

Design Clinic Notes

Date of Design Clinic: 3/10/19

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Directions: Before the cohort meeting when you will present your design clinic question, please write, (1) a few sentences of context related to the question in the "context" section, and (2) your question in the "question" section. Keep the context and question clear and simple.

Context:

Lopez Island has 3,000 year-long residents. I find it difficult to build long partnerships with people and organizations off island. We have a rich network on island, but need to extend. It's been a challenge to do things that more than a once-off. How can we be involved in more strategic partnerships?

Question:

How can we create long-lasting partnerships for education on a remote island (like Lopez)?

Notes

Clarifying Questions:

What do you want the partnerships to support?

Environmental education primarily.

Which ages?

Youth, K-12

Do you work with the community land trust there?

We do not for educational programming so far.

Are you looking for partnerships for students to leave lopez, for people to come to lopez?

Both--an exchange of people.

How many young people do you currently serve?

About 300.

What are your programs?

Summer workshop, youth mentoring, after-school.

Do the kids pay?

Yes, but we offer scholarships for people from families who can't pay.

Do you work with the local parks and monument?

Yes.

You have good local partnerships?

Yes. It would be enriching to look beyond.

What are the barriers?

Transportation is a big one. It's time-consuming whichever direction. Also, I'm relatively new and don't know all there is out there. It also takes time to develop partnerships beyond daily work.

Do you do overnight programs?

Yes.

Before your arrival had the community voiced that they wanted outside partnerships?

Yes.

What would bring people to Lopez Island?

Natural beauty--people like to spend extra time. The community is creative and knowledgeable. When people get the opportunity they appreciate it.

Which indigenous traditional territory?

Lummi.

Is there a local indigenous population?

No. there are important seasonal village sites. Indigenous histories are very scarce now.

What are the demographics on the island?

3,000 full-time residents. Twice as many in summer. Many second or vacation homes. We have higher than average seniors. Public school has 250 students, plus some that go to other schools. Roughly 300 youth.

What would you want to do with your youth off-island?

To explore the Salish Sea--environment, cultural history natural history.

Are youth on sports teams?

School takes care of a lot of that. Plenty of that going on.

This makes me think of:

American Indians assigned to reservations.

An opportunity to get the youth to work on the history of the island.

We can be isolated in any community we're in.

Effort that it takes to build relationships with other organizations, especially first nations whose traditional territories are there.

Community integration and a sense of place--plan to restore village sites.

How many people from Bellingham have never been to Lopez.

Common problem--same on Galiano Island.

You Might Try:

Partner with Whatcom Intergenerational High School to rebuild longhouses--build sister school partnership.

Facilitate an inter-island initiative--use interisland ferries.

Gulf Islands have a free water taxi service between islands to promote collaboration--BC ferries don't work well to get people between islands.

Hold meetings on ferry to do a big loop--include people as they come and go!

Host a retreat on Lopez Island for educators from around the region.

Partner strategically with WWU to facilitate a mentoring program.

Spending time developing your on-island program so that it's something that attracts people--you won't have to do work both ways. Draw them in and partnerships will grow organically.

Use a film festival to draw people to Lopez...build supplemental activities.

Find a sister environmental organization that serves youth on mainland, and do a direct trade of youth.

Engaging the youth to witness the tribal journeys that go through the islands during the summer.

Reach out to Coast Salish Youth Stewardship Corps--Sam Barr and Erin Licata--to integrate the groups.

Reach out to Shannon Point Marine Science Center in Anacortes.

Develop a documentary on Coast Salish histories with youth to show at FH film festival.

Come up to Galiano Island and do programming at our learning center, and we could come down to do the same on Lopez (Keith Erickson).

You might try offering free lodging or camping.

Ask the people who have a second home to offer it as free lodging to help a cause.

What Struck Me:

It's not just a challenge for me or not just for islands--partnerships are challenging and time-consuming no matter what. It starts with personal relationships.

Many suggestions you made are quite specific and I think I could tackle them in my daily job.

I have some starting points! I don't have to think of it as a big