

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this IPRO is to help the students of Gage Park H.S bring their vision of a memorial to a historical event into existence through:

- 1 Researching precedence
- 2 Conducting workshops to teach and inspire Gage Park H.S students to develop initial concepts of a memorial design
- 3 Planning a prototype of the memorial based on the visions of the high school students
- 4 Determining what is feasible about the prototype, and how to improve it
- 5 Working with involved parties to bring the memorial to completion

ORGANIZATION + TASK

We organized three workshops with students to understand their ideas and help them develop these ideas:

- 1 The first workshop was conducted with the intention of understanding the background of this project and the initial ideas the students had in mind.
- 2 The second workshop was to expose the students to new ideas and broaden their knowledge about memorials. We conducted a field trip to the Chicago History museum where we carried out a scavenger hunt and a survey about their reactions to the exhibits at the museum.
- 3 The third workshop was conducted to teach the students how to approach the design of the memorial in a different way using the knowledge and the experience they have gained from the previous workshops.

ACCOMPLISHMENT

- 1 An understanding of the background and the mindsets of the Gage Park H.S students
- 2 Exposure of the students to real world knowledge of existing ideas
- 3 Teaching the students how to be creative and think outside the box

OBSTACLES

- 1 The students' lack of knowledge about existing interactive memorials limited the students' vision and creativity in approaching the design.
- 2 Site, funding, scale and zoning regulations of the project are not defined which makes the design decisions hard.
- 3 To not overshadow high school students' vision with our own.

CONCLUSION

The workshops helped the students to think outside their initial design of an ATM machine for the memorial. Interactive digital media like a touch screen and a system that is used by multiple users at the same time are the most desired design elements for the memorial.

NEXT STEPS

Future members of this IPRO will need to complete a prototype of a memorial dedicated to the housing march by Martin Luther King in south side Chicago. They will apply the experience and knowledge gained and the relationship developed with the Gage Park H.S students to further develop the design.