



Planting Seeds Apprenticeship

Study Case

www.concretejunglefoundation.org

What is the Planting Seeds Apprenticeship?

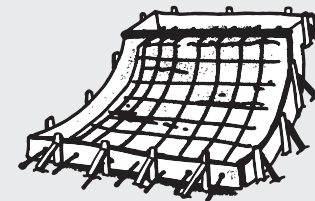
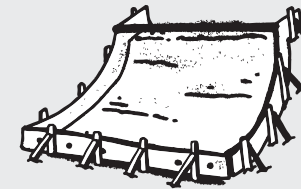
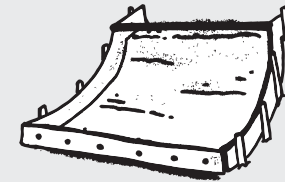
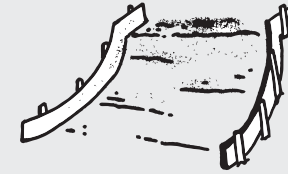
The programme breakdown

The Planting Seeds Apprenticeship (PSA) programme is a professional development programme that provides the theoretical and practical skills needed to build skateparks for national contexts lacking such expertise. It is intended to develop local skills and capacity in the field so as to allow for national self-reliance rather than expensive third-party contracting. The programme is provided in the form of classes and workshops led by CJF teachers and professional builders from the industry during a 4-week paid apprenticeship that involves the physical construction of one or two skateparks for a targeted community.

Throughout the programme the beneficiaries follow a curriculum that covers the whole building process including design, budgeting and logistics, as well as carpentry, steelwork and concrete shaping. Beneficiaries are also provided a complete manual book covering all practical aspects of the construction process. And following completion of the programme, they are awarded a set of power tools to enable new projects to be started locally.

"I liked the fact that [we] had to build our own obstacles from the beginning to the end, so we really went through and learned all the steps."

Aya, apprentice from Morocco (2022)



The programme curriculum

The PSA programme runs over the course of 4 weeks. During this time CJF commits to share the theoretical knowledge related to skateparks building to the apprentices as well as giving practical workshops on the different crafts it implies. The apprentices will get the chance to learn useful skills such as carpentry, welding and concrete throughout the skatepark building course. You will find below a summary of the programme contents:

A. THEORY CLASSES

- Site organisation
- Reading a skatepark design plan
- Materials & obstacles
- Understanding levels and drainage
- The thinking process to start an obstacle
- Radiuses & geometry
- Formwork: what forms do I need to cut
- Concrete: calculating cubic meters
- Concrete: Steps, tools, timing and reaction

B. PRACTICAL WORKSHOPS

- Topographic layout (site & obstacles implantation)
- Building & pouring foundations
- Building a wall (bricklaying)
- How Power tools work
- Building a radius table and cutting radiuses
- Cutting metal tube and setting coping
- Cutting corner profiles and building steel frames for ledges
- Welding & grinding
- Cutting panels and building a ledge box
- Setting bottom guides on level
- Pouring concrete: placing, screeding, shaping, finishing



Brief history

The PSA programme has been developed and fine tuned by Concrete Jungle Foundation over the course of 3 years of charity skatepark projects completed across Africa, Latin America, and The Caribbean.

The first implementation of this programme was during the build of 1300 sq meters Freedom skatepark in Kingston Jamaica for the Bull bay community in which 5 local youth took part, amongst them 2 girls. Our first approach there was to team up each local apprentice with a professional builder that would teach them all the steps along the way.

After this first experience, we decided to give the programme a better structure based on various workshops and classes to make sure they get the chance to experience everything and get all the knowledge to understand what they were doing.

All the workshops carried out during the course are practical lessons where the apprentices get to learn various hard skills (carpentry, welding, masonry among others) put into practice through working on specific tasks following the progress of the skatepark build.

All theoretical lessons are meant to give apprentices the necessary knowledge to understand the process of building the skatepark. They are given in a chronological order following the progress of the build in order to link all kinds of expertise to any situations they are most useful to comprehend the execution of particular tasks.

We implemented this new framework during the Peru build “La rampa” a 200 sq meters skatepark in which 6 local youth took part and amongst them one girl. Between Jamaica & Peru, we also took the time to write a manual covering the whole building skatepark process in order to provide our apprentices with a method they could refer to to complete their future DIY projects and make sure they won't forget the essentials they've been taught during their apprenticeship.

In Peru, instead of pairing each apprentice with a professional builder, we focused more on the group itself and building teamwork, which is why we runned classes for all of them to attend and made sure each of them followed every workshop the course provides. We also implemented an exam at the end of the build where we gave them the responsibility for an obstacle to build from start to finish in order to evaluate if they were able to put their new knowledge into practice as well as work together as a team to accomplish their task.

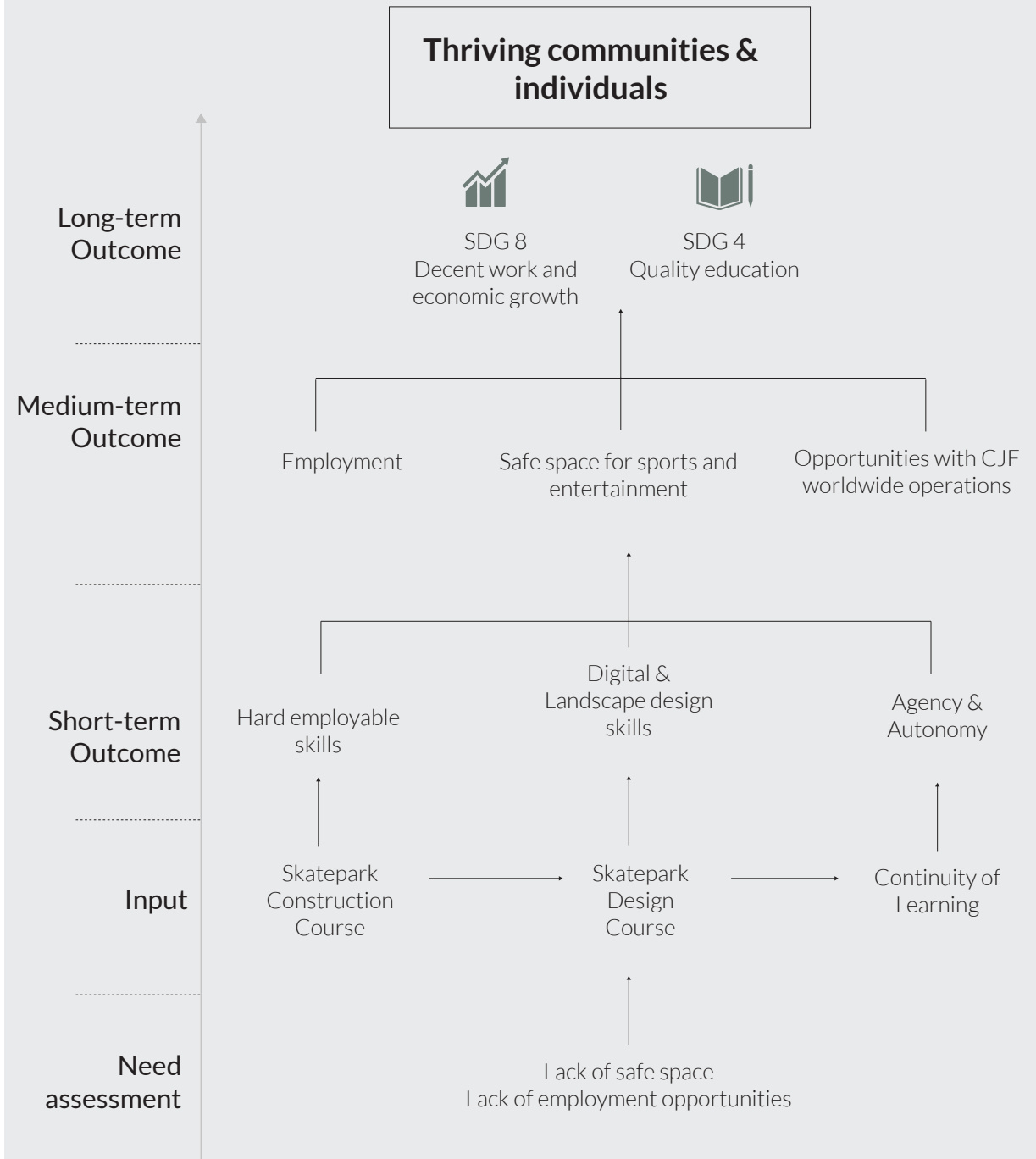
For the third edition of the PSA programme that took place in Morocco, we had 3 local apprentices amongst them one girl. This time, the fact that they were less in numbers allowed us to execute all the workshops with them instead of having some of them doing it with a different teacher. We also switched teachers to make sure the apprentices got to learn woodwork with the best carpenter, steelwork with the best welder and concrete shaping with the best in the field. From the beginning of the build they had to work on their own obstacles so every workshop and lesson was 100% related to what they had to do at the time to complete their own obstacles in the skatepark in order to make the most sense out of it.

Outcomes

There's a lot of diverse outcomes the programme can provide. First, knowledge and craft in skatepark building in a country that can't provide it is definitely a huge input for anybody that wishes to develop their skate community. It is also providing very handy skills that are useful outside the skate world and that are employable skills such as masonry, carpentry, welding, designing, budgeting, logistics & management. It is also tremendously helpful in building trust and teamwork as you need to rely on others and work together to complete such a big project.

Our aim is to provide our apprentices with further opportunities to develop their passion and skills which is why committed and/or talented participants may also be invited to participate in CJF's Continuity of Learning initiative, where previous PSA graduates are sponsored to join skatepark construction projects around the world.

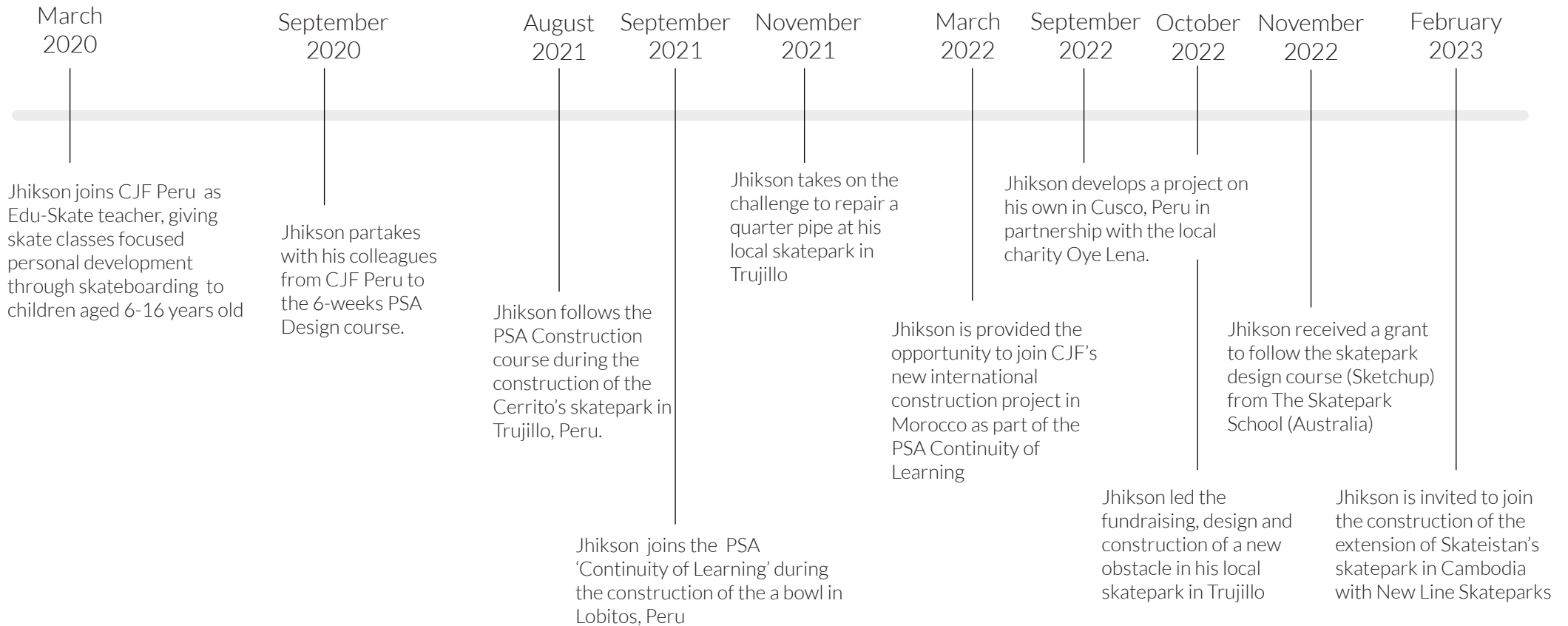
Of course the main goal is for them to be able to take on new constructions and projects and develop their skills set in their own countries which is why we provide our apprentices with a complete set of tools and the support they may need through calls, network, expertise on organizational aspects such as budget, paperwork and logistics which are keys in the success of any new projects. When necessary we can also provide backup on the ground if their project is ambitious but we will first push for them to start managing small scale projects that they feel comfortable taking on themselves.



Study Case

Jhikson Akamine, Planting Seeds Apprentice from Peru

Introduction



Cerrito: Construction Course



August 2021

The Cerrito build of La Rampa was the second home of the PSA apprenticeship programme. During that period, one of our 6 apprentices Jhikson Akamine Garcia particularly proved himself to be the most motivated and hardworking candidate. He was eager to learn from every builder that was there, always asking smart questions and carrying out his tasks brilliantly. He clearly was leading his team and started rapidly to also act as a teacher to them, wanting to raise them to his level.

The 200 sq meters skatepark he built for his community was a great design to learn all the basics of skatepark construction from groundwork, steel frames & wood structures to concrete finishing. He learnt fast how each power tool works and made great use of them, starting to understand the process of preparing obstacles for concrete.

Every week, different workshops were carried out following the process of skatepark building as well as the build progress. After getting familiar with the groundwork steps (Site organisation, materials, levels, filling, digging, shaping and compacting dirt, building foundations and walls, site and obstacles topography), Jhikson spent his second week mastering steel work (placing coping on levels, cutting, bending and welding tubes, putting up angle profile steel frame together) and his third week understanding woodwork for concrete obstacles (What guides or panels to cut, how to place them on level and how to assemble and support them) while his last week was dedicated to learn everything he could about concrete (calculating cubics, mixing ratio, placing, shaping, finishing).



‘It exceeded my expectations because I learned new things from the guys on the international team.’

Jhikson, 2021

Lobitos: Continuity of Learning



September 2021

After completion of the Cerrito skatepark we left to Lobitos with some of our apprentices, who desired to keep on learning the craft, to build a bowl with a small street course around it. In this particular context outside of direct programming, our former apprentices were provided with continuity of learning in the framework of being more independent on a build site but still surrounded by professionals who were there to provide any support needed. During this time, they felt more comfortable voicing their opinions and taking on initiatives following the strength of their Cerrito experience. They needed less guidance and were able to work like any other builder. Jhikson proved again to be a strong force of the build in this context, as he was confident and comfortable in any situation and could easily tackle any challenges coming his way. It also gave him the confidence to pursue building skateparks for his community.



‘Lobitos was a lot more work than Cerrito de La Virgen, but it helped us to be stronger and work under time pressure.’

Jhikson, 2021

Morocco: Continuity of Learning



March-April 2022

In March 2022, CJF went to Morocco to build a skatepark for a children's home near Marrakech. We then decided to invite Jhikson to show him our gratitude towards his dedicated involvement at CJF Peru and to provide him with another great opportunity to work with professional builders from the industry as well as travel outside of his country for the first time. He came with us before the rest of the building crew to organize the site, shop materials and work on a bigger scale groundwork process. After that first week, he already decided to take responsibility for one of the biggest and more complicated obstacles from the design, in which he mastered every step of the process, making every other builder proud to be working with him. He proved himself to be a highly reliable worker, caring about deadlines, about details and finishes and being overall an essential addition to the team. On the second obstacle he took responsibility for, he even offered smart design upgrades that were approved by the rest of the team. After this project, We all consider Jhikson as a professional builder.



'I wanted to learn how to build a free-fill'

Jhikson 2022

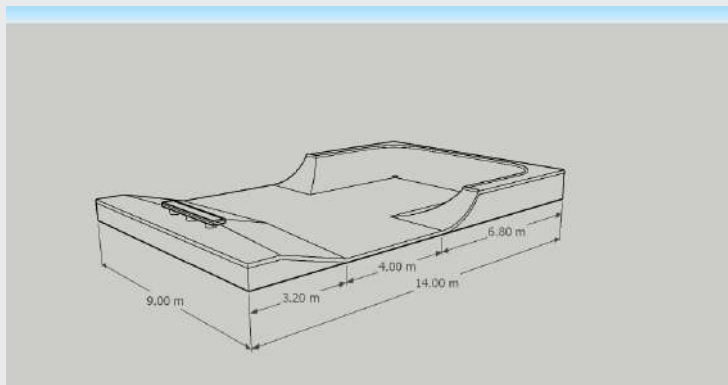


Cusco: project on his own

September 2022

Just a few months after coming back from Morocco, Jhikson was invited to Manage a 126 sq meter project for the Oye Lena NGO near Cusco. He planned everything himself from the start : designing, budgeting, logistics, managing a team.

Oye Lena is now running weekly Edu-Skate classes (learning life skills through skateboarding) under the guidance of CJF Peru.



Trujillo: project on his own

October 2022

Upon his return to his hometown of Trujillo, Jhikson went on straight to the construction of a new obstacle in his local skatepark 'Santa Edelmira'. To finance the project, he organized a fundraising event where he sold fried chicken.

PRO FONDOS
- SKATEPARK SANTA EDELMIRA 2022 -

Obstáculo :
S/650.00 !!

**CONCRETE
JUNGLE
FOUNDATION
PERU**

Se realizará una pollada Pro fondos construcción de un nuevo obstáculo en el Skatepark Santa Edelmira , este Sábado 5 de Noviembre de 11:00 a 3:00 pm .

También puedes ayudar con estos materiales:
CEMENTO -ARENA -AGUA -MADERA -FIERRO

-Contáctanos-
920881068 - 931026817 **S/. 15.00**



Grant: The Skatepark School



November 2022

In November 2022, Jhikson has been awarded a grant to attend a skatepark design course from pioneering school, The Skatepark School, an online training school created by industry professionals from Australia for anyone looking to get into the particular craft of skatepark design



‘It will bring me more professionalism to my work and new design ideas that in Peru we still do not see, I hope to learn more techniques to design and inspire me with new ideas and I would love to finish a skatepark for a future project in 2023 in Peru.’

Jhikson, 2022



<https://concretejunglefoundation.org/interview-the-skatepark-school-wade-trevean>



<https://concretejunglefoundation.org/cjf-the-skatepark-school-jhikson-awarded-grant>

Cambodia: Skateistan's skatepark extension with New Line Skateparks

February 2023

Through our partnership with New Line Skateparks, Jhikson was invited to join the New Line skateparks team in their mission to extend the Cambodia skatepark for Skateistan.

