



"This Loss We Carry" is a national community art project designed by artist Leslie Lee. It is made of handmade, origami "Soul Boxes" folded and embellished by people all over the U.S. to visualize the scale of the U.S. gunfire epidemic.

**The 8,800 Soul Boxes on display in ArtPrize illustrate the number of men, women, and children shot in Michigan in just three years.** On average, about half of the individuals shot in Michigan--and nationwide--are injured. Half are killed. Of the deaths, 60% are suicides. Gun violence, defense, and accidents kill the rest.

## **VIEW THE EXHIBIT! GRAND RAPIDS ARTPRIZE 2021**

**The Atrium at Uccello's**

[122 Monroe Center St NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503](#)

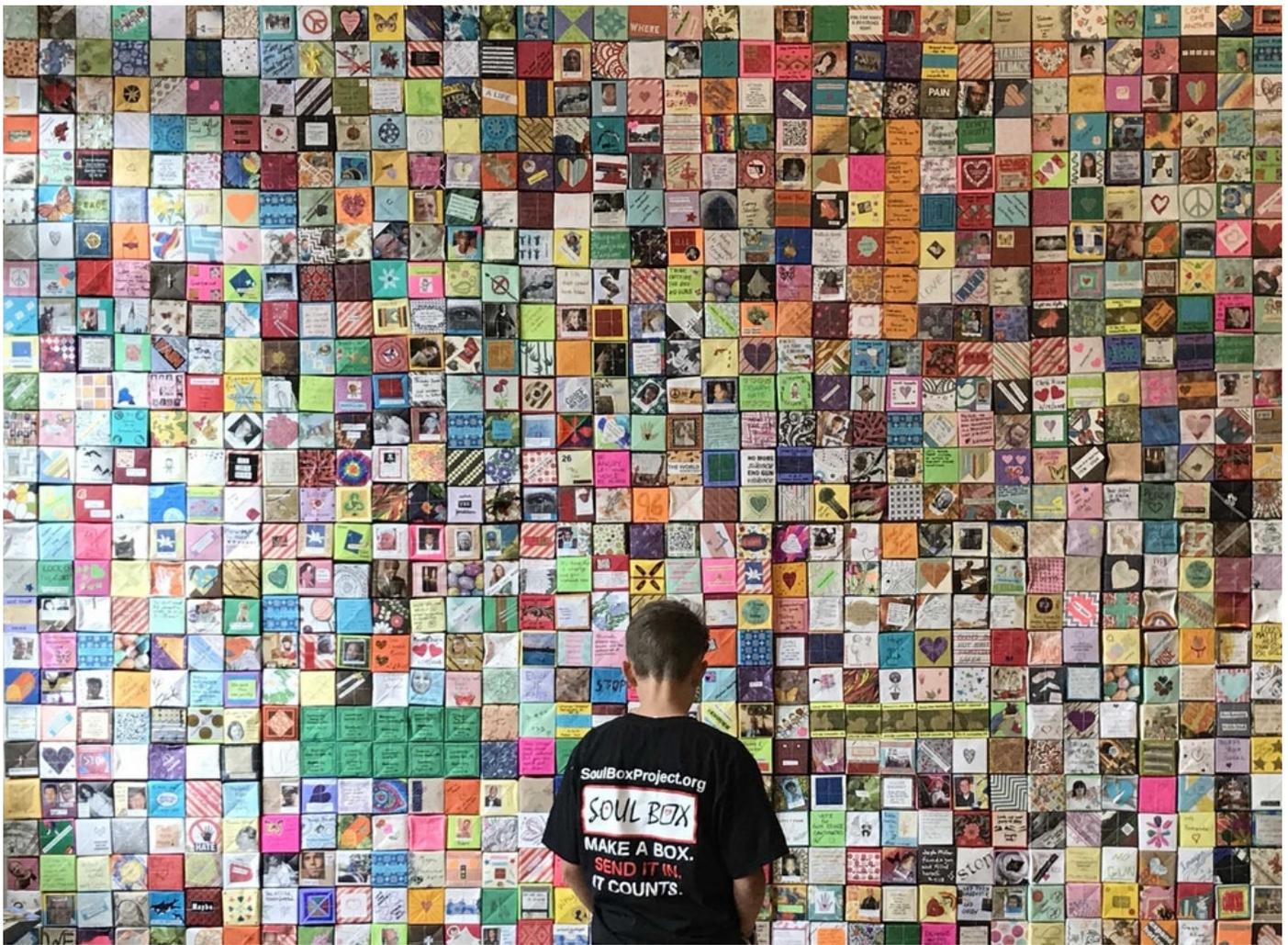
**September 16 - October 3, 2021**

A 50 foot long exhibit of 8,800 Soul Boxes represents the number of Michigan gunfire deaths and injuries in just three years.



The Soul Box Project is art at its simplest, yet with a powerful message. Fold two pieces of paper into a 3 x 3-inch box, embellish it and remember a life lost or injured by gunfire. Each Soul Box holds a space for one life lost or injured. When put together in large art installations, the Boxes help people visualize the impact of gun violence, the vast number of lives lost and what they meant to other people.

To date, the project has amassed over 195,000 Boxes. Lee designed the Project to be a source of solace and empower people to consider their personal actions and responsible gun use as a reflection of their values, priorities and beliefs.



Statistics may tell us facts, but they do not show us the incredible pain from lives lost to gun violence,” says Lee. “We need to respond.” Recent years have shown alarming trends:

- In 2020, Michigan was among the states with the largest per capita increase in gun sales and gun-related deaths.
- A national study from the Violence Policy Center shows that Michigan's death rate by guns increased just shy of 13% from 2009-2016. The research also showed the state ranked higher than the national average for homicides with firearms. Nationwide, gun-related deaths across the country have increased by 17% since 2008.
- So far this year, more than 54,000 people were killed or injured across the U.S. whether by homicide, suicide, mass shootings, incidents involving officers and suspects, under defensive or unintentional circumstances, according to a daily count by the Gun Violence Archive.

SOUL BOX PROJECT