

Before the Meeting

"In the Chat"

- ★ Add your school to your name in Zoom and turn on cameras!
- ★ Drop your Name, School, Grade in the chat
- ★ Choose one question to answer in the chat:
 - What are your expectations or hopes for your time in RSVP?



Excellence and Equity

RSVP Meeting
September 3, 2026

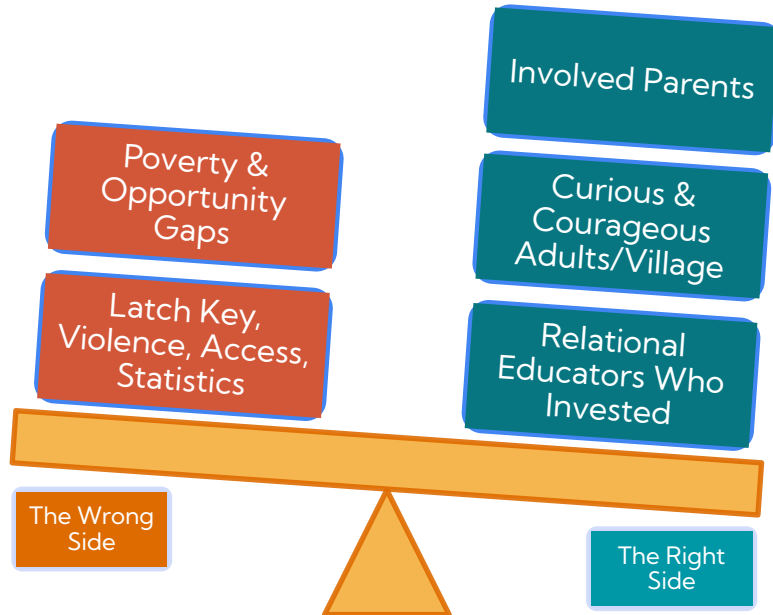
3:45 – 5:15 pm



The Early Years

Grew up in Long Beach and Compton
California in a single family home.

Product of two 1st to Attend College
Parents & Private and Public Education



It is not our differences...



"It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept, and celebrate those differences"

Audre Lorde

Who We Are...

44 Members

- 10 high schools represented
- 9 returnees
- 9 Student Board Member (SBM) semi-finalists & 5 SBM finalists
- 1 SBM (brief intro)
- 25 attended Design Institute

Demographics

- 30 Female, 14 Male Identifying
- 20 Juniors, 24 Seniors

● Races:

- 2+ races – 8
- Afro-Latina/o/x – 2
- Asian – 7
- Bengali – 1
- Black/African American – 2
- Filipino – 1
- Hispanic/Latino/a/x – 15
- Pacific Islander – 2
- White – 6

Agenda Overview

- Review RSVP Purpose and Alignment to V2035
- Engage in Welcome & Inclusion Activity
- Discuss Foundations for Co-design Partnerships & RSVP
- Overview of the Modes and Mindsets of Liberatory Design
- Canvas Course Overview
- Closure

Overarching Purpose

Raising Student Voice & Participation

Elevate student voice and student experience to inform school and district decision making (Core Values)

Provide a structure for two-way communication and co-design partnerships between adults and students (System Portrait)

Provide a safe place for students to activate the leadership skills that they are learning and/or developing in alignment with the Graduate Portrait

Build relationships between adults and students where all voices are equal (Adult Portrait)

Core Value

Centering Student Needs and Voice

We believe the every student has the ability to thrive and that success requires that we attend to the needs of the whole child.

We believe that incorporating student voice and building student agency, so that students can intentionally influence their own circumstances, are essential to our success in understanding and meeting each student's needs.

Graduate Portrait Elements



Students view diversities as assets to our inclusive community, understand the historical roots of racial and cultural biases that have led to institutional practices of oppression and know how to act in ways that promote equity and inclusion.



**Ethical
Problem Solver**

Students know how to apply diverse thinking, research, and problem-solving methods to develop creative solutions that address the needs of the people for whom the solution is intended.



**Interdependent
Collaborator**

Students value collaborating in diverse teams and know how to harness the collective genius of their team members to maximize productivity and reach outcomes.

Leadership and Listening



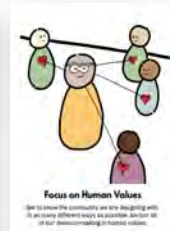
“One of the most sincere forms of respect is actually listening to what another has to say.”

Bryant H. McGill



Welcome & Inclusion

Community Agreements 25–26



1. Ask questions beginning with “Tell me more...” to surface what we don’t know, rather than asserting what we think we know
2. Build from the strengths, stories, & skills of the team and honor the wisdom in the community by creating opportunities for people share
3. Keep the problem *and* solution spaces open by listening to multiple, diverse perspectives rather than rushing to fix, making sure to include the voices of those most impacted by the challenge or the solution
 - Create collaborative spaces that prioritize inclusion and allow well-thought-out ideas to form
4. Put aside preconceived notions of how things should be and “be fearless” (wild ideas to spark creative courage and outside-of-the-box thinking)
5. Create opportunities for sense-making before decision-making by listening to diverse voices



Co-Design Partnerships & RSVP 2025-2026



“Every system is perfectly designed
to get the result that it does.”

Edward Deming, *Out of the Crisis* (2000)

Photo by [East Riding Archives](#) on [Unsplash](#)

We can't afford to
continue to think in
the same ways we
always have and yet
somehow expect
different results.



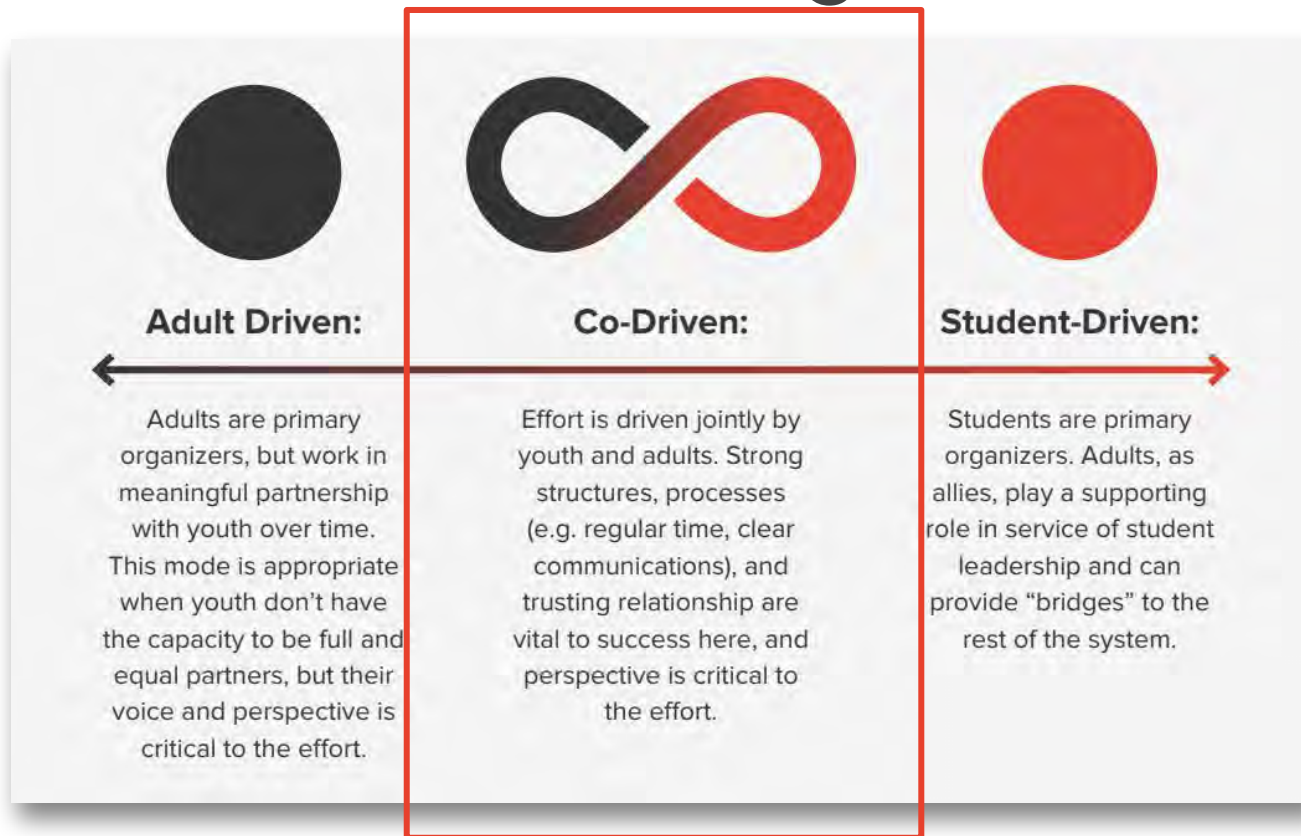
Photo by [David van Dijk](#) on [Unsplash](#)

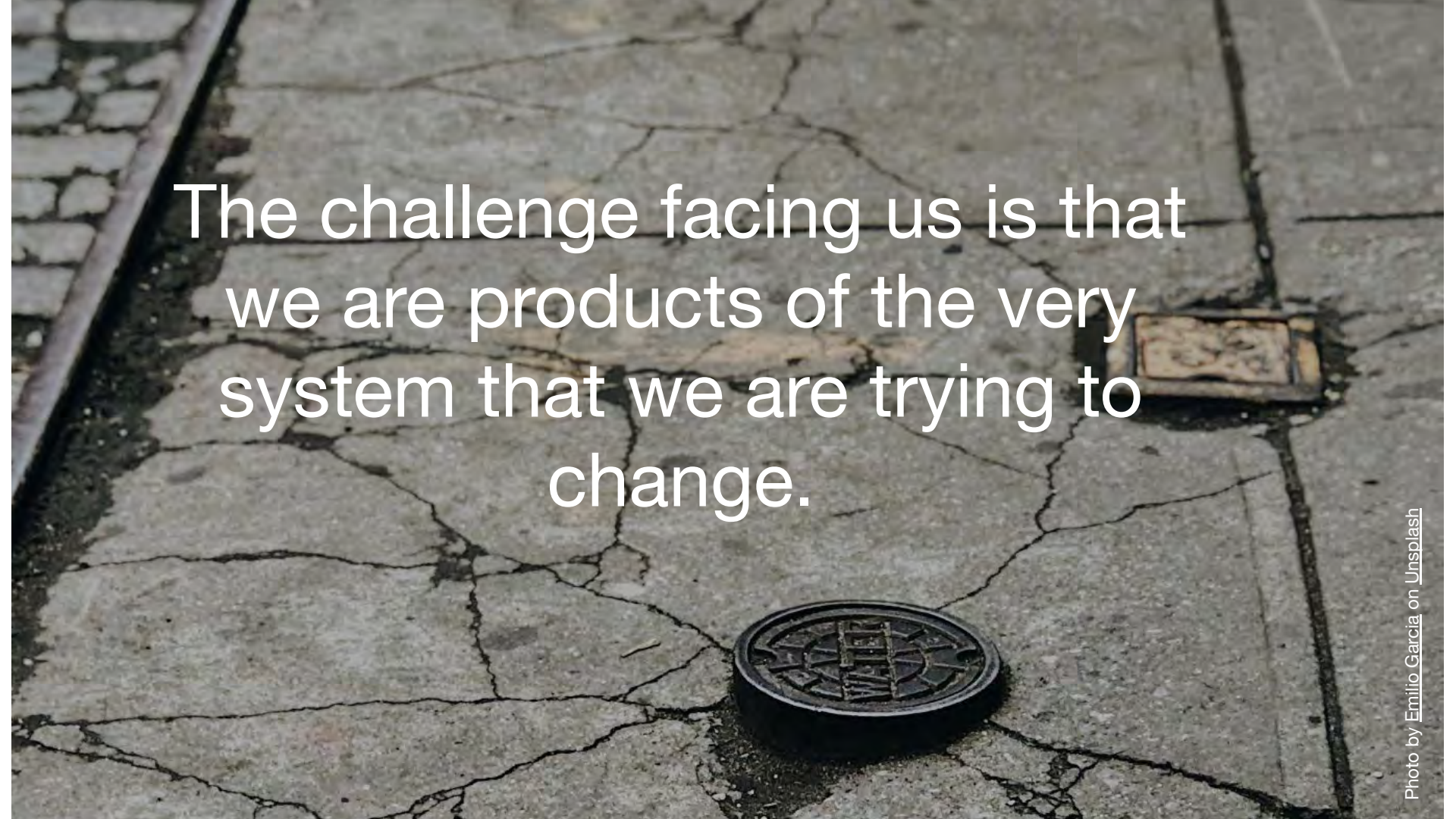
"Co-design is a broad term that refers to the **intentional** forging of a design **partnership** over time between people working together **across differences** in power, identity/perspective, role, etc. to create positive **change**.... Co-design processes make liberatory forms of creative **collaboration** possible between those in the system and those the system is meant to serve." (p. 5)



Source: [National Equity Project](#)

Co-Design



A photograph of a cracked concrete sidewalk. In the foreground, there is a circular metal manhole cover with a geometric pattern. To the right, there is a small, rectangular, weathered object, possibly a piece of wood or metal, lying on the ground. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.

The challenge facing us is that
we are products of the very
system that we are trying to
change.

Example 1 – World Map



- ❑ What do you notice?
- ❑ What do you wonder?
- ❑ What values or "realities" might this map reflect?

World Map



- ❑ What do you notice?
- ❑ What do you wonder?
- ❑ What values or "realities" might this map reflect?



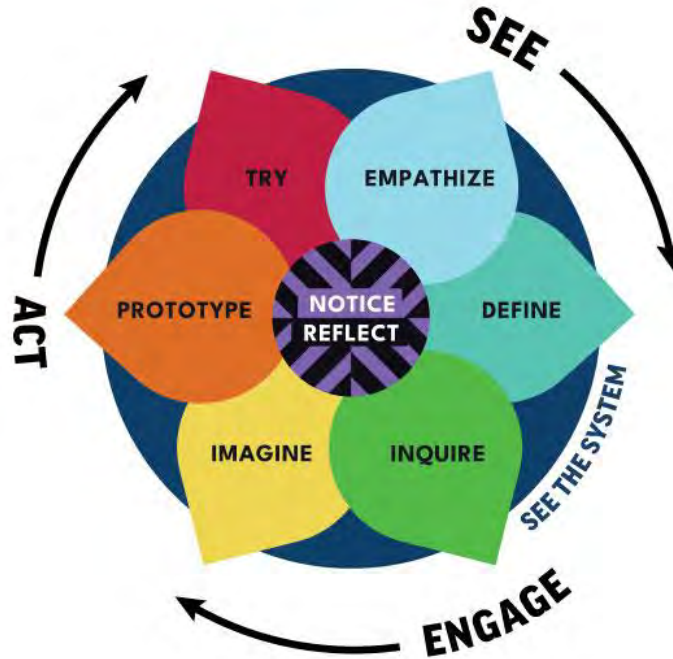
Discussion

How might what we learned by looking at these maps relate to our work this year?

Liberatory Design for Co-Design

Liberatory Design – Designing “With”

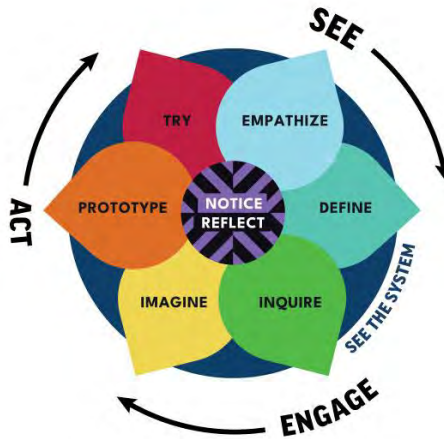
Source: [National Equity Project](#)



MINDSETS



MODES



Components of Liberatory Design

Liberatory Design Mindsets: Mindsets that can be used creatively to invoke stances and values to ground and focus your design practice.

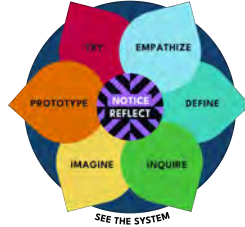
(Ways of *being*)

Liberatory Design Modes: Types of action that provide process guidance for your design practice.

(Ways of *doing*)



NOTICE and REFLECT are at the heart of liberatory design...



Helps designers & leaders:

- Practice **self-awareness** (own identity, values, emotions, bias, power, assumptions)
- Collectively build **situational awareness** (context, people, power, history, current state)

Helps designers & leaders:

- **Pause** mid-stream to **reflect** on actions, impact, emotions, relationship
- **Adjust** our intentions, presence, direction

The liberatory design **mindsets** support these.

Liberatory Mindsets





Practice self-awareness
(identity, emotions, power)
and situational awareness
(context, people, history)

Pause to reflect on actions,
impact, emotions, relationship -
and adjust intentions, direction,
presence

Share prototypes with
stakeholders - to learn and
improve your design

Listen to stories from those
impacted by the challenge - and
build relationship in the process

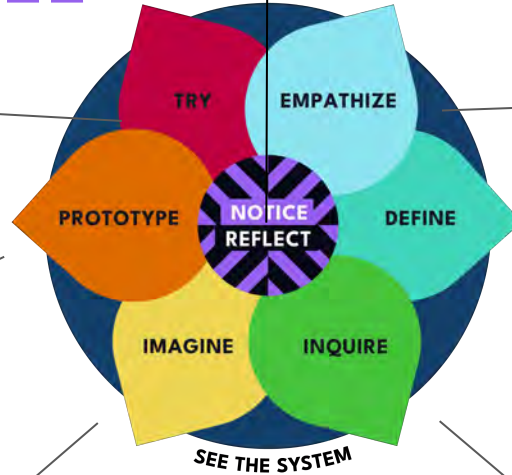
Build rough versions of
potential approaches - to
help you think and learn

Frame the challenge and opportunity;
determine how complex it is -- and if
we need to understand it better
before designing

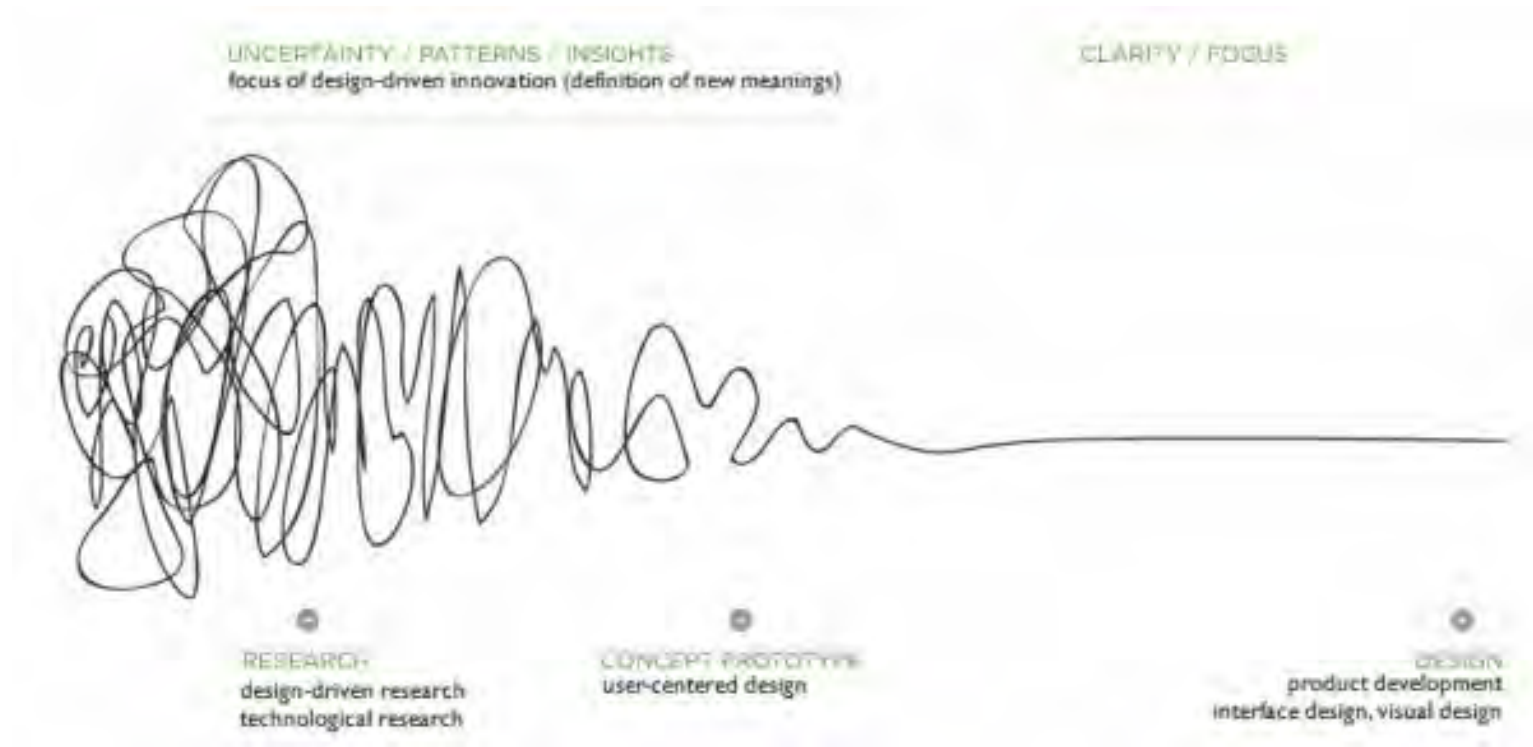
Get outside of your box
and imagine “what if?!”

Recognize patterns of inequity, look at
the system creating those—and identify
a challenge to address

Design small “safe-to-fail” actions
to learn more about your situation
- to inform your design direction



So how does it all fit together?



Source: Brian Mathews

<http://chronicle.com/blognetwork/theubiquitouslibrarian/2013/09/18/moving-from-data-driven-to-design-driven-innovation/>

Canvas Course

Canvas Course

Announcements
(Notifications Settings)

Home Page

Modules & Materials

Zoom Links

The screenshot shows a Canvas LMS interface for a course titled "RSVP 2026-2027". On the left is a teal sidebar with navigation links: Home, Announcements, Modules, Discussions, Zoom, Notebook, Calendar, Inbox, History, Studio, and Help. The main content area has a top navigation bar with a hamburger menu, the course title "RSVP 2026-2027", and an "Immersive Reader" button. Below the navigation bar, the "Home" tab is selected, showing a "Recent Announcements" section with two posts: "Welcome Back & Important Updates for RSVP Ambassadors" (posted Aug 11, 2026) and "DUE Monday, July 27: RSVP Library Design Institute" (posted Jul 23, 2026). Below the announcements is a section titled "RSVP 2026-2027" featuring the RSVP logo and a list of overarching purposes: "Elevate student voice and student experience to inform school and district decision making (Core Values)", "Provide a structure for two way communication and co-design partnerships between adults and students (Systems Portrait)", "Provide a safe place for students to activate the leadership skills that they are learning and/or developing in alignment with the Graduate Portrait", and "Build relationships between adults and students where all voices are equal (Adult Portrait)". At the bottom, it lists "2026-2027 General Meetings" with dates from September 3, 2026, to January 7, 2027. On the right side of the page, there are buttons for "View Course Stream", "View Course Calendar", and "View Course Notifications", along with a "To Do" section indicating "Nothing for now".

Canvas Course Interface for RSVP 2026-2027

Recent Announcements

- Welcome Back & Important Updates for RSVP Ambassadors
Good afternoon RSVP A...
Posted on: Aug 11, 2026, 3:38 PM
- DUE Monday, July 27: RSVP Library Design Institute
Good Morning RSVP Am...
Posted on: Jul 23, 2026, 7:29 AM

RSVP 2026-2027

2026-2027 RSVP Overarching Purpose

- Elevate student voice and student experience to inform school and district decision making (Core Values)
- Provide a structure for two way communication and co-design partnerships between adults and students (Systems Portrait)
- Provide a safe place for students to activate the leadership skills that they are learning and/or developing in alignment with the Graduate Portrait
- Build relationships between adults and students where all voices are equal (Adult Portrait)

2026-2027 General Meetings: 3:45-5:15 pm (Zoom)

- Thursday, September 3, 2026
- Thursday, October 1, 2026
- Thursday, November 5, 2026
- Thursday, December 3, 2026
- Thursday, January 7, 2027

Timeline Overview

Introduction & Orientation

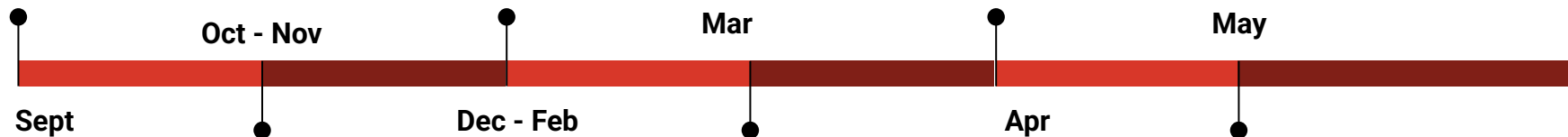
Define purpose of the group and build a shared understanding of the co-design partnership to support site equity dilemma

Define the Dilemma, Inquire, & Imagine Solutions

Involve our peers and adult liaison in coming up with creative solutions to the equity dilemma

Try

Share the prototype in rough form with others to get feedback on what's promising so you can improve your design.



Empathy & Define the Equity Challenge

Listen to stories from those impacted by the challenge to better understand their lived experiences. How might we amplify student voice & input in addressing our equity dilemma?

Prototype

Build "rough" version/prototype of potential solutions to help you think and learn what the design solutions show promise in addressing the equity dilemma

Celebrate Learning & Share Solutions

Share solutions and learning across schools.

Closure & Feedback

"By centering students' needs through the liberatory design process, we repositioned students as centers of knowledge. We listened to them in ways that shifted our practice, and we recognized that both teachers and students have the capacity to educate each other... Our students recognized that their voices and perspectives mattered, and they began to advocate for themselves in new ways."

Jessica Lee Stovall, Lamar Timmons-Long, Thomas J. Rodney and Taylor Hall
"Black Teachers' Use of Liberatory Design to Promote Literacies of Healing" (Stovall 2023)

Next Steps & Feedback



Please scan the QR code and take a moment to offer us your insights and feedback.

Your voice matters. We want to hear you!

Next Meeting: October 1, 2026

3:45 – 5:15 pm

Try to connect with your RSVP Site Peers at least once before the next meeting.