Changemaking is Challenging
By: Lorenzo Murillo

This project has made me realize some things about the real world. One of them is trying to be a strong and powerful change maker, because there are so many people that are change makers but aren't noticed. Our group W. Chula Vista we started off with great motivation, and we were ready to start our adventure. Our cohort members didn't really know each other at all and we didn't know our skills. Even I wasn't aware of my skills, and through this project I was going to really dig deep and try and find them. Last year I was really not the person who I'm becoming this year. I have always liked to help people, and it doesn't matter if it's in a small or big way. I didn't really have the opportunity to manage a project that would do that, because I never really liked to lead people. The biggest area of growth for me as a changemaker is, becoming more outgoing and interacting more with people. I, along with some other group members, went to give a presentation to advertise our project in front of a group of people that lead organizations that make the community better. Just advertising our project I felt like is something that a lot of people don't do and it's just speaking up. That was a really memorable moment for me and I felt good at the end of it, because knowing that other people were interested in bettering our community is something big. It made me think how much people have great ideas, but aren't willing to spread the word and to make a meaningful impact it takes time and passion. We thought 4 months was enough time to make a change, but we barely scratched the surface with those months. You need a lot of support in order to start making a change, but this project did make me think and appreciate everyone's unique communities.

For growing as a person I grew in one specific topic which was public speaking. Which that tested me so much this semester omg you don't even know. Last year I wasn't even close to how I am right now when it comes to public speaking. I especially remember this moment last year in my steampunk project, because I had to write a spoken word and present in front of an

audience. So that's already really nerve racking, because I was horrified of speaking in front of people. Then came the day it was time, and I remember standing up there I hadn't even started and I was already shaking and sweating. People started coming up to me and I couldn't get the first words out, but when I did you could hear the uncomfortableness in my voice. It felt eternal standing up there, and thinking that every laugh, or pointing fingers was towards me, but it wasn't. I persevered through it and I definitely did not see myself doing it again. Then came this project, and one moment especifically where it tested me again was the presentation at the Chula Vista Gathering Center. I remember on the way there Mrs. Marisol, Kandy, and Valerie telling me to calm down, because I was getting nervous and I was starting to regret that I had volunteered to present. I knew I had to face it though. After that pep talk and thoughts in the car I felt like we fast forwarded and we were up on the stage getting ready to speak. When I started speaking I did not break down, and I was shocked for some reason I was expecting the worse, but it went amazing I felt like. After that experience I gained so much confidence it was crazy, and the best part was it felt natural to me. From that experience it gave me confidence for the speech that we had for the on campus summit. That one went even better I got complimented so much, and I realized that I was starting to get a liking for public speaking. Thanks to this project it gave me opportunities to redeem myself, and show people that I'm not a shy person when it comes to speaking. It helped me erase my bad experiences I've had on presenting, and it opened the door to one of my hidden skills. But I couldn't of started sculpting that person without the help from my amazing teachers, and peers I had.

W. Chula Vista just saying that word has a new meaning not mainly for the community, but it reminds me of my experience with my group this first semester. We had our ups and downs and that's what you expect from going into a project every year. I remember when i first sat down with my group, and we all didn't really know each other we were all new. We were also partnered with "We are Chula Vista" and we all had amazing ideas to begin with. We were like little kids with our creative ideas, and we felt like we had no limit to the ideas. Everything was rolling smoothly, and accordingly how we were planning. That was 8 weeks before our project was do.

Fast forward 4 more weeks, and everything wasn't looking so amazing. I was starting to stress, because we had not much time left and we hadn't started our project officially. We needed to go volunteer at a senior home, and we kept postponing when we were going to contact them. We thought those 4 weeks were enough, but we knew we really didn't have enough time. Fast forward 2 more weeks and now the pressure is starting to rise like a vacation.