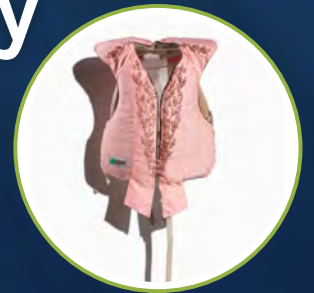




# Sustainable Style

Climate Change and the  
Fast Fashion Industry



Inspired by  
*Noelle Hamlyn: Lifers*  
and collections at ROM

**ROM**

# What is *Lifers*?

In 2019, visual artist Noelle Hamlyn salvaged some life jackets she found abandoned on a beach. These life jackets became the start of *Noelle Hamlyn: Lifers*

Noelle used her training in the arts, theatre, and costuming to tailor thrifted secondhand clothing over the life jackets.

Inspired by the ill-fated voyage of the Titanic, Noelle believes that humanity has hit the metaphorical iceberg in our journey through climate change, and the *Lifers* remind us that, much like on the Titanic, not everyone will be offered a lifejacket.



## Explore *Lifers* and ROM

You can explore *Lifers* yourself, even if you can't make it to ROM!

We have created a virtual world for you to explore that will take you through the *Lifers* exhibition and beyond.

Explore climate change topics in galleries around the museum, and use what you learn to guide your answers to our Sustainable Style activities and projects.

Dive in to the tour at [bit.ly/ROMLifersTour](https://bit.ly/ROMLifersTour), or by scanning the QR code.



# Design a Lifer

In 2019, Artist Noelle Hamlyn collected some life jackets that had washed up on a beach, and these life jackets inspired the idea behind Lifers.

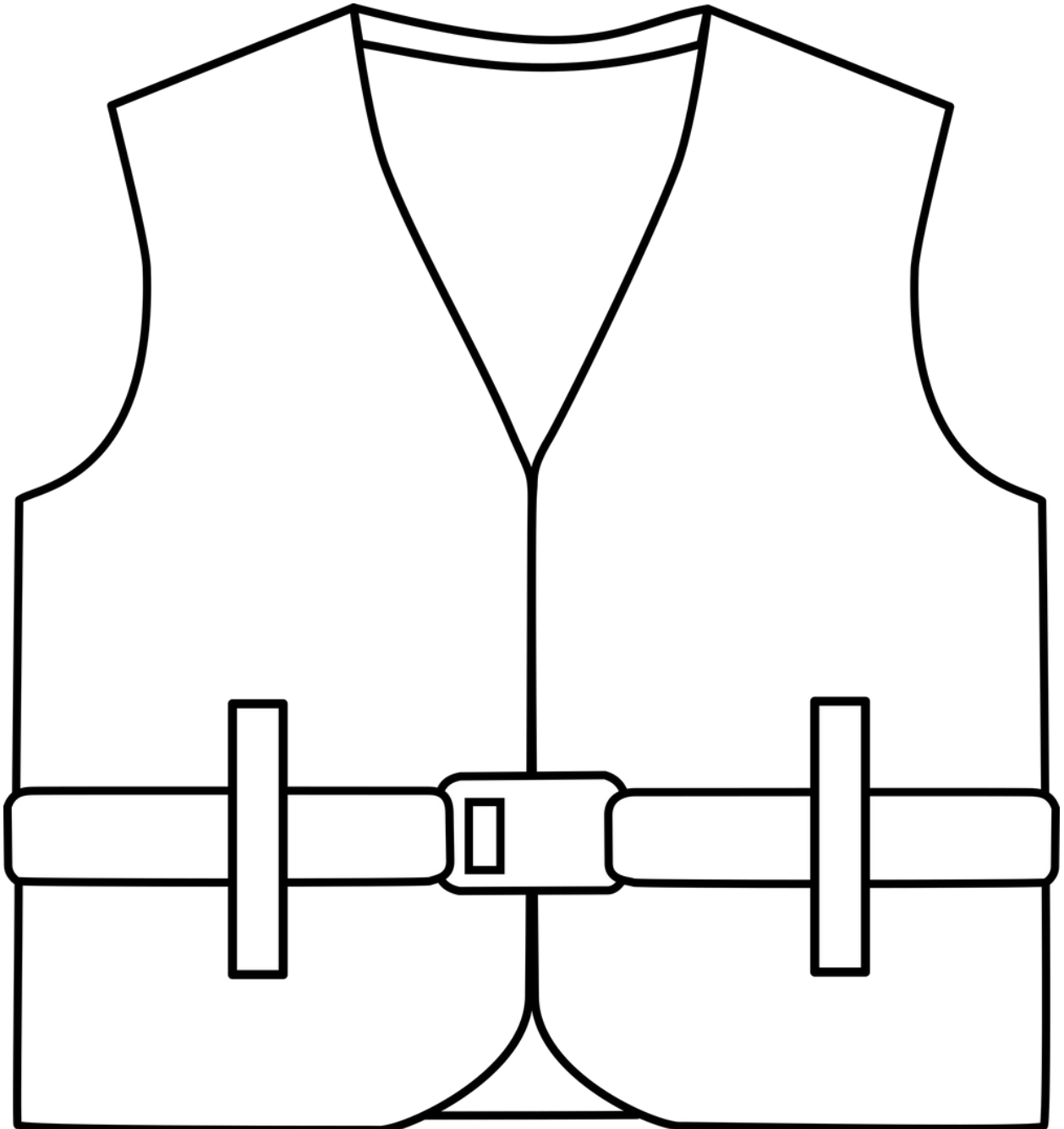
Noelle found previously-used clothing in thrift stores and other places, and tailored them to cover the life jackets. By connecting these two objects, Noelle invites people to think about:

*Choose a piece of clothing that means something to you and let it inspire you to transform this Lifer.*

- Our relationship with the clothes we wear
- The impact of the fashion industry on water and climate change
- What we should consider important to us as the climate changes.

*Use paint, markers, crayons, cloth, paper, or whatever other materials you need for your art.*

Imagine that Noelle invited you to add your own Lifer to this exhibition. What would you design?



*Find Noelle's Artist's Statement in the Lifers exhibition and use it as inspiration to write your own Artist's Statement about your Lifer.*



By researching and telling the story of a piece of clothing, we train ourselves to think about how our choices affect the people and the world around us, and inspire ourselves to make sustainable choices in the future.

1. Choose a piece of clothing that's important to you. It could be one you wear now, or one you wore in the past.

**My piece of clothing is:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I chose it because:** \_\_\_\_\_

2. Do some research to learn about the journey your piece of clothing might have taken.

- You could use [the Sustainable Style tour](#) (especially stop 1 and 2), the designer's website, or other reliable sources

3. Use your research (and your imagination to fill in the blanks) to plot out a timeline of the life of your piece of clothing.

Time	Where is it?	Who interacts with it?	What happens to it? What does it look like? What is nearby? Is there wear or damage?
Clothing is made			
Clothing travels to stores			
Clothing is bought			
Clothing is owned by someone else (optional)			
Clothing changes owners (optional)			
Clothing makes it to you			
Clothing leaves you			
What happens next?			

4. Get creative and turn your timeline into a story starring your piece of clothing.

5. (Optional) Create a cover for your story and turn it into a book.

# Weighing the Value

You need to buy a new shirt, sweater, and slippers from a shop that carries three brands:

Quick Frocks (QF) is an international fast-fashion chain that produces many items fast and cheaply.

Local Wears (LW) is a national chain with a local factory. They take a little longer to fill orders, at a slightly higher price.

Unique Threads (UT) is a small business that hand makes items and says that their nice fabrics and careful sewing mean the price is higher.

Figure out the cost of each item per use. Use the table to help you.

Brand	T-shirt	Sweater	Slippers
QF	\$	\$	\$
LW	\$	\$	\$
UT	\$	\$	\$

Based on the data, how will you spend your money? Why?

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What if you could only spend money you earned from doing chores, and you earned \$100 over the summer. How would that affect your choice?

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Terry Pratchett was an author who liked to use fantastical settings and stories to look at real-life problems and issues. The quote on this page, a thought from a guard named Sam Vimes, comes from the Discworld novel series. As a class, discuss what you think the author was trying to say.

## Reporter notes: How long before it wears out?



UT Black Shirt, \$50  
197 uses



LW Purple Slides, \$75  
5 months



LW Black Shirt, \$25  
65 uses



UT Teal Sweater, \$125  
387 uses



QF Teal Sweater, \$25  
26 uses



UT Purple Moccasins, \$109  
2 years



LW Teal Sweater, \$75  
165 uses



QF Black Shirt, \$10  
21 uses



QF Purple Slides, \$22.99  
3 months

*Take boots, for example. He earned thirty-eight dollars a month plus allowances. A really good pair of leather boots cost fifty dollars. But an affordable pair of boots, which were sort of OK for a season or two and then leaked like hell when the cardboard gave out, cost about ten dollars. Those were the kind of boots Vimes always bought, and wore until the soles were so thin that he could tell where he was in Ankh-Morpork on a foggy night by the feel of the cobbles.*

*But the thing was that good boots lasted for years and years. A man who could afford fifty dollars had a pair of boots that'd still be keeping his feet dry in ten years' time, while the poor man who could only afford cheap boots would have spent a hundred dollars on boots in the same time and would still have wet feet.*

*Terry Pratchett, "Men at Arms"*

# Sustainable School

## What would you change if you could?

Imagine that you were given the unlimited power to redesign your school to be more sustainable. What kind of school would you build?

- Use the post-it prompts to brainstorm what you would change, build, or include in your sustainable school.
- Take inspiration from the Lifers Virtual Tour and your own research.

Power

Food

Clothes

Transportation

Classes

Community

Schoolyard

Heating/cooling

Other notes:

Once you have planned your sustainable school, design and present your ideas. Don't forget to add labels explaining your sustainable solutions.

You could:

- Draw a poster
- Use a design software like Canva or CAD
- Make a model
- Build it in Minecraft
- Use our Sustainable School Minecraft build plate [link and qr code tbd]

If you want to go a step further, use our Sustainable Style Minecraft world to redesign an entire town!