

Appendix ~ Partners

In the first two years, our focus is on developing strong partnerships from key sectors and populations, which we feel are foundational to the project. These include Cities Without Hunger (urban gardening), GastroMotiva (culinary vocational training), and Occupation São João (intentional community) in addition to art spaces and initiatives active in the Center of São Paulo, such as those represented in the Circuito Centro network.

Cities Without Hunger is a world-renowned, urban gardening initiative operating in the East part of São Paulo where unemployment is at the highest level in the city. Therefore teaching households how to grow produce in urban conditions provides both a healthy diet and income-generating opportunities. Cumulatively the gardens under Cities Without Hunger management produce at a surplus; therefore it is possible for a restaurant to buy directly from producers. GastroMotiva trains at-risk, urban youth to cook and become chefs in professional kitchens. It shares a very similar ethos with Cities Without Hunger, to first improve food preparation and dietary habits at the household level that, in turn, leads to employment opportunities and holistic betterment in families, communities, neighborhoods, business and the city. We plan to purchase our produce from Cities Without Hunger and hire our restaurant staff from the ranks of GastroMotiva trainees. Furthermore, we have asked the founders of both organizations to be part of an advisory council for Lanchonete.org, and are planning a hybrid ownership model whereby their organizations can serve as anchors within the association's membership if so desired. Both organizations (whose stakeholders are primarily from the periphery) have expressed an interest in having a central location – or food/food service lab – in the Centro for a variety of reasons; therefore, it makes sense to enter discussions with them now regarding future usage and management of the restaurant facility. While these two organizations primarily serve constituents in the periphery of São Paulo, the occupation movement or Frente de Luta por Moradia (FLM)¹ is more focused on the center of the city where there is a higher density of both population and the built environment.

In the worldwide phenomenon of forced eviction that affects millions of people at lower levels of economic agency, occupations are at the forefront because their legitimacy can be dashed with the claim of illegality. This *de jure* interpretation of the law does not account for the *de facto* reality (and complexity) of daily life in fast-evolving cities such as São Paulo. While land speculation both benefitted from and fueled a 'danger' narrative in the Center, occupiers have renovated whole buildings to livable states whereby they could more easily get to their jobs and enjoy convenience in this sprawling city. Simply put, they used things that were not being used. Through the normalizing effect of daily use, occupiers (and the larger socio-economic demographic that they represent) helped the inner city of São Paulo to be perceived as livable again, even if they will be the first to be removed ... even if their

¹ <http://www.portalfilm.com.br>

methods are no more or less legal than those of wealthy land speculators who are able to pad the pockets of politicians for favorable prices on city-owned buildings and favorable zoning decisions, a part of the same system that deploys police forces willing to remove 'occupiers' from their homes in the middle of the night when that property is ready to be 'turned' into something more luxurious. As I mentioned in the beginning, working with the occupation movement has been useful in understanding issues at play in the Center of São Paulo from a group of people affected most acutely and immediately by capital encroachment. Back during the 2013 São Paulo Architecture Biennial when the Occupation São João invited us to co-produce an event with them in their second-floor cultural center, we realized that, unless they live in them, Paulistanos do not often enter these occupations. This experience has led us into a deeper partnership with the Occupation São João, which will span the full project.

While the Occupation São João is less visible than the São Paulo-wide movement, the FLM to which they are a constituent member, they are one of its most dynamic members for the following reasons: women-led, smaller size (170 people, 60 families), relative homogeneity (most of them come from the same part of the periphery where Cities Without Hunger is also located – São Mateus to the east – and are related, even if they open their doors to others, e.g. a newly-arriving Colombian family), and, most importantly, strategy (knowing that they will never be legal tenants, they have found ways to 'inch' forward in justifying staying and claiming their right to be there by, for example, leading the process of landmarking their building, the historic Columbus Hotel. Additionally, the Occupation has a registered cultural association, and is therefore eligible to receive tax-exempt financial support for the Centro Cultural São João (CCSJ). The CCSJ is a unique art space on the second floor of the Occupation that is open to the broader community providing space for language lessons, LGBT and other identity group meetings, Capoeira instruction, etc.