BUILD YOUR CITY!
SHOEBOX THEATER EDITION

Recommended for ages 6 to 106
*Older children and adults can prepare the box, while younger children can draw, decorate, and play with the theater.*

Be instantly transported to any city and act out the different stories of the people who live there, or build your own fantasy city and create an entirely new culture. The Build Your City! Shoebox Theater Edition is perfect for imaginative play when you’re stuck inside all day.

**Materials:**
- Shoebox with lid
- Cardboard, or stiff poster board
- Child Safe Scissors
- Exact-o Knife
- Glue
- Tape
- Colored pencils and/or markers
- White copy paper and/or colored paper
- Ruler
- Pencil
- Popsicle sticks, or cut out slim pieces of cardboard
- Strand of LED Christmas lights
- Skyline print out (possible skylines included on pages 4 and 5)
- Anything else you want to decorate or play with!
Step 1
On the bottom of your shoebox, draw a rectangular frame and cut it out. Draw three or four lines on a long side of the shoebox. Cut out the slits with your craft knife. The slits must be wide enough for the popsicle sticks to fit in smoothly.

Step 2
Let’s decorate! Use the lid of the shoebox for the background. You can be creative and paint the color of the sky, clouds, the sun, the moon or anything you can imagine. Glue the piece of paper onto the back of the shoebox after drawing and coloring.

Step 3
Print out and trace onto a piece of cardboard the skyline of your choice and then cut out. You can decorate the cardboard with the different colors you think your skyline should have, use glitter, stickers, or any other fun tools to help you decorate.

Step 4
Glue three pieces of bent cardboard in an L shape to the back of the skyline for support to keep it upright. Once dry, glue the bottom piece of the L shaped cardboard to the bottom of the shoebox towards the back.
Step 5
Create a foreground for the theater by drawing the outline of foliage on another piece of cardboard, cut it out, and then decorate! Once finished, place in front of the skyline, towards the front of the shoebox. Repeat step 4 to support the foliage.

Step 6
It’s time to create your architecture thespians! Draw or print out your favorite architects, you, your friends, family, or create your own characters and color. Cut out each puppet and then tape on the back of the wooden popsicle sticks or cardboard pieces. At the top of the wooden sticks or cardboard, take a small piece of cardboard, cut a slit in the center large enough for the popsicle or cardboard to fit in and glue or tape. Now the wooden popsicle or cardboard won’t fall between the cracks of the shoebox!

Step 7
Make several small holes in the back using your exact-o knife and fit in the LED Christmas lights. Tape the electric cord to the back of the lid.
It’s showtime! Turn down the lights and start the play...

Have your parents share your creation with us by tagging @dallasadex
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