

MAKE A CARTONERA



Flickr user stickitto, July 2012

GET INSPIRED

Cartoneras are hand-painted books made of recycled and repurposed materials with cardboard covers. Sometimes they are self- or community-authored and filled with copied literature. Unique designs on the cardboard covers make each *cartonera* one of a kind.

Cartoneras appeared in the early 2000s as a response to an economic crisis in Argentina. People who made their living collecting and selling salvaged materials to recycling plants started selling to *cartonera* book publishers at much higher prices. The Library holds a number of *cartoneras* in the [Hispanic Division](#).

GET READY

Collect materials:

- ~ Cardboard
- ~ paper
- ~ paintbrushes
- ~ markers
- ~ pens
- ~ stickers
- ~ glue

 **Cut the cardboard to create a front and back cover. Size can be any, but 10"x4" works well.**

 **Fold paper on the long edge accordion-style to create a series of 4 panels**

- ~ Alternatively, fold a set of 8.5x11" pages in half and staple together. Use two larger pieces for covers or a single cardboard sheet folded in half.



CREATE YOUR CARTONERA!

 Glue one end of the page or pages to the inside of the cardboard front cover, and the other end to the inside of the cardboard back cover.

 **Decorate the outside and write a story within!**



EXPLORE MORE:

 Learn more about Argentina in [this country guide](#) and [this 1996 map](#).

 Hear early 20th century sound recordings of Argentine music and listen to 20th century Argentine authors and poets read from their work in the [National Jukebox](#).