

Group Project- Due on October 3rd 2024

We can each pick which section we want to type up ! Each section can be 1 to 2 paragraphs.

- Section 1: Research Questions Explain what specific problem or issue you are addressing. Be sure to do this work in consultation with your partners. What research questions do you have about the problem? What do you want to test? What can you feasibly act upon? - **Kyra's section**
- Section 2: Geographic Focus and Stakeholders This could be as specific as the docents at MOBOT or as broad as the Tower Grove Neighborhood. Explain why you have chosen the focus and who your key stakeholders are. Tell us what you know about them and what you still need to know. Explain the role and level of involvement of each stakeholder. 1 CODE 221: Research Team III - **Jays Section**
- Section 3: Data Collection What data do you need to answer your question: secondary research, interviews, surveys, focus groups, oral histories, ethnographies, scientific experiments? Drawing on your experience from your other CODES courses, develop plans for specific data sets that need to be collected. Each member of the team will be responsible for collecting and curating one data set. Raw data should be maintained in a shared drive accessible to the entire team. Determine what data you will need to collect and who will be responsible for the work. For each data collection activity in your plan, consider why you are collecting it, how and from whom you will collect it, and what methods will be most effective. **Jaidyn section**

Each person needs to find or make a data set for this section above

- Section 4: Implementation What will be the outcome of your research? Will you develop an exhibit, engage students in a learning activity, or design a digital project? Why is this the best plan for implementation? What do you need to know to make the implementation successful? How will it meet the needs of your audience? Who will do each part of the work? How will you assess its success? **Sophie section**

***** Please note: Steps 4 and 5 in the "Short Guide to Community-Based Participatory Action Research" are incredibly important too! It will be helpful to look ahead as you prepare the three sections of this report, but we will do most of the work for Steps 4 & 5 take place in CODE320.

Section 1:

To develop a research question, we went through various steps in trying to figure out what question combines all our thoughts together. We did lots of research into wicked problems (a wicked problem is a social or cultural problem that's difficult or impossible to solve because of its complex and interconnected nature). that the Gardens might have. With that research we formulated our main question which is "How do colonial extractive practices affect the Garden". We have changed the question and reworded it a few times since formulating it to ensure that it is working together with our ideas. We created this research question because we want to bring the issue of extractive colonial practices to light. For many years extractive colonial practices have been "pushed under the rug" and do not get talked about enough. This is a real issue, not just looking at the Missouri Botanical Gardens past but also just in the world around us. Though we can not necessarily force people to learn about the extractive practices that indigenous persons have been through, we can try our best to educate the patrons at the Garden about the Gardens' past. We are currently undertaking an implementation plan to hopefully better the community's knowledge of the extractive practices and educate them on the Garden and botany in general has had in the past.

Earlier in our journey we conducted a survey to the garden staff and volunteer staff to get more knowledge about the garden, unfortunately we did not get any data from this. So, with that being said we want to conduct some interviews with the Garden staff and find some secondary research. With the secondary research we are thinking about talking to Robbie and Ashley in the Herbarium and Andrew in the

archives. We also want to research similar issues in other Botanical Gardens dealing with similar issues. Another thing we want to do is dive deeper into oral histories. Hopefully the gardens can help to connect us with someone who represents an organization or facility who has seen or experienced extractive practices. Right now we can start taking a deeper dive into what specific plants we want to be in our implementation plan and how they were used in their native culture.

Section 2:

We haven't pinpointed our exact geographic focus yet, but we're leaning toward a broader approach. Since our cohort's topic is reparative justice and our research question is "How do colonial extractive practices affect the garden?", we're considering focusing on the Missouri Botanical Gardens itself—specifically, its visitors. This means our geographic scope is broad, as visitors come from all over. Our key stakeholders would include the visitors and staff like Sean, Robbie, Ashley, and Jennifer. Sean can help us figure out who to connect with and reach out to different areas of the garden, while Robbie and Ashley can guide us on which plants we should focus on. Jennifer will be a great resource for "My Guide to the Garden" and supporting us with our implementation plan.

Section 3: In order to develop a strong implementation plan we must gather and analyze different types of data. Our research question has guided us thus far into the process of creating an implementation plan and we have learned about different types of data and data collection up to this point. Due to the nature of our product, the group has decided

that the most beneficial types of data to collect would be data from focus groups, oral histories, and various kinds of secondary research. Focus groups allow us to gather multiple specific perspectives from people in the Garden. Oral histories would be beneficial in order to educate ourselves on the histories of plants and communities that have been impacted by colonial extraction. In order to obtain oral histories, the group would need to find a contact in the Garden that could help us with that. We would also like to conduct secondary research such as, visiting the herbarium and reading online research and review articles. All of these research methods will support the group in being able to make evidence based decisions when designing the final product. Data also provides context for our work and provides us a deeper understanding of the problem that is being dealt with. With data we can identify trends and patterns which we can use for informed decision making. Kyra and Sophia will take on secondary research, Jaidyn will work with focus group data, And Jay will work with the data gathered from oral histories.

Section 4: The outcome of our research should be a scavenger hunt with video elements. I believe our project will have an exhibit with a digital element for them to interact with. This is the best plan for implementation because it allows us to reach not only people at the garden, but also people who want to learn about colonialism and aren't able to visit. We need the help of garden staff, video making equipment, and whatever resources the garden itself can provide us. To ensure that this project is as successful as possible, and beneficial to the garden. We will meet the needs by gathering data about our question "How do colonial extractive practices affect the Garden?". To create an enriching and entertaining learning experience for whoever

decides to participate. We will make the implementation plan for how we want to present it to the garden. We will also be creating the project that will be put into the garden.

The garden will help us in gathering the resources for our project and telling us how they can help along the way to make sure there are no problems during the creation and finalization of the project. As they are the people who know what they want things to look like since it is their garden. While also having the knowledge of how to create something that visitors want to interact with. We will assess the success by seeing how many people decide to participate in the project. Since we cannot exactly know unless someone decides to scan the QR code and interact with the project.

Dear sean letter - page or 2 long.

Points to make-

1. reintroduce your group and our focus- Ky
2. time to articulate our product that we want to build in good detail (couple of sentences or paragraph)- Jay/Jaidyn
3. (about a paragraph long) What you need to build your idea ! resources of any sort- Jay/Jaidyn
4. (paragraph) try to describe what work is involved and who is going to be doing those works within your group and for the people in the garden.- KY
5. What audience (specifically) would be using your product- Sophie
6. Based on the product you're thinking about, what ethical considerations do you need to think about. EXAMPLES- 1 accessibility, 2. Benefits to all, voice of the community, giving credits where it is due, PRIVACY, AND RESPECT.- Jaidyn
7. Based on where you're at right now, how can the garden be at your aid with this. - KY
8. End with love always - CODES

Reintroducing our idea (Main portion)

- Dear Sean,

I hope this message finds you well!! My name is Kyra Williams, I am writing this introduction on behalf of our CODES research team. My group is Myself, Jaidyn, Jay, and Sophie. We are currently undertaking an implementation plan to hopefully better the community's knowledge of the extractive practices that the Garden and botany in general has had in the past. Our main research question that we formulated our first semester was "How does colonial extractive practices

affect the Garden”. Based on This research question we wanted to come up with an implementation plan to build up the Garden. We believe tha

t your expertise and support could significantly enhance the impact and success of our overall implementation and goal.

(second point)

Our product is an educational course-based video, designed to engage audiences of all ages with the history of colonialism and extractive practices at the Missouri Botanical Gardens. We aim to create an experience similar to platforms like iReady, Crash Course, and Khan Academy, with the added feature of integrating our content into 'My Guide to the Garden.' Users will navigate a series of modules, each presented by a member of our team, exploring different aspects of our research. Two versions will be available: a purely online, educational version, and an interactive version featuring a scavenger hunt that leads users through the garden. Participants will follow clues embedded in the videos, guiding them from one location to the next, with the option to play solo or in teams. This interactive and educational experience will allow both younger audiences and adults to engage with the material in a fun and meaningful way.

(Third point)

Here's a list comprised of possible components we would need for our product

1. Video recording & Audio Equipment: High-quality video cameras, microphones, tripods, and lighting equipment for recording the educational modules.
2. Themed Attire: Depending on the visual theme of the videos, specific clothing to enhance engagement, making the content visually appealing.
3. Access to “My Guide to the Garden” Platform: Collaboration with the team managing "My Guide to the Garden" to embed the videos and interactive features into the existing platform.
4. Programmer/Developer: A skilled programmer to integrate the video content, design a progress-tracking system, set up an account system.
5. QR Codes: Printed QR codes placed around the garden for users to scan, linking them to the next set of videos or clues.
6. Feedback Resources: An advisory group to provide feedback on the product's usability and content quality.

(Fourth point)

To successfully integrate our implementation plan, there are various things that need to be done in order to get our implementation plan all together. The work will need to be coming from us students and you all as an establishment. Now as far as us as students we have a lot of ideas and it would be beneficial to have some connections. We do not have all the names of all the

people we are hoping to work with but we want to talk to someone in the media department, talk to someone who does educational programs, talk to robbie and or Ashley.

Revised Version:

To successfully implement our plan, several steps need to be taken to bring everything together. This will require collaboration between us as students and your organization. While we have many ideas as a research team, establishing connections will be crucial. We don't have all the contacts yet, but we aim to engage with someone from the media department, someone involved in educational programs, and speak with Robbie, Jennifer and Ashley.

(Fifth point)

I think the audience for our project is the people who choose to take tours of the garden. As they are most likely to want to learn about and participate in anything, we decide to bring them to the garden. Also, people on field trips, as they are going to be traversing through the garden so they will likely interact with a scavenger hunt. But there is not a way to make people go on the hunts. So, I would say the way to make it stand out to our audience is that we are going to need to make it entertaining. Possibly have an end of hunt reward like a sticker or button, as a way to possibly bring the number of people who actually participate.

(Sixth point)

Ethics is an extremely important factor we must take into consideration. To effectively avoid ethical violations, we can identify possible ones from the start. A large concern that has popped up throughout our partnership has been accessibility. Pertaining to our project, apprehensions we have are accessibility to technology and to the MOBOT itself. Although our program would ideally be typical for people on tours or field trips, our hope is to make it accessible in some form to anyone interested. Credit for everyone who takes part in this project in another ethic we would like to touch on. Our research focus deals with practices that involve stealing from other cultures and using it to benefit colonization. This is a sensitive topic that should be dealt with as such, meaning the work that is going to have to be done to achieve our goal is not going to be easy. It is only fair and ethical that all people who take part in creating this program are given the proper credit and recognition.

(Seventh point)

Given our current position, the garden offers significant potential benefits. Specifically, it would be highly appreciated by our team to have mentors who can guide us through the implementation process, as this is our first experience undertaking such an initiative. Their expertise and support would be very valuable in ensuring a successful execution.

- Sincerely CODES

Data Collection Plan:Section 1: Process Description

Ky- Although we have been to the Garden three times now we still have not implemented any data collecting strategies, but we do know what data collection strategies we want to implement. In our last visit to the Garden we discussed some of our topics and what we are wanting to do with our implementation plan with Ashley. With the thought of data collecting she suggested to do a focus group or maybe interview a few of the following people; someone in the media, Andrew, and a “formal” interview with herself or Robbie. We are planning on doing the actual data collecting within the next week or two, but because we haven't really gotten the chance to talk to anyone but Ashley, which made the whole process a bit challenging. Since we have found that surveys don't really work as well as we were wanting , we have discussed steering clear from those, and finding a different approach to data collecting. Going forward we plan on getting a proper tour of the Gardens specific locations where we want our plan to be, and finding some oral histories, as well as some annotated bibliographies. One of the challenges with the oral histories is actually finding someone who is “perfect” for what we are looking for, and someone who is willing to talk about their heritages’ and cultural significance in relation to the Garden. Like I mentioned above, today at the Gardens we are getting a proper, in depth tour of different sections of the Garden like the ottoman Garden, Japanese Garden, Chinese Garden, and many more culturally diverse sections of the Garden.

Jay- During our visit to the garden, we had the chance to speak with Ashley. Although we didn't collect data specific to our implementation plan, the conversation we had gave us a new perspective. Ashley asked us questions about how we envision our implementation and how visitors might experience it. While we have a general idea of what our product will look like, we hadn't considered how it would appear from a visitor's perspective when entering the garden. I think our meeting with Ashley helped us start thinking in that direction. Additionally, she gave us a mini tour of the garden, sharing some background on a few plants. This information might prove useful for our project in the future.

Sophia