



PART 1: BASIC DATA

Title of the experience: <i>Mejor Comunidad: reconstrucción del tejido social</i> (Better Community: rebuilding the social fabric)		
Name of the city/region: Guadalajara / Jalisco		
Country: Mexico		
Institution presenting the candidacy: Municipality of Guadalajara		
Start date of the experience: 2016		
End date of the experience: ongoing		
Type of candidacy	New experience	X
Type of experience	Urban planning	X
	Council	X
	Workshop/meeting for diagnosis, monitoring, etc.	X
Objective of the experience	To achieve higher levels of equality in terms of participation and to incorporate diversity as a criterion for inclusion	X
	Community empowerment	X
	To empower non-organised citizens	X
	To increase citizen’s rights in terms of political participation	X
Territorial area	All the territory	X
	District	X
	Neighbourhood	X
Thematic area	Governance	X
	Education	X
	Urban management	X
	Health	X
	Security	X
	Culture	X
	Housing	X
	Job creation	X
	Local development	X
	Training/learning	X
	Social inclusion	X



PART 2: DESCRIPTION OF THE EXPERIENCE

Objectives

Main objective of the innovative experience:

- Community strengthening
- Rebuilding the social fabric through two aspects: the physical intervention of the environment (housing unit) they inhabit and social intervention.

How have you achieved this objective?

- From 2016 to date, 25 housing units (HU) have been rehabilitated where more than 61 thousand people live with an investment amount of more than 20 million dollars.
- 25 social councils for citizen participation have been formed, comprising 10 inhabitants.
- Recovering community spaces within the housing unit used by alleged criminals that gave residents a sense of insecurity.
- Intervening public spaces that used to be wastelands and/or garbage dumps to turn them into parks in the surroundings of housing units
- Mediation of neighborhood conflicts
- Job training and job vacancy days
- Crime and addiction prevention talks
- Vaccination and preventive health campaigns for the citizenship
- Vaccination and animal sterilization days
- Cultural and outdoor cinema events
- Sports tournaments
- Mural by the collective "BOA MISTURA" donated by the Municipality of Madrid, Spain to give a sense of identity and belonging.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VK_iLORnHzE

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jf8mP4iNdik>

- Commemorative mural by recovering a public space with elements of identity of the area.
- Installation of clean points in each of the 25 housing units for the collection and separation of garbage.

To what extent has this objective been achieved?

- A public servant assigned to the citizen participation department called "social liaison" attends and is present in each of the 25 housing units, accompanying citizens in the construction of the community and the social fabric.
- Social councils for citizen participation have been created in each of the 25 housing units, made up of 10 residents who serve as interlocutors with the municipal government.
- Crime rates have dropped in and around the housing units.
- The last housing unit intervened was the 3rd most participatory "colonia" (neighborhood) (out of 441 colonias/neighborhoods in Guadalajara) in the 2021 participatory budget exercise.



Dimensions of the experience

Which is the most innovative aspect of the experience?

This program has been replicated in 4 states (Guanajuato / Mexico City / Puebla / Monterrey) of the Mexican Republic but not in a comprehensive manner as we do. They only focus on the physical intervention of the housing unit (not the surrounding area) and less on social intervention (rebuilding the social fabric).

The inhabitants of the housing unit choose the combination of colors with which their housing unit will be rehabilitated. No colors alluding to any political party are applied.

The inhabitants choose the cultural programs that will be presented in the housing unit.

To what extent is the procedure transferable?

All the elements that make up and are the basis of the program are replicable. It is a matter of political will and the desire to do things well, not half-heartedly or just to say that something has been done with public resources.

It is to bet on the medium and long term to change the reality for the inhabitants of the housing unit. That they grow and develop in a healthy environment and based on a culture of peace.

Why do you consider that the experience is feasible?

This program focuses on areas of priority attention and social backwardness and the degree of marginalization is high.

Polygons where there is no citizen organization and the social fabric is broken. Where citizen participation and governance were a myth.

Citizens felt that they had been turned around after more than 30 years without having received any attention from those in power.

What has been the level of co-responsibility?

At the beginning, only a few inhabitants participate, but as the program develops, more families join in.

Some support with labor, others with food and refreshments for the participants. Others contribute ideas and unfulfilled desires that are important to the community.

Which evaluation and accountability mechanisms were used?

The social liaisons (public servants assigned to the Directorate of Citizen Participation and Governance) in conjunction with the leadership of the housing unit conduct neighborhood meetings to determine the satisfaction of the inhabitants a few days after the program began and at the end of the program.

With this information we determine what can be replicated in the following interventions and what we do not like.

Summary of the experience

In the last five years in Guadalajara (Jalisco, México) we have been able to change the reality in which the citizens of the housing units live, rebuilding the social fabric and renewing their environment. The sense of belonging to the space they inhabit changes, they feel proud to



live in that community. Citizen collaboration begins to take place in order to maintain the spaces.