Troy Shaffer

Reflection 3

Dr. Hildebrandt

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Well, last Thursday we were set up with Ashley from the herbarium. My group, Kasey, Kadynce, Evitt, and I, were with the group based on Colonial Extractions. Which was Jaidyn, Sophia, Ky, and Jay. It was nice to hear all of their ideas as well since we have a similar project in mind, which is a QR Code based scavenger hunt/tour. It was sort of like a focus group but very unplanned, Ashley was asking us the questions, and some we had answers for. But others, we realized we had not even thought about and needed to discuss them.

Overall, the experience was positive. Ashley seems to be very optimistic about our ideas. She even likes the idea of including some sort of camera/AR (augmented reality) function to our tour. That is something Kadynce had thought of, and it’s sort of like a “if we can it would be cool” idea, since it seems like it would be difficult to implement. It was also talked about how our tour would be on the same “system” as the colonial group, so that like the digital tours sort of have like a standard running system. We would obviously have different tours and information but like the same online system if that makes sense. Ashley also made us aware of an Indigenous garden at the gardens, which we were not familiar with prior to the conversation. So that will be very helpful to us and probably an important part of our final tour.

I would say that our plan for our Indigenous plant/knowledge tour has been very well received at Missouri Botanical Gardens and I am excited to get moving on the project. The last thing we did on our visit was go on a short walk with Ashley around the gardens. It was to help us get a quick start on seeing what plants we could use in our tour. We did not get very far however, and we only really saw a garden that would be helpful for the colonial group, so hopefully we can see more next Thursday during our visit.

There is not much I would change about our visit; it was really helpful to talk to Ashley and get her opinions on our ideas. She gave us her email and said to ask her any questions. She seems to be very excited about our project and wants to help us in any ways possible. Hopefully our next visit we can get further into our planning and maybe find a few plants/stops for our tour.