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## University students review Gig Harbor downtown parks, buildings

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On Wednesday, July 17, University of Washington Architecture and Planning students hosted a public meeting at the Skansie house in Gig Harbor. They are three weeks into a nine-week project to study land, buildings and parks in the downtown waterfront.

Ten senior and graduate architecture and planning students, under the direction of Professor Jim Nicholls, are participating in the "Summer Storefront Studio" project. They are getting input from community members and will present recommendations and a 50-page book in a final public meeting on Aug. 21.

On Wednesday, they presented 10 proposed sites for review. Several dozen community leaders, merchants and citizens attended to give feedback. For each project site they are looking at strategies for increasing housing, promoting water access and use, reprogramming of existing historic buildings, promoting small business, and implementing a "complete streets" approach to pedestrian, bicycle and vehicular movement. Projects will focus on both short- and long-term recommendations.

The project is sponsored by the Gig Harbor Downtown Waterfront Alliance with the support of the Helix Design Group of Tacoma. The next community open house will be 4 to 7 p.m., Wednesday Aug. 7 at the Skansie house on Harborview Drive.

Information on this project can be viewed on the [www.storefrontstudio.org](http://www.storefrontstudio.org) website.

Source: Gig Harbor Downtown Waterfront Alliance

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