



Involving the community to enhance the dynamics of their neighbourhood

Secretary of Urban Development
Buenos Aires City Government



We have some big challenges in Buenos Aires, and solving them can only be achieved by adapting ourselves and creating a resilient system that can satisfy as many people as possible. We want to be honest, swift and efficient when we provide solutions to the citizens. That is why we involve them in our discussions and processes, so they can understand, for example, that we are not just replacing a parking lot or a building with a new park. Citizens should know why these transformations take place and have a voice in the making.

To strive for a dense, diverse and complex city is our main goal. In order to achieve that we need to expect a broad sense of city in our discussions, including topics that go far from lengths and square metres, such as mixed uses, gender roles, environment, and so on. We try to redefine the role of public architecture, with a broad, open and collaborative approach.

Results

Our office works understanding that cities are the material expression of people's lives. We are highly interested in the human point of view in order to design public policies for the inhabitants of the city. This means that our team develops sustainable public policies from consensus with the citizens. Our departure point is anthropological perspective, because we understand that urbanism is made from and for people.

This leads to the participation of diverse disciplines which work together in order to solve urban problems, involving the citizens and the government. Only this way we can understand people, their behaviours and create new solutions for new challenges.



Manzana 66 park in Buenos Aires.



Participative events involving residents and neighbours.

The projects are largely successful; the citizens not only enjoy new public parks, streets and open spaces, but also engage more often in participative processes that involve them. This way, the methodology becomes full-circle and the city is enhanced in multiple ways; streets become safer, public spaces are friendlier and more inclusive, and the government is aware of the needs of the people and the city as a whole.

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