PROJECT XCHANGE: MAPPING THE FUTURE OF COMMUNITY-ENGAGED RESEARCH AT THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY

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PURPOSE

Working as Community-Engaged Research Fellows (CERFers) on an interdisciplinary student research team we collaborated with the Office of Student Research and Community Engagement to investigate the past, present and future of community-engaged research in Kamloops, B.C., using cultural mapping as our research methodology.

BACKGROUND

We began by connecting with Kristi Rintoul, the Community Impact Manager at the United Way, and participated in a North Shore Non-Profit Walking Tour to learn more about the possibilities for community Xchange.

Our project documents the lived and living experiences of students, active or retired faculty, and community members to further facilitate relationships and understand the role of community-engaged research within Kamloops, BC.
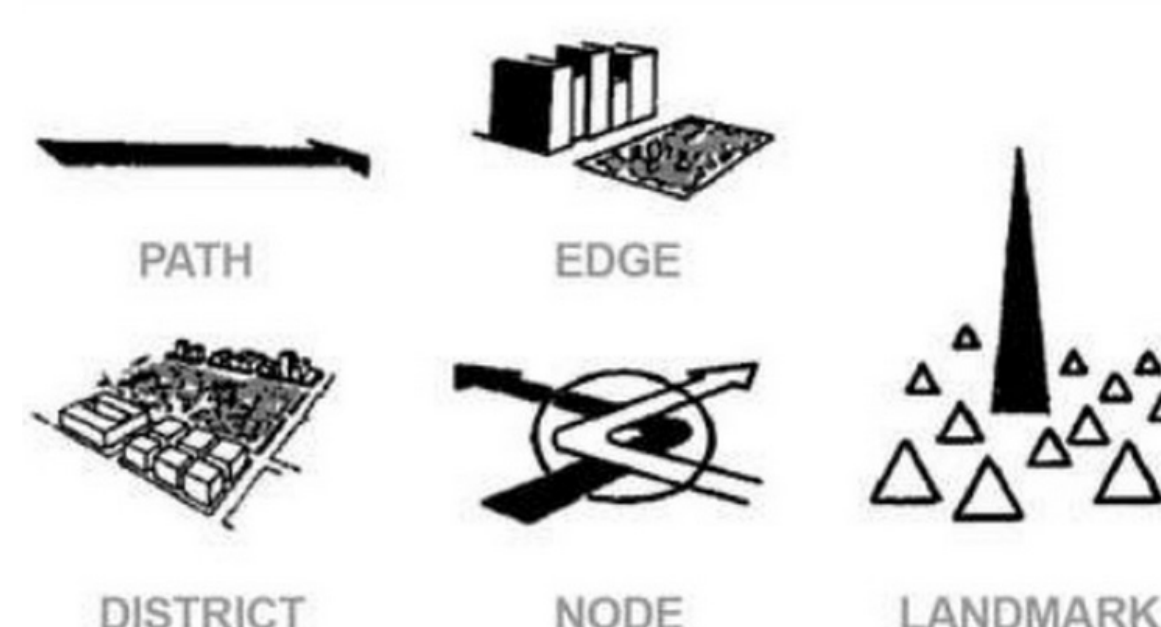
MULTIPLE STAKEHOLDERS

A total of 34 students, 17 faculty members, and 14 community representatives participated in cultural mapping sessions.

The 2-hour sessions invited groups and individuals to gather on campus, at the Xchange Lab on the North Shore, at Brighteye Brewing, and on location at community organizations.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Cultural mapping is an arts-based research method that utilizes a draw-talk protocol.

It allows researchers to make visible a community's tangible and intangible assets by collecting participant's lived and living experiences.
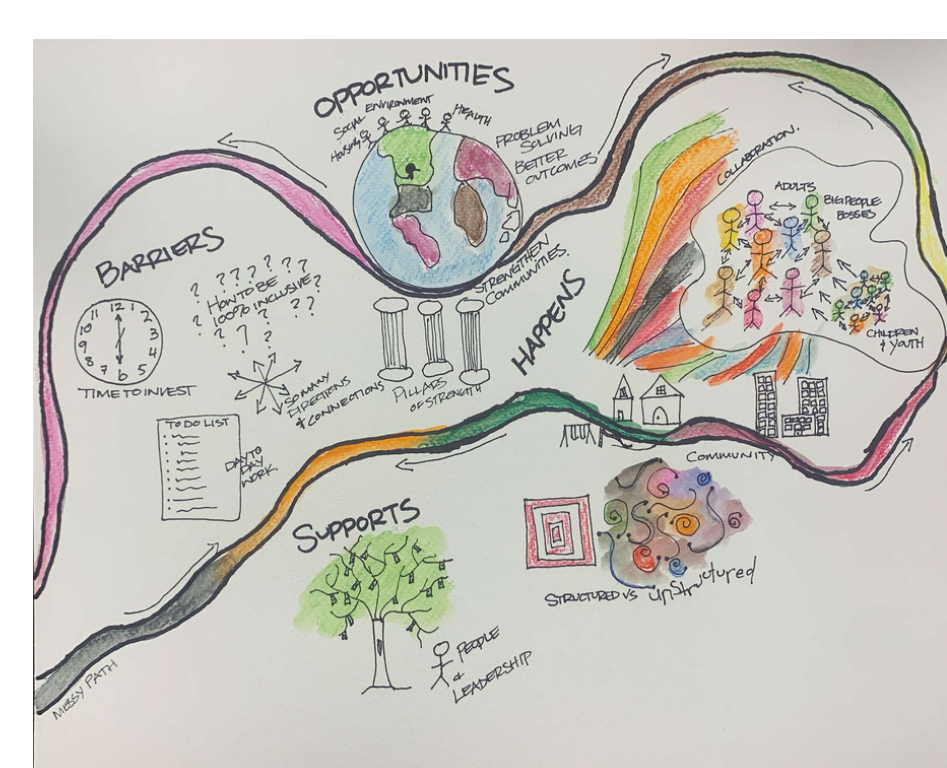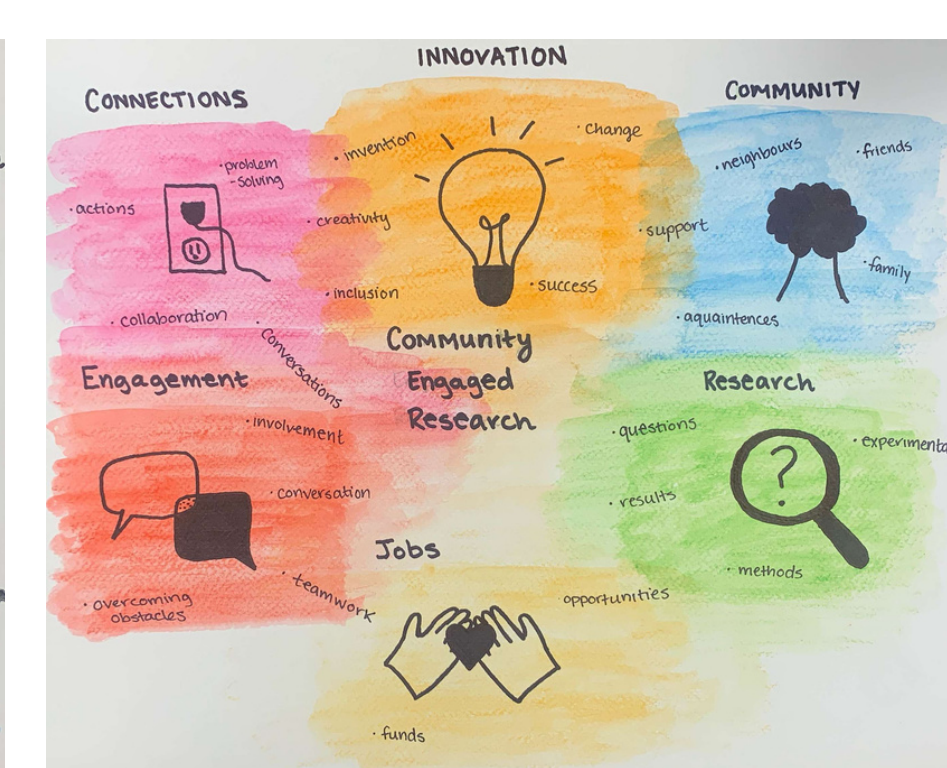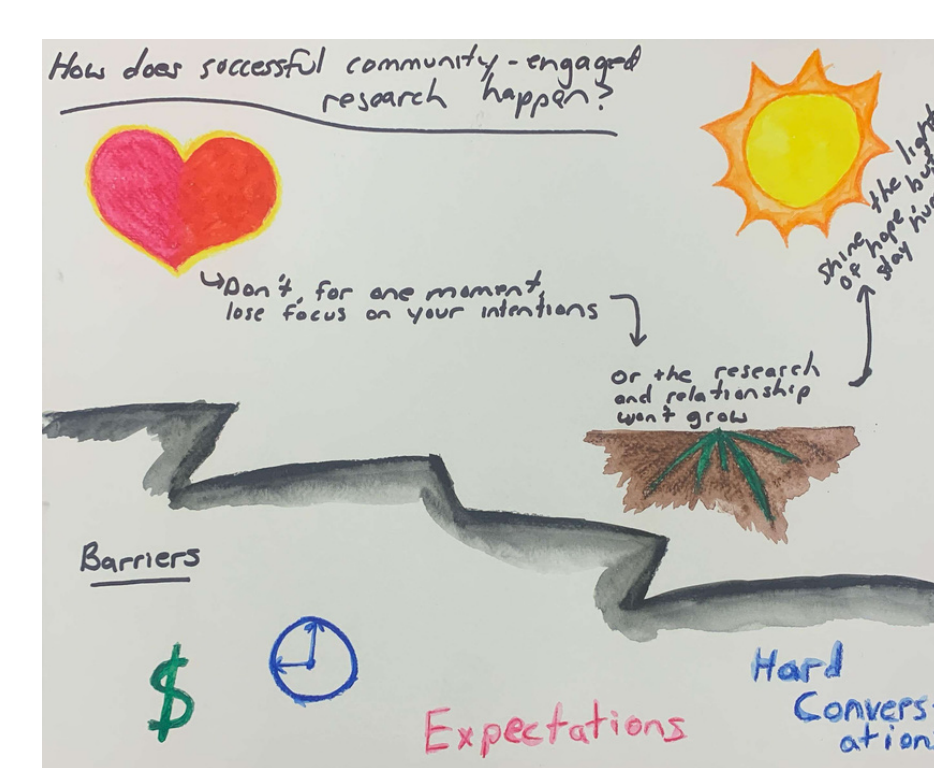
DATA ANALYSIS

The maps and transcriptions of the interviews were then analyzed using an emerging analysis technique which utilizes Kevin Lynch's five distinctive features: Paths, Edges, Districts, Nodes and Landmarks (Lynch, 1960), as an analysis schema.

PATH   EDGE

DISTRICT   NODE   LANDMARK

KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION

Results will be shared in a report that will make recommendations on how to guide the future of community-engaged research at TRU.

References

Duxbury, N, Garrett-Petts, W. (2022). *A Guide to Cultural Mapping*.

Lynch, K. (1960). *The Image of the City*. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press.