

## **Math Lives Here: Helping Social Justice Take Flight**

### Junior Students: A Community in Transition - Honouring Students' Lived Experiences

>> Lamar, let's go! I really figured out more about the community through the students. This is how the project started, because I didn't know how they were feeling about this community until asking them, and hearing what they had to say, and getting their feedback about certain things, about the feeling of being displaced, or this community, without them saying the word, "gentrified," actually feeling like they are -- this community is changing in a way that maybe isn't the most positive for them.

>> Oh, here, there are times there are, like, people who live in a certain area because they're rich, people who live a certain way, as in a different style. So it's really hard.

>> I think they're really thinking now about their community. They were thinking about it before, and I don't think I started it, but they definitely are more conscious of who was here. They're conscious of who contributed to the community.

>> I would say they should know the people who've created Regent Park. They should know how it was created.

>> People care about the Mississaugas of the New Credit, because they kind of have, like, they had our land before we did. And we pushed them away.

>> There's some memorials, monuments out there. They have abstract shapes. They kind of get you thinking what the true meaning is behind it. So that's why we decided to get inspiration from other monuments out there. We kind of wanted to adapt it into our own envisioning of what a memorial should look like. It took us a really long time overall, and we're really proud of it.

>> The community is just one big family. It's not just learning about our community, it's learning about other people that's been in our places.

>> Our project is about a young man named Yusuf Ali. He was -- he lived in Regent Park, and he was also known to Nelson Mandela. He was a former student of Nelson Mandela. So people knew him and interact with him. And you see, we have a suitcase over here. It is because he was, like, a part of a gang. And then the mum didn't want him to be part of the gang, so then she thought another country would be better for him. So then they didn't want him to go away, so then they shot him. Something happened. Like, only the suitcase is like a mark that leaves him behind. And maybe they think something happened, something disappeared, or something is gone from the community. And I want them to leave with the thought that something that was part of our community is now gone and is not part of it anymore.

>> Nelson Mandela was a really good role model because he was always into how we have rights to have education, and all that stuff. Without education, we won't be able to get jobs and live, right?

>> We are planning to put a memorial in the back of the school, right here, so when people are walking by the community, they would see the statue of Nelson Mandela as a boxer and a president. When I look at it, I believe that I have changed a lot. It's like me looking at myself. So say I'm standing here, right? This is me, my old self. And then I look at the one beside me. And that would be me when I change. When I look at our memorial, I think that I've changed a lot.