INNOVATION
COLLABORATIVE FOR
DESIGN THINKING

Hosted at
Henry Ford Academy:
School for Creative Studies
Detroit, MI

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Understanding design thinking
and using it as a process
for teaching innovation and
creativity
“THE FIRST STEP TOWARDS A RIGHT ANSWER IS TO REFRAME THE QUESTION”

Tom Kelley, General Manager, IDEO
IDEO, one organization responsible for the growing popularity of “Design Thinking,” describes it as a “human-centered approach to problem solving that helps people and organizations become more innovative and creative.”
OVERVIEW OF GOALS

Henry Ford Learning Institute’s Implementing and Extending Design Thinking workshop was designed to examine the role of Design Thinking in education by bringing together educators from around the United States to ask questions, brainstorm solutions, and share resources.

The central goal of the 2-day workshop was to provide participants with a recap on the Design Thinking process, explore a complex problem, use new Design Thinking methods, and provide participants with a unique networking opportunity that allowed the sharing of tools and resources that are being used to make Design Thinking work in our educational settings.

Learning activities incorporated active experience and implementation with a strong emphasis of reflection on application. This reflection included a focus on the Design Thinking process as a unique way to engage students in meaningful, authentic problem-based case learning, consideration of challenges and opportunities the approach presents for teachers and students, and structural considerations for implementing new techniques, tools and structures within more traditional school settings.

In summary, participants:

**Took part in daily warm up activities** to create a readiness for creative problem solving and innovative thinking and learning;

**Experienced one of three Quick Dive Design Thinking Challenges:** Design a way to improve the Secretary of State, Amtrak, or U.S. Post Office experience;

**Learned to use new tools** that can be used throughout different parts of the Design Thinking process, such as a Journey Map;

**Shared challenges, successes, and questions** for implementing aspects of Design Thinking in their own contexts, shared and received feedback from others to help strengthen and extend these;

**Shared a useful tool** that they have either developed themselves or discovered that helps them implement Design Thinking in their specific context; and,

**Prototyped a solution to address a school-wide challenge** using the Design Thinking process, and considered a timeline, benefits, challenges, and needs for support to make their prototype implementable.
OVERVIEW OF AGENDA

DAY 1
8:00 Welcome and Warm-up
8:30 Introduction and Overview of HFLI
9:00 Introduction to Design Thinking Challenge: Redesign the Post Office/Amtrack Station Experience
12:30 Lunch
1:15 3x3x3 Presentations
3:45 Close

DAY 2
8:30 Welcome and Warm-up
9:20 HFLI’s Implementation Framework
10:00 “Quick Dive” Design Challenge
11:35 Charette a Design Challenge
12:15 Lunch
1:45 Close
HFLI recommends the following as possible next steps for participants:

**Leverage the initial experience** to build a strong professional learning community through social media channels, regular meetings and the support of coaches.

**Share challenges, resources, and successes.**
- Ask and answer questions.
- Develop collaborative projects.
- Provide safe “space” for novices and master teachers alike to be learners.
- Adapt or develop lessons, units and/or projects to include Design Thinking strategies, skills’ development, tools, materials and processes.

**Continue process to develop and implement the prototype solutions developed for organization-level challenges.**
- Gather feedback on solutions from potential users and key stakeholders.
- Conduct pilot implementation and gather data on impact and outcomes.
- Incorporate feedback into a second iteration or decisions on next steps.

**Facilitate** an organization-wide professional development session for other educators on Design Thinking.

**Co-facilitate a Design Thinking-centered lesson or project** with a colleague.

**Plan and facilitate a professional meeting** using Design Thinking tools and strategies.

**Host a Rapid Cycle Design Thinking Challenge** for members of your greater learning community - school board members, business partners, community organization liaisons, parents, non-instructional staff, alumni and the like.

**Convene a small group of students** to prototype an extended Design Thinking challenge as a possible major project, after-school club engagement or independent study opportunity.
Case Study: IDEO Shopping Cart video, an example of a professional design firm engaging in Design Thinking to develop an innovative update on a common product.

Expert Source: The Art of Innovation, written by Tom Kelly (co-founder of IDEO) which introduces the approach to Design Thinking HFLI incorporates into its work.

Aligned Reading: Creating Innovators: The Making of Young People Who Will Change the World, by Tony Wagner, introduces what kids need from parents, teachers, and employers to be future innovators.

Aligned Reading: World Class Learners by Yong Zhao explains how students need to function as resourceful, flexible, and creative entrepreneurs to succeed in the global economy.

Implementation tool: Rapid Cycle Design Challenge Facilitator’s Guide, co-developed with Stanford’s d.school, which provides a detailed set of guidelines for facilitating a 90 minute Design Thinking exercise.
Redesigning how we learn.

HFLI’s hands-on Design Thinking workshops engage participants in a structured process to address organizational or community-centered challenges. Our immersion learning experiences help develop skills and mindsets for creative problem solving and collaborative innovation. In the 21st century, creativity and innovation can and should be an integral part of everyone’s professional experience – the growing complexity of our world and workplace requires it.

HFLI’s customized learning engagements use Design Thinking and other creative thinking tools and methods to support individuals and teams in their professional growth.

**1, 2 and 3-day workshops** introduce and develop Design Thinking skills and strategies through real-world challenges – participants leave with tools and an action plan to begin using their emerging competencies immediately.

**Targeted 2 or 4-hour challenge sessions** address an identified opportunity through a sequence of engaging activities – participants leave with a defined set of next steps and planned timeline for accomplishing the desired change and identified goals.

**Customized coaching** builds on emerging Design Thinking skills and mindsets with interventions that are “just in time,” “just enough,” and “just for me” – participants engage in work-embedded professional development that promotes continuous growth and immediate application/benefit.

Learning is at the center of everything we do, and we provide a quality experience at every step. At the end of the day, our greatest achievement is measured by the success of our participants, partners and colleagues to solve problems creatively, innovate collaboratively and improve our world through their unique and individual efforts.