

*Psst, hey you, want to help us design a park?*



LARCH 465 | Autumn 2026

# THE PRACTICE OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**Working with Communities to Restitch our Social Fabric**

**T+Th 2:30 - 3:50pm**

**Instructor: Eric Higbee (higbee@uw.edu)**

**3 Credits**

In a time of social fragmentation, how do we work with place-based communities in design, planning, and policy? Together, we will explore this question in the context of the current and future practice of community engagement. We will dive into the world of social psychology to uncover the secret sauce for bridging our group differences and fostering shared identities. We will explore engagement's potential to cultivate social cohesion and foster pluralism. And we will evaluate, learn, and practice a toolkit of methods for community engagement, including outreach strategies, steering groups, community event structures, meeting facilitation, and community construction. All aboard!

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**Open to all students** | Fulfills BA EDS major and UED minor requirements  
Fulfills MLA Socio-Political Dimensions of Design credits