A CHECKLIST: WHAT TO DO BEFORE STARTING FORMAL PLANNING

The Nancy Richardson Design Center — Colorado State University

- Engage in conversations with an alumnus with a dream for what might happen at her alma mater.
- Have initial conversations with campus leadership.
- Start a process of visioning sessions with various groups from within the campus and beyond in the community. (62 visioning sessions from July 2013 – November 2016)
- Begin these collaborative and cross-disciplinary visioning sessions with a strategic and facilitated process through with diverse teams clarify where they are, where they are headed, and how they can get there.
- Document outcome of discussion - Making the case for a new building:
  - To foster cross-disciplinary collaborations across campus.
  - To provide greater visibility for design on the CSU campus.
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  - To invite students from all programs areas to engage in design-thinking activities through formal and informal educational experiences.
  - That would be the critical component supporting cross-disciplinary collaborations between program areas typically siloed and geographically distributed across campus.
- Make public the vision for the Center: The Richardson Design Center - an iconic destination that inspires creative influential discovery. Through powerful ideation and inspired synergy, students explore complex problems using cutting-edge resources to create a meaningful impact on the quality of daily life.

The RDC Vision is as a:
- A Design District.
- A Gallery of Student’s Innovations.
- A Modeling of the Creative Process from Ideation to Prototype to Fabrication.
- A Visibly Compelling Culture.
- A Leader in Developing New Technologies and Processes for Design.
- A Campus-wide Transformation.
- Engage in cross-disciplinary Collaborative Visioning.
  - Curriculum for a new interdisciplinary certificate program in design thinking developed in parallel with visioning the building.
  - Engage representatives from a range of disciplines (By November 2016, more than 85 stakeholders had participated in the visioning process).
- Make the creative process transparent.
  - Consider visual transparency between spaces with different atmospheres and affordances.
  - Exploit and reorient campus traffic patterns.
  - Extend invitations to explore.
- Understand it takes a village.
  - Tell your story. Engage multiple donors.

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