Workshop on Design Thinking & Collaborative Problem-Solving – Fact Sheet

Number of participants: Minimum 12, maximum 30, will be divided into teams of 4-5

Length: Full day. Workshop activities run 5-6 hours not including breaks and lunch. *It's crucial that all participants commit to stay for the full day – the team-based format doesn't allow for any participants to miss any part of the workshop.* If lunch can be brought in during the workshop it helps with continuity of activities, otherwise we will take a break.

Room setup: *No theater seating!* The room must be open and configurable so groups of participants can work together – preferably with tables, or desks that can be moved into groups. It is also very important to have easels, boards, or wall space available for each group, as they brainstorm and prototype ideas.

A/V requirements: Projection for Prof. Widom's Macbook laptop is required, including audio capability if possible.

Internet requirements: None

Participant background: No background of any type is required. Ideally the teams will be mixed gender and include a variety of disciplinary interests. Participants can be a mixture of students at any level as well as non-students (e.g., instructors, faculty, administrators).

Participant preparation: No preparation is needed. Participants should wear casual, comfortable clothes, as there will be lots of moving around and interaction. Most importantly participants should come with an open mind, ready to be engaged and involved – for the workshop to be successful, everyone needs to be an active contributor.

Format: After warm-up activities and presentation of the design-thinking process, participants are divided into teams and given a design challenge. The remainder of the day is spent guiding teams through the design-thinking process in a highly interactive, fast-paced environment. The day ends with each team presenting their design solution, and participants discussing what they learned through the process.

Please see materials list on next page

Materials

The following materials are necessary for the workshop. If they are difficult to acquire or not available, please let Prof. Widom know in advance so she can plan accordingly. *In addition, each participant should bring a notepad or paper plus pen or pencil, for taking notes*.

- Post-it or other brand of sticky notes (approx. 6-10cm x 6-10cm): minimum 1 pad of 50+ sheets per participant
- Sharpies or similar felt pens: minimum 1 per participant, dark color, medium point preferred
- Large pads of white poster paper (approx. 50cm x 60cm): minimum 4 sheets per group
- Easels, boards, or wall space for poster paper: minimum two easels per group, or equivalent board or wall space where tape can be used
- Tape for poster paper: one roll per group

The following construction materials are useful when available, but no items are required. Other construction materials are also welcome. *Quantities are suggestions only – provide whatever quantities are readily available.*

- Colored construction paper (100 sheets)
- Scissors (1 per team of 4 participants)
- Tape (can be same as provided for poster paper)
- Staplers and staples (2-3 total)
- Fasteners: rubber bands, paper clips, binder clips
- String and/or yarn (2-3 total)
- Popsicle sticks or tongue depressors, straws, ribbon
- Aluminum foil (2-3 total)
- Cardboard