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“Learning by design workshop”

Research Component

This program was designed in direct response to Queensland Government *Design Strategy 2020* mandates (as part of the Toward Q2: Tomorrow's Queensland initiative) to 'Foster a Design Culture' and 'Build Design Knowledge and Learning'. It built on previous learnings from the *goDesign* and *Living City Workshop* Programs, but with a specific focus on generating teacher leadership within schools for design-led education and creative thinking across diverse subject disciplines.

By replicating the activity performed by students in the *Generation* workshop, teachers gained a mutual respect for all participants, including the students, establishing design thinking as a powerful and inclusive collaborative tool for the solving of complex global issues. The workshop uniquely combined urban and regional secondary school teachers and professional international and local designers, to establish critical strategic dialogue and propositions around the integration of design thinking into mainstream secondary school curriculum. It has encouraged valuable professional development opportunities in the education sector for designers, and has allowed teachers to engage in the powerful outcomes possible from design-based pedagogy, applicable in a multi-disciplinary global context.

This program has been a catalyst for further professional development programs for secondary teachers and discussion about research and dissemination of design-based learning activity with the Queensland Government Design Council and State Library of Queensland Design Minds Project. It has facilitated opportunities which link design practice, research, government and education to consider design as integral to creating adaptive communities. Outcomes from the program provide a foundation to address the lack of evidence-based research necessary to improve understanding, integration and delivery of design thinking in K-12 classrooms, in order to inform policy makers and future curriculums.