In this activity, you can write your wishes for our planet, or for someone you love, and make them into the wings of a decorative bird using cardboard and paper. These were inspired by Yoko Ono’s Wish Tree project, inviting people to tie their wishes to a tree in a public space, and by the Japanese origami crane—a symbol of hope and healing.

You will need:
- Cardboard or heavy paper (for bird)
- Plain or decorative paper that you can write on and fold, cut to 5”x5” square (for wish wings)
- String or ribbon (to hang your bird)
- Scissors or utility knife
- Crayons/Markers/Paint
- Scratch paper & pencil or pen
Make your wish.
Using scratch paper, brainstorm your wishes—for your future, for your community, for our planet. Then, on your 5x5 square of decorative (or plain) paper, write out your favorite or most important wish(es). Decorate color or illustrate, if you’d like.

Build your bird.

Cut a bird shape out of cardboard or other sturdy paper, and add a small slit, about ½ inch, for the wings. Use one of the templates attached, or design your own.

Decorate or color it.

Fan-fold your wish: Fold the top ½ inch back, then the next ½ forward. Continue until you have a zig-zag folded strip that is 5 inches long and ½ inch wide.

Slide the folded paper through the slit in the bird, until the bird is in the center of the paper.

Open each side like a fan.

Now your bird is ready!

Keep it, gift it, or hang it in your neighborhood for someone to find!