summary**

The Make It Monday program was created to have a low impact on planning, as well as have a low overhead and no cost. Time and space were considered to enhance access to the recreation center and not impede other public programs. Mondays were selected due to the facility's low activity levels, making the program an ideal choice for our needs. To further streamline operations, we identified an unused space within the same building as the supply storage, which helped keep the transportation of supplies to a minimum. Recreation staff reviewed what supplies were available and used these items to replicate activities or generate new ideas using current inventory.

## **Executive Summary**

Henrico County Recreation and Parks (HCRP) created Make It Monday to provide a walk-in program that utilizes remaining resources from previous programs and activities to conserve funds and free up storage space. The recurring program is held on the fourth Monday of every month from 10 AM to noon. Staff review housed items and create a program reflecting seasonal occurrences.

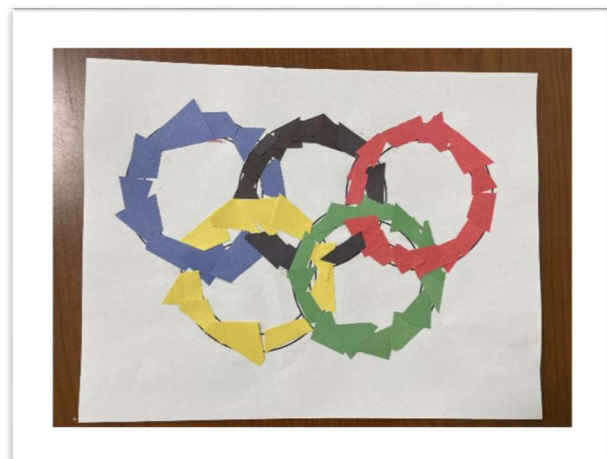




Chinese New Year  
Year of the Snake



Fall



Olympics



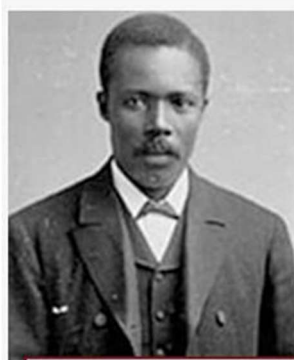
## Black History Month



# Potato Chip CRAFT

*inspired by*  
**GEORGE CRUM**

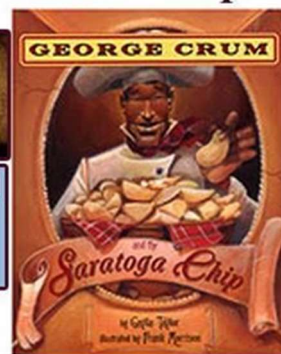
Happy Toddler Playtime  
CREATIVE PLAYTIME IDEAS



## George Crum

Chef George Crum (1822-1914)  
Created the First Potato Chips - 1841.  
Chef George Crum made thickly cut, French fried potatoes. A customer complained that the fries were too thick to eat, so Chef Crum began slicing the potatoes as thin as he possibly could, frying them & sending the crunchy brown chips back out to the guest. The guest loved the crisps. They soon gained popularity and were called Crum's House, each table came with a basket of potato chips.

## Potato Chips



Crum never patented or attempted to distribute his potato chips, but has been credited as the creator of the widely popular snack.

# #Excellence