HONORS THINK TANK: IT'S ALL HAPPENING AT THE HUB...OR IT WILL BE SOON

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Engaged pedagogy is pedagogy that embeds the learning in a community (Eyler & Giles 1999). The Honors Think Tank is a unique form of engaged pedagogy where students work collaboratively to identify a significant problem, and use the variety of disciplines represented in the group to derive and articulate a solution. The topic area for this year’s Think Tank is a two-block area on the west side of downtown Salt Lake City known as The Hub. With anticipated pressures for future land development in The Hub area, questions emerge about how best to channel public and private investment in the area to provide a setting for a vibrant and vital neighborhood. To assist in that process, the Think Tank is engaged in detailed historic, ethnographic, and policy research to inform a public design process for articulating a possible future for this part of our community. The results demonstrate the relative strengths of an emerging urban planning pedagogical approach utilizing six primary anchor points: (1) improvement of human settlements, (2) interconnections among community facets, (3) pathways of change, (4) diversity of needs and distributional consequences, (5) open participation, and (6) linking knowledge and collective action (Myers 1997).