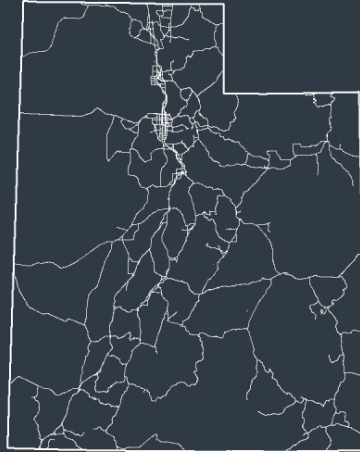


Community Engagement Projects

A Comparative Analysis of Student and Alumni Impacts



Jake Powell, Ole Sleipness, David Anderson, David Evans,
Roslynn McCann, Jason Parkinson

Utah State University
Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning

Community Issues as Design Problems

- **While problems are often framed in terms of their economic or social aspects, they are embodied within the built environment.**



Credit: Utah Rural Planning Group

“By providing concrete evidence of a problem or of an opportunity to make things better, a community can build its case for enacting positive change.”

- Espiau, Renee and Burillo, Renee. (2008).

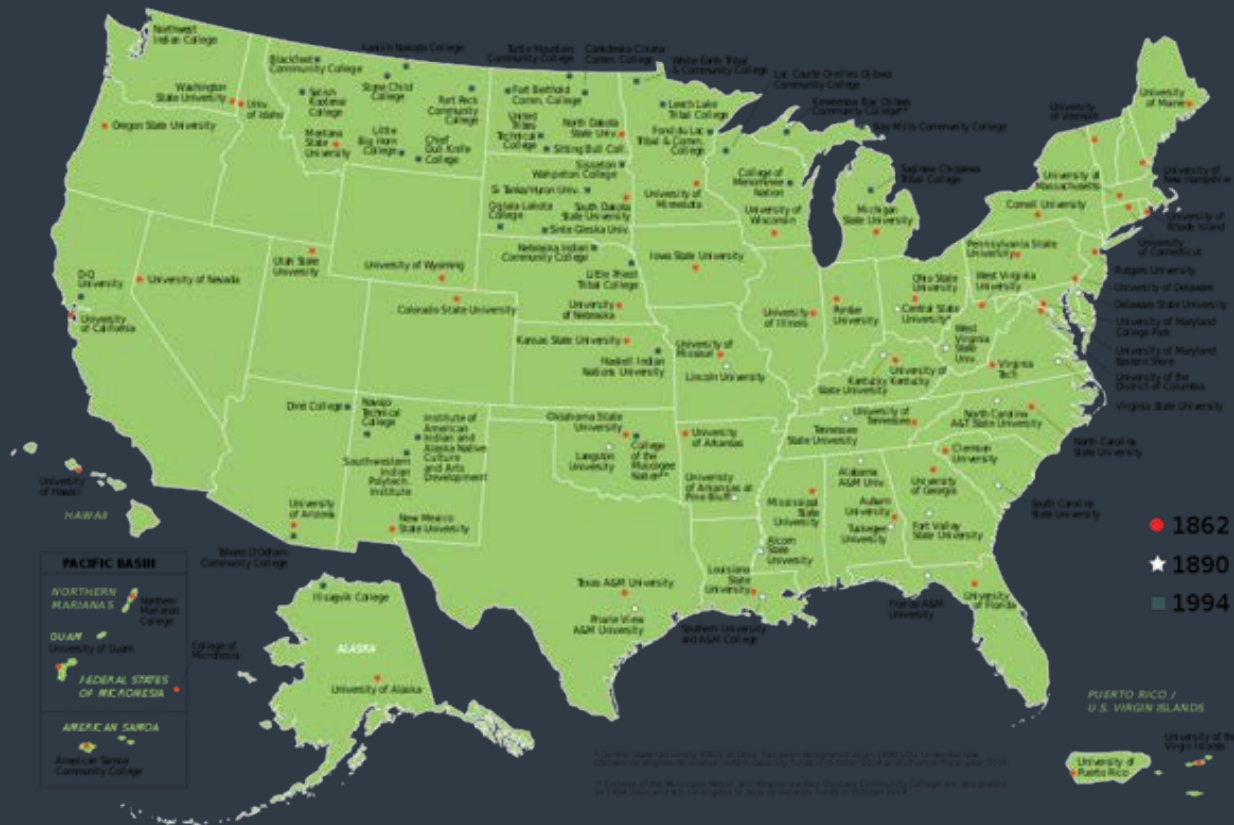


Design Engagement as Fulfilling of Land-grant Mission



United States Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture

NIFA LAND-GRANT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES



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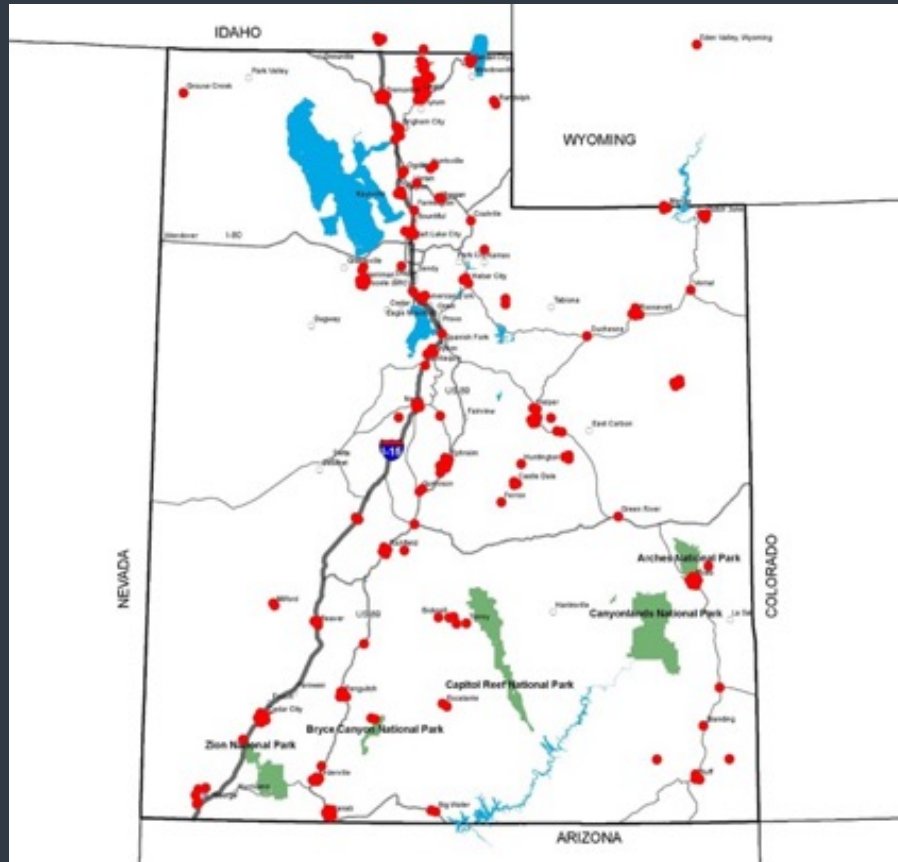
Design Engagement as a University Response

University-Community Engagement

- Service-learning
- Civic Engagement
- Participatory Action Research
- Co-design
- Extension Landscape Architecture



USU Extension LA: Formats of Engagement



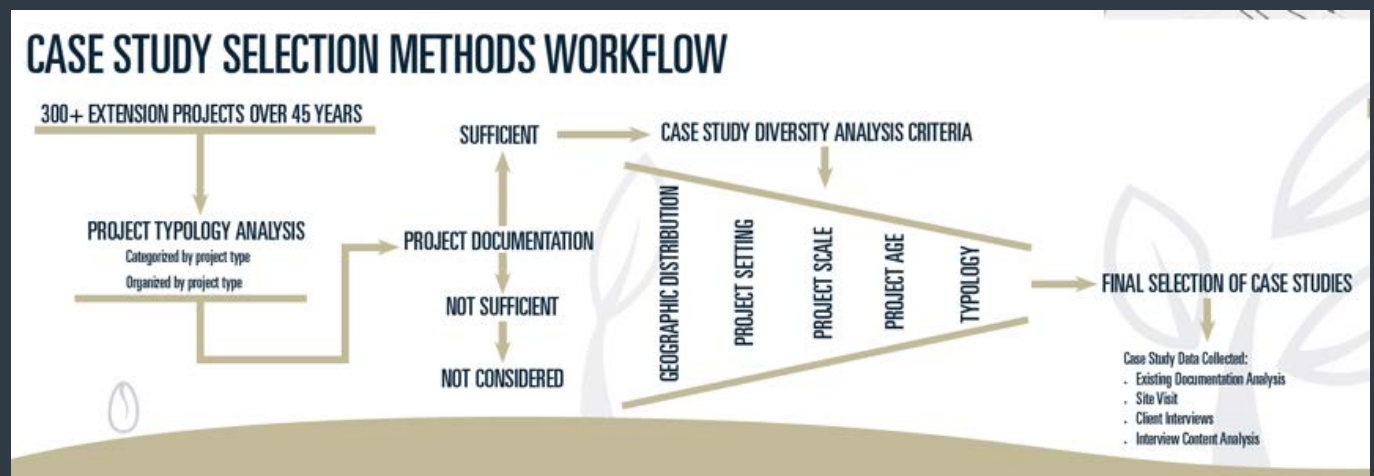
40 Year Legacy

- Design Consultation
- Annual LAEP Charrette Facilitation
- Studio-Based Project Engagements
- Advisory Role: NPS RTCA



Situated within Broader Assessment of Extension LAEP

The program's alumni and current students were surveyed to determine impacts of Extension-based engagement activities, their perceived value, and support for Extension-based collaborations.

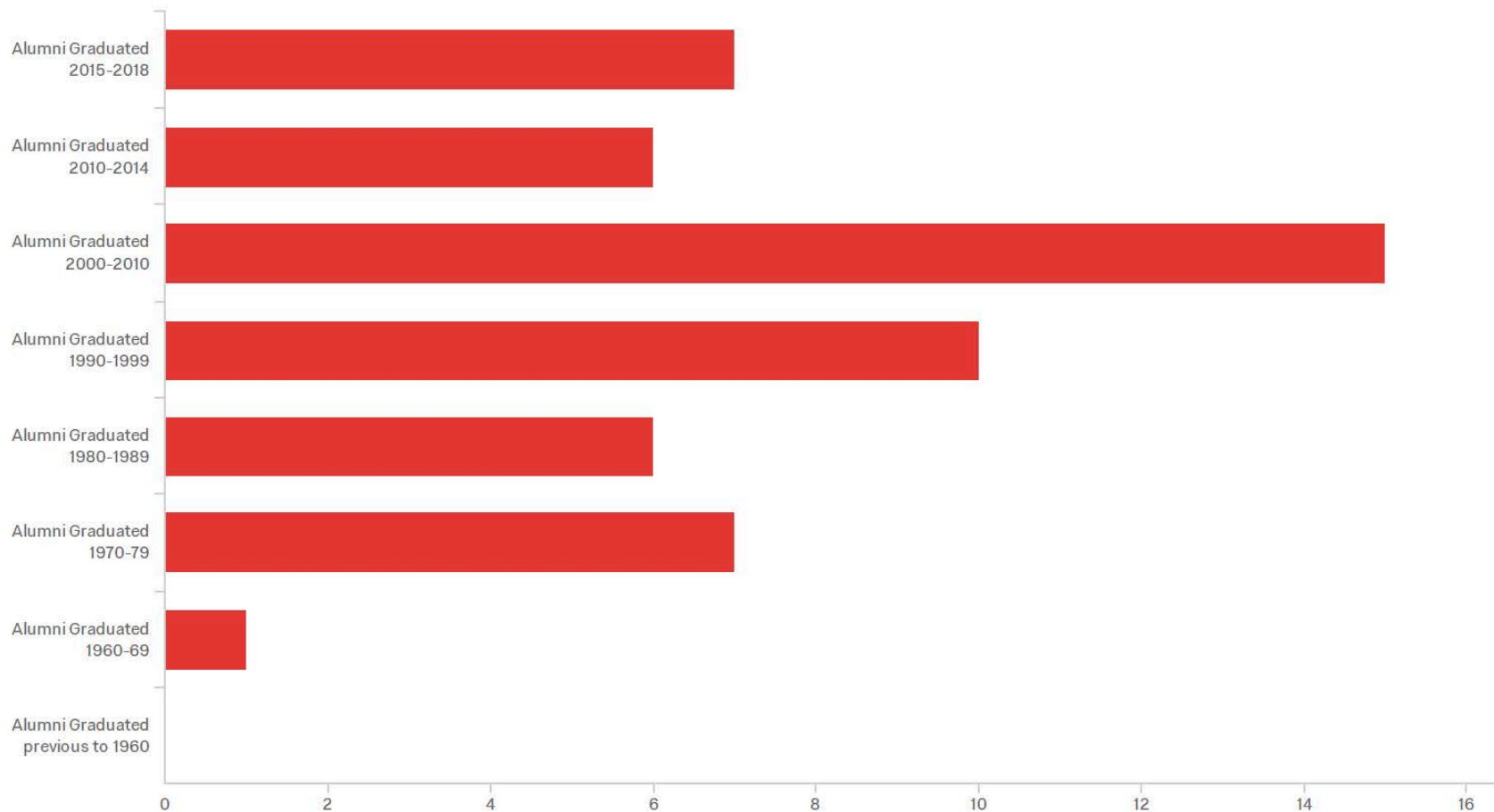


Survey

- Distributed online survey (Qualtrics) to 800 program alumni and 100 current students.
- Responses from 68 alumni and 23 students
- Survey Questions:
 - Experience with Extension LA
 - Impacts on development of core competencies, professional practice readiness, and professional values.

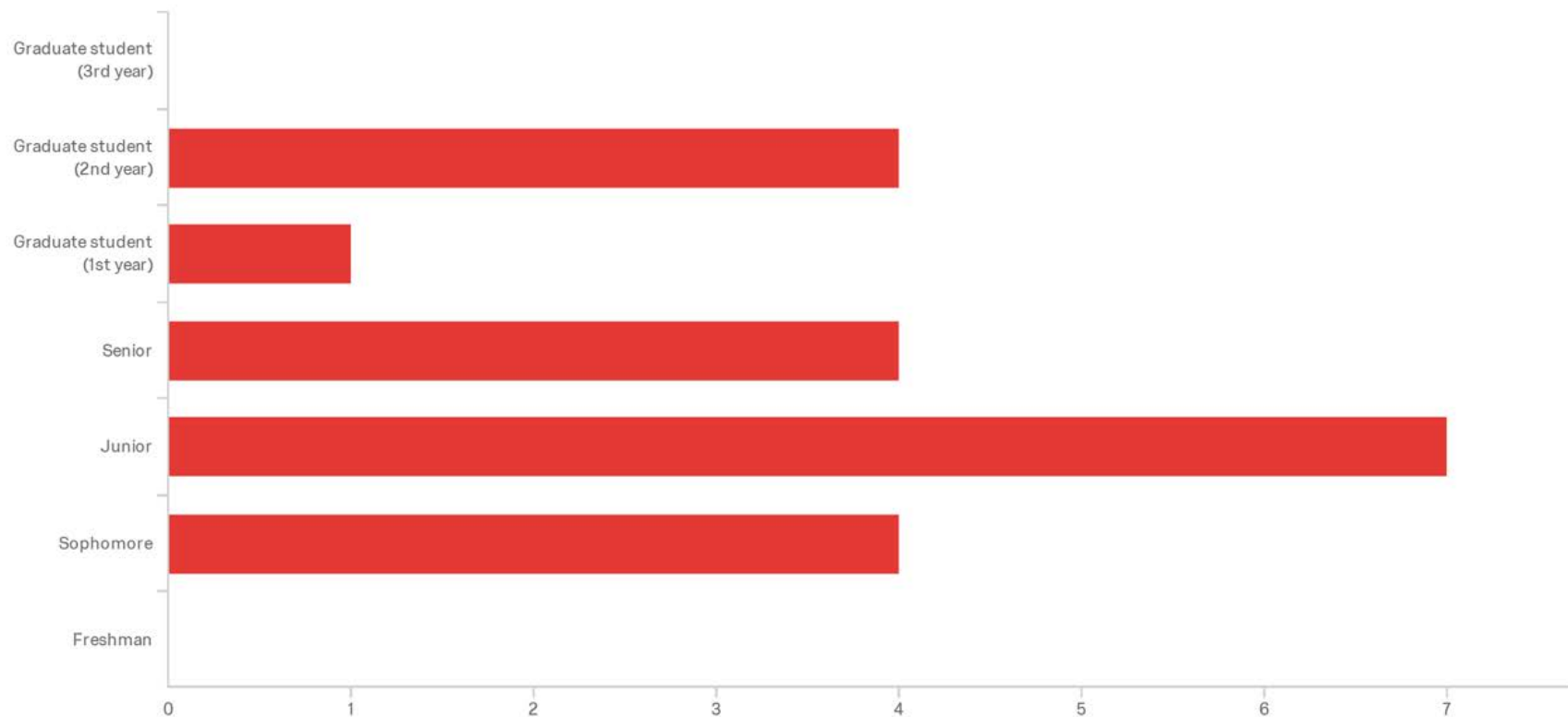
Alumni Respondents

Q1 - What year best describes your alumni relationship to LAEP?



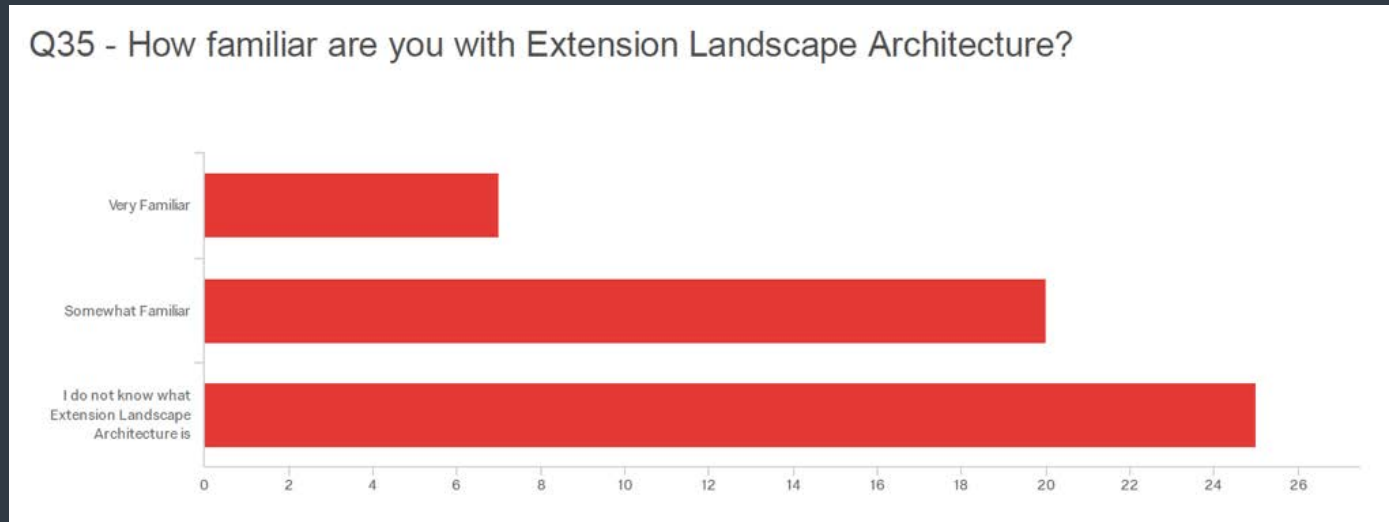
Student Respondents

Q1 - What year best describes your position in LAEP?

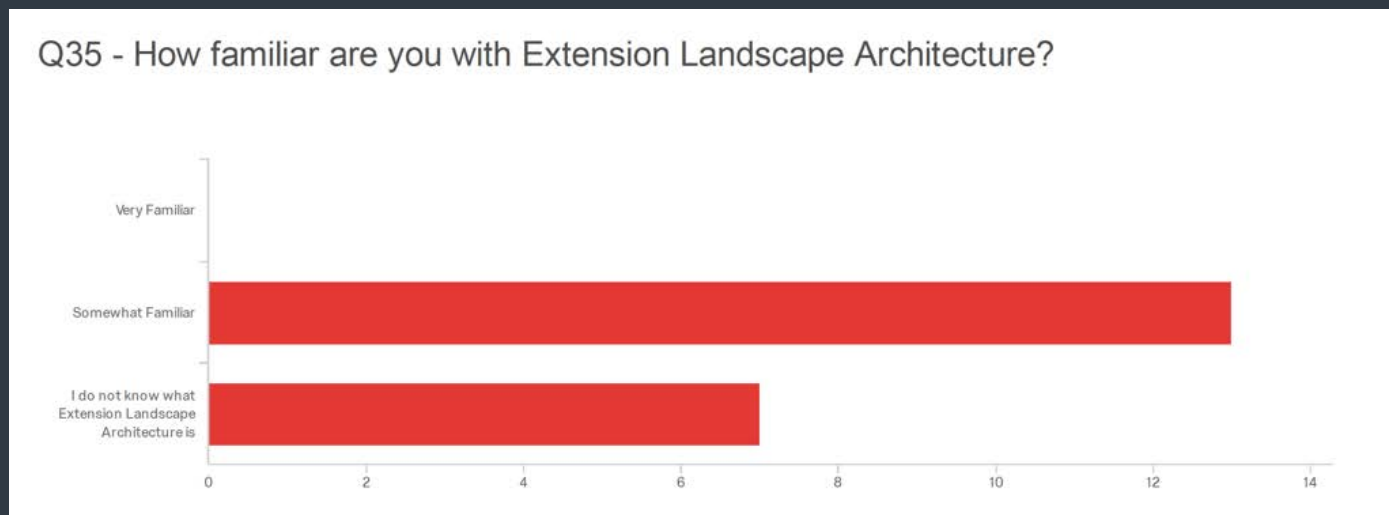


Familiarity with Extension LA?

- Alumni



- Students



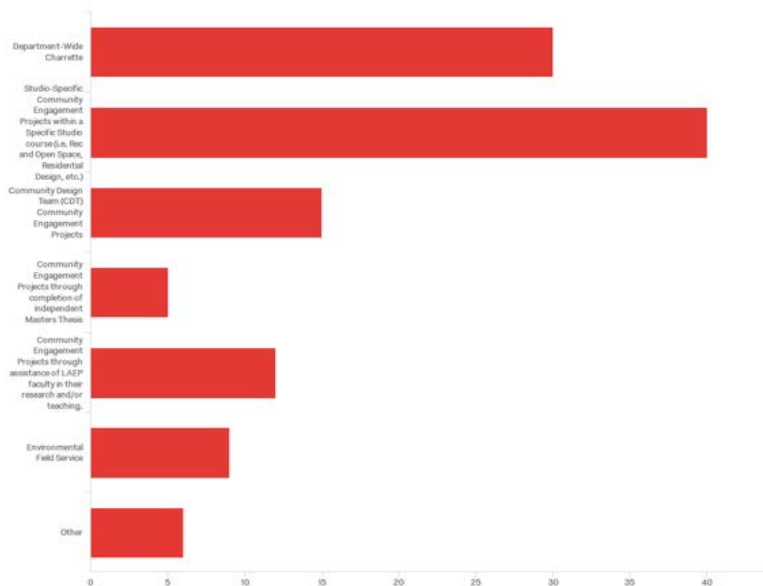
Community Engagement Project Participation

Alumni

Q32 - Many projects that LAEP undertakes are considered "community engagement"

projects, in which students and faculty engage with real clients/real sites/real issues. What types of community engagement projects did you participate in during your time in LAEP?

(select all that apply).

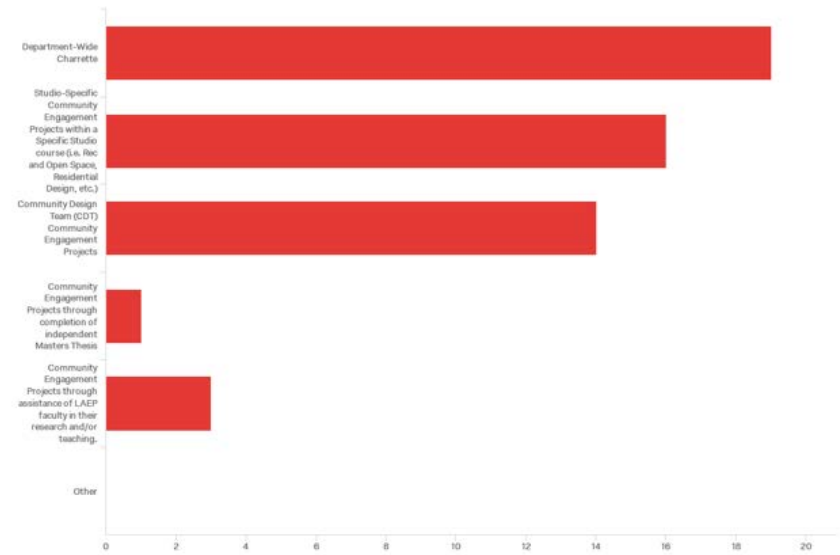


Students

Q32 - Many projects that LAEP undertakes are considered "community engagement"

projects, in which students and faculty engage with real clients/real sites/real issues. What types of community engagement projects have you participated during your time in LAEP?

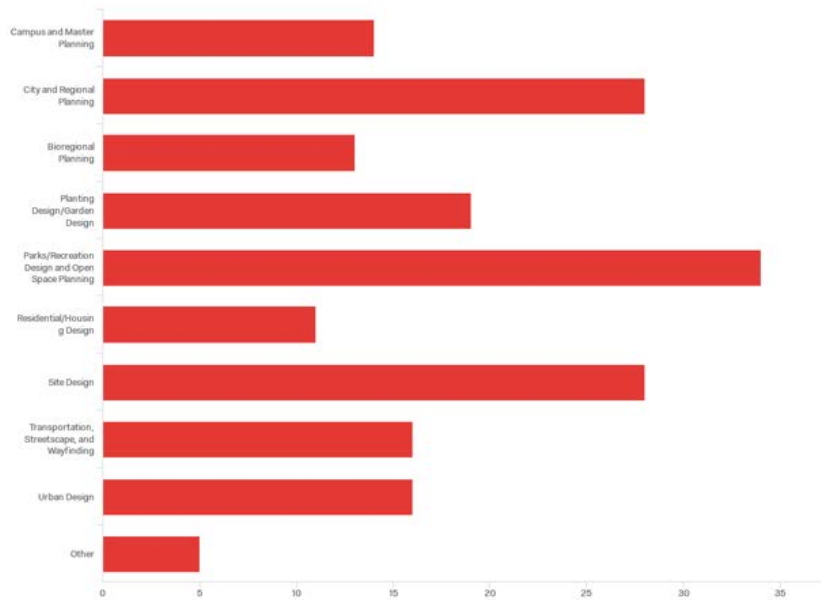
(select all that apply).



Community Engagement Project Typology

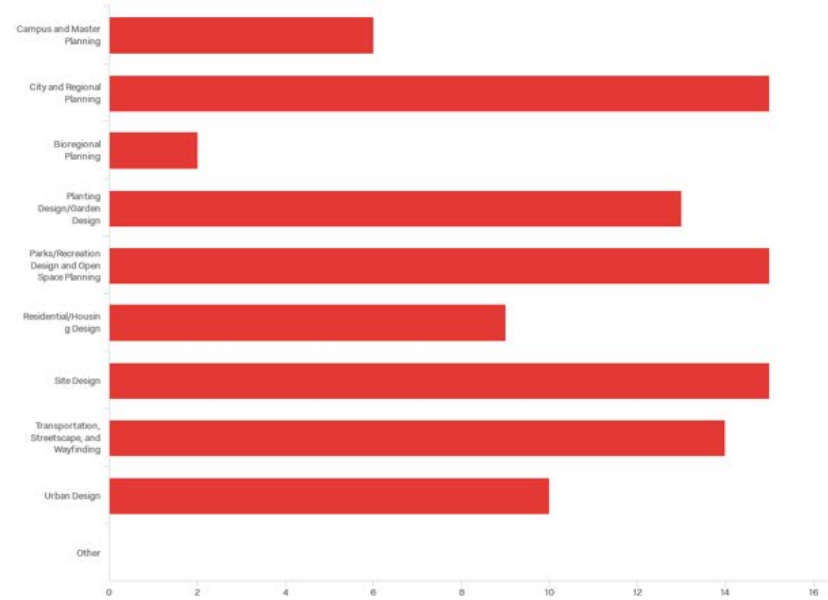
Alumni

Q33 - Which of the following areas of design did the community engagement projects you were involved with in LAEP include? (select all that apply)



Students

Q33 - Which of the following areas of design did the community engagement projects you've been involved with in LAEP include? (select all that apply)

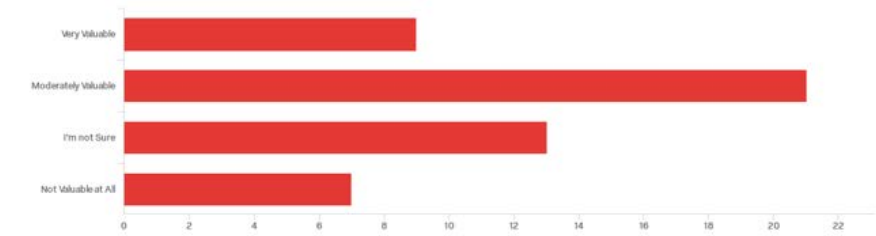


Value for Connecting with Alumni and other Professionals?

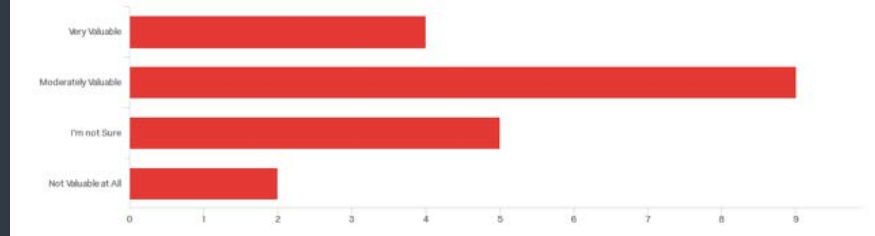
Alumni

Students

Q49 - How valuable was your LAEP community engagement project experience for connecting you with other LAEP alumni and design professionals?

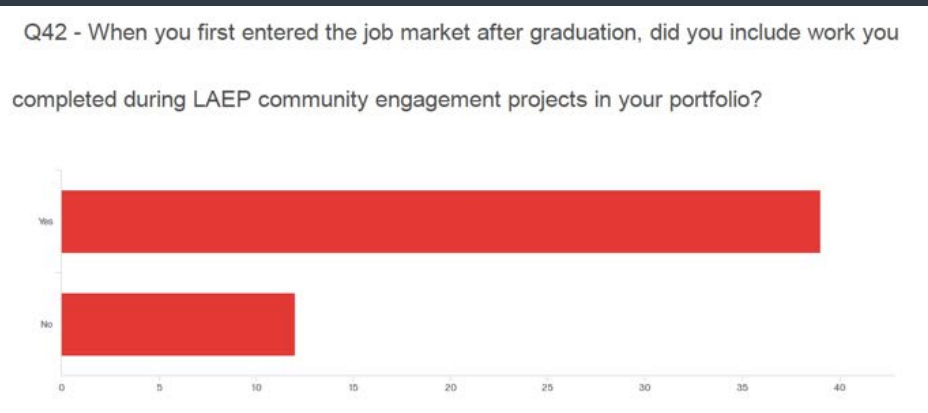


Q49 - How valuable has your LAEP community engagement project experience been in connecting you with LAEP alumni and design professionals?

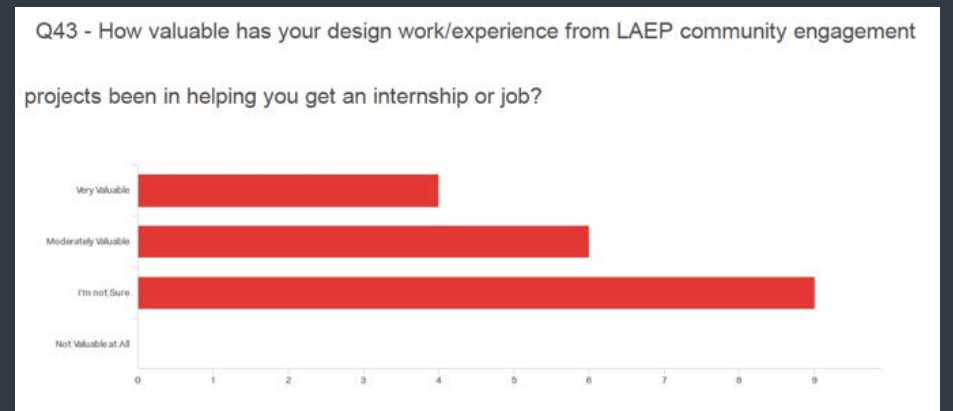
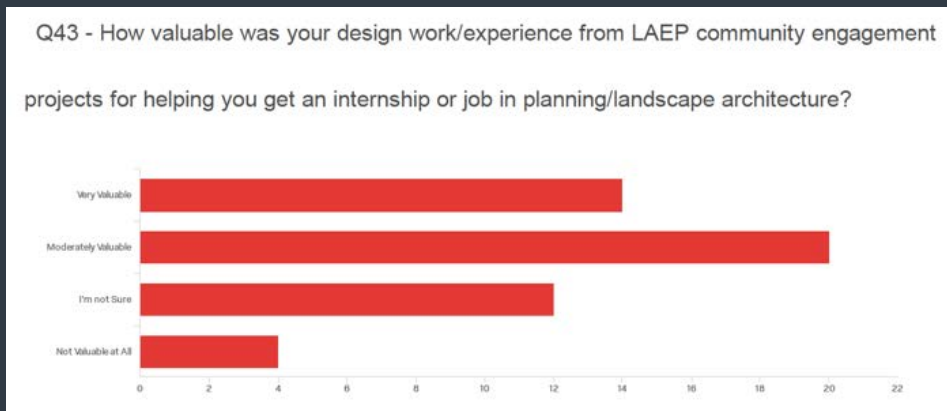
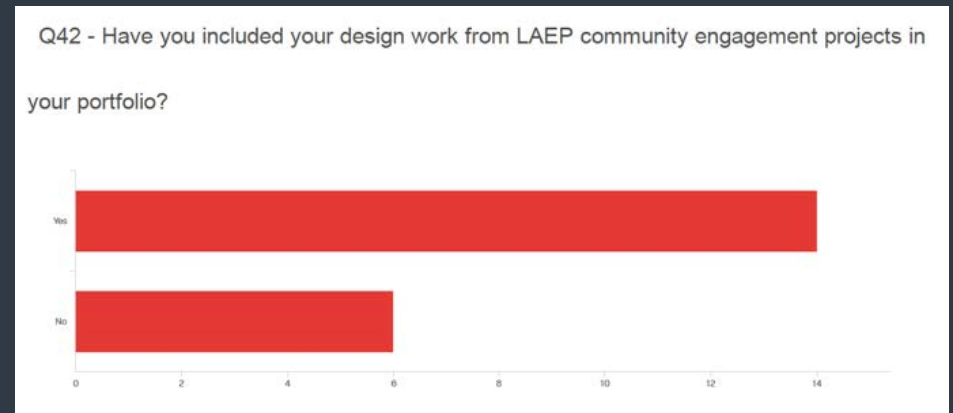


Included in Portfolio or Used for Gaining Employment?

Alumni



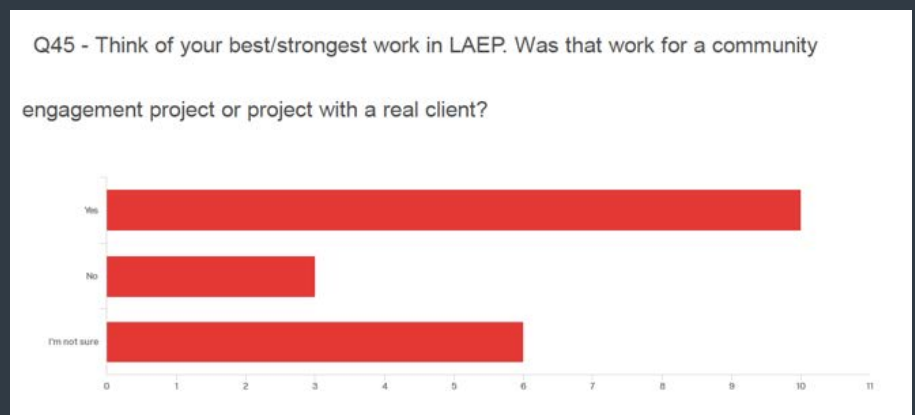
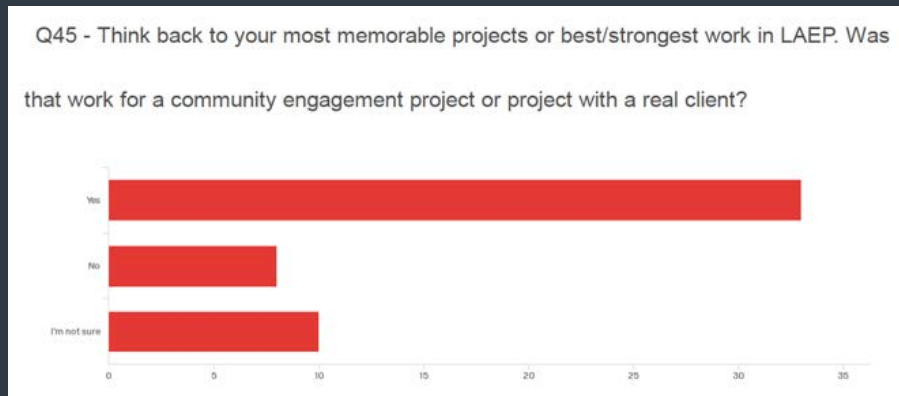
Students



Community Engagement Projects as Strongest Work?

Alumni

Students

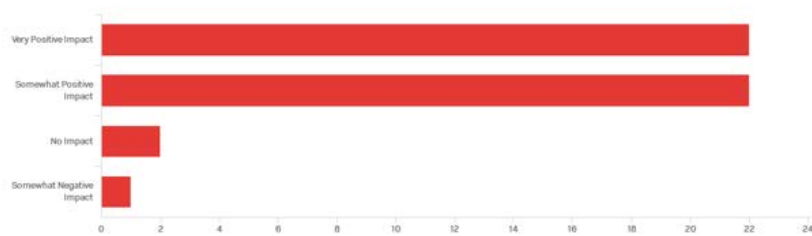


Problem Solving?

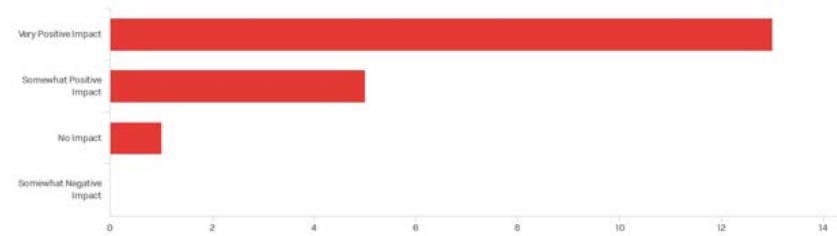
Alumni

Students

Q10 - What impact did LAEP community engagement projects have on your ability to use the design process to solve real-world problems?



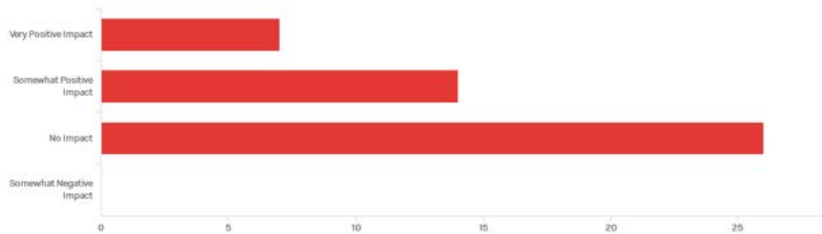
Q10 - What impact have LAEP community engagement projects had on your ability for using the design process to solve real-world problems?



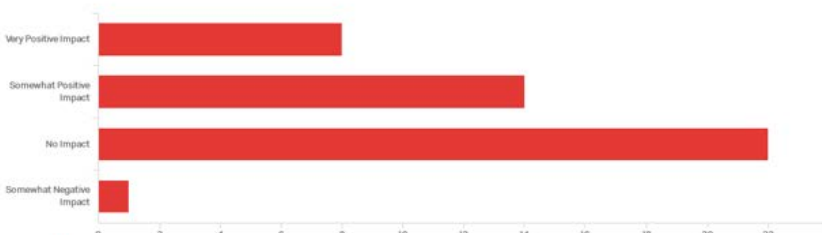
Impact on Digital Competencies?

Alumni

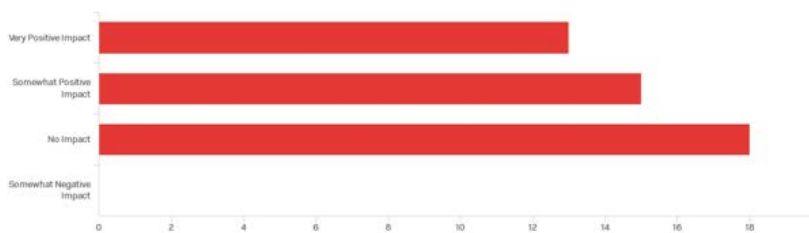
Q12 - What impact did LAEP community engagement projects have on your ability for using AutoCAD?



Q13 - What impact did LAEP community engagement projects have on your ability for using GIS?

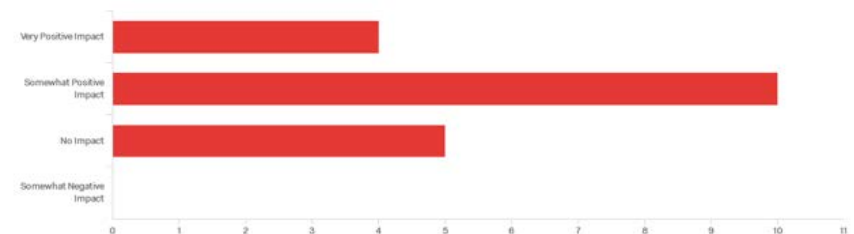


Q14 - What impact did LAEP community engagement projects have on your ability for using Digital Programs, such as Sketchup, Photoshop, Illustrator, and InDesign to illustrate my ideas?



Students

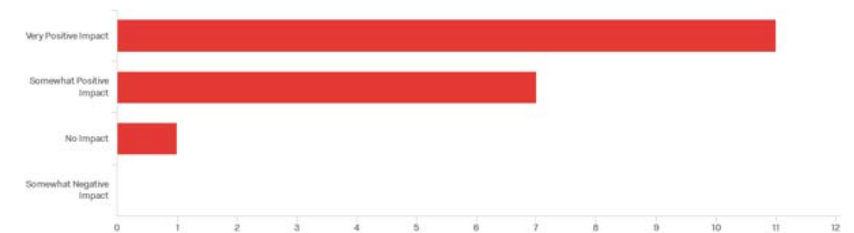
Q12 - What impact have LAEP community engagement projects had on your ability for using AutoCAD?



Q13 - What impact have LAEP community engagement projects had on your ability for using GIS?



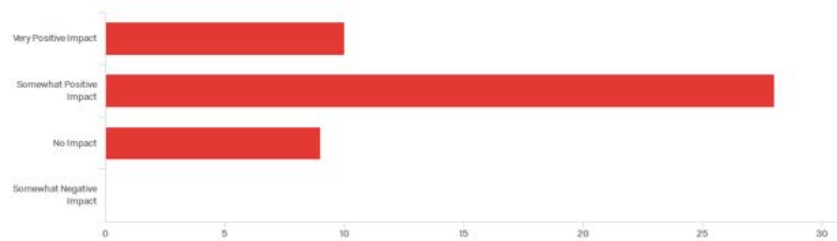
Q14 - What impact have LAEP community engagement projects had on your ability for using Digital Programs, such as Sketchup, Photoshop, Illustrator, and InDesign to illustrate my ideas?



Graphic and Verbal Communication?

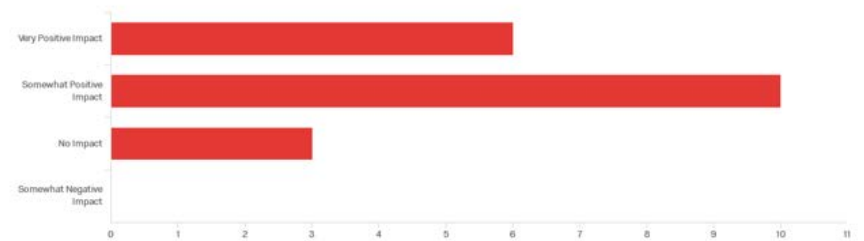
Alumni

Q11 - What impact did LAEP community engagement projects have on your ability for using sketching, drawing and hand graphics to illustrate your ideas?

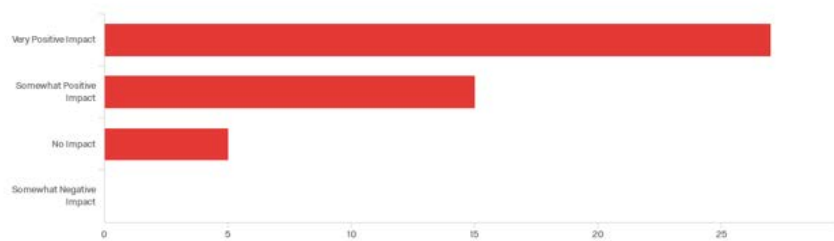


Students

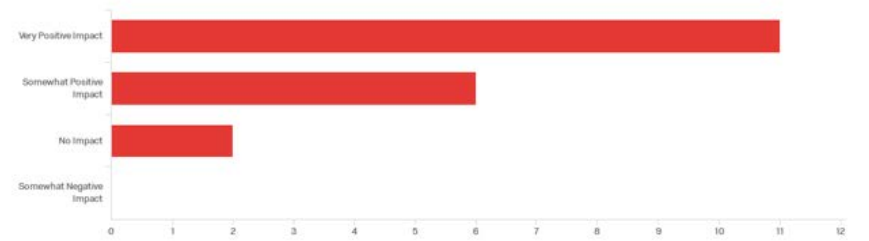
Q11 - What impact have LAEP community engagement projects had on your ability for using sketching, drawing and hand graphics to illustrate your ideas?



Q15 - What impact did LAEP community engagement projects have on your ability in Presenting and Public Speaking to communicate my ideas?



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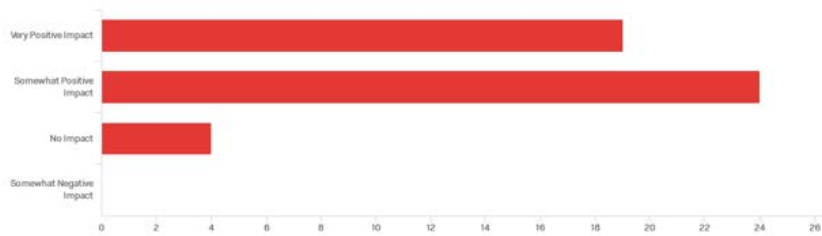


Leadership and Collaboration?

Alumni

Q38 - What impact did LAEP community engagement projects have on your Leadership

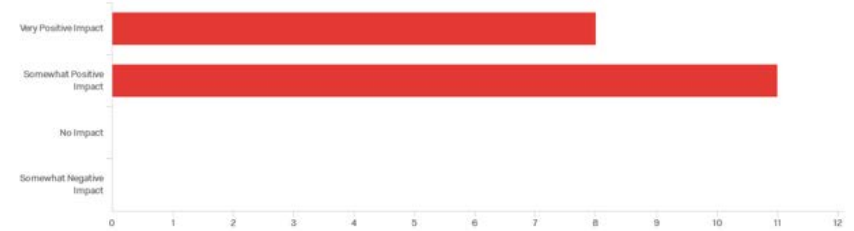
Skills?



Students

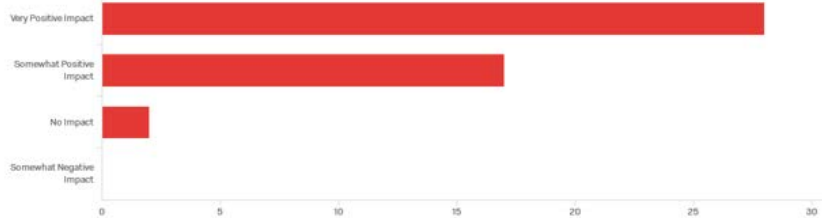
Q38 - What impact have LAEP community engagement projects had on your Leadership

Skills?



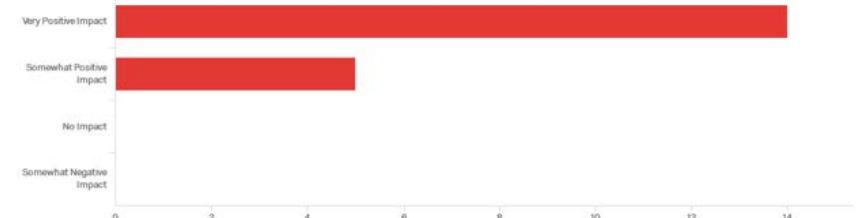
Q39 - What impact did LAEP community engagement projects have on your Ability to

Collaborate with Others on a Team?



Q39 - What impact have LAEP community engagement projects had on your Ability to

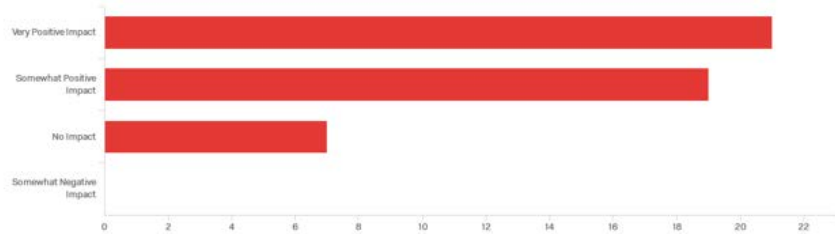
Collaborate with Others on a Team?



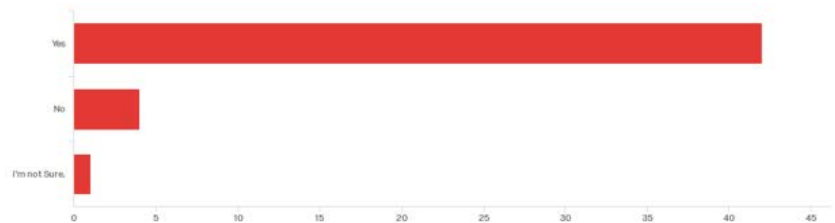
Appreciation of Place and LA?

Alumni

Q46 - How has your experience with LAEP community engagement projects impacted your familiarity and apprec

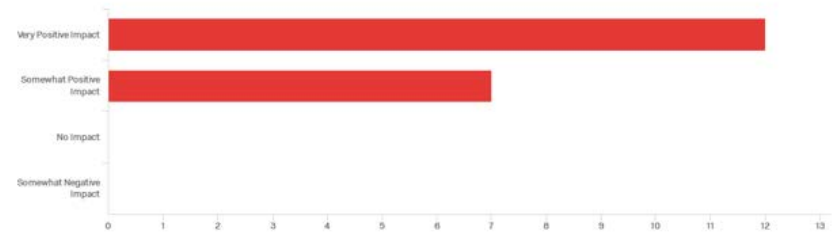


Q47 - Did your experience with LAEP community engagement projects expand your view of what kinds of problems that landscape architecture/design can solve/address?

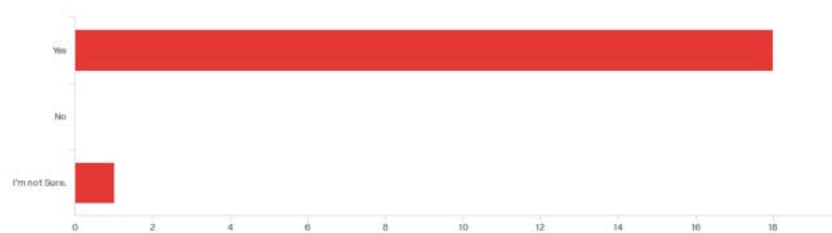


Students

Q46 - How has your experience with LAEP community engagement projects impacted your familiarity and appreciation for the broader natural and cultural landscape of Utah and its surroundings in the Intermountain West?



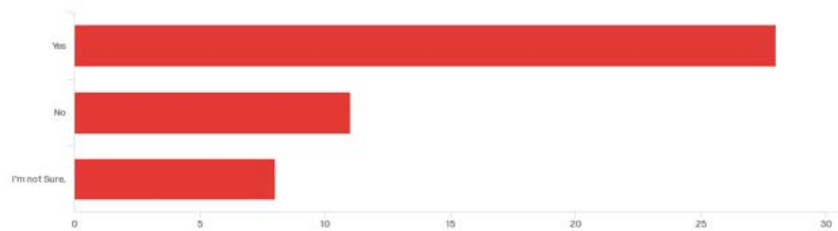
Q47 - Has your experience with LAEP community engagement projects expanded your view of what kinds of problems that landscape architecture/design can solve/address?



Impact on Empathy?

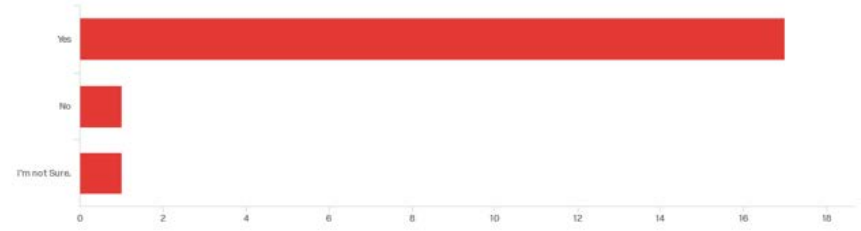
Alumni

Q48 - Did your experience with LAEP community engagement projects expand your understanding of the needs of Utahns who have situations different from your own?

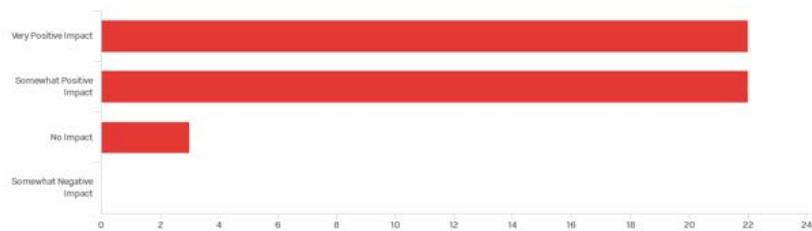


Students

Q48 - Has your experience with LAEP community engagement project expanded your understanding of the needs of Utahns who are different from yourself?



Q40 - What impact did LAEP community engagement projects have on your Ability to See Others' Points of View?



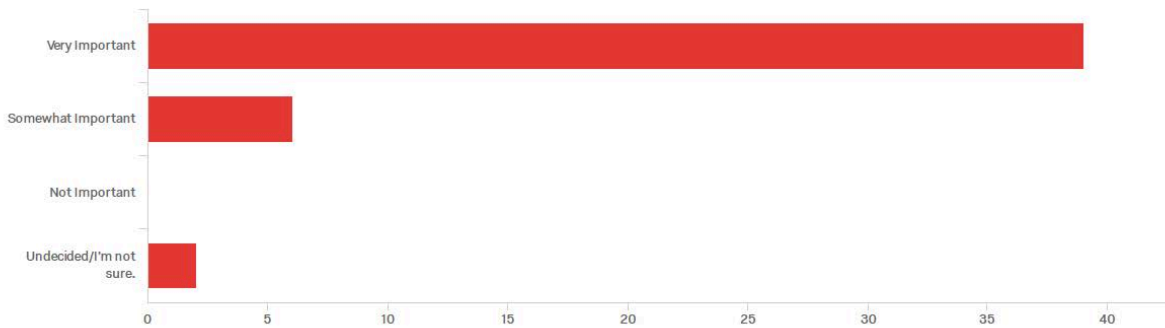
Q40 - What impact have LAEP community engagement projects had on your Ability to See Others' Points of View?



Alumni Interest and Support

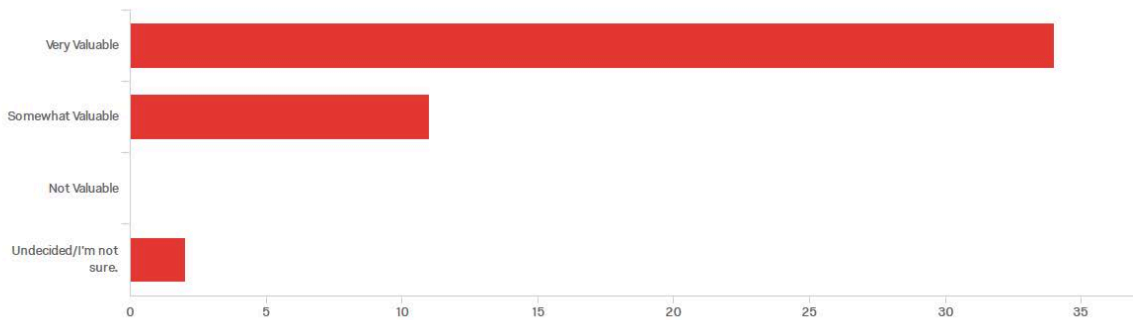
Q53 - Is it important that LAEP offer community engagement projects in its studio

courses?



Q54 - Is it valuable for practicing design professionals to be involved in LAEP community

engagement projects?



Ripple Effects of Community Engagement Projects



Ripples Extend to Professional Competencies, Values, and Relationships.



60% LAEP Alumni said:

LAEP Extension community engagement projects helped connect them with other LAEP alumni and design professionals

91% LAEP Alumni said:

LAEP Extension community engagement projects positively impacted their leadership skills.

94% LAEP Alumni said:

LAEP Extension community engagement projects positively impacted their ability to use the design process to solve real world problems

68% LAEP Alumni said:

LAEP Extension community engagement projects helped them get an internship or a job.