Place-based institutions in general, and universities in particular, are not going anywhere. The question is whether these institutions will simply be mired in their urban context or be foundational and instrumental to urban change—transforming and/or stimulating new rounds of urban development? For universities, it is not if they will be anchor institutions for urban change, but how they will do this and in what ways will the state and the region act to help them be foundational developmental institutions.

David Perry will address this question and report on the movement of the university from its pastoral roots as a ‘contemplative site of knowledge creation’ to a new role of ‘fully-vested urban institution.’ In such a role, the modern urban university may not be the “engine” of urban and global development (as some would rhetorically claim) but it certainly has acceded to a position of a key place-based institution in the urban and global economy.

For more info, visit: tacoma.uw.edu/urban