

IMAGINACIÓN POST-MARÍA

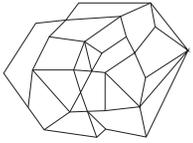
DREAMING, DESIGNING
AND CREATING
THE JUST RECOVERY
WE ENVISION FOR
OUR ISLAND.



la maraña

urbanismo socialmente consciente

OUR HISTORY, OUR VISION



la maraña
urbanismo socialmente consciente

OUR HISTORY

La Maraña is a woman-led, participatory design and planning non-profit that promotes the inclusion and empowerment of Puerto Rican voices in the design and creation of our cities and communities. Inspired by the number of placemaking initiatives mushrooming across the island, La Maraña was founded in 2014 as a way to support and offer visibility to citizens hoping to activate abandoned spaces and reclaim participation in the urban realm. For years we have engaged communities in the creative processes inherent in visionary planning and city making, thus planting seeds for long-term civic empowerment through physical, tangible projects.

In the aftermath of hurricanes Irma and María in 2017, we launched a community participatory recovery project, titled *Imaginación Post-María*, thus further positioning ourselves as advocates and catalysts of a just recovery for our island.

OUR VISION

We dream of a Puerto Rico where every community has the opportunity to take charge of their own future. Our vision is to strengthen and promote the transition of our cities and communities into more livable, participatory, and sustainable environments. We work to decentralize the management of resources by developing new participatory governance models that give citizens direct power to imagine, plan and build the changes they desire for their communities.



OUR EXECUTIVE CO-DIRECTOR TEAM AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS



SOFÍA UNANUE

BA from Brown University in International Development with a regional focus on the Arab World and Latin America. Experience in community organizing, participatory design, business development, and partnership building. Co-founded La Maraña in hopes of creating new bottom-up approaches to urban and community-led development on the island.

2019 Co-Founder and Co-Director, La Maraña
San Juan, Puerto Rico

Member of Board of Directors, Slow Food USA
New York, USA

2016 Social-Impact Program Coordinator
Fundación Segarra Boerman e Hijos
San Juan, Puerto Rico

2013 Youth Entrepreneurship Consultant, Ashoka
Buenos Aires, Argentina

International Relations Coordinator, Viva Rio
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

2011 Oral-History Based Research Thesis on 2011 Egyptian Revolution
Cairo, Egypt

2010 Creative Arts Workshop Leader, SPACE in Prisons
Providence, Rhode Island



ALEXANDRA LLEGUS

BA from University of Puerto Rico in Environmental Design and Sociocultural Anthropology. Experience in graphic and architectural design, environmental sustainability, and community-driven research. Passionate about collaborating, listening and exchanging knowledge with communities in order to propose alternatives that address our collective well-being.

2019 Co-Director, La Maraña
San Juan, Puerto Rico

2017 Emergency Housing Construction Quadrille Leader, TECHO
Canóvanas, Puerto Rico

Bio-Construction Workshop
Aguada, Puerto Rico

Collectives Architecture Charrette, Brigada PDT
San Juan, Puerto Rico

2016 Project Coordinator for Emergency Housing Construction
and Survey Report, TECHO-Argentina
Neuquén, Argentina

2015 Urban Ethnography Study, University of Puerto Rico
San Juan, Puerto Rico

2013 Public Space Activation Study, Urban Pioneers
Berlin, Germany

GUIFRE TORT

Environmental Sustainability and Design Thinking
Board President

CAROLYN GUZMÁN

Human Rights Advocacy and Law
Board Member

CYNTHIA BURGOS

Landscape Architecture and Agronomy
Board Member

EDWIN QUILES

Community Planning and Architecture
Board Member

SOFÍA GALLISÁ

Contemporary Art and Non-Profit Management
Board Vice-President and Secretary

EMIL MEDINA

Multi Media and Social Marketing
Board Treasurer

RAISA AZIZ

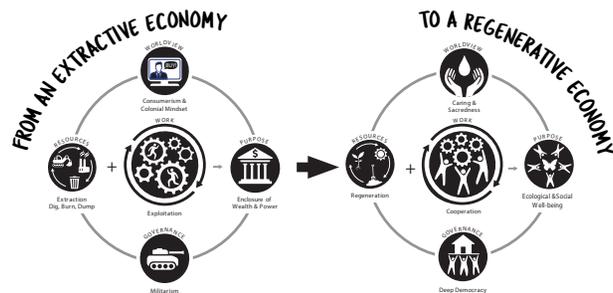
Social Entrepreneurship and Storytelling
Board Member

IMAGINACIÓN POST-MARÍA

When hurricanes Irma and María made landfall, self-organized community-led response efforts quickly evolved into urgently needed life-saving relief across the island as a failed governmental response became evermore evident. Liberated, community-led enclaves became a direct reflection of how self-sustainability, daring creativity and unshakable solidarity can counter the daunting reality of having been left in the dark.

It is amidst and in reaction to the bleak aftermath of hurricanes Irma and María that we dared to imagine a community-driven alternative to our future. Inspired by the communities we serve and motivated by our island's deep need for locally-embedded, long-term recovery efforts, our team at La Maraña designed Imaginación Post-María. This community participatory recovery model offers citizens direct power to imagine, plan and build the changes that they desire in their communities. Combining participatory planning and design with the power of micro-finance and capacity building, Imaginación Post-María's 6-step model enables neighbors to collaboratively design a community-driven master plan and implement a commonly elected social impact project in their community, acquiring the skills and tools necessary to believe in and manifest their innate capacity to recover in a just manner.

As part of our large-scale vision, we are currently collaborating with three diverse communities across the island, specifically in northern, central, and eastern landscapes, establishing distinct case studies and measuring the replicability of our community participatory recovery model. Working hand-in-hand with these three community partners, we hope to transform our current implementation phase into educational, open-source deliverables that can further spark community-led recovery efforts across the island and beyond.



© Strategy Framework for Just Transition by Movement Generation with Our Power Campaign



© AFP / Héctor Retamal y Edgardo Rodríguez. Cataño, Septiembre 2017.

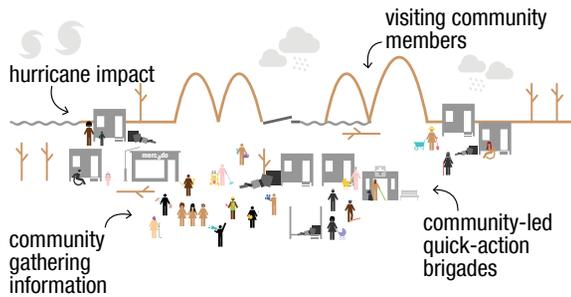


© Reuters / Carlos García Rawlins. Guayama, Septiembre 2017.

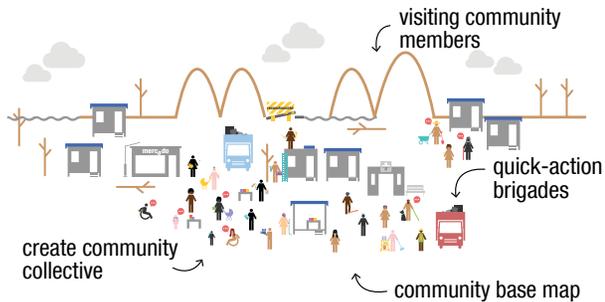
OUR METHODOLOGY

SHORT-TERM RECOVERY ENGAGE + CONNECT

STEP 01 | COMMUNITY RELIEF



STEP 02 | COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

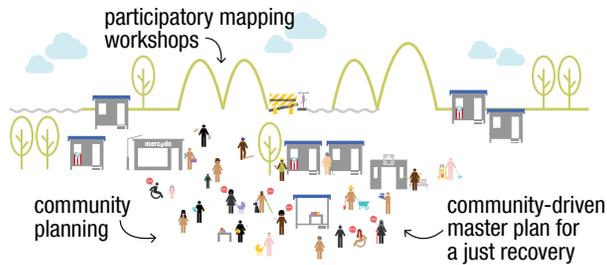


MID-TERM RECOVERY PLAN + DESIGN

STEP 03 | PARTICIPATORY FIELD-WORK

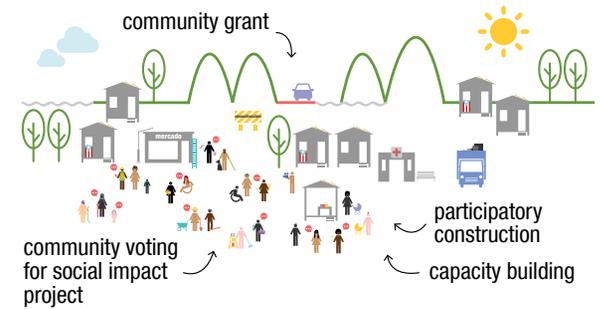


STEP 04 | COMMUNITY PLANNING



LONG-TERM RECOVERY FINANCE + EXECUTE

STEP 05 | PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION



STEP 06 | ENVISIONING FUTURE



LA VUELTA DEL DOS AND LOS GUARETOS

Nestled in the lush, mountainous region of Comerío, the colorful and quaint neighborhoods of La Vuelta del Dos and Los Guaretos in the Palomas region of Comerío is home to around 150 families that suffered severe losses during the hurricanes. A strong artistic and youth-led organizing movement - titled Brigada Palomas - has sprung in the past year and is harnessing strategic partnerships with art-based grassroots organizations, such as La Maraña and Defend Puerto Rico, in hopes of bringing forth tangible and creative solutions to the environmental and infrastructure challenges their communities face.

REGION

Central-Rural

MUNICIPALITY

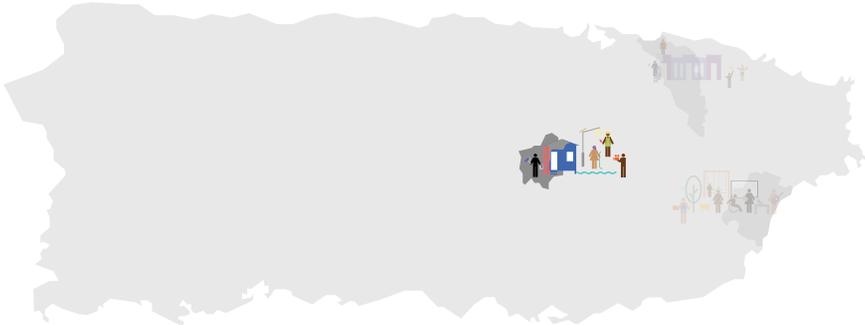
Comerío

COMMUNITY

Palomas

POPULATION

250 estimated



SAN ANTÓN AND SAINT JUST

The historically black and industrial communities of San Antón and Saint Just are currently led by a fierce group of intergenerational women advocating to ensure justice in their community as the government shut down the community's sole public school. By dovetailing artistic resistance, sustainable agriculture and alternative schooling with their rich local talents, this community is channeling all of its efforts to transforming this abandoned structure into a hub that can propel community organizing and development.

REGION

Northern-Urban

MUNICIPALITY

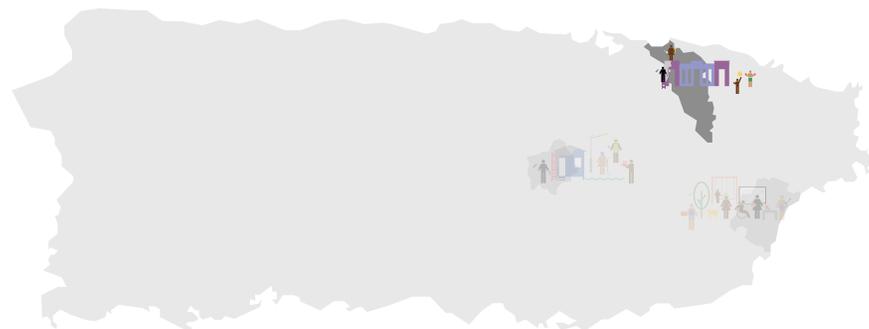
Carolina

COMMUNITY

San Antón

POPULATION

13,000 estimated



MARIANA AND JAGÜEYES

The rural communities of Mariana and Jagüeyes are one of the living examples of what Puerto Rican communities can achieve amidst our failed governmental response. With over 30-years of on-the-ground community organizing efforts, a group of intergenerational community leaders swiftly came together after the hurricanes to establish a communal kitchen which served 350 meals daily. They also transformed their community center into an off-grid wifi and solar energy hub as darkness reigned for the months to come. Being located in the municipality to be first struck by María, disaster preparedness has become a unifying objective for their broad coalition of community leaders. They have now come together to ideate a community emergency plan for disaster recovery.

REGION

Eastern-Rural

MUNICIPALITY

Humacao

COMMUNITY

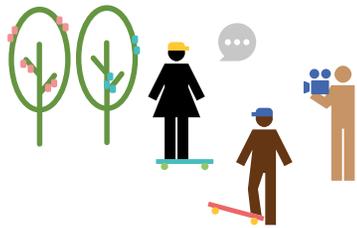
Mariana

POPULATION

3,000 estimated



HOW WE ARE MEASURING IMPACT



CHANGE STORIES

Storytelling is a powerful window into an individual's journey. Placed within the context of community-driven projects, stories bring us much closer to comprehending the complexities and perspectives of the communities we collaborate with. Envisioning Imaginación Post-María as a pathway to long-term empowerment, we promote storytelling as a vehicle for communities to capture, protect, and share on their terms the history, assets, challenges and aspirations of their community. Working hand-in-hand with our team's AudioVisual Coordinator, we are analyzing our oral history and interview archive against the backdrop of how community members questioned their surroundings, imagined and proposed new avenues for change, and turned those ideas into action.



COMMUNITY-DRIVEN DEVELOPMENT

Community-driven development is a local development approach that ensures communities are at the forefront of design, planning and implementation processes. Feedback sessions during community meetings, surveys and outreach coordinator observations will shed light on the degree to which community members express a strong voice and actively take charge throughout Imaginación Post-María's implementation.

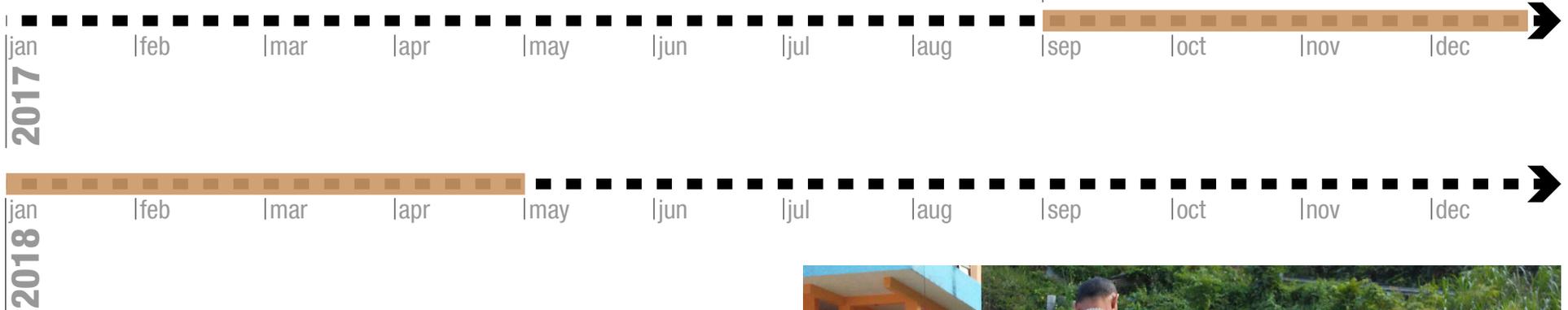


LONG-TERM EMPOWERMENT

La Maraña's ultimate goal is not only to engage citizens in design and planning processes, but to ensure the capacity-building necessary for long-term empowerment and sustainability after our work has concluded. To this end, we will measure our impact based on the extent to which community members continue to drive change and sustain organizing efforts after project completion.

SHORT-TERM RECOVERY | ENGAGE + CONNECT

steps 1 and 2



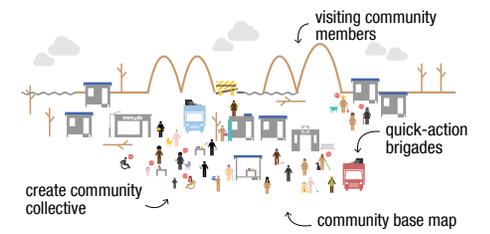
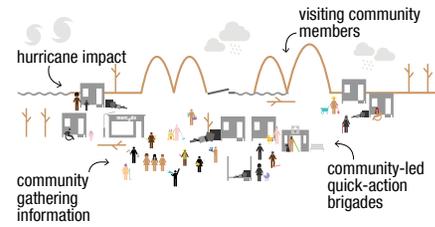
IMPACT

- QUICK-ACTION BRIGADES**
Deliver relief items (solar lamps, water filters, food, clothing and roof canopies) and organize project specific brigades (water stations, solar energy, permaculture, roof and home rebuilding) to meet community needs.
- PARTICIPATORY COLLABORATION AGREEMENTS**
Jointly establish guidelines for our collaboration with community partners, including roles, common objectives and adaptation of model to community needs.
- COMMUNITY BASE MAP**
Identify key community stakeholders and spaces so as to develop a visual platform for future needs assessments and participatory planning processes.
- AUDIO-VISUAL STORYTELLING**
Gather raw audio-visual footage of recovery processes and initial collection of community members' oral histories and interviews.



ABOUT

Community members self-organize to meet immediate disaster relief needs in their community and invite La Maraña to help bring together a group of community collaborators to design and execute their vision.



MID-TERM RECOVERY | PLAN + DESIGN

steps 3 and 4

2018

jan

feb

mar

apr

may

jun

jul

aug

sep

oct

nov

dec

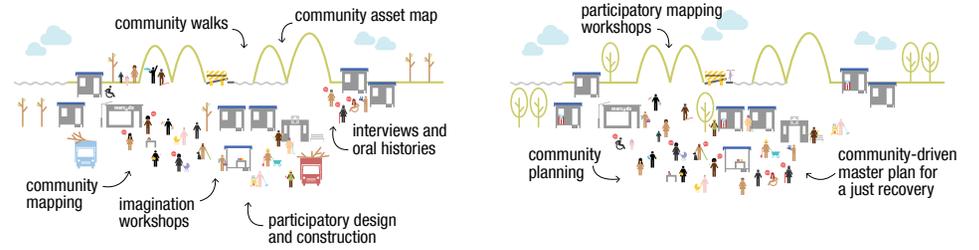
IMPACT

- COMMUNITY ASSET MAP**
Identify collective needs, assets, talents and dreams for change through imagination workshops and participatory mapping tools.
- COMMUNITY-DRIVEN MASTER PLAN**
Create a shared vision that will guide and ignite each community's just recovery.
- PARTICIPATORY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS**
Ensure humane and sustainable housing for families affected by the hurricanes (4 homes in La Vuelta del Dos & Los Guaretos and 1 home in Saint Just & San Antón) and a much needed gathering space for community engagement processes (1 community park in Mariana & Jagüeyes).
- WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT IN COMMUNITY ORGANIZING**
Ensure community partners capture as much economic benefit and community organizing practice by hiring and working hand-in hand with community leaders and construction workers.
- CROSS-COMMUNITY EXCHANGE**
Enable opportunities for cross-community collaboration by organizing site visits and leading the first Imaginación Post-María Retreat.
- AUDIO-VISUAL STORYTELLING**
Continue collection of community members' oral histories and interviews and produce 10+ video clips of project implementation.



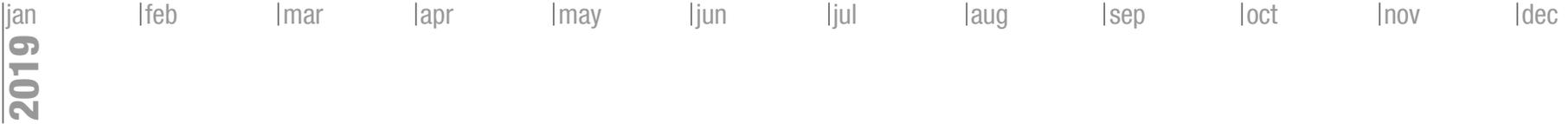
ABOUT

Guide community planning and mapping efforts in order to create a community-driven master plan that embodies the community's collective vision for a just recovery. Simultaneously, lead participatory construction projects as a way to establish tangible projects that can foster trust and ignite hope within the community.



LONG-TERM RECOVERY | FINANCE + EXECUTE

steps 5 and 6

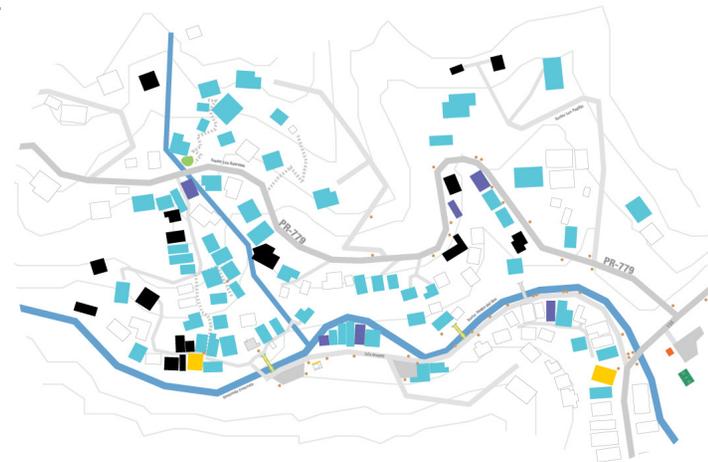


IMPACT

- COMMUNITY VOTING GATHERINGS**
Develop community election processes for the selection of each community's social impact project/s.
- OPERATIONAL PLAN AND BUDGET**
Work hand-in-hand with external consultants to create an operational plan and budget breakdown for the community implementation of the elected social-impact project/s.
- SOCIAL IMPACT PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION**
Finance and support the execution of elected project/s through participatory construction and capacity-building workshops that ensure knowledge exchange and talent sharing between community members.
- WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT IN COMMUNITY ORGANIZING**
Pair operational plan and budget with the map of community talents and resources, so as to spur the local economy and offer roles to diverse community members throughout the implementation of project/s.
- CROSS-COMMUNITY EXCHANGE**
Enable opportunities for cross-community collaboration by organizing site visits and leading yearly Imaginación Post-María Retreat.
- AUDIO-VISUAL STORYTELLING**
Continue collection of community members' oral histories and interviews and develop conceptual plan for Imaginación Post-María Web-Series.

CLEAN WATER AND ENERGY

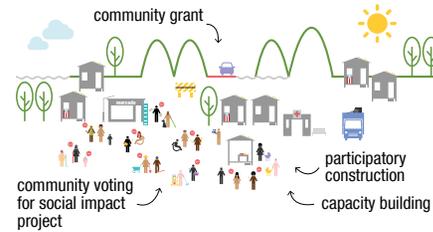
Surrounded by an acute water crisis - river contamination, privatization of community water wells, informal structures that exacerbate flooding and poor sanitary systems - and poor public lighting infrastructure, the youth-led leadership of La Vuelta del Dos and Los Guaretos has decided to take on the creation, advocacy and execution of a clean water & energy plan for their community. La Maraña will be aiding this process by offering planning and design, coalition building and environmental management expertise to the community.



LA VUELTA DEL DOS AND LOS GUARETOS' COMMUNITY BASE MAP

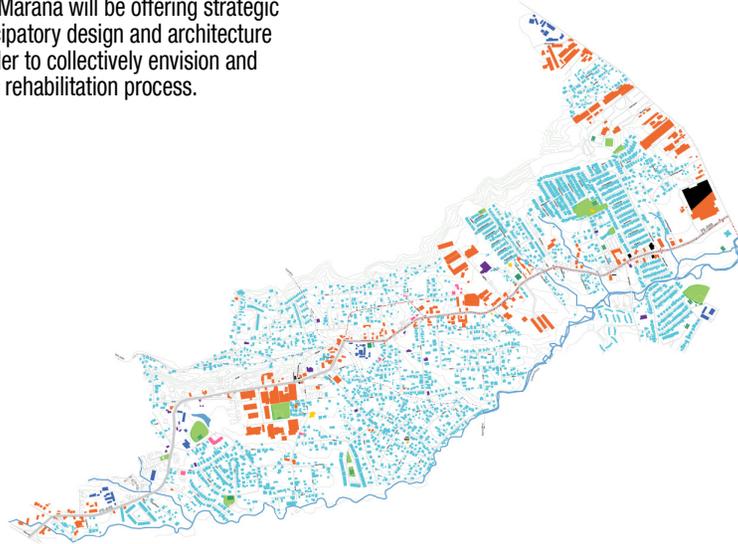
ABOUT

Bring community-driven master plans to life as community members collectively vote for and receive a grant to launch their very own social impact projects.



ABANDONED SCHOOL RE-APPROPRIATION

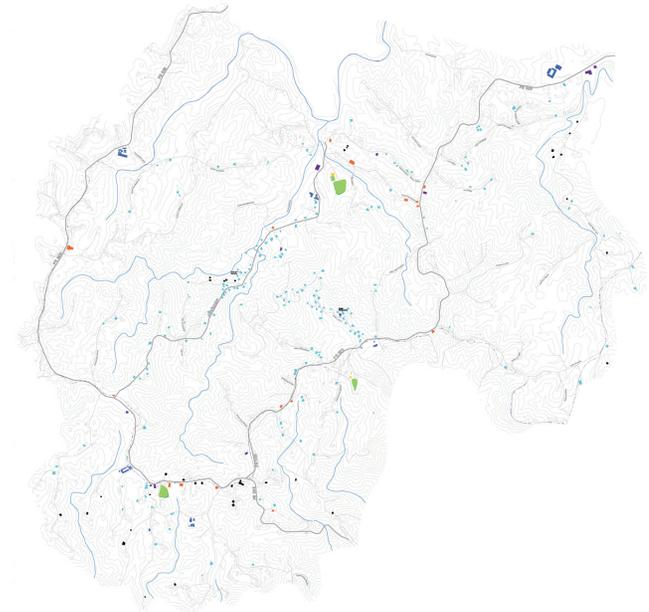
As part of community organizing and planning efforts, the San Antón and Saint Just community of Carolina have taken on the exciting task of transforming their abandoned school into a community hub that offers alternative schooling, small-business development and sustainable agriculture. La Maraña will be offering strategic planning, participatory design and architecture expertise in order to collectively envision and materialize this rehabilitation process.



SAN ANTÓN AND SAINT JUST'S COMMUNITY BASE MAP

COMMUNITY-DRIVEN EMERGENCY PLAN

Due to the dire need to find local-based solutions to disaster recovery, La Maraña has partnered with the Mariana & Jagüeyes community in Humacao to help plan, map and design a Community-Driven Emergency Plan that will position them as a unique enclave of community-based disaster recovery experts on the island.



MARIANA AND JAGÜEYES' COMMUNITY BASE MAP

POST-PROJECT PHASE | COLLABORATIVE EVALUATION

post-project step

2019

jan | feb | mar | apr | may | jun | jul | aug | sep | oct | nov | dec

IMPACT

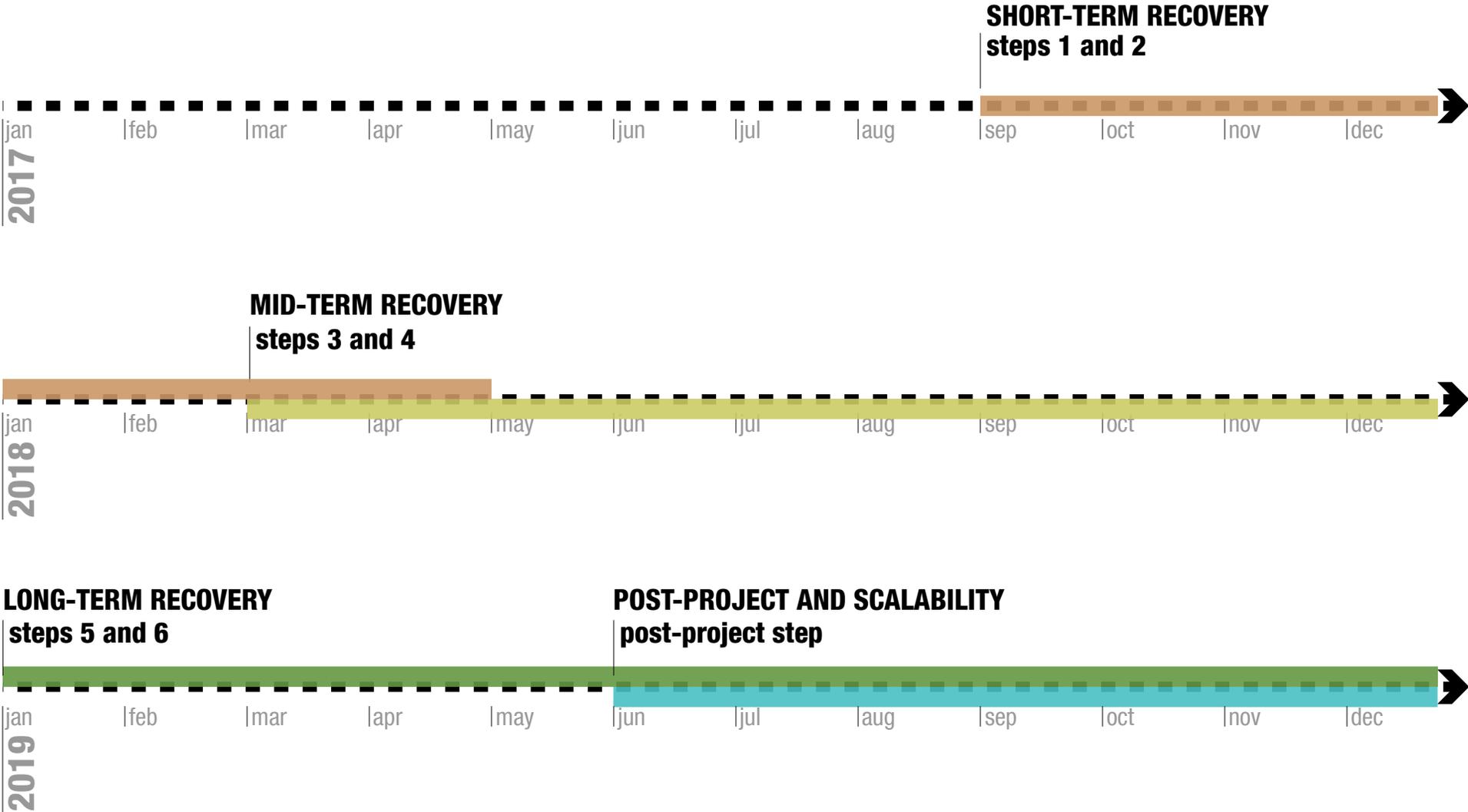
- PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY**
Track sustainability of social impact projects and Imaginación Post-María impact through periodic surveys and community visits to our three current community partners.
- IMAGINACIÓN POST-MARÍA OPEN-SOURCE TOOLKIT**
Offer communities across Puerto Rico and beyond a tangible methodological approach to community planning and design in order to adapt these practices in their communities.
- IMAGINACIÓN POST-MARÍA WEB SERIES**
Support holistic, equitable storytelling for Imaginación Post-Maria's current community partners by offering them the opportunity to jointly ideate and steward their own just recovery stories. In collaboration with Defend Puerto Rico, create an audiovisual portrait that will leverage the story of equitable rebuilding and recovery to wider audiences.
- COMMUNITY PLANNING ADVOCACY**
In collaboration with Ayuda Legal Puerto Rico, take on a stronger voice in community planning advocacy as an integral part of our equitable development and just recovery.
- SCALABILITY PLAN**
Partnering with Hester Street Collaborative, develop a strategy for scaling and partnering with communities of color and low-income communities in order to build greater power among them and strengthen the web of community-led enclaves across Puerto Rico and beyond.

ABOUT

In 2019 and 2020, Imaginación Post-María will evolve into two areas. Once concluding the implementation of the community-designed social impact project/s, we will continue engagement with our current community partners in order to monitor the sustainability of our impact, as well as provide support where needed. Finally, we will transform Imaginación Post-María's experiences and learnings into educational, open-source deliverables that can catapult a scalability plan and spur future bottom-up recovery efforts in other communities across the island and beyond.



OVERALL PROJECT TIMELINE



OUR 2018 ALLIES AND FUNDERS



MENSAJEROS
DE PALOMAS



PATIO TALLER



EMERGE
PUERTO RICO



The Boston
Foundation tBf

THE
SOLUTIONS
PROJECT



kbzu2.



THANK YOU FOR JOINING US
IN THE PATH TOWARDS CREATING
A MORE JUST, PARTICIPATORY
AND SUSTAINABLE ISLAND.

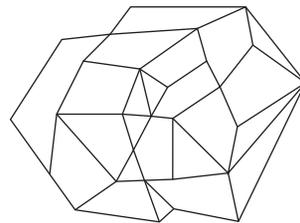
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