

Code	700018
Subject	Christina Keegan
Date	4/28/2010
Interviewer	Justin Burgy
Abstract	Christina Keegan grew up in Illinois but moved to Cleveland to attend Cleveland State University's Urban Studies program. She is working to establish a phytoremediation garden in the Tremont neighborhood with the hopes that the garden will encourage a sense of community among neighbors while removing lead contamination from the soil. She discusses the Cleveland Toe Path Trail and it's possible impact on the garden and the city.
Special Notes	
minutes:	0:58:11
	0 Intro, grew up in Normal, Illinois near a university.
	1 Describes fond memories growing up in Normal- all the neighbors would take care of each other.
	2 Talks about how she came to live in Cleveland. Attended Cleveland State University in the Urban Studies department.
	3 Discusses the decision to put a garden in the Tremont community.
	4 Tremont is centrally located and even though it is gentrified there is diversity.
	5 Tremont has a good housing stock and different levels of housing costs.
	6 First experience with the neighborhood was while visiting friend who lived there.
	7 The project developed out of the grant opportunity. Hears about the grant from Neighborhood Progress, Inc.
	8 Discusses how the garden project was developed.
	9 Talks about reading about Phytoremediation as a means to remove contaminants from the soil.
	10 Originally only six gardens were designated as Phytoremediation.
	11 Discusses why she wanted to write the grant and put a garden in the neighborhood.
	12 Talks about the problem created by suburban sprawl and recognizes the importance of utilizing land already near infrastructure.
	13 Discusses going to "Brown Field" workshops and other workshops. Most common contaminant in urban neighborhoods is lead.
	14 Talks about off site vs. on site Phytoremediation and other forms of remediation such as Bio remediation.
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	17 Talks about the plants used for Phytoremediation such as sunflowers.
	18 The plants take up the lead which raises concerns of how to dispose of the plants once the lead has been taken up.
	19 Talks about Hurricane Katrina and efforts to use Phytoremediation and the problem of just moving the lead poisoning to another area.
	20 Only have researched the process of Phytoremediation since the grant was approved.
	21 Discusses why lead is a problem in Tremont. Every house in Cleveland has lead in the soil due to paint, industry in the area, and car exhaust.
	22 Not sure where the lead contamination on this particular lot came from. Talks about the soil testing process.
	23 Discusses collaborating with Ohio State University managed community garden directly next door to the garden.
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	25 Talks about other city/community projects to improve the city.
	26 Talks about Local Food Cleveland.
	27 Discusses the Cleveland Toe Path Trail and how it had effected Tremont and the area near the garden.
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	29 Talks about city plans to have the toe path go through the garden property.
	30 Discusses what she hopes to accomplish with the garden.
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	32 Would like to see the project replicated and impact local communities.
	33 Anything that is planted will improve the neighborhood, would like to use the garden as a social gathering place.
	34 The garden creates connections with the neighborhood and can't be underestimated.
	35 If lead can be removed from the soil will create a healthy community with children suffering from less learning disabilities caused by lead poisoning.
	36 Discusses when she first become involved in community activities.
	37 Became more involved in "community" after she moved to Cleveland and started going to Cleveland State University.
	38 Talks about attending workshops from NPI. The grant application was very simple.
	39 Discusses how NPI could improve their outreach in the process for future projects.
	40 Talks about Ohio Green Print. com, the process finding lots was difficult for some people.
	41 Would have appreciated more chances to meet people in the field of Phytoremediation.
	42 Talks about needs not being met by the grant, everything needs to be donated due to limited budget.
	43 Discusses networking and how donations are acquired.
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	45 Describes how the neighborhood has responded to the garden project and met with some skepticism initially.
	46 Talks about what she expected from the community in the neighborhood.
	47 Talks about struggles to get neighbors to come to the community meetings about the garden.
	48 Discusses the concerns after funding end in November, partner is a grant writer so funding is less of a concern than for other gardens.
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	50 Talks about plans over the next five years.
	51 Would like to try different lots with other methods to remove soil contamination.
	52 Talks about the possibility of the project failing and what that would entail/mean to the community.
	53 Lack of time and knowledge is a concern for making the project work, but regardless the garden will be an asset to the community.
	54 Discusses plans after the five year lease period with the city ends.
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	56 Plans to stay in Cleveland. Want people to take a closer look around them to see how they could clean up lots around them.
	57 Works part time at NOACA and works for the city of Seven Hills.
	58 End.
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