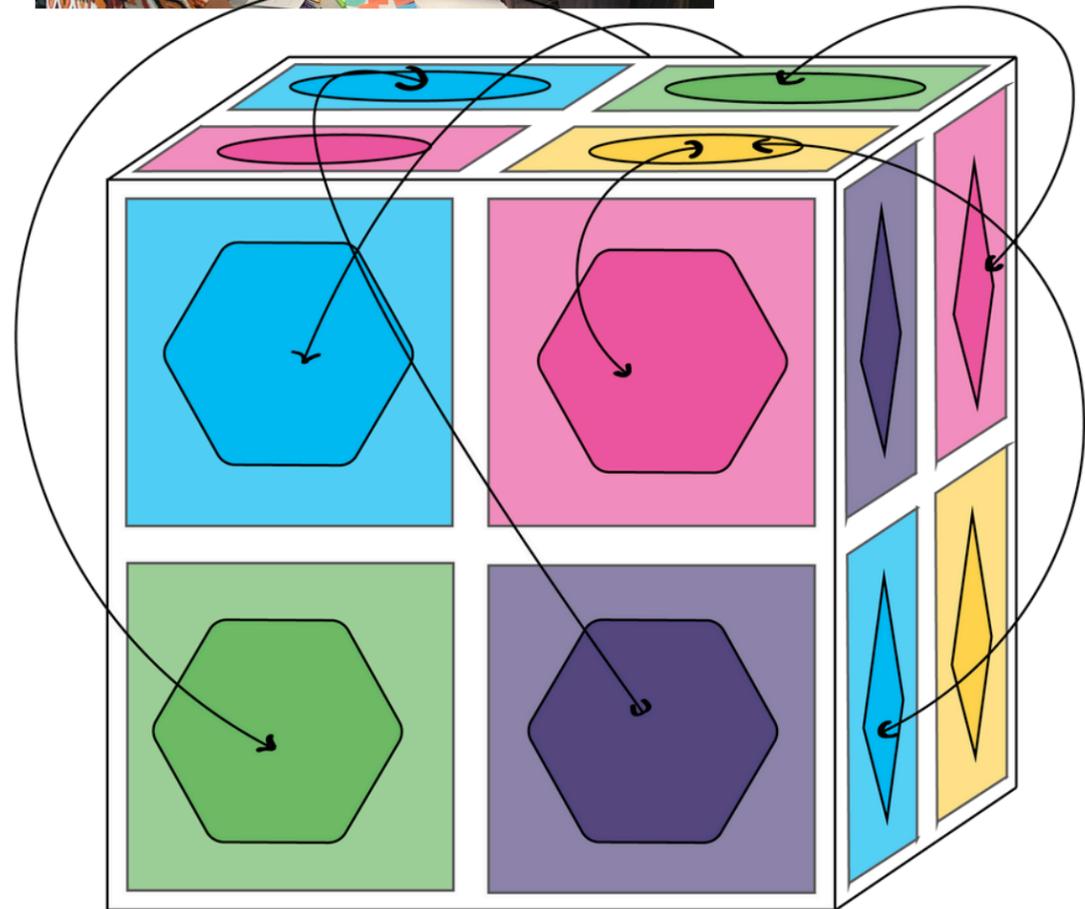




Working in workshops allowed me to understand client focus work, while also keeping in mind the process of design and creating a solution at the end of the day in some way, or at least some kind of progress on said issue. The workshop programming gives opportunities to figure out logistics, processing information before budgeting and ethics of the project. The goals are really interesting to see since they differ for everyone.



The Design process illustrated here shows my interpretation of the GID labs definition of the design process, there is no linear way to design.

# GID Internship WI 2025

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## INTRODUCTION

I started my experience to gain a handful of practical design precedents that I could take and establish physically in the built environment. Throughout my time in the GID internship, I learned much more about the theoretical aspects of design rather than its physical applications. Supporting workshops with various community groups exposed me to the structured yet flexible nature of design allowing for unconventional approaches to develop solutions for complex social issues that I wouldn't have known how to address otherwise.

### My Research Question

While I might've been required to read into some sort of question my approach was merely an experience and my notes thereof. My findings can't be centered around a question I didn't have in my head at all.

## METHODOLOGY

I initially approached this internship with the design knowledge I had gained from my Urban Design curriculum, particularly in spatial thinking. However, as I engaged in the workshops, I discovered the freedom of design when working on challenges that aren't necessarily tangible, as they are in the built environment. This became especially evident when working with one particular group that struggled with defining the ethics and structure of a program. They used constant back and forth communication having community leaders, program coordinators, experts of the field, and more to create a program that would be ethical and effective that tackled a complex issue I wouldn't even know where to start with. Watching community members discuss their experiences, critically assess uncertainties, and collaboratively refine their ideas into a well-thought-out solution was incredibly inspiring.

## Findings

Empathy and equity have always been fundamental principles of design, but this experience allowed me to see them actively shaping the design process. I am truly grateful to the GID Lab for introducing me to a human-centered design approach that goes beyond theory, one that prioritizes people, empathy, and thoughtful engagement at every step.

At first, I worried that not being in the Global Innovation Design minor would be a setback, but it instead gave me a unique perspective. My background in Urban Design allowed me to approach problems differently and created a different perspective that helped me in my studios and my work to come.