

Gaucha Think Tank

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Project Summary

Gaucha Think Tank is an initiative that encourages students to engage civically and address community issues through innovative and interdisciplinary projects. Through partnerships with local government and organizations, the project connects students with the local community to work towards lasting positive impact.

Impact

The club was able to tackle multiple issues of the UCSB and local Isla Vista (IV) community this year. Through our Street Mural Project, in collaboration with the IV Community Services District (IVCSD) and the Santa Barbara County Public Works Department, we addressed cyclist/pedestrian safety and infrastructure and fostered community through a public-driven street mural installation. Additionally, we addressed the desire for greater local self-governance in IV through our IV City Hood Economic Feasibility Study, in collaboration with IVCSD and Berkson Associates. Our study is part of a larger initiative to make IV a city.

The club exceeded its objectives this year as both projects were successfully completed and over 75 community members were involved in one or both projects. Most participants in these two projects were students but there were some IV residents, not associated with UCSB, who assisted with the street mural installation. We hope these two projects will have a lasting impact on the entire UCSB student population and IV residential population.

The club will continue next year with more members and a stronger leadership team. However, the two projects that were the focus this year have concluded so next year will be dedicated to new initiatives tackling issues that the local community currently faces.