

Activity Report

March 2023
Tamesloht, Morocco

*Continuity of Learning
Skatepark Maintenance
Mosaic Mural Project
Steel Art Project*

CONCRETE JUNGLE
foundation



Table of Contents

1/ Introduction

A. Purpose	1
B. Context	2-3

2/ Summary

A. Crew	4
B. Location and timeline	4
C. Tools	5
D. Materials	5
E. Finances	6

3/ Youth development: programmes and activities

A. Continuity of Learning ●	
I. PSA & CL	7
II. New challenges	8
III. Tasks and skills	8
IV. Apprentices and feedback	9-16
V. Tools given	16
B. Skatepark Maintenance ●	17-18
C. Mosaic Mural Project ●	19-23
D. Steel Art Project ●	24-26

Annexes:

A. Day by Day	A1-A2
B. Before/After	B1-B6



1/ Introduction

A. Purpose

1. **Skatepark Maintenance**
(Lisa, John and 3 apprentices)
2. **Continuity of Learning**
(Lisa, John and 3 apprentices)
3. **Mosaic Mural Project**
(Lisa, Jean-Marc, Emeline, Tim, Kyrian, 3 apprentices and 20 children during sunday workshops : 5 groups of 4 children)
4. **Steel Art Project**
(Lisa, John and 1 apprentice : Simo)

Recommendation : It is good to plan a little side project when doing maintenance because fixing and repairing is less exciting than creating something new. It is recommended as well to consult more with apprentices about the kind of project they would like to do and what they want to learn most.

B. Context

1. **Skatepark Maintenance** (*terrain inspections and repairs*)

One of the principal benefits of building a concrete skatepark is that it is built to last and once the park is completed the costs are generally very minimal. However, adhering to some basic principles of repairs and maintenance can prolong the integrity of the skatepark and keep it safe. Having a quality concrete skatepark built is a huge investment and one that is worth preserving. A little maintenance can really go a long way.

The increasing popularity of skateparks means they endure a lot of regular use, with most skateparks being exposed to the elements, they also suffer from wear and tear. To keep the standard of our skatepark at its peak, our local staff carry out regular inspections. Frequent skatepark inspections make sure we can get ahead of any damages and prevent injuries.

Our local staff on the ground were able to identify areas that needed maintenance work and after sending a small team on the ground we could conduct a need assessment to determine the best solutions to fix and prevent further problems.

2. Continuity of Learning

While this trip schedule was full with a lot to accomplish, the main focus was to engage local apprentices in all activities and guide them through every step, making sure they can take good care of the skatepark in the future and that they learn the most during all tasks and workshops. The aim being to foster a sense of ownership and leadership within the skatepark community and the broader Moroccan skate scene.

During the build of the Fiers & Forts Skateparks in spring 2022, 4 apprentices took part in the Planting Seeds Apprenticeship programme (PSA), a 5 weeks course designed to train local youth in the diverse skills set required for concrete skatepark construction such as groundwork, carpentry, welding, concrete shaping and polishing while getting to build their own skatepark from start to finish.

In order to provide more learning opportunities for the apprentices, CJF committed to follow up on and involve them in all further development at the skatepark and beyond. Following up on their progress and interests, CJF is designing Continuity of Learning experiences tailor made for them and the community needs.

3. Mosaic Mural Project

We planned to execute a mosaic mural on one of the obstacles walls. This project was well prepared ahead of the trip as the design phase was conducted by our programmes director on the ground with the children from the center. Our aim was to provide creative workshops to expand the skills set of our apprentices, new enrichment activities for the children and engage all in the space decoration.

4. Steel Art Project

As part of the Mosaic project, we included steel ornaments on the wall to provide more welding training to one of our apprentices that expressed his desire to experiment more with this craft.

2/ Summary

A. Crew

- 1 construction manager : Lisa Jacob
- 1 coordinator on the ground : Tim van Asdonck (Programmes Director)
- 1 expert in concrete maintenance/ teacher : John Seaman
- 1 volunteer : Jean Marc Soulié (CJFamily member)
- 2 extra help on the ground : Emeline (CFF staff) & Kyrian Dorne (CJF Morocco Programmes Manager)
- 3 local apprentices : Kamal, Hanota & Simo

Recommendation : We should have planned 10 days to not be in the rush the last few days. It was definitely a bit too much planned for such a short amount of time, Mosaic is always a super long process.

Recommendation 2 : Stop planning work trips during Ramadan because apprentices can't drink water while working.

B. Location and Timeline



22 - 30 march 2023 (*1st week of ramadan*)

Centre Fiers & Forts, Tamesloht, Morocco

Working days : **7 days**

The crew was staying at the CJF Morocco staff house with Hanota (5 min from the park)



C. Tools

2 days rental of two big power tools :

- Cut off power saw (with fuel)
- Jackhammer on chord

We brought :

- 2 welding machine (Lisa & Simo)
- 1 angle grinder (Lisa)
- Concrete tools (John and Lisa)
- Consumables (all different kind of disks, welding sticks)

Recommendation:

One grinder is definitely not enough, we lost a lot of time waiting for it to be available since it is a multi versatile tool that can be used for many things. Maintenance requires this power tool a lot for cutting concrete and buffing concrete, repairing the rail, same with mosaic for cutting tiles and for the steel project with cutting and polishing rebars.

Note: We had remaining tools from last year

D. Materials

Skatepark Maintenance :

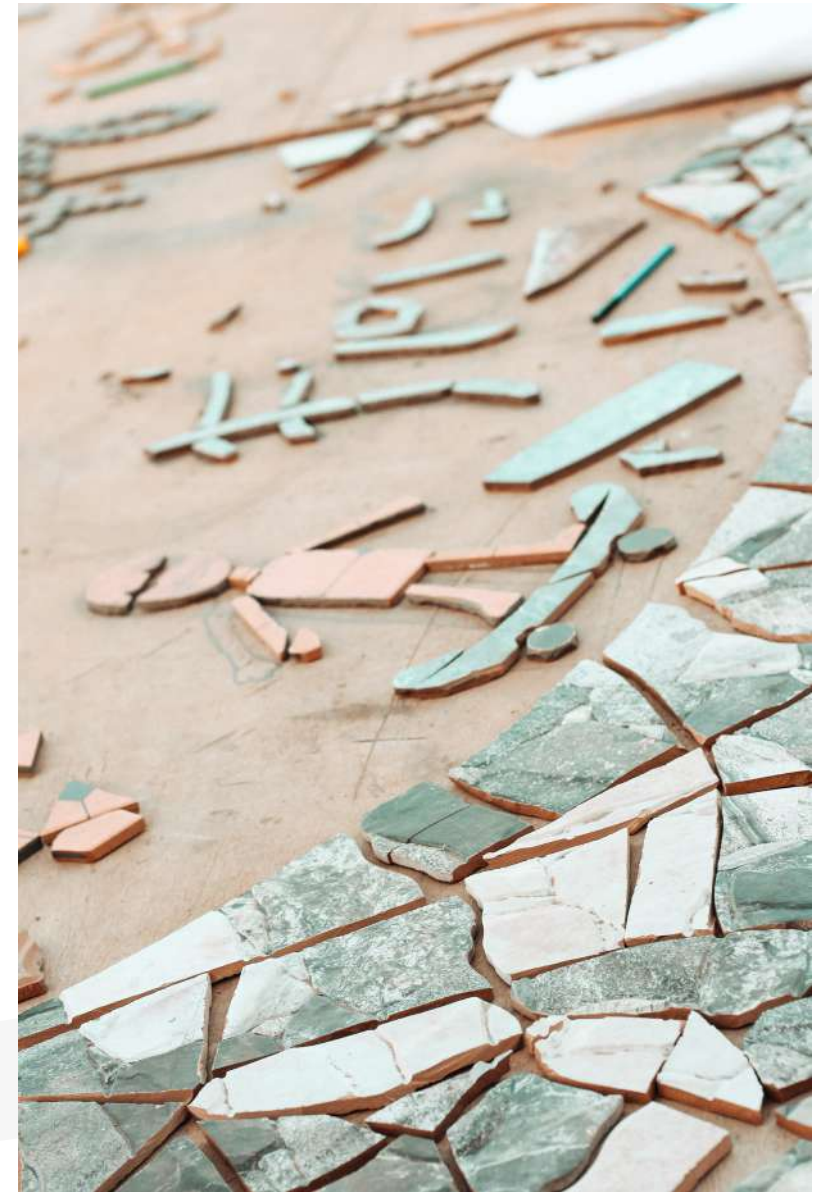
- Cement bags (x5)
- Sand bags (x9)
- Pigments (x4)
- Silicone (x4)

Mosaic Mural Project :

- Ceramic tiles
- Tile adhesive 50kg (x3)
- Grout joints 25 kg (x3)

Steel Art Project :

- Rebars (x4)



E. Finances

Rentals machinery ●

Cut off power saw	dh500.00
Jack hammer	dh500.00
Fuel	dh100.00

Materials ●

Pigments	€47.60
Safety gloves	€7.90
Small items	€57.74
Silicone	dh180.00
Rebars	dh202.00
Cement bags	dh390.00
Sand bags	dh100.00

Mosaic workshop ●

Ceramic tiles (leftovers)	dh100.00
Ceramic tiles	dh350.00
Tils adhesive	dh189.00

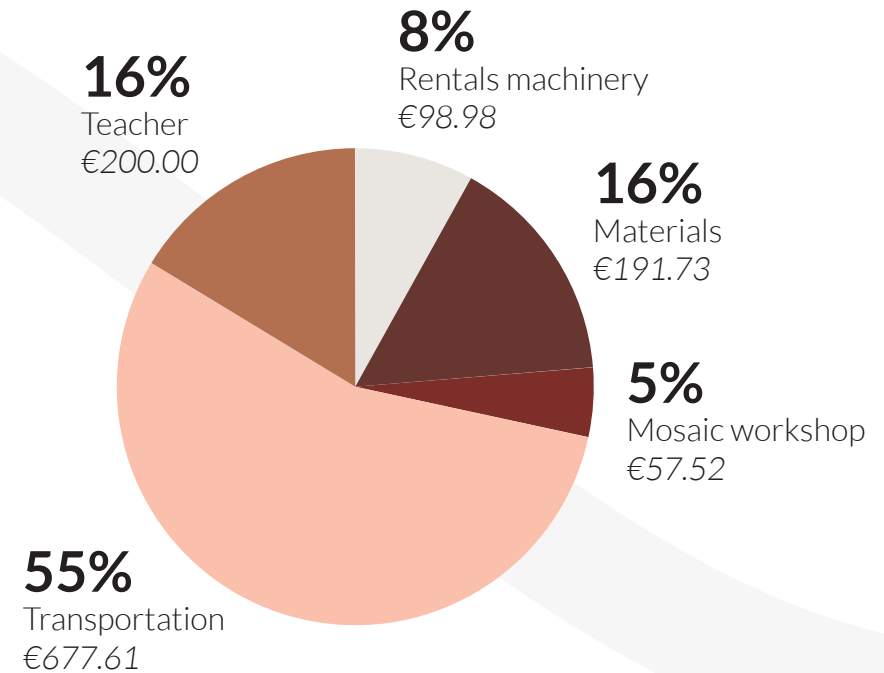
Transportation ●

Flights	€655.83
Train	dh242.00

Administration ●

Teacher	€200.00
---------	---------

Total: €1,225.84



Recommendations: We overestimated cement, sand, rebars as we had a bit of leftover at the end but underestimated mosaic materials as we had to buy two more tile adhesive bags and last day we ran out of grout for the joints.

Note: We had a lot of leftover materials on site : metal sheet, tables, wood, gravels.

Note 2: 2/3 of the ceramic tiles we used were broken leftovers Tim purchased before we arrived.

3/ Youth Development: programmes & activities

A. Continuity of Learning ●

I. PSA & CL

CJF aims to see local youth from its projects being able to grow and develop their skate community further. To become active and engaged members of their community, the youth need to be at the forefront of every new development that will build their scene. Being part of it is the first step towards taking leadership in shaping skateboarding culture.

Planting Seeds Apprenticeship

The Planting Seeds Apprenticeships (PSA) programme is a paid apprenticeship in the field of skatepark construction for local youth to learn from industry experts how to build a concrete skatepark from A to Z and hard skills training in various crafts such as carpentry, welding, concrete shaping & finishing.

This programme aims to provide the necessary skills, knowledge and tools to support the development of emerging skate communities in contexts lacking resources and infrastructures as well as tackle the lack of expertise and workforce in the field.

Continuity of Learning

Learning a craft and getting expertise in a field takes time, skatepark construction is no exception which is why we aim to provide further chances at trying and mastering handicrafts and hard skills for our apprentices.

Providing mobility opportunities and broader cultural experiences are also part of the Continuity of Learning as much as teaching hard skills.

In this context, CJF partners with other organizations, schools and skatepark companies to offer the learning opportunities everyone deserves as well as developing in house targeted programming activities to enhance apprentices motivation, inspiration, confidence, skills and life experiences.

II. NEW CHALLENGES

- Fixing cracks on slabs
- Fixing levels issues in connecting slabs
- Fixing holes at the concrete surfaces
- Fixing chipped off joints
- Edge profiling/grinding concrete obstacles edges
- Fixing a rail
- Covering an exposed brick wall
- Planning and preparing a mosaic mural to execute with kids
- Planning and executing an ornamental iron work project

III. TASKS & SKILLS

- How to buff concrete on flat slabs to level it out
- How to cut concrete with a powered cut off saw
- How to enlarge expansion joints
- How to silicone joints
- How to grind obstacle edges to round it
- How to pour, screed, float and finish concrete
- How to plaster a wall
- How to bend rebars
- How to tack weld tiny pieces together
- How to do weld beams
- How to fit a design in an obstacle (measuring, tracing, drawing, reporting measures)
- How to cut ceramic tiles in shape
- How to stick tiles on a wall
- How to pour ceramic joints



IV. APPRENTICES & FEEDBACK

All apprentices had the chance to be involved in all activities and tasks going on during this trip. However they all showed specific interest in various aspects :

Hanota,

most involved in **Skatepark Maintenance**



Activities:

Mixing concrete, pouring concrete, screeding concrete, floating concrete, finishing concrete, breaking concrete, buffing concrete, silicone joints, edge grinding, wall plaster, measuring & tracing for mosaic plans, cutting tiles, sticking tiles, pouring ceramic joints and cleaning tiles

Kamal,

most involved in the **Mosaic Mural Project**



Activities:

Mixing concrete, pouring concrete, screeding concrete, floating concrete, finishing concrete, cutting joints, buffing concrete, wall plaster, sticking tiles, welding the rail back, cutting & bending steel, welding the steel tree

Simo,

only one involved in the **Steel Art Project**



Activities:

Mixing concrete, pouring concrete, screeding concrete, floating concrete, finishing concrete, wall plaster, measuring, tracing & drawing for mosaic plans, cutting tiles, sticking tiles

Notes & Recommendations:

They had a free time frame of work because of Ramadan first week and the fact that they were volunteers this time. It worked all right the first few days : they were arriving a bit later than us in the morning, going back to the house at lunch to sleep a few hours and coming back working a few hours before sunset. For the reasons listed above we recommend avoiding Ramadan time frame for work trips as it is too hot and not possible for them to work all day long in the baking sun without drinking water, and we recommend making a working hours schedule to commit to.



A survey has been conducted after the trip in order to gain constructive feedback from our apprentices. Here are a few insights and suggestions based on the data collected and analyses :

✔ Even though **100%** of the apprentices mentioned that CJF staff was helpful and supportive, we had one constructive comment : regarding the wall plaster task, it has been notified that an apprentice knew how to do that and didn't feel he could lead the activity/ share his knowledge because he didn't want to disturb the plan we've prepared. So we recommend from now on, that before explaining any workshops, task or activity to ask apprentices if they know about it first and if yes that they explain to the other apprentices and lead the activity, we might also learn from their ways and their own personal experience.

✔ Ownership and leadership over the skatepark has been emphasized as the local youth don't want to depend on people from the outside all the time. Desire for autonomy and independence has been expressed :



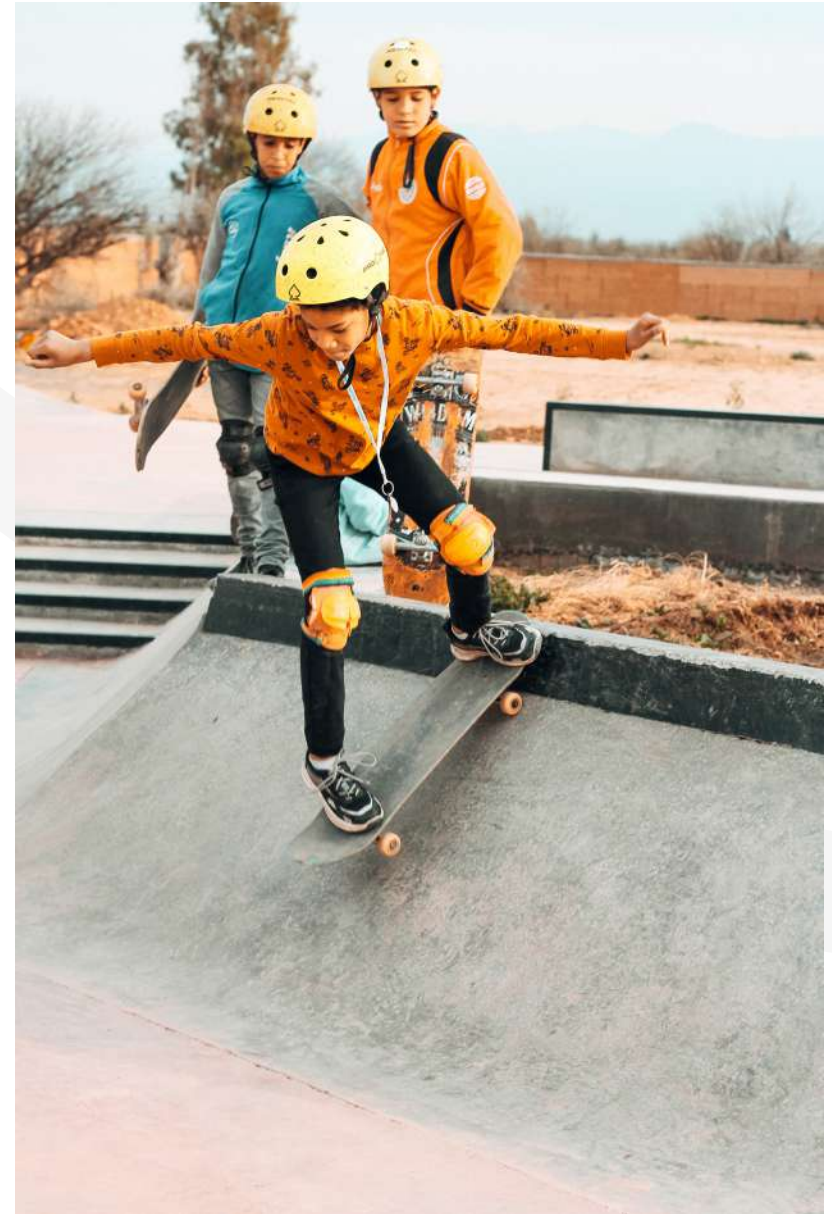
“I work in the skatepark; so we need to do this, not depend on people from outside to spend their time. I feel I can do this”

- ✔ 100 % of the apprentices replied affirmatively to the question : 'Would you feel comfortable taking on concrete repairs at your local skatepark by yourself?', which is a success in passing leadership and autonomy in the skatepark maintenance tasks. '
- ✔ 100 % of the apprentices understood the importance of skatepark maintenance, here's why in their opinion :

"Because if you don't do anything about problems in the park, they become bigger until the park is unskatable"

"For the safety"

"To ensure that it (the space) is operating as successfully as possible"



- ✔ Simo answered that he mastered his welding skills during that week, while working on the steel sculpture and that he would feel comfortable planning and executing by himself and steel ornamental project

Everyone enjoyed the mosaic project and one of them especially, here is why



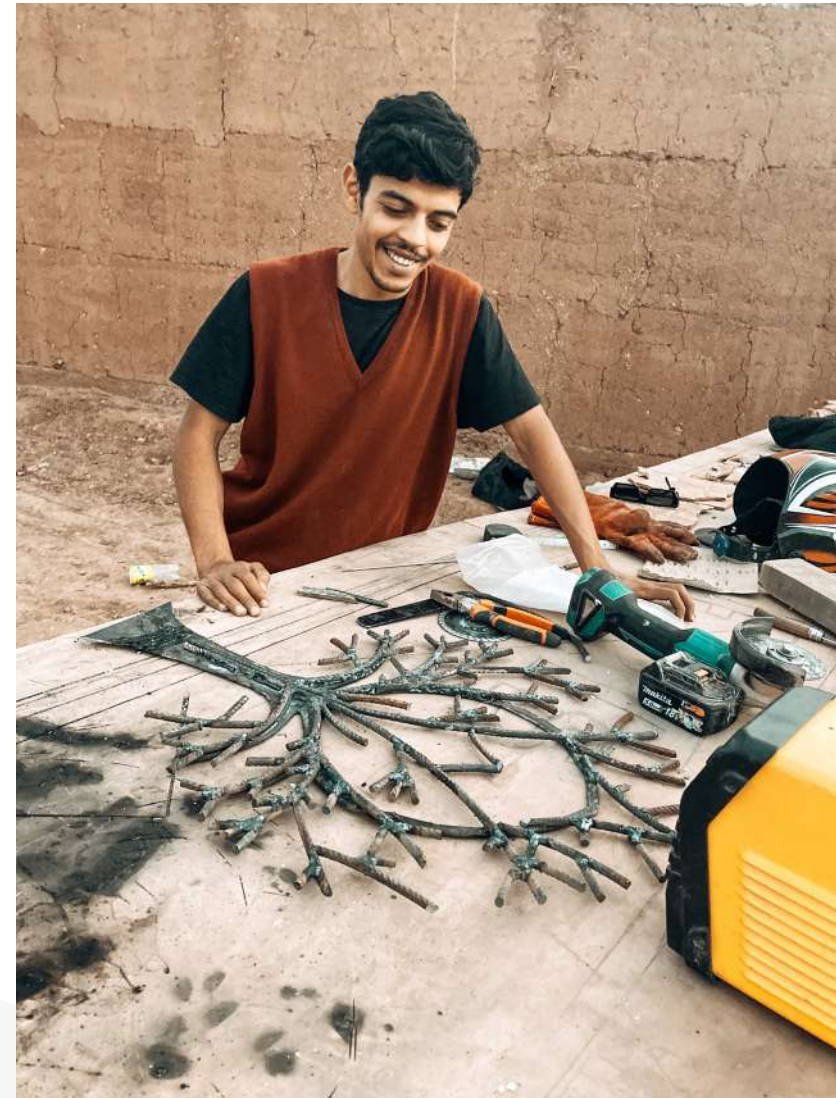
"You can really take your time to make something beautiful, rather than hard rushed work"



100 % of the apprentices responded that they would love to partake in more Continuity of Learning projects and they specified what they would like to learn:

Simo wants to learn designing skateparks :

"Design the plan of the skateparks and more practice about the construction of the skateparks"



✔ Kamal wants to learn" welding "



✔ Hanota wants to learn more about skatepark construction :

"I want to learn more about skatepark construction, I want to be involved in skatepark construction"



- ✓ Our apprentices are already thinking about how they can take what they learn during that week outside skateboarding, in their life :

"To do mosaic workshops with kids from for example schools or youth organizations"

V. TOOLS GIVEN

- 1 Cordless angle grinder
- 1 Batteries charger
- 1 5 amperes Battery
- 1 finisher
- Multiple grinder discs
- 1 respiratory mask
- 1 knee pad



B. Skatepark Maintenance

Concrete skateparks have an average life span of 20 years and are built to withstand the elements and heavy use. However, a concrete skatepark benefits from preventative maintenance to extend its life and keep it in good shape for its community. Maintenance demands for concrete skateparks are infrequent compared to other sports facilities but should be scheduled on a regular basis to keep areas safe and functional.

Skateparks are designed for heavy use, and with heavy use comes wear and tear. It's natural for a well-loved skatepark to need maintenance over time, and

by scheduling routine skatepark assessment and scheduled maintenance, we can minimize the effects of wear and tear on their park.

A well-maintained skatepark is safer for both active and passive users, and can be enjoyed for decades longer than a park with wear and tear that goes ignored.



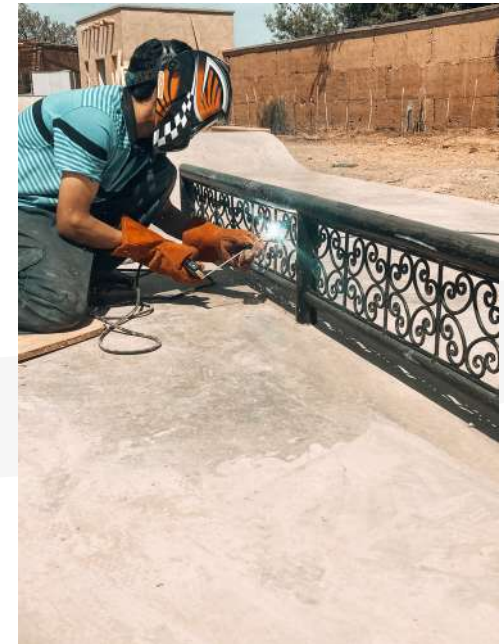


Crew:

- John
- Lisa
- Hanota (apprentice)
- Simo (apprentice)
- Kamal (apprentice)

Activities:

- Levels problems between slab connexions and big cracks
- Top of china banks holes and level under steel edge
- Holes at the flat surface (due to big pieces of wood)
- Chipped off joints
- Iron work missing on the flat rail
- Worn out concrete obstacles edges



Recommendations :

- We recommend programming a bit of theoretical background to explain crack prevention in concrete structure and share a lesson on cutting joints and where to place them to include in the PSA next build. For the maintenance trip, we should have done a bit more theory & talking I feel like, I mean it has been done on the spot but maybe next time better we all sit together an hour and communicate to everyone at the same time to be sure the knowledge is equally shared among all of us/them.
- Definitely need 2 grinder minimum.
- Jackhammering concrete is what takes the most time and is the less enjoyable .

C. Mosaic Mural Project ●

We want the space we work and play in to feel like a second home for the whole community and what better way to do that than decorating the park. It is as much as building something new as enhancing the visual aesthetics of the place.

And it is also about broadening horizons and providing diverse skill sets for our apprentices while offering exciting enrichment activities for the children from the centre.



Phase 1: Design



Crew:

- Tim
- Emeline
- Fiers & Forts' children



Phase 2 : Preparations



Crew:

- Kamal
- Jean-Marc
- Emeline
- Lisa
- Hanota
- Simo

Activities:

- Mixing mortar
- Plaster the wall
- Measuring/tracing lines/ drawing
- Cutting Tiles (tracing outlines on an entire tile piece, cutting, breaking with a small hammer, spreading the remaining pieces apart to leave 6-10mm joints space)
- Having all the design elements (letters/patterns/objects) pre-cut and pre-assembled on a table



Notes & Recommendations :

- Preparations are crucial for project outcome and even though we were preparing well with everything laid out on two tables, we should have put wooden boards between tables and tiles to transport them to the mural because the time you take your tile pieces from the table to the wall it is impossible to remember where the piece goes.
- The wall plaster was the fail of the week : it dried too fast and the mix was too sandy, so the wall was crumbly and some tiles were not sticking properly, so we had to take them out with the plaster that was falling apart and cover the holes with other layer or tile adhesive.

Phase 3: Execution



Crew:

- Fiers & Forts' children
- Kamal
- Emeline
- Jean-marc
- Lisa
- Kyrian
- Hanota
- Tim
- Simo
- Ibrahim

Activities:

- Check if everything works together (spaces & proportions), report measurements and references points of elements on the wall
- Mixing tile adhesive
- Putting tile adhesive and stick tiles to the wall starting with design elements (never start in the middle, start with elements outlines)
- Fill up the background
- Clean all joints from tile adhesive remains
- Pour grout into joint spaces (possible to add pigments to change grout color)
- Clean all ceramic tiles with sponge and water (after 5/10min)



Notes & Recommendations :

-While it is complicated to do a mosaic mural it was a collaborative, intergenerational work in which everyone could join at any time which was a good social experience between CJF staff, CFF staff, children, even Brahim the children educator came one morning to work with us, one kid that dropped out of school spent two days with us helping out on this project.

- Using leftover tiles is cheaper but not the best for design aesthetics as you just go with what you have

The workshop

We had 20 children coming for mosaic workshops on the Sunday divided into 5 groups of 4 children that we spread both sides of the corner wall : 2 children each side with at least 2 supervisors from us (mainly Jean-Marc, Emeline and Tim on the right side and Kamal, Kyrian and me on the left side with extra help from Hanota and Simo sometimes)





D. Steel Art Project

We took the mosaic mural project to new heights by incorporating a unique steel element into the design. This provided an opportunity to play with textures and materials and proved to be an excellent exercise for Mohamed Essafiry to showcase his newly acquired welding skills, honed through the Planting Seeds Apprenticeship program during the skatepark build. We're proud to say that he's now a master of the craft, taking our creative projects to the next level.



Foreword.

Ornamental iron work is a very nice project to do to work on metal cutting and welding skills while doing something else than rails and ledges frames, which induces more freedom in the preparation and execution process since we are doing something new that hasn't been done before so we have to plan it the smartest we can, which is in my opinion the fun part with the excitement of having no idea how it will end up looking like.

John had the idea and he started it by drawing on the metal sheet he found from last time, he cut the base of the tree from the sheet, then the idea was to add all the small branches with 8 mm rebars. I started on the left side of the tree, we put the metal sheet base on the table and retraced a circle around it since all the branches end at the circle edges (all symmetrical) .

Since Simo brought his welding machine (Bob's gift from the build) and repaired the rail easily, I put him on tree, first to test his welding skills by making him do weld beams along the rebars that I tack weld onto the metal sheet, he did a really good job so I trusted him to take over the project : he finished the left side and did all the right side on his own. He was counting all the branches from the design, measuring those on the left side and wrote a plan with everything he needed to cut and the dimensions. He was well organized and faster than me.





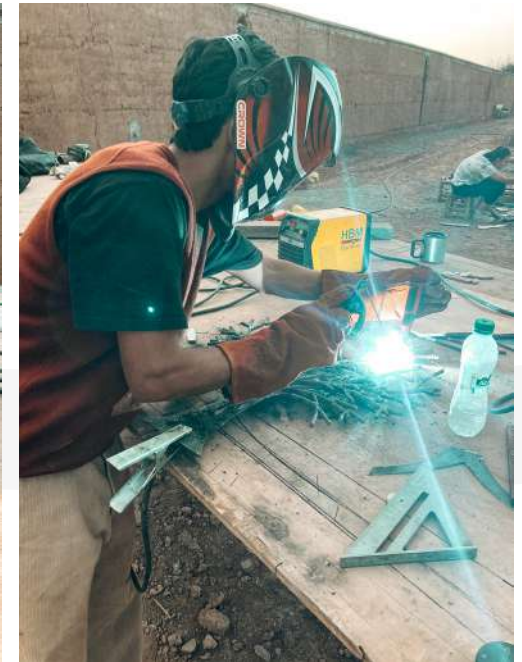
Crew:

- John
- Lisa
- Simo

Activities:

Project : Making the Centre Fiers et Forts tree logo in steel with a metal sheet and rebars to incorporate into the mosaic mural.

PSA Continuity of Learning : Enhancing Simo's welding skills (he didn't weld since last year skatepark build and kept interest and desire to practice more in that field, he even brought his own welding machine, gloves and mask)



Recommendations :

Simo proved to be a good welder as well as a good thinker in the preparation planning of the process. I complimented him a lot on how his work looked good and he was saying that it wasn't his but ours as we started working on it before him. It sounded like he would like to be independent working on his own steel projects. He definitely earned my trust and next time we should hear him out for any project ideas or if we submit a project idea let him work on it from the scratch on his own.

Annex 1: Day by Day

Wednesday 22nd of March , 2023

- Plane arrival
- Buying materials in Marrakech (Bricoma)
- Check the rentals (Cut off saw and jackhammer)
- Visit center and check the skatepark



Thursday 23rd of March , 2023

- Shopping in Tameshlot (cement & sand bags, rebars)
- Cracks assessment, taping the lines for cuts
- Cut & break the ground
- Mix mortar and plaster the wall
- Prepare a table for mosaic design : measuring and drawing



Friday 24th of March , 2023

- Keep on breaking the saw cut trenches
- Pre cut ceramic tiles with the grinder for kids workshop
- Draw & cut metal sheet for the steel tree project

Saturday 25th of March , 2023

- Shopping in Tameslouht (sand bags and silicone)
- Handmix morning to pour the flat trenches and the china bank top
- Buffing concrete on the flat
- Pre cut ceramic tiles
- Mark the wall
- Start cutting, bending and welding rebars for the steel tree



Sunday 26th of March , 2023

- Mosaic workshop with children : 5 groups of 4 children (20 in total) throughout the day, sticking tiles on the wall
- Silicone the joints that has been re cut
- Fixing the rail : welding back the ironworks on the rail



Monday 27th of March , 2023

- Day off

Tuesday 28th of March , 2023

- Shopping tile adhesive & welding sticks
- Cut square around holes in the flat (3)
- Buffing concrete on the flat
- Cutting & bending rebars
- Welding the rebars on the tree



Wednesday 29th of March , 2023

- Break the concrete & pour the flat holes
- Polish the steel tree
- Cut the tree in half & paint it
- Set the tree on the wall and weld it in place
- Mosaic wall sticking tiles



Thursday 30th of March , 2023

- Sticking last tiles on mosaic project
- Clean the joints
- Pour the joints and clean the tiles
- Edge grinding on the leaf and the slappy
- Plane back



Annex 2: Before/After

1. Levels problems between slab connexions and big cracks: bottom of the stairs

Before



After



2. Levels problems between slab connexions and big cracks: top flat of the stairs

Before



After



3. Top of china banks holes and levels under steel edge

Before



After



4. Holes at the flat surface (piece of wood)

Before



After

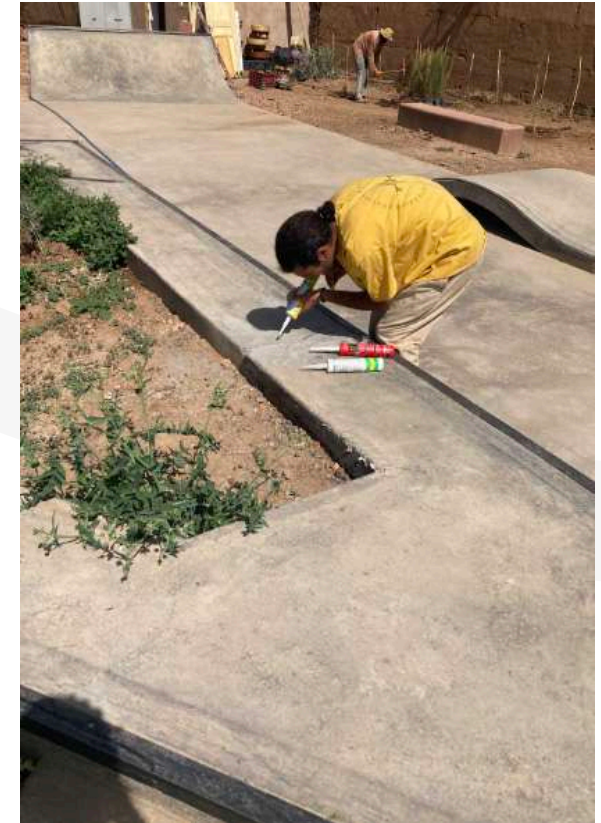


5. Chipped off joints

Before



After



6. Iron work missing on the flat rail

Before



After

