



CHEETA Project 2024

In the beginning of the CHEETA, we spent a week training. This training period consisted of working with the Riverton and Sagamore study centers on teamwork, compatibility, and self-identity. The weeks following this, we focused on the problems of our individual neighborhoods. We as the Kennedy Park CHEETA group settled on the lack of recycling and overabundance of litter. Alongside this idea, we wanted to properly appreciate the memory of Rachsombath "Rex" Rasmey, a kid in our neighborhood who passed away in early June. We needed to figure out how to do projects that would surround these objectives. It took A LOT of planning, we had to contact many people and places, think of possible factors such as the age of our audience or weather, and budgeting.



CHEETA 2024 Summer interns, Fatimah, Mafaz, Sam and Tareq

After all of this planning, we were required to create a slideshow for Emily, PHA's Resident Services Manager, and Leah, PHA's Deputy Executive Director. The first step was finalizing all the planning for our projects as this information would be the deciding factors of these projects coming to life. As a team, all the information was typed into slides and organized by motivation, price, and hopes for the effects on the neighborhood. On July 26th, we traveled to the PHA office, where we met with our CHEETA coworkers from other neighborhoods. We were all intimidated as this was a professional office space and we had to present in front of two adults. Luckily, both Emily and Leah liked our project ideas as they were calculated, thoughtful, and not too expensive.

The first project we planned on having this summer was the EcoMaine event. As explained earlier, here in Kennedy Park we don't have any recycling which can lead to our dumpsters filling up quickly and trash ending up on the ground. No matter where you walk in our neighborhood, there is trash somewhere, it makes it less welcoming and fun to play on our courts and fields. EcoMaine is a company that specializes in compost, trash, or recycling and turning it into useful items like paper, glass, carpets, electricity, and more. They were perfect for this project so contacting them and having someone come over was an easy and smooth process. Annie and Bea were the two representatives who came and gave a presentation to other kids in our neighborhood.

Our idea of remembering Rex was through a bench, as this is a common way of remembering those in a community who are now gone. We originally wanted to install it by the basketball court next to Fox Field but as it is owned by Parks and Recreation and we are still awaiting permission. Our second plan was to choose our top 3 benches on different websites, and our top 2 favorite plaques that we would install on the bench with Rex's full name. After explaining all of this in our presentation to Emily and Leah, they approved our project!

We also painted, cleaned and organized the study center to prepare it for the school year. We had a great, fun time doing the CHEETA project this summer!

Written by Fatimah, Mafaz and Sam