COLLEGE OF BUILT ENVIRONMENTS
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

Community Engagement for Coastal Resilience

URBDP 508: Specialized Planning Laboratory

AUTUMN

Instructor: Dan Abramson, PhD, Associate Professor

Overview

The Autumn 2018 URBDP 508B Advanced Urban Planning studio focuses on community engagement for coastal resilience, with the City of Westport and Shoalwater Bay Tribe as partners. The studio centers on preparation, implementation, and documentation of a workshop with community leaders and residents that combines asset-based community mapping techniques with coastal hazard mapping using the latest scientific models and WeTable interactive participatory GIS technology. Our practical goals are to:

- Engage a broad range of local community members as well as municipal and agency stakeholders, including residents, the City of Westport, Shoalwater Bay Tribe, Grays Harbor County, Pacific County, State and local emergency management agencies, Federal representatives, and other stakeholders representing coastal ecology, transportation, public health, education, local businesses and historic resources

- Support ongoing efforts to improve community resilience in the City of Westport and surrounding areas, including collaborative efforts among multiple coastal communities

- Identify opportunities for integrating equitable and just localized hazards planning with general community development planning, urban design and public health via the City's Comprehensive Plan update and other infrastructural improvements, including transportation and telecommunications

- Learn from the successes won and challenges faced by the City of Westport and its residents to inform ongoing policy decisions around hazard planning and to share lessons learned with other communities both within our region and beyond

We will also addresses the following general questions:

How do communities plan with uncertain information about future hazards (possibly including cumulative/frequent hazards like sea level rise and storm flooding as well as catastrophic and rare hazards like earthquakes and tsunamis)?

How do social networks enable adaptive responses to these hazards, especially given unique characteristics of place, and different telecommunication and transportation infrastructure interventions?

How can mapping local assets and values as well as hazards and vulnerabilities, help communities envision positive future, and plan both for long-term adaptation in the face of infrequent, unpredictable but consequential changes, as well as short- and medium-term developmental and environmental goals? What would be the desired “new normal” and “build-back-better” scenarios post-earthquake and-tsunami? How can this vision evolve from the current situation and plan? How do we get from here to there?

The studio welcomes an interdisciplinary mix of professional and graduate students in Urban Planning, Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Civil & Environmental Engineering and Public Policy, as well as other fields using creative mapping and hazards visualization techniques and data. Students will have an opportunity to learn FEMA's Hazus GIS software for disaster loss estimation. The studio will involve multiple visits to coastal Grays Harbor and Willapa Bay. Travel and overnight accommodation costs for those trips will be covered.

URBDP 508 satisfies the 1 studio requirement for the Master of Urban Planning (MUP), for students whose prior planning studio experience allowed them to waive URBDP 507. For MUP students with a demonstrated commitment to hazards resilience studies, this URBDP 508B course also satisfies the advanced 2 studio for the Urban Design specialization. For MArch, BLArch and MLArch students, this course also satisfies the 2 or 3 studio requirement for the Certificate of Urban Design.

Community Site, Partners and Support

The studio is partnering with the City of Westport, Grays Harbor County, and Shoalwater Bay Tribe in Tokeland, Pacific County, in coordination with state and local agencies in emergency management, coastal ecology, transportation and public health. Westport and Shoalwater Bay Tribe are the first communities in North America to build tsunami vertical evacuation structures. This studio is supported through the UW NSF-funded M9 project for development of new probabilistic information about hazards associated with a Magnitude 9 (M9) Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ) earthquake, and a Bullitt Foundation grant for building community adaptive capacity. The studio will be well-positioned to inform ongoing local and regional policy, planning and design for hazards and climate change, and contribute to advances in our understanding of community resilience and risk communication.

Objectives and Product

[Specific deliverables to be determined prior to the quarter based on discussions with community partners.]