

Revisiting El Gallo

The SIGUS IAP January Workshop 2002
Ciudad Guayana, Venezuela



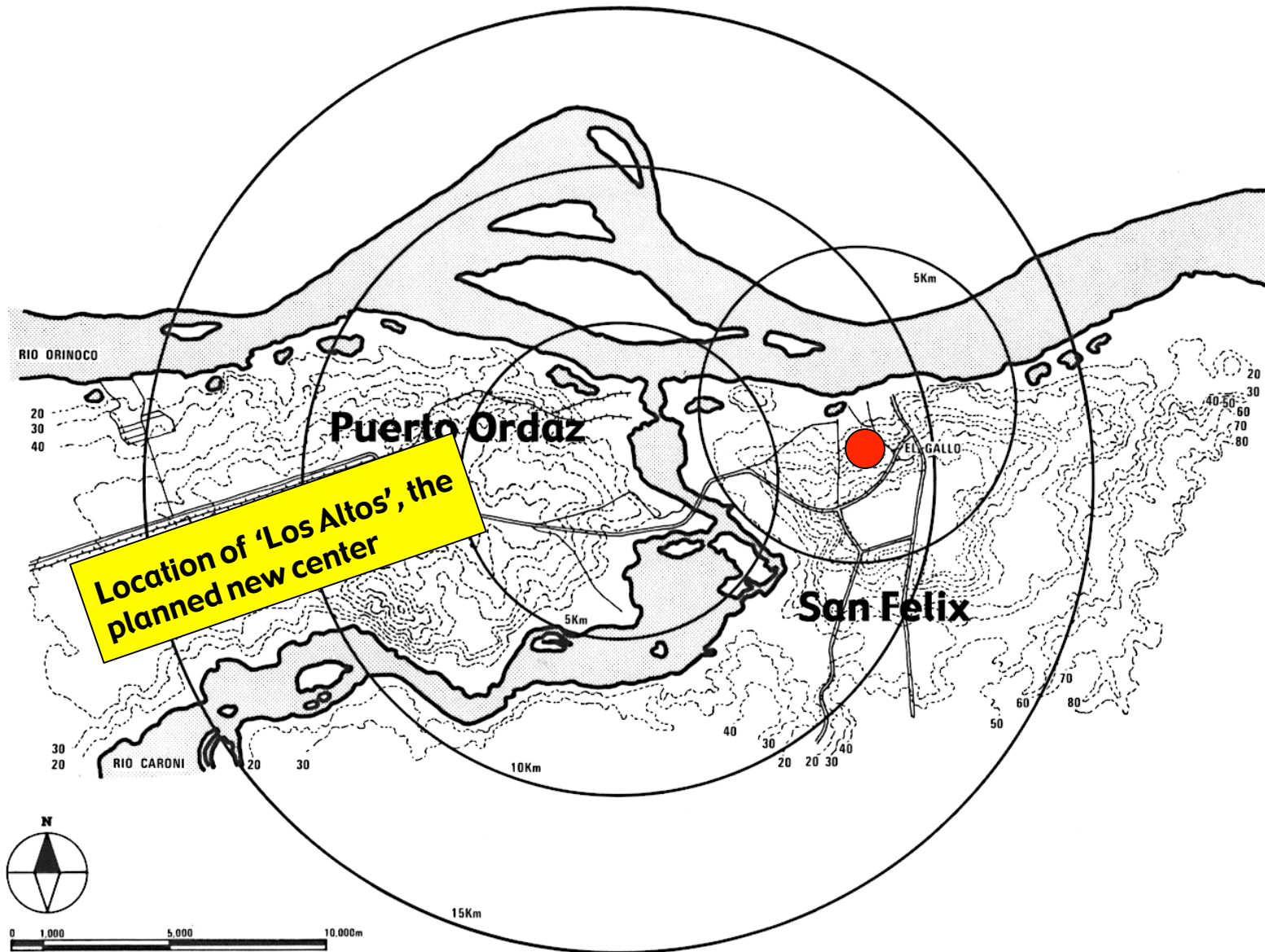
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1 – What is the name of the famous book published in 1969 which started it all?

- A: *La Ville Radieuse* (El Corbu)
- B: Site Planning (K. Lynch)
- C: Urban Dwelling Environments
- D: Boston Architecture



C: 'Urban Dwelling Environments' by Caminos, Turner, and Steffian, published in 1969, was the inspiration of the workshop. El Gallo was one of the settlements examined. In the Introduction it says: "No one really has an honest answer or a consequent action that implies any real hope for the 300 million people of Latin America, whose number will reach 600 million within 25 years and who, although desolately poor in the overwhelming majority, have the right to a material life, to culture, and to civilization." It is now 35 years later: what happened???



URBAN AREA, CIUDAD GUAYANA, Venezuela
TOPOGRAPHY AND CIRCULATION

Sources: Corporación Venezolana de Guayana Site Plan
 Quality of information: Accurate

The Location of El Gallo

2 - Why did they want to build a new town?

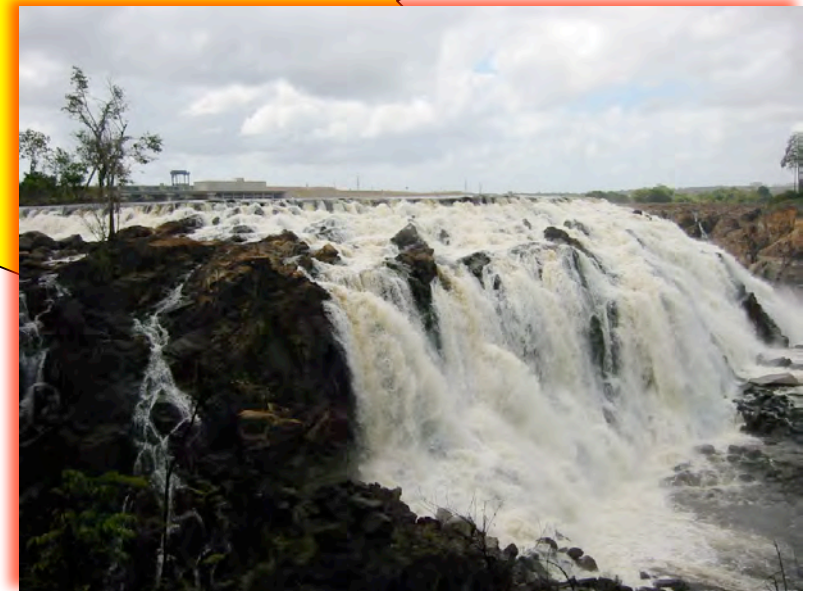
A: The old ones were dirty.

B: To bypass the existing administration

C: To accommodate the expected boom

D: To compete with Brasilia

C: To accommodate the expected boom from a new iron ore mill and aluminium smelter, made possible by 2 hydro-electric dams.





The planned new city by a Harvard/MIT team in 1965.

3 – If San Felix joined with Puerto Ordaz to form Ciudad Guayana, what is the name of the airport?

A: Tri-Cities Aeropuerto

B: There is no airport!

C: SanOrdazGuayana Aeropuerto

D: None of the above

D: It is called Puerto Ordaz: there is no reference to Ciudad Guayana!

4 – Where did Lisa Peattie write her famous book “View from the Barrio”?

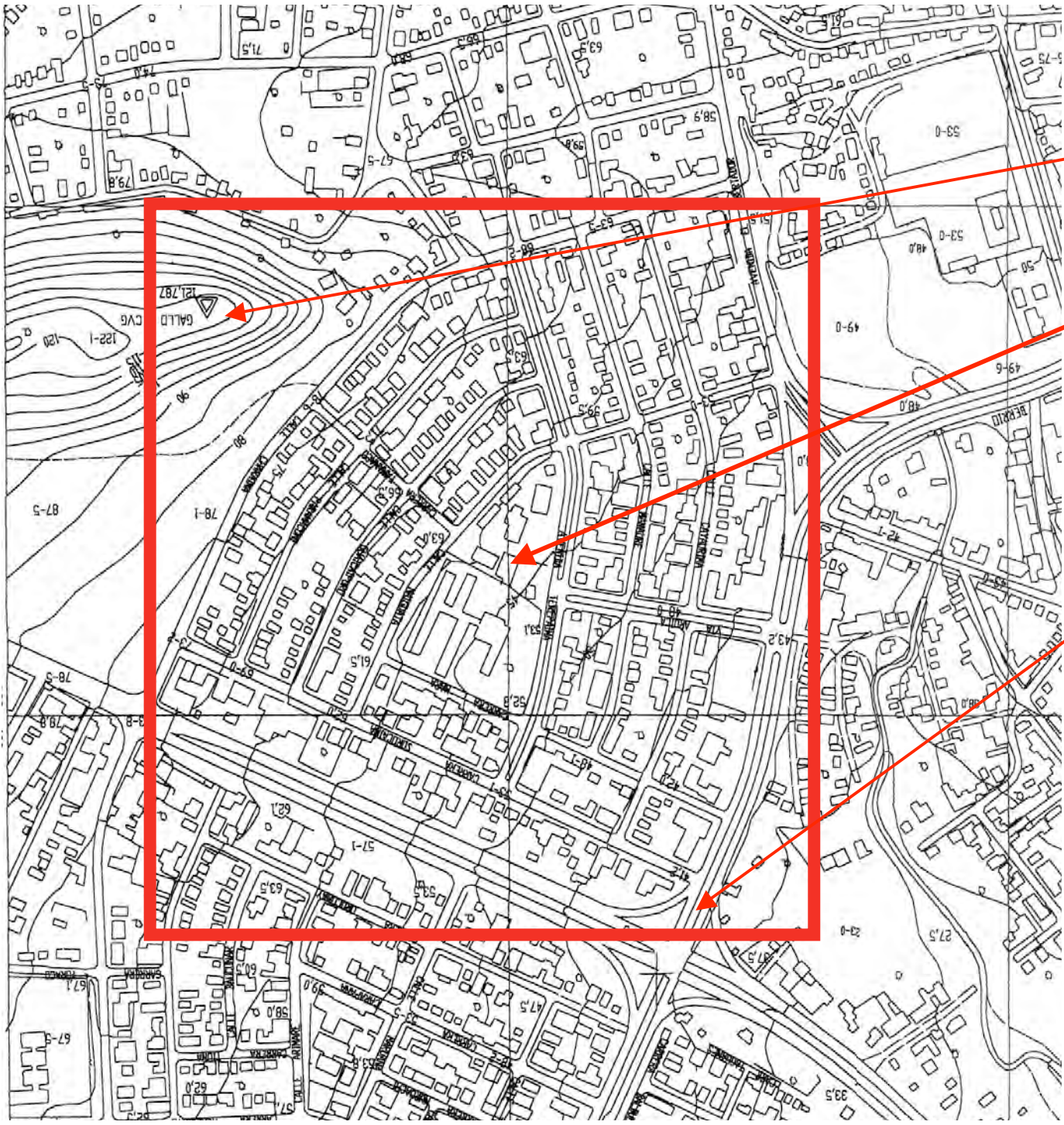
- A: La Lula**
- B: LooLoo**
- C: LooHooLoo**
- D: Cambridge**

A: The squatter barrio of La Lula, on the river bank outside of San Felix. This book helped revolutionize the way we think about and study squatters.



In the beginning...

The housing was to be built progressively, incrementally through the self-efforts of the families.

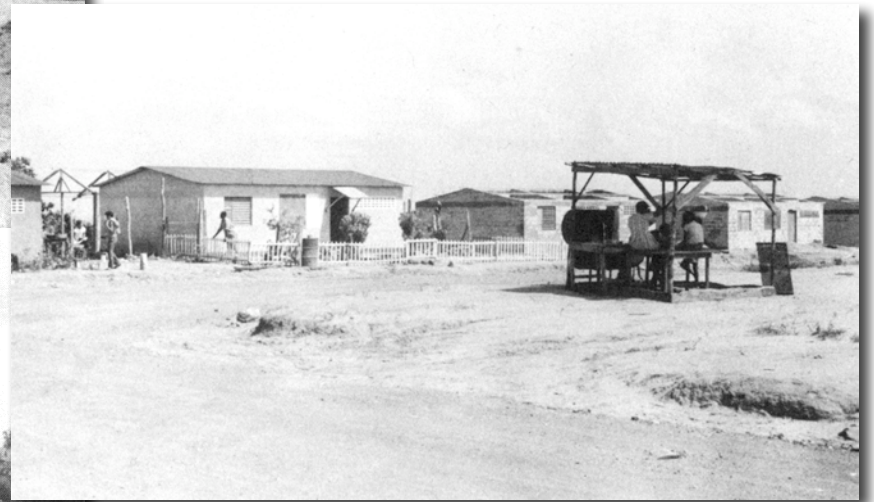
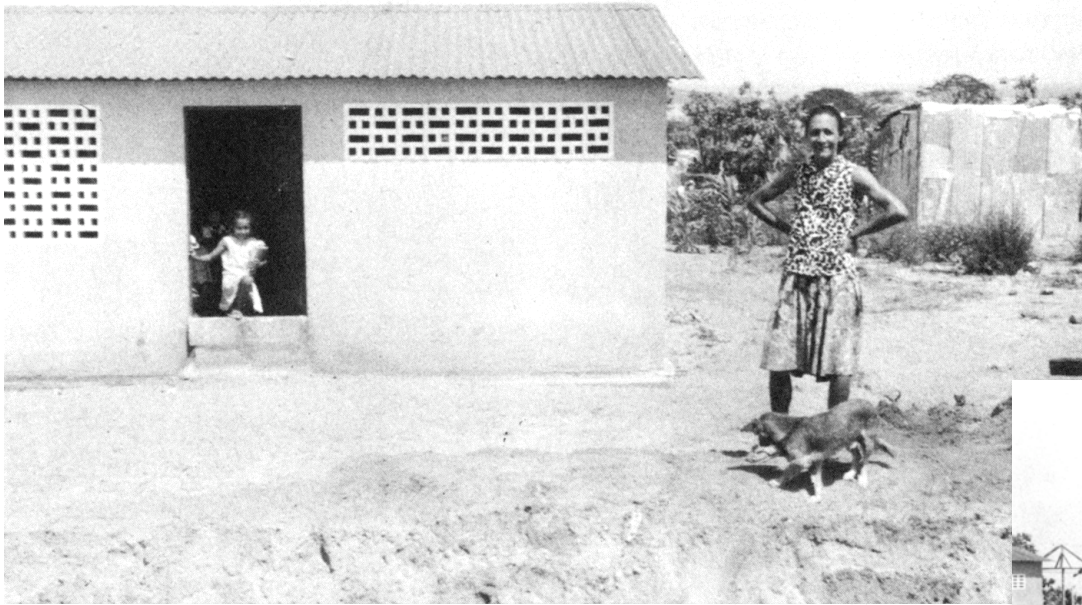


El Gallo hill

**School
Community Center**

**Good location at
intersection of
main roads**

The plan



El Gallo 1967

The page is decorated with various blue geometric shapes, including triangles and polygons, scattered around the central text. Some shapes are solid blue, while others are white with blue outlines. The shapes vary in size and orientation, creating a dynamic, abstract background.

5 - What does the name el Gallo mean?

A: A Big Chicken

B: No more work for architects?

C: A Californian wine grown in Venezuela

D: The Rooster

***D: The Rooster. The symbol
of the community is the
rooster.***



El Gallo today

The slide features several yellow geometric shapes, including triangles and polygons, scattered across the background. Some are solid, while others are cutouts or have missing corners, creating a fragmented, abstract design.

7 – Why were no houses built initially for the community in El Gallo?

A: Ran out of money.

B: Lost the plans.

C: Wanted to let everyone do-their-own-thing

D: Tents were cheaper.

C: Each family built their house according to their own wishes , progressively as their resources allowed.



Look around El Gallo today!

6 – What does USB stand for?

A: United State of Bolivar

B: Universal Serial Bort

C: Universidad Simón Bolívar

D: Unified sustainable barrio

***C: Universidad Simón Bolívar.
8 architectural students from
Caracas joined MIT students
for the 2-week workshop.***



USB + MIT = The El Gallo team

Activities carried over two weeks.

SIGUS January Workshop Series

URBANDWELLING ENVIRONMENTS REVISITED: EL GALLO, CIUDAD GUAYANA

An IAP SIGUS Workshop January 13–26, 2002 School of Architecture and Planning, MIT

Held in collaboration with the Universidad Simon Bolivar, Caracas.

	<i>Sunday - 13</i>	<i>Monday - 14</i>	<i>Tuesday - 15</i>	<i>Wednesday - 16</i>	<i>Thursday - 17</i>	<i>Friday - 18</i>	<i>Saturday - 19</i>
<i>Week 1</i> 13-19 January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrival in Caracas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:00 Tour Caracas Historical City guided by USB Professor • Visit Parque Central • 2:00 Tour World Heritage University Campus (UCV) • Dinner with Simon Bolivar students, at USB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel to Ciudad Guayana • Welcome Dinner 	<p><i>Understanding the Context</i></p> <p>CVG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Planning the city - Housing context - Future • Tour of CVG and the City 	<p><i>Understanding the Context</i></p> <p>San Felix</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations: (at town office) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Overview - Future <p>El Gallo Community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Housing - Walk-through/ meet community • Set up work space, exhibits 	<p><i>Looking With Different Eyes</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listening/Looking • Community Mapping • Oral histories • Through Children's eyes 	<p><i>Looking With Different Eyes</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sketching impressions • Measuring <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - growth - process - 'triggers' • Photographic documentation
	<i>Sunday - 20</i>	<i>Monday - 21</i>	<i>Tuesday - 22</i>	<i>Wednesday - 23</i>	<i>Thursday - 24</i>	<i>Friday - 25</i>	<i>Saturday - 26</i>
<i>Week 2</i> 21-26 January	Open	<p><i>Issue Identification/ Lesson Drawing</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City/policy level • Community/local level <p><i>Identify needs, priorities, and projects at the two levels.</i></p>	<p><i>Addressing Issues</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare project proposals with community <p><i>"Partners in Planning"</i></p> <p><i>Consider two levels: main focus/issue, and immediate action steps as catalyst</i></p>	<p><i>Addressing Issues</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare for presentation • Trial Presentation 	<p><i>Addressing Issues/ Presentation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare for presentation (con't) • Presentation to Community, CVG, and city <p><i>Closing Party</i></p>	<p><i>Special Projects</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students do individual field research 	<p><i>Special Projects</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students do individual field research



'Azul'

Giovannina Castillo
Marisa Gaithier
Tim Morshead
Carlos Rengifo
Michael Spinello
Yaneira Wilson



'Rojo'

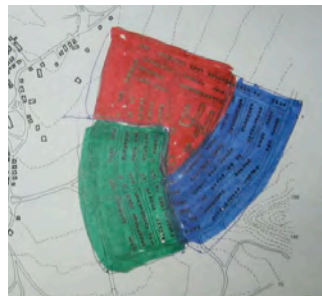
Eleanor Fawcett
Carolgi Gonzalez
Meg Hiesinger
Michael Mendez
Rigoberto Nobriega
Miguel Urdaneta



'Verde'

Cesar Badaracco
William Doss Suter
Christina Erickson
Roxanne Figueroa
Carolina Izquier

**Each group
studied a
different
section.**



Three working groups were formed

Grupo Azul

¡BRAVO GALLO BRAVO!

TEMAS DE INTERES MOSTRADOS POR LA COMUNIDAD

SISTEMA EDUCATIVO

SERVICIOS PUBLICOS

SISTEMAS DE CONSTRUCCION

IDENTIDAD DE LA COMUNIDAD

LA SEGURIDAD

PROBLEMAS ESPECIFICOS EN RELACION A LA SEGURIDAD



SENSACION DE INSEGURIDAD Y DEBILIDAD DE LA COMUNIDAD

*ACCIONES DE PERSONAS EXTERNAS A LA COMUNIDAD

*ACCIONES DE PERSONAS INTERNAS DE LA COMUNIDAD

1

2

INICIATIVAS TOMADAS POR LA COMUNIDAD

PASADO

- *CERRAMIENTO DE LOS FRENTES DE LAS CASAS
- *USO DE REJAS EN VENTANAS Y PUERTAS
- *REALIZACION DE REUNIONES VECINALES PARA TRATAR EL TEMA
 - *PREFECTURA ENCARGADA DE LA VIGILANCIA

PRESENTE

- *DISMINUCION DE REUNIONES VECINALES PARA TRATAR EL TEMA
- *VIGILANCIA DE LOS EXTRANOS QUE ENTRAN A LA COMUNIDAD
- *PROTECCION DE LOS VECINOS ENTRE ELLOS
 - *PATRULLA CONSTANTE NOCTURNA
 - *PREFECTURA EN LAS AFUERAS DEL GALLO

3

ESTRATEGIAS GENERALES



4

PROPUESTA UNO

CREACION DE UN CONSEJO DE SEGURIDAD

MIEMBROS DE LA COMUNIDAD



QUIEN?:

- 1.- Escoger a un miembro de cada calle
- 2.- Juntas Vecinales

COMO?:

- 1.- Juntas para discutir temas de seguridad
- 2.- Crear un plan de acción con tiempos determinados

QUE?:

- 1.- Establecer un grupo de vigilancia vicinal
- 2.- Reestablecer el registro de incidentes
- 3.- Crear un Programa de Silbato
- 4.- Hacer Invitaciones a la Policía



5

PROPUESTA DOS ILUMINACION



DONDE?

- 1.- Alrededor del Centro Comunal
- 2.- Cerro "El Gallo"
- 3.- Calles



QUE?

- 1.- Crear un grupo de Mantenimiento
 - *Delegar una persona por calle
 - *Tener reuniones constantes
 - *Proteccion de bombillos
- 2.- Hacer una Campana Informativa
- 3.- Mejorar Iluminacion de las fachadas de las casas.
- 4.- Distribuir los Fondos de la CVG en este aspecto

6

PROPUESTA TRES

RELACION CON OTRAS COMUNIDADES

*Calles que unen vecindario:

*Comunicación que favoreceria a todas las comunidades

7

PROPUESTA CUATRO INCREMENTAR PRESENCIA POLICIAL

QUIEN?

- 1.- Grupo de vecinos del Gallo y Comunidades Adyacentes

COMO?

- 1.- Presionar a las Autoridades para mejorar el servicio del 171
- 2.- Trabajar con la Policia para establecer una Caseta de Vigilancia en "El Gallo"



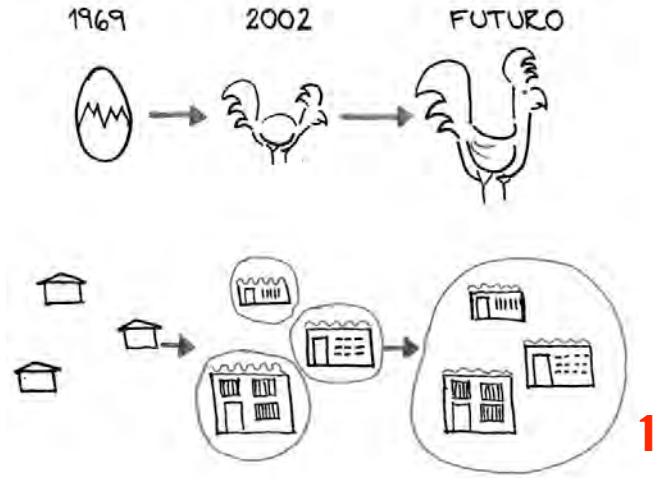
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RECOMENDACIÓN

**LAS GRANDES METAS SE
PUEDEN LOGRAR
A TRAVES DE LA
ORGANIZACIÓN DE GRUPOS
DE LA COMUNIDAD CON
RESPONSABILIDADES
ESPECIFICAS**

"GRUPO AZUL" 9

Grupo Rojo



CASAS 2



CALLES 3



AREAS VERDES 4



1. RECOLECCION

CORTO PLAZO:

- PAPELERAS EN LAS CALLES
- PUNTOS DE RECOLECCION



LARGO PLAZO:

- RECICLAJE



- PROGRAMAS
- MICROEMPRESAS

5

2. INFORMACION

CORTO PLAZO:

- PUBLICIDAD
 - CARTELES
 - ALTAVOCES
- CONCURSO DE AFICHES

LARGO PLAZO:

- PLANES EDUCATIVOS
 - IGLESIA
 - CENTRO COMUNAL
 - ESCUELA



6

3. ACCIONES DE LIMPIEZA

CORTO PLAZO:

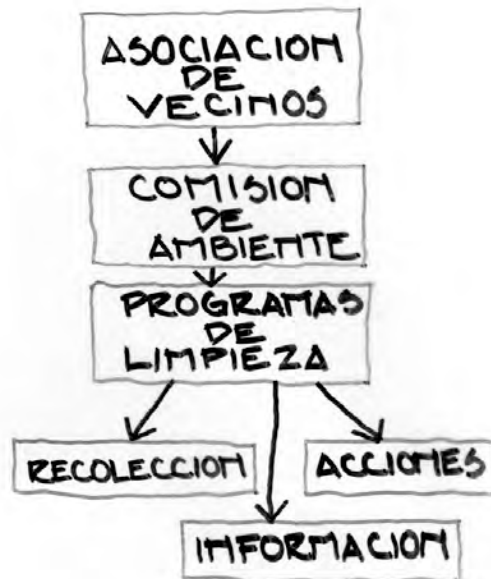
- JORNADAS DE LIMPIEZA

LARGO PLAZO:

- PROGRAMAS DE EMBELLECIMIENTO (ISLAS, AREAS VERDES)
- CONCURSO DE LA CUADRA MAS BONITA



7



8

ALGUNAS SUGERENCIAS

PROGRAMAS DE EMBELLECIMIENTO

- PARQUES INFANTILES



- PLAZAS



- AREAS CON JUEGOS DE MEGAS



- JARDINES COMUNITARIOS

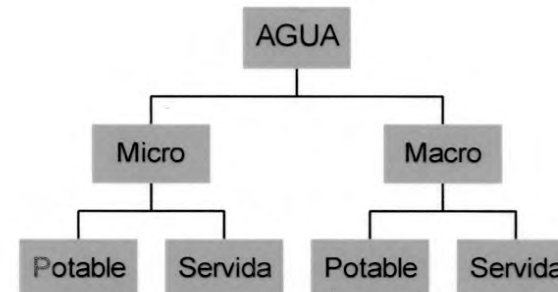


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Grupo Verde



Problemas Expresados por la Comunidad



1

Micro - Potable

- Racionan el agua 4 o 3 horas al día.
- Implicaciones para la vivienda y el comercio.
- El agua no se puede tomar directamente.

2

Macro - Potables

- La infraestructura es insuficiente y vieja para soportar el crecimiento de Ciudad Guayana y El Gallo.
- No existe un sistema organizado de cobranza.
- No hay forma de medir el uso de agua.
- El agua es tomada del Rio Caroni, el cual no es totalmente limpio.
- Falta comunicación entre la comunidad y la organización responsable.

3

Micro - Aguas Negras

- No existe un sistema adecuado para las aguas negras.
- El problema se agrava con las lluvias fuertes.

4

Sugerencias para la Acción

- Plan de Enseñanza
 - Campaña de educación para la comunidad.
 - Insertar en los planes educativos de las escuelas distintas formas de conservar el agua.



5

Ideas Técnicas

- Rescatar el tanque comunitario de El Gallo.



6

Acción Política

- Fortalecer la representación comunitaria de El Gallo y regional frente a las autoridades competentes.
 - Aprovechar la organización comunal existente.
 - Identificar las oportunidades para involucrar a la comunidad con las organizaciones competentes.

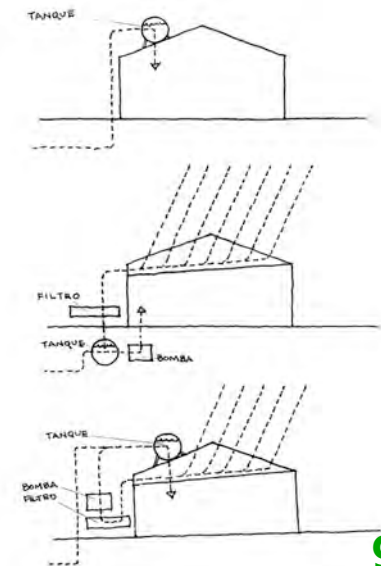
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- Promover la instalación de tanques privados
 - Cursos para fabricación de tanques e instalación.
 - Incentivar la creación de micro-empresas que provean a la comunidad de estos servicios.



- Mecanismos para ahorrar el agua.
- Mecanismos para recolectar el agua de lluvia.

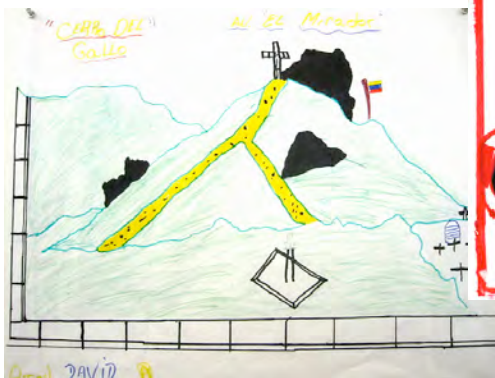
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9

The Amarillo children's group looked at the community from their eyes

Andrés, Angel, Carolina, David, Daylin, Moises, Yeliana, Yuletxi





Field work, group work

and fun...



A closing presentation was made to the community

8 – What were the most important concerns of the community?

A: Cable TV, parking, swimming pool

B: Water, security, cleanliness

C: Low income, high rents, high taxes

D: Transportation, bad services, few shops

B: Water is only intermittent; people feel afraid although statistics indicate a low crime rate; disposal of trash is not handled well and litters the street and open spaces.



And the demand for housing continues...
and new squatters appear everywhere



***Does the El Gallo
approach offer a
solution??***



9 – Was the El Gallo project a success?

A, B: It was a success because _____

C, D: It was NOT a success because _____



**10 – How could architects
contribute to the El Gallo process?**

A, B: They could contribute by _____

C, D: They can NOT contribute because _____