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MAYOR EMANUEL OPENS WORLD-CLASS TENNIS CENTER IN WASHINGTON PARK
XS Tennis Village to Bring Tennis Programs, Education and Training to Thousands of CPS Students

Mayor Rahm Emanuel today joined Kamau Murray to cut the ribbon on XS Tennis Village, a state-of-the-art athletic complex in Washington Park. The tennis training facility will serve more than 4,000 youths from the South Side and beyond.

"XS Tennis is a place to develop champions on the court and in the classroom with the support of coaches, tutors and mentors," Mayor Emanuel said. "This new facility will provide a world-class space for young people across Chicago to train, to dream and to discover their full potential."

The 118,000-square-foot complex at 5336 S. State St. features 27 indoor and outdoor tennis courts, a 10,000-square-foot gym and a 5,000-square-foot academic center.

"This is a truly state-of-the-art location that will offer mentoring opportunities and life lessons to students across the City of Chicago," said XS Tennis founder and president Kamau Murray, a Chicago native who recently coached Sloane Stephens to a U.S. Open championship.

XS Tennis directly serves Chicago Public Schools (CPS) students and other youth through its free Tennis XSpess program, which stresses team work, self-confidence and sportsmanship through the game of tennis. The new facility will more than double the number of schools that participate in the program and enable XS Tennis to extend $300,000 in scholarship-based instruction to Chicago residents and CPS youth.

The site was formerly part of the Robert Taylor public housing complex. City support for the $16.9 million project includes $2.9 million in Tax Increment Financing assistance.

In 2015, Mayor Emanuel celebrated the opening of the $7 million, eight-court MetroSquash Academic & Squash Center in Woodlawn, where more than 300 youth learn academic, wellness and life skills through the game of squash.

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