2019 ANNUAL REPORT



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

December 2019

Dear Friends.

Thank you for making this our most impactful year ever, by far! 2019 was a year of unprecedented growth and unparalleled impact for Catalytic Communities. As we contemplated how to summarize and present the year's work, the task seemed daunting. The annual reports that follow, one for each of our three programs, are our response to this challenge. I hope you feel a sense of pride as you read all that you've helped make possible!

Our community reporting platform, *RioOnWatch*, is getting ready to turn ten and experienced **50% growth** in readership this year, publishing **over 200 articles**, 66% of which engaged in proactive, solutions reporting. Meanwhile, we launched **support groups for community journalists**, including a biannual meet-up with international correspondents, and helped three Rio **community organizers visit New York** to share their strategies at fighting eviction with organizers there.

Our Sustainable Favela Network, launched officially in late 2018, held dozens of working group meetings and five onsite exchanges among community organizers, hosting over 800 people through our diverse activities. The Network ended the year with its second Annual Meet-Up and seven solid proposals for demonstration projects in 2020 and an International Sustainable Favela Forum planned for June.

Finally, our **Favela Community Land Trust** program, also launched in the second semester of 2018, took hold this year with its **Working Group growing threefold**, initiating work in **two pilot communities**, and working on **seven legislative proposals**. As part of this work we also had the invaluable experience of participating in an **international peer exchange** with fifteen other countries learning from the Caño Martín Peña Community Land Trust in San Juan, the world's most successful Favela Community Land Trust and our inspiration in Rio.







"A recipe for sustainable and empowering development of informal settlements that can serve communities well beyond Rio."

All of these achievements and many others are described in the following Annual Report, broken up by each program to give it the due attention it deserves and to show how diverse our work is, and how complementary.

This year we finished a process begun in 2018 to analyze CatComm's work in terms of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, resulting in an interactive webpage that not only presents the SDGs in a new way, but proposes additional "localizing goals."

DON'T MISS OUR INTERACTIVE "CATCOMM AND THE SDGS" PAGE:

www.catcomm.org/sdg

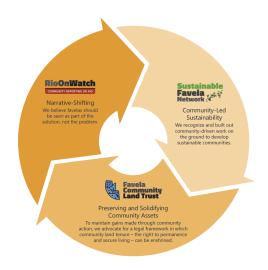
We also continue to view the systemic nature of what CatComm is developing. Our three programs, taken together, systemically transform favelas from the bottom up, while guaranteeing residents' control over their communities' development.

We believe that **our three programs are onto something**. Addressing the counterproductive narratives on favelas, while supporting grassroots efforts to build sustainable communities, and then ensure their future through CLTs, is a **recipe for sustainable and empowering development of informal settlements** that can serve communities well beyond Rio.

And it seems others believe we're doing something important too. On CatComm's 19th birthday in September we put out a call for statements, and in three days got 200 responses of what our network values about us, some of which have been published here and here. In March I was invited to talk about our CLT work at the University of Pennsylvania conference "Why Cities? Informality as a Way of Life: Challenges to Sustainable Urban Development," followed by a presentation in San Juan in May at an international conference tied to the CLT peer exchange there. And, in June, I was asked to be among a small handful of instructors for the Norman Foster Foundation course "On Cities" exploring solutions in support of informal settlements with a brilliant cohort of changemaking youth.



DON'T MISS OUR INTERACTIVE "CATCOMM AND THE SDGS" PAGE: www.catcomm.org/sdg



"A year of unprecedented growth and unparalleled impact for Catalytic Communities."

The pace intensified in the latter half of the year with invitations to present on CLTs at the **Denver Biennial**, to engage with audiences **seven times** during the **Vancouver Ecocity World Summit**—including a **keynote panel**—and then at the **University of Chicago** Mansueto Institute's Symposium on Sustainable Cities and Communities, to present the Sustainable Favela Network. I then had the honor of being the **guest speaker at the 35th anniversary** of the world's largest Community Land Trust, the **Champlain Housing Trust** in Burlington, Vermont. Finally, this December, our team hosted a **3-day experiential training** for a specially-selected cohort of community development professionals working across ten Brazilian states as part of the **SESC** national organization, followed by the opportunity to mediate a **fantastic panel** of local thought-leaders and doers.

After all these accomplishments in 2019, we have **exciting plans for 2020**, also shared in each report. And we hope to make good on them, but **we need your help**. We're at the stage in **our life cycle** where the focus is on developing and implementing real, profound demonstration projects that show that it is indeed possible to realize the type of bottom-up integration of informal settlements that we have been working towards for nearly two decades. Please take a moment to **make a donation** and also consider an **institutional partnership** with CatComm, to ensure our work in 2020 and beyond.

We will only be able to sustainably maintain and expand on our recent growth if we find a new group of partners committed to seeing that happen.

Finally, **thank you for your ongoing support** and engagement with this work! As you'll see from the long list of collaborators of each program, this is **truly a network endeavor**. Like for favelas themselves, for CatComm, networks are the eighth wonder of the world. We hope we can count on you to stay close and engaged so we can continue making good on **the promise of realizing the potential of favelas**.





Watch a video of the panel "Challenges and Opportunities of Community Organization Around the World" at the University of Chicago:

www.bit.ly/MansuetoTalk

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2019 ANNUAL REPORT





INTRODUCTION:

This was an important year for *RioOnWatch*. As Brazil continues to make global headlines for alarming patterns in human rights abuses and deforestation, Rio de Janeiro has become something of an epicenter for backward policy and violent rhetoric. Unprecedented levels of police violence and attacks on favela communities in 2019 have forced us to step up our game, doubling down on our support for community journalists including working to ensure safety.

As part of this effort, we have expanded our operations. *RioOnWatch* now has a dedicated social media team, tasked with ensuring real-time updates and highlighting favela-focused content across major platforms. *RioOnWatch* now consistently receives over 50,000 monthly readers from 169 countries. This past year we averaged 350,000 people who had contact with us each month through our website, mailing lists and social media.

In our efforts to improve their safety and grow their voices, we have strengthened ties between favela community journalists and foreign correspondents based in Rio. Cognizant that international media outlets play a leading role in shaping global public opinion about favelas, in 2019 we launched regular meet-ups. Networking between the two groups has helped provide favela perspectives a direct line to global media.

Meanwhile, we have remained fast and true to our post-Olympic editorial line. In 2020 *RioOnWatch* will turn ten. The platform is so named because it was founded as Rio Olympics Neighborhood Watch, a site for favela perspectives on the urban transformations taking place in the lead-up to Rio 2016. That founding focus meant that

our early years were taken up with two-thirds reporting on human rights violations. In 2016, however, we set a new editorial line with a goal of reversing that statistic.

For three years now we have increased the percentage of *positive*, solutions journalism on the platform, focusing less on describing problems than on proposing solutions. In 2019 we achieved the goal set out at the beginning of our transition away from a focus on violations reporting to proactive, propositive reporting: 66% of our coverage profiled community solutions, described current public debates seeking solutions, or provided necessary research and analysis to understanding Rio's predicament. Meanwhile, 34% continues to maintain a fundamental ongoing spotlight on the abuses and counterproductive policies that plague Rio. And this shift was accompanied by a 50% increase in readership in 2019.

In 2020 we intend to continue this trend: presenting proposed paths through Rio's historic struggles that can also be instructive to communities and cities elsewhere in the world. We are bracing for damages during this year's summer rains following minimal investment in the infrastructure recommendations made to policy-makers after last summer. We will be closely following the battle for Rio's municipal elections. And we will be making connections back to Rio during next year's Summer Games in Tokyo. But all of this will be done while we also continue upping the ante on proactive, solution-oriented news.

On behalf of a more equitable, creative, and empowering urban future for Rio and other cities around the world, thank you!

MISSION

To transform the narrative of Rio de Janeiro's favelas by counteracting external, mainstream representations and focusing instead on community assets, resident perspectives, academic research and on-the-ground documentation and analysis of history, policy and human rights abuses.

TEAM

Ava Hoffman | Chloe Villalobos | Clara Ferraz | Edmund Ruge Luisa Fenizola | Roseli Franco | Thainã de Medeiros | Theresa Williamson

WHAT WE DO

- Report favela perspectives, community events, debates and direct actions
- Profile community solutions, favela residents and organizers
- Analyze public policies impacting favelas and marginalized groups
- Introduce and compare policies, models and organizing strategies from around the world
- Deepen understanding of critical topics through in-depth series and calls for community submissions
- Translate all content between Portuguese and English
- Promote community media and publish articles by favela journalists
- Organize regular support group sessions with favela journalists
- Keep a pulse on favela events
- Check in on safety of community journalists
- Engage international correspondents with favela journalists at biannual meet-ups
- Aggregate favela news—from community to international—across social media
- Publish bi-weekly bilingual favela news email digests
- Sharpen international reporting on favelas offering context, contacts and story ideas
- Facilitate research on favelas by providing context, contacts and insight into trends
- Provide a private international solidarity update to concerned supporters

 Host visits from international universities in partnership with community groups

RioOnWatch Editorial Line:

- 1. Documenting favela residents' views of and for public policy so as to inform municipal decision-making and international development professionals.
- Publishing favela-specific columns and opinion pieces written by residents so as to mainstream favela perspectives on their own communities.
- 3. Highlighting organizing strategies, community solutions and green technologies from favelas in Rio and around the world so as to inform and inspire collaborative and sustainable grassroots development initiatives.
- **4. Popularizing urban planning concepts** so citizens can develop their communities more effectively.
- 5. Observing the Olympic legacy and monitoring international and domestic press coverage of favelas so as to maintain and build on the legacy of RioOnWatch as an Olympic watchdog news site and offer lessons for cities contemplating or hosting mega-events.
- 6. Analyzing parallels and showing solidarity for informal communities around the world so as to establish connections, networks of support, and a sense of common experience and purpose across traditionally isolated communities worldwide (and in partnership with groups or sites similar to CatComm/RioOnWatch).
- 7. Continuing to analyze, introduce and inform local policy and social debates on Rio so as to dramatically strengthen the contextual understanding and compassion necessary to engender larger political shifts that would benefit the entire society.



FIRST EVER MEET-UPS BETWEEN INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENTS AND FAVELA JOURNALISTS

On November 7, 2019, RioOnWatch held its second Favela Journalist + International Correspondent Meet-Up, welcoming thirty reporters, including favela community journalists and communicators from organizations including Maré 0800, Maré de Notícias, Fórum Grita Baixada. Observatório de Favelas, Favela Vertical, Marginal, Agência de Notícias das Favelas, Mulheres de Frente, and FavelaDaRocinha.com, from the North, South and West Zones of Rio, and Greater Rio's Baixada Fluminense region. Among international correspondents and journalists were representatives from Babel Press, Agence France-Presse, Upstream, Lonely Planet,

Mediapart/Radio France, CNN, Deutsche Welle, and The Intercept Brasil, as well as researchers from the Fluminense Federal University and Pomona College, and a representative from the Consulate of the United States in Rio de Janeiro.

The first ever meet-up had taken place in June, with other outlets including *The New York Times, The Guardian, NPR, Die Zeit, France24 TV, BBC, El Mundo, Associated Press, Sputnik, Okay Africa, The Root and The Rio Times, along with community outlets <i>Fala Roça, Coletivo Papo Reto, Núcleo Piratininga de Comunicação, FotoGuerrilha, Viva VK, Data_Labe* and *Blogueiras Negras.*

The evening's meeting began with a round of introductions. Participants were invited to share an article they were particularly proud of in recent months. These ranged from interviews with the families of victims of violence, to profiles on black psychologist collectives in the Baixada, to Brazil-US connections in the pro-gun movement.

Participants were then separated into groups and given a printed Englishlanguage article on favelas. International and community journalists together analyzed the articles, commenting on their strong and weak points. One article placed a deterministic emphasis on violence without mentioning solutions or the resistance of favela residents. Another was well-received for its inclusion of residents' perspectives and quotes, supporting research, and inclusion of the word genocide to refer to the systematic killings of black youth.

Last, participants engaged in a brainstorming session on possible topics for coverage. One raised the possibility of producing co-authored articles by community journalists and international correspondents. Among suggested topics, the group highlighted Christmas preparations in the favelas, stories of

"Enjoyed hearing the point of view of community journalists on the histories of their own neighborhoods"

Foreign correspondent





university students from the favelas, the street festival economy, summer activities in the favelas, entrepreneurship, how residents will be counted in next year's census, and stories of the elderly. Asked about potential editorviable topics, international journalists responded that positive, resident-focused stories are in demand, and that stories on the favela economy, soccer, and music would all be welcome.

On leaving, foreign correspondents reported they "enjoyed hearing the point of view of community journalists on the histories of their own neighborhoods" as well as "different pitches" and "community journalist perspectives on international coverage." Several favela journalists reported maintaining contact with the international correspondents they had met, working with them to provide leads and shift pervading narratives on their communities. One community journalist praised the meetup for facilitating a debate on the "place of the favela in [foreign] articles," and several others reported conversing with other favela journalists they had heard of but not had the chance to meet in person.

RioOnWatch Reporting Policy

RioOnWatch aims to engender a more accurate picture of favelas, their contributions to the city, and the potential of favela-led community development in Rio and around the world. We therefore work carefully to guarantee that everything we publish serves the featured communities and residents and serves to enhance the public debate on favelas.

WE...

- Take a 'do no harm' approach which means following the lead of favela/community organizers in what we cover and how we cover it. We recognize that the situation we are working in is much more complex than we can possibly imagine, and we should do whatever we can to ensure we do not harm the lives of those we are attempting to help.
- Prioritize stories, events, and initiatives for which favela residents request coverage, prioritize perspectives that have been historically excluded or marginalized in media, and prioritize stories that fill gaps in other publications' coverage.

- Actively communicate *RioOnWatch*'s goals to community contacts and encourage input, collaboration, and critical feedback.
- Explicitly ask interviewees—before and after our interviews—if there are parts they do not want published, and respect their wishes.
- Seek permission from community-based organizers before covering their events.
- Send articles to the featured community individuals or organizations for their confirmation prior to publication in delicate situations or on request.
- Make reasonable edits or in critical cases remove an article even after publication if requested by a featured community member or organization.



ANTI-EVICTION LEADERS FROM RIO FAVELAS VISIT HOUSING RIGHTS GROUPS IN NEW YORK

From June 18-23, three favela anti-eviction activists from Rio de Janeiro, whose struggles have been thoroughly documented on RioOnWatch, participated in an international activist exchange with housing rights groups in New York City thanks to a partnership with Pratt Institute environmental systems professor Leonel Ponce. Zoraide Gomes (Cris) from Prazeres, Emilia Souza from Horto, and Maria da Penha from Vila Autodromo each led successful efforts at stopping evictions in their communities, in whole or in part, and traveled to New York to share their stories with urban planners at the Planners Network conference, along with a number of the city's advocacy groups.

They visited with Bronx-based Nos Quedamos, Justice for Families, and Friends of Brook Park; in Manhattan, they had a deep dive in New York activist history at the Museum of Reclaimed Urban Space, visited with leaders and members of the Cooper Square Community Land Trust, "The United States has the same problems that we do"

Maria da Penha from Vila Autodromo

"On this trip, we had the chance to experience the globalization of exclusion"

Emilia Souza from Horto

and learned about the state of homelessness in the city with Picture the Homeless; in Brooklyn they visited with Sure We Can, and attended the launch of a Jacobin magazine issue on housing rights at Verso Books.

Cris' story of stopping evictions through aerial mapping which identified trash build-up as the primary culprit, Emilia's story of dedicated resistance in a 200-year-old community under pressure from Brazil's Globo media conglomerate, and Penha's story of standing up to Brazil's largest real estate developers adjacent to the Olympic Park inspired organizers and planners everywhere they went.

More than telling their own stories, however, what marked the trip for the group were the surprising similarities they observed between their own experiences and those of New Yorkers. "The United States has the same problems that we do," said Penha. "They're no different." "On this trip, we had the chance to experience the globalization of exclusion," said Emilia.



READ ABOUT THEIR THREE COMMUNITIES AT:

Horto:

rioonwatch.org/?tag=horto

Prazeres:

rioonwatch.org/?tag=prazeres

Vila Autódromo:

rioonwatch.org/?tag=vila-autodromo

THIS YEAR IN NUMBERS

50% INCREASE IN READERSHIP

66% COVERING POSITIVE NEWS: community solutions and proactive information for social change

34% COVERING RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

RioOnWatch articles published in 2019

individual articles since May 2010

3229 total published articles (English + Portuguese) since May 2010

COMMUNITY **REPORTERS**

SOLIDARITY **REPORTERS**

> **VOLUNTEER TRANSLATORS**

54% of articles by solidarity reporters; **29%** by

community reporters; 17% translated

from other sources

51,000 **MONTHLY READERS**

In 2019, 60% readers from Rio de Janeiro; 40% from 215 countries and territories



An average 350,000 PEOPLE reached per month through our website, mailing lists, and social media



15,425 FACEBOOK FANS

950 favela news posts aggregated on Facebook



4 FAVELA JOURNALIST group meetings

2 INTERNATIONAL + FAVELA JOURNALIST meet-ups



HOW ONE COMMUNITY JOURNALIST'S REPORTING IS MAKING WAVES

Thábara Garcia, a community reporter for *RioOnWatch* who writes about the region where she lives, in Greater Rio de Janeiro's Baixada Fluminense region, has noted the direct impact of her articles time and time again. When Garcia profiled Ana Silva, a local mother struggling to raise twins born with dwarfism, she was immediately contacted by major newspaper *Extra*, whose journalists went on to write an extended feature on Silva. "I was so proud and shocked!" says Garcia.

Another article of hers on youth film collective BaixadaCine in the peripheral city of Belford Roxo caught the eye of students taking their college entrance exams (one noted she had used the piece to answer a question on access to movie theaters) as well as lawmakers: Garcia was contacted by a congressional aid hoping to write legislation spurring the construction of a movie theater in Belford Roxo.

Garcia reflects on her collaboration with *RioOnWatch*: "I admire the networkbuilding and mediation that CatComm, through *RioOnWatch*, conducts in the territories, together with its community reporters, in the (re)construction of new paradigms and narratives on the favelas and peripheries," she says. "*RioOnWatch* is essential to this work."



READ THÁBARA'S WORK HERE: https://www.rioonwatch.org/?writer=thabara-garcia

RioOnWatch does a beautiful job of correcting the typical first-world elitist biases of most English-language reporting on Rio's favelas. With on-theground in-depth reporting by people who understand the complexities of favela life and the policies that constrain equal access to education, health, urban services and public safety, RioOnWatch shines a light on what is inaccessible to Englishspeaking audiences.

I admire the professional and respectful way that RioOnWatch brings to the forefront topics and people that have been [traditionally] marginalized.

CARLA SOUZA

Rocinha favela community reporter

ELIZABETH LEEDS

Founder and Honorary President, Brazilian Forum for Public Safety

Reporting for RioOnWatch was truly a life-changing experience for me, but CatComm's work was all the more apparent to me after leaving the organization. It is one of the only groups that is giving voice to some of the most important movements in Rio. It does so in a way that lifts community perspectives above all else and empowers those who are doing work on the ground. In this tumultuous time, their work is vital in supporting community groups who in turn support thousands of residents who are being targeted or neglected by the powers that be.

TYLER STROBL

former *RioOnWatch* Land Rights Intern, now pursuing his MA in Public Policy, Duke University RioOnWatch provides vital insights into favela society and amplifies the voice of residents far beyond their communities and out across the Portuguese and English-speaking worlds. No other organisation does this as effectively.

JONATHAN WATTS

Global Environment Editor, The Guardian

You give us readers a unique window into real people in real life daily situations. Thank you for the in-depth analysis of people and issues which are not visible to most observers, especially we who are far away. Rio is a microcosm of urban living worldwide, the joys and tragedies. RioOnWatch's observation of Rio can help us understand other places of great concern.

OLIVER DAVIDSON

International Disaster and Development Specialist

I LOVE translating for RioOnWatch: it allows me to keep supporting CatComm from the UK; it keeps me involved in the political situation in Rio and keeps my Portuguese ticking over. A win-win situation:) Keep up the great work.

SARAH JACOBS

former *RioOnWatch* intern, currently working in Oxford, UK

KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

RioOnWatch Dissected by Cambridge Researcher

Research by former *RioOnWatch* editor, Cerianne Robertson, published in 2019, examined the role of *RioOnWatch* and the Popular Committee on the World Cup and Olympics in building critical counternarratives about the Rio 2016 Olympics. It traces how these two initaitives both documented the negative impacts of the city's Olympics preparations, but also asserted that media narratives were serving to hide,

misrepresent, or even justify human rights violations and the construction of an exclusive city project. Robertson's report identifies five key strategies for advancing counternarratives within mainstream media and serves as a "howto" manual for those looking to learn lessons from *RioOnWatch*'s approach.

READ THE MULTIMEDIA REPORT:

bit.ly/StrategicMediaRio

RECOGNITION

RioOnWatch was selected to participate in the gallery of projects featured as part of the "Accelerating the Sustainable Development Goals Local Projects Challenge." The site was launched by former UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon in November 2019 at the Urban Thinkers Campus at Columbia University.

VISIT: bit.ly/LPCRioOnWatch

LOCAL PROJECT CHALLENGE

Center for Sustainable Urban Development

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THANK YOU TO OUR 2019 FAVELA COMMUNITY REPORTERS:

Bárbara Dias, Beatriz Carvalho, Carla Souza, Fábio Leon, Fernanda Gomes, Jota Marques, Miriane Peregrino, Thábara Garcia, Thaís Cavalcante

THANK YOU TO OUR INSTITUTIONAL AND COMMUNITY **REPORTING PARTNERS**

















THANK YOU TO OUR 2019 INTERNS AND SOLIDARITY REPORTERS

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AND A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR READERS!

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BACK-GROUND

Favelas represent an opportunity for sustainable development outside traditional formal models, by building on the numerous qualities of favelas themselves. Working towards a sustainable approach to development in favelas, based on their assets, reveals favelas as a positive reference for the city, to be seen as examples for formal areas in terms of flexibility, creativity, strategies for resilience, a sense of collectivity, etc. We believe in a new standard of urbanism, where favelas develop in a sustainable fashion, increasingly transforming into resilient, creative, solutions-based places through the strengthening of sustainable initiatives that are already growing more common in Rio's favelas. This type of development contributes to historical reparations—owed to these neglected

communities—by recognizing that the assets of these territories have always been and will continue to be important to the city, and that in the future, they will be essential to building a new and balanced society.

The Sustainable Favela Network (SFN) is based in the view of favelas as sources of *solutions*, including for human sustainability, centered on the concept of Asset-Based Community Development. Launched in November of 2018 after months of exchanges and prior activity mapping, in 2019, the Network became a reality, with numerous meetings, exchanges, campaigns, and actions. The Working Groups began their activities in June and ended the year with clear proposals for 2020.

PROJECT MISSION

To realize the potential of favelas as sustainable communities through a network of knowledge sharing, mutual support, and development of joint efforts between community initiatives working on environmental sustainability and social resilience, and technical allies.

TEAM

Ava Hoffman
Chloe Villalobos
Clara Ferraz
Guillermo Douglass-Jaimes
Luiza de Andrade
Roseli Franco
Theresa Williamson

WHAT WE DO

- Map socio-environmental initiatives in Rio's favelas
- Outreach materials giving visibility to initiatives and events from Network members
- Exchanges within communities, between community initiatives and the general public
- Collective action events (mutirões) pooling volunteers to develop community projects
- Knowledge circles and capacitybuilding materials between protagonists in the Network
- Working groups* on seven themes coordinate activities and meet monthly
- Demonstration projects in the Network's seven thematic areas

- Network meet-ups, and participation and organization of local and international forums
- Tools and methodologies to empower and strengthen community groups are studied, developed and shared
- Courses and technical support offered by and for SFN members
- Advocacy for public policies that secure the full and sustainable development of favelas



- 1. Environmental Education
- 2. Gardens and Reforestation
- 3. Income Generation





FIRST SUSTAINABLE FAVELA NETWORK COLLECTIVE ACTION IN THE CAMORIM QUILOMBO

On Saturday morning, August 10, 69
Sustainable Favela Network participants
gathered at the Camorim Quilombo
(ACUQCA), in Jacarepaguá, in the West
Zone, ready to get their hands dirty.
Quilombos are communities which
can trace their beginnings to times of
slavery and whose ancestors occupied
the same lands during those times; they
are akin to indigenous settlements and
work to preserve their traditional ways
of life. Rio de Janeiro has at least four
quilombos within its boundaries.

ACUQCA had been severely impacted by the intense rains that pounded

Rio in early 2019. The rains had swept through the community garden, causing an invasive and thick growth of tall grass throughout the whole area, including in the quilombo's archaeological site. This site, despite numerous attempts, had proven itself unclearable without a significant intervention. Since April, quilombo members had been unable to use the space to host their customary public and community events.

Because of this damage, the SFN's Working Group on Gardens and Reforestation decided to make the



Camorim Quilombo the focus of their first group action. In response to a request for help from local leader Adilson Almeida, responsible for the quilombo, the Network organized its second exchange of 2019 in the form of a collective action, or *mutirão*. Through intense weeding, mural arts painting and gardening, the group was able over the course of the day, to completely revitalize the area that had been invaded by the non-native grass, from the community garden to the archaeological site.

The day's capacity-building circle—a characteristic of all SFN exchanges—centered on fundraising techniques, one of the themes identified as a priority among Network members. In a circle, participants with experience in fundraising for community projects shared practical resources, strategy

suggestions, and general guidance to increase participants' confidence in seeking funding.

Beyond the impact on the territory and opportunities for mutual learning, the day created tangible bridges of solidarity. Members felt that ACUQCA's work was "essential for the recovery of our ancestors' history" and "very inspiring." Everyone indicated that they wanted to continue strengthening the quilombo and creating partnerships. As Almeida says, "Working alone, we remain silent, but together, our voices are much louder."

Learn more at camorim.favelasustentavel.org

Get to know the SFN's Exchanges: exchanges.favelasustentavel.org

THE YEAR IN NUMBERS:



In 2019, **467 PEOPLE**

participated in Sustainable Favela Network activities



Since 2018, 825 PEOPLE

have participated in at least one Network activity



27 MEETINGS AMONG THE NETWORK'S 7 WORKING GROUPS



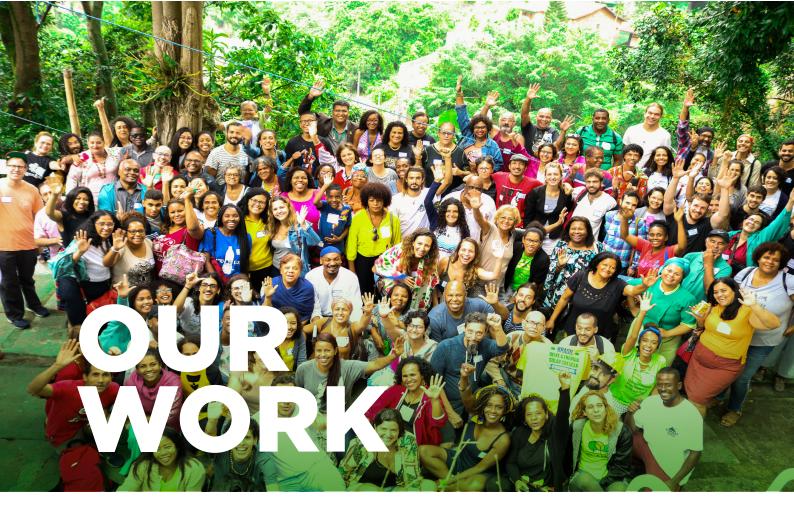
with 109 participants realizing a gardening collective action, a SFN product booth at a sustainable products fair, an environmental education training, an open letter in response to a proposal reducing support for solar power by the federal government, along with numerous offers of support and 10 proposals** for 2020 demonstration projects

5 SFN community exchanges in three zones of the city: Babilônia (South Zone), Camorim and Vila Kennedy (West Zone), and Pavuna and Manguinhos (North Zone) involving **293 people** from **142 initiatives** and **68 communities**, with an average of **72 participants per exchange**, visiting **11 community projects** and **5 capacity-buiding circles**

**2020 WORKING GROUP PROJECT PROPOSALS:

- Environmental Education—Video platform sharing effective environmental education practices in favelas
- Gardens and Reforestation—Develop and implement a 'model public space' and gardening collective-actions
- 3. Income Generation—Online catalog of products and services by SFN members
- **4. Memory and Culture**—Activities connected to favelas as heritage sites
- Solar Energy—Popularize solar energy through discussions in interested communities
- Solid Waste Management—Collective action clean-ups and popular education campaigns, and assertive communication
- 7. Water and Sewerage—Realize a model community ecological sewage system

Annual Meet-Up of the entire Sustainable Favela Network with 126 participants, 55% of whom reside in 48 favelas across all areas of the city (29% North Zone, 28% West Zone, 17% South Zone, 5% Central Rio, 5% Baixada Fluminense, and 16% from other regions) making connections, debating and delving deep into the seven Working Group themes, participating in fun activities (including a swap table, a sampling of Network products, and a zero-waste lunch)



SUSTAINABLE FAVELA NETWORK ANNUAL MEET-UP 2019

On Saturday, November 9, 126 favela community organizers and technical allies from all over Rio de Janeiro gathered for the 2nd Annual Meet-Up of the Sustainable Favela Network at Ecocasa Silvestre in Santa Teresa. It was a unique opportunity, bringing together a network of social and environmental justice initiatives from Rio's favelas in one place for intense exchange and learning. The day's activities gave members a chance to reflect, get involved, and connect, taking advantage of the experiences of groups from numerous city favelas. The activities were designed and planned by the Network's seven working groups.

Inspired by the Solid Waste Working Group, event organizers set up a swap table where participants could leave goods they no longer wanted and take whatever interested them; the SFN Income Generation Working Group had an artisanal craft area for

I almost gave
up my socioenvironmental
project, but
I kept going,
because
when we see
the Network
growing, we
know that we are
not alone!

Testimonial from the 2019 Annual Meet-Up 2019

I'm leaving here today reenergized and full of ideas.

Testimonial from 2019 Annual SFN Meet-Up, Santa Teresa

network members to display and sell their sustainable products; and an anonymous table with paper and pens invited participants to share their hopes and fears in leading sustainability initiatives in their communities. Some members traded reusable water bottles, trinkets, and keepsakes. Others sold homemade soap and works of art. Still others posted notes to the activity boards, explaining they had almost given up because of "doubt from others" or "lack of support," but had pushed on because they found "strength from [their] communities," "support from where they least expected it," and because of the SFN itself. "When we see the network growing, we know that we are not alone!" wrote one member.

Representatives from each working group presented their group's various initiatives. as well as the initial achievements of the working groups this year and their hopes for the future. Following these presentations, each group facilitated deeper discussion circles on the challenges and potential of socio-environmental work within each action area.

There was also an opportunity to reflect on the five Network exchanges that took place in 2019 with the launch of the video, "Realizing the Sustainable Favela Network 2019," produced by filmmaker Luiza de Andrade. Verônica Gomes Martins da Silva, President of the Kennedy Brothers Community Center, spoke of the need to value favela-based solutions and the positive aspects of communities that are so often overlooked by the media. Luis Cassiano from the Green Roof Favela project in the Parque Arará community invited everyone to "green favelas from above, through green roofs: it brings life, food, beauty, and hope." Finally, Regina Tchelly reminded everyone to "think collaboratively, and to hold onto each others' hands, and knowledge."

Find out more or check out our videos: meetings.favelasustentavel.org

In-depth conversation circle at the 2019 Annual Meet-Up. Santa Teresa



RECOGNITION

The Sustainable Favela Network has been higlighted as part of the "Local Projects Challenge" project gallery of the Accelerating SDGs initiative, the result of a partnership between the Center for Sustainable Urban Development at Columbia University and the Architecture and Urbanism School at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro.

Learn more: bit.ly/ProjetoLocalRFS

LOCAL PROJECT CHALLENGE

Center for Sustainable Urban Development

EARTH INSTITUTE | COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

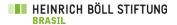
THANKS:

THANK YOU TO OUR 2019 VOLUNTEERS:

Abby Hannah, Ben Bildsten, Carolina Medina Zárate, Chauncie Bigler, Colin Andrew, Daiana Contini, Daisy Longden, Emma Bergman, Jessica Goodenough, Rachel Mucha, Robin Hüppe, Sofia Bazin, Simon Yang, Tara Nelson

THANK YOU TO OUR 2019 HOSTS AND PARTNERS:

Partners



















Hosts

















THANK YOU TO OUR 2019 SFN ACTIVITY PARTICIPANTS

- Adalberto Almeida
- Adam Newman
- · Adilson Batista de Almeida
- Adriano Paraiso
- Agenor Silva
- Ailton Lopes
- Albertina Mendonça do Nascimento
- Alessandra Biá
- Alessandra Marques da Conceição
- · Alessandra Vaz da Silva
- Alessandro Macedo
- Alessandro Musette
- Alessandro Santos
- Alex Belchior
- Alex França
- Alexandre Clean
- Alexandre da Silva Leleko
- Alexandre Pessanha Telles
- Aliciane de Souza Peixoto
- Aline Barcellos da Cruz
- Almir Guimaraes Jr.
- Alyson Oliveira
- Alyson Olivella
- Amanda Nogueira
- Ana Aparecida Felix de Almeida
- Ana Berton
- Ana Bivar
- Ana Julia
- · Ana Lucia de Oliveira
- Ana Paula Leandro
- Ana Paula Santos
- Ana Vitoria Silva
- Anatula Axiotelis
- André Abreu de Souza Constantine
- André do Nascimento
- Andressa Dias
- Andrezza Aguiar Coelho
- · Antônio Carlos Almeida
- Anunciada
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- Aracy dos Santos
- Aretusa Ana da Silva Paula
- Augusto Ezequiel Profeta
- Axolile Notywala
- Berenice Natalício

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- · Bianca de Sardi
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- Bruna Soares
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- Bruno Vargas
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- Camille Minns
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- Davi Marcos Gonçalves
- Davi Souza
- David Douglass-Jaimes
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- Débora Silva
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- Denise Vieira dos Santos
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- Dinei Medina
- Diocelia Galvão Batista
- Dirce da Gloria
- Edmund Ruge
- Edna Ribeiro Fernandes
- Edna Thomaz Rodrigues
- Edson Freitas
- Eduan da Silva
- Eduardo Avila
- Eleomar Nepomuceno
- Eliane Sarmento
- Elias Pereira Duarte
- Élida Nascimento
- Eliete Maffei
- Elisângela Almeida
- Elma Maria Silva de Alleluia
- Emerson
- Emily Vitoria
- Enalva Conceição
- Ester Gomila
- Ester Mangueira
- Estevão
- Ethan Payne
- Evanio Pereira
- Everson Santos de Oliveira (Montanha)
- Evgeny Makarov
- Fabiana Ferrinha
- Fabiana Moraes
- Fabiano Da Silva
- Felipe Bentes de Sales
- Felipe Diaz Nunes
- Felipe Paschoalinho Braga

• Fernanda de Souza Cardoso

- Felipe Valentim
- Fernando Leal
- Fernando Stavale
- Franciele BonoldiFrancisco Polito
- François Fournier
- Gabi Fleury
- Gabriel Braga Zarth
- Gabriel Castor Mazzola de Azevedo
- Gabriel de Assis
- Gabriel Moller

- Gabriel Nobre
- Gabriela Martins
- Gabrielle Conceição
- Geiza de Andrade Moura da Silva
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- Juliana Messias
- Juliana Nunes
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- Kav Alvito
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- Larissa Mayumi Okada Bernardi
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- · Laura Mazzola
- Laurentina Valentim
- Layane Florencio
- •Leandro Alves de Oliveira
- · Lenira Machado de Jesus Silva
- •Leo Adler
- Leticia de Fatima Alves Rodrigues
- Lidiane Santos
- Lindomar Machado
- Lira
- Lohany Aparecida Dias Monteiro
- Loriane Valéria
- · Lourenço Cezar da Silva
- · Lu Queiroz
- · Luana Karla Blanc
- •Luanda Alvez
- · Luanna Sales
- •Lucas Andrew
- Lucas Costa
- Lucas Vitor
- Lucia de Oliveira
- · Lucia H.B de Oliveira
- Lucia Helena Barbosa
- Luciana Gomes
- Luciana Reis
- · Luis Cassiano Silva
- Luís César Modesto do Rosário

- Luisa Fenizola
- Luisa Machado
- · Lukas Demani
- · Lycia Brasil
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- Marcio Mundim
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- Maria Alice Almeida
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- Maria Aparecida
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- Maria Julia Ramos
- Maria Lourdes
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- Maria Noelia
- Mariano Magalhaes
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- Marilizia Margues
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- Natalie Russo
- Neila Sousa

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- Roselani
- Rosemeri Maria Conceição
- Rosilane Almeida
- Ruan Ximenes
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- Sandra Maria de Souza Teixeira
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- Wesley Pereira
- Wilma de Oliveira Teixeira
- Wilson Lopes
- Wladimir Gonzales
- Yara Armindo
- Ygor Abreu Dias
- Ygor Rodrigues de Souza
- Zoraide Gomes (Cris dos Prazeres)

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2019 ANNUAL REPORT





INTRODUCTION

In the lead-up to the Rio de Janeiro Olympics in 2016, 80,000 residents of the city's favelas were forcibly evicted from their homes, despite the nation's relatively strong squatter's rights, mandated in the Constitution. This happened even in communities with 99-year concession of use titles on public land. Simultaneously, well-located favelas, some of the oldest in the city, experienced the early stages of a clear process of gentrification, with fancy hotels and bars buying up multiple small homes and building large enterprises, a process which is aggravated by individual land titles, traditionally the end-goal of land rights struggles. Whereas in Rio de Janeiro, oftentimes favela residents seek land security not to be able to sell, but to be able to remain. Thus, it felt to those working on land rights here that, with regard to land titles, we were in a "damned if you do, damned if you don't" dichotomy.

What we found was that individual titles can exacerbate the risk of market evictions, or gentrification, both because of the legal recognition of real estate transactions with hefty land values included, and due to the individualization produced when the market-based logic that accompanies individual titling is introduced to the community, transforming homes into commodities and atomizing community networks.

The Favela Community Land Trust project thus emerged in the context of the recognized inadequacy of public policy instruments in Brazil to guarantee truly robust tenure security for vulnerable urban populations within the existing legal framework, as well as the pursuit of emancipatory mechanisms rooted in practices of self-management.

The project launched in late August 2018 with a five-day workshop bringing Favela CLT innovators from Puerto Rico's Caño Martín Peña CLT to Rio de Janeiro to share their story and strategies with local

organizers, technical allies and public officials. A Working Group emerged from there initially with 54 members. Among these initial members, two groups were quickly created to focus on developing enabling legislation and supporting community mobilization. Potential pilot communities were identified, some of which were already participating in the group and others invited to participate based on their favorable characteristics.

Based on an understanding of the necessary conditions* for establishing a Favela CLT identified through research with the Caño group in 2018, two pilot communities were ultimately selected in 2019, Trapicheiros and Grupo Esperança, and the mobilization working group worked with these communities' local leaders and residents over the course of the year to bring the CLT tool to the attention of a majority of residents in both communities through a mix of workshops, door-to-door visits, festivities to boost community spirit, and community planning workshops. We close out 2019 with 100 additional working group members, a total of 154, from 67 institutions, two pilot communities and 7 legislative proposals nearly ready.

*CONDITIONS NECESSARY FOR A FAVELA CLT:

- Consolidated community with strong sense of belonging where the ability to remain on the land is the primary objective when seeking title
- 2. Large percentage of families **do not yet possess land titles**, yet have reasonable likelihood of acquiring title
- 3. Residents perceive or have experienced threat of involuntary displacement (eviction or gentrification)
- **4. Mature process of community organizing** supported by technical allies who accompany community's development

And in terms of identifying pilot communities, an additional condition is sought:

5. Small community of up to 100 households

MISSION

To realize and ensure the rights to housing, community and roots through the introduction of Favela Community Land Trusts in Brazil, with a focus on realizing pilots in Rio de Janeiro and enacting enabling legislation nationwide.

WHAT IS A FAVELA CLT?

CLTs are a collective form of land management, where residents manage and care for their land together. Joining legal, social and urban planning elements, a CLT's aim is to guarantee the ability of residents to remain on their land and offer permanently affordable housing.

CLTs offer a robust tenure security, while providing a strong, collective framework for ensuring community organization and improvement of infrastructure through community-controlled land management and development, and advocacy.

Core Components of All CLTs

- 1. Voluntary membership
- 2. Community-owned land
- **3. individually owned**, rented, or lease-to-purchase homes
- 4. Community control of CLT
- 5. Permanent affordability

Whereas the CLT movement began 50 years ago with the formation of organizations that acquired land and only then developed CLTs, from scratch, on that land, the CLT model can be nicely retrofitted to support land tenure in existing informal settlements. Such settlements often work as "informal CLTs" in the sense that they are already characterized by the five components listed above, with the exception of the land not being owned by the community and homes being owned by residents but with precarious rights claims. It is on this basis that CLTs offer a great potential for formalizing such settlements without losing their qualities, often derived from their collective nature and histories of resistance and resilience.

What Does a Favela CLT Offer?

Favela CLTs are an instrument to guarantee the rights of residents to remain on their land and to live there indefinitely, strengthening the community and removing the risks both of forced evictions and of market speculation leading to gentrification. They also engender a greater capacity to negotiate improvements with the public sector (the CLT is now a major landowner as opposed to small individual homeowners) and ensure that the development of the community is managed by residents themselves, thus ensuring their needs are front and center. Also counting on technical allies that support the CLT, residents are better positioned to meet their community's needs.

TEAM

Theresa Williamson Tarcyla Fidalgo Felipe Litsek

WHAT WE DO

- **Inform** the public about the CLT as a land rights and affordable housing tool
- Introduce the CLT in interested communities through interactive workshops involving small groups and assessments of community qualities and land rights needs
- Support mobilization of residents through diverse, ongoing events in pilot communities with local leaders committed to implementing a Favela CLT
- Develop legislative proposals to enable and support the implementation of CLTs at the municipal, state and federal levels
- Write and propose a new law specifically regulamenting CLTs within national legal frameworks
- Engage community residents and technical allies in community planning activities
- Ongoing support to communities concerned with land regularization
- Document the development of Favela CLTs in Rio to support parallel efforts elsewhere
- Share the unfolding model in Rio de Janeiro with land rights movements across Brazil and around the world
- Promote opportunities for peer sharing between Rio communities and CLTs elsewhere



TRAPICHEIROS FAVELA TAKES THE LEAD ON FAVELA CLTS

The Trapicheiros favela is an 80-year-old community situated in Tijuca, a middle class neighborhood not far from downtown Rio de Janeiro. With high real estate speculation in the area, the community has already experienced concrete eviction threats. Currently 52 families live there, many with a strong sense of belonging and desire to remain on the land.

With this background, and piggy-backing on a land regularization process already underway, we began activities towards the realization of a Favela CLT in Trapicheiros. Since May, eight events were organized in the community, to present the model, debate its application in their case, raise interest among residents, strengthen community bonds and begin the community planning process.

Interest among residents has been solid and growing. Mobilization efforts by the CLT Working Group have yielded a number of results, including the Trapicheiros Residents' Association initiating a legislative process to be recognized as an Area of Special Social Interest, which will facilitate regularizing land tenure and protect the community from real estate speculation.

Similarly, three community planning events have resulted in diverse proposals to address road conditions, entranceways, public spaces and the need for a community meeting space.

In 2020 activities in Trapicheiros will intensify with community-building collective actions implementing territorial improvements while designing the Trapicheiros CLT structure to be ready once the land regularization process nears completion.

READ MORE ABOUT TRAPICHEIROS:

rioonwatch.org/?tag=trapicheiros







Trapicheiros Sends Leader to International CLT Peer Exchange in San Juan

Beyond activities in their own community and Rio, Trapicheiros Residents' Association president Paulo Roberto Machado was able to attend the Caño Martín Peña International Peer Exchange, along with community leaders from 15 other countries and technical allies including Catalytic Communities' Theresa Williamson, from April 28 to May 4, 2019, in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Machado returned to Rio energized after having witnessed the incredible organizing capacity of Caño residents, who today "talk to the city eye to eye." The experience strengthened community engagement with the project in Rio when Machado returned having witnessed firsthand the advancements obtained through

collective community work in Puerto Rico. The power of example is strong and this exchange opportunity was vital to fortify community organizing efforts currently underway.

Check out pictures of Machado's visit: www.bit.ly/CanoFotos

Read our coverage of the Caño Martín Peña CLT: www.rioonwatch.org/?tag=cano-martin-pena

Read our series on the **global growth of the CLT movement:** www.bit.ly/CLTMovementROW



THIS YEAR IN NUMBERS

CLT Working Group today has 154 members from 67 institutions

WORKING GROUP





PARTICIPATION



458 people

have participated in a Favela CLT meeting, workshop or event





8 meetinas

of the Legislative Working Group



35 activities

in 2019 (meetings, workshops and events)



proposals involving modifications to existing legislation at the municipal, state and federal levels to support the development of Favela CLTs and 1 chapter to be proposed as an addendum to existing federal legislation



11 plenaries

of the full Working Group



14 community

workshops: 8 in Trapicheiros 5 in **Esperanca** and 1 in Vila Autódromo





213 community residents reached

in interested and pilot communities

YEAR-END **EVALUATION** When asked how they rank the importance of the Favela **CLT** project to their personal or institutional initiatives, the average rating was a 9 out of 10.

"How do you rank the importance of the Favela CLT project to this current moment facing Rio de Janeiro and Brazil?" 9.3



CLT MODEL FITS LIKE A GLOVE WITH ESPERANÇA COMMUNITY'S HOPES FOR THE FUTURE

Esperança is a unique self-built community in Rio de Janeiro. Rather than self-building informally, the community's residents—some formerly living precariously as renters in favelas, others formerly homeless—participated in the federal Minha Casa Minha Vida-Entidades program, whereby public housing is built by residents for residents. After nearly two decades of advocacy, planning and building, today seventy families live in the community of well-built homes integrating environmental and social features.

The community is marked by a powerful history of mobilization and dedication, with all residents having participated intensely in the building process in order to qualify for a home. Those who saw the process through have a strong sense of collective spirit. Their plan had always

been to own the land as a community, previously considering a cooperative model. However, due to Brazilian burueaucratic barriers, today residents have embraced the CLT as perhaps an even more appropriate means to land regularization, that will simultaneously strengthen and help regain the community's collective spirit.

Over the course of 2019 the Favela CLT Working Group held five activities in Esperança to present the CLT model, workshop its challenges and potential, and mobilize resident engagement. A day of door-to-door visits brought the CLT to the attention of a number of new residents, while a Memories Party helped Esperança residents reconnect with their collective roots. Over 50% of the community's families have now come into contact with the instrument and

have declared their desire to move towards a CLT model.

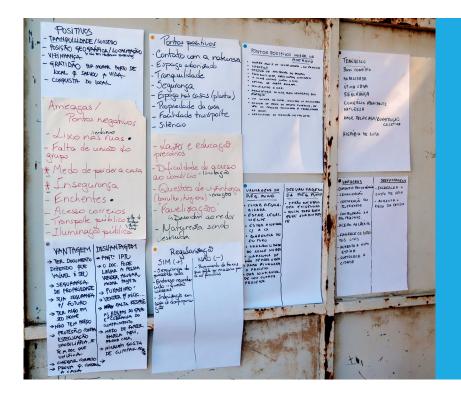
Despite the bureucratic hurdles to regularizing the community, the expectation for 2020 is the advancement of community engagement and in preparing to implement a CLT tailored to meeting the needs of residents.

READ OUR ARTICLE, SEEDING FAVELA CLTS IN BRASIL:

www.rioonwatch.org/?p=56100







IN 2020 WE WILL:

- 1. Support the two pilot communities already underway in their efforts to acquire land rights through a CLT framework.
- 2. Share the model with new audiences, presenting to interested communities and institutions.
- **3. Present the CLT in a joint**session of the Housing and Urbanism commissions of Rio's City Council and seek out policy-makers at public institutions
- **4. Further develop legislative proposals** to achieve a law to regulate CLTs.

The Favela Community Land Trust model can be transformative to unregulated "informal" housing in Rio and beyond. From its now well-established work on favelas as a sustainable model to the more recent land trust initiatives, CatComm provides viable pathways and possibilities for better futures. In this critical moment in Rio's history, it emerges as a profoundly necessary and inspiring organization.

BRUNO CARVALHO

Co-Director, Harvard Mellon Urban Initiative The CLT is a protective tool, which secures the community against both evictions and real estate speculation. The CLT is comprised of a group of technical allies, volunteers, and community leaders, and it has worked. The community of Trapicheiros, along with Esperança are the two communities working on a pilot project, and we believe it's going to be very successful in Brazil, because we're very engaged with this cause.

AILTON LOPES

Sub-secretary of the Trapicheiros Residents' Association

In my view, the potentialities that I see in the CLT are as follows: 1. Strengthen grassroots community organizing; 2. Develop 'bottom-up' processes of low-income community development; 3. Engage in the debates around urban policy in the city, especially bringing to the fore problems in access to serviced urban land and secure land rights. in the case of low-income communities, in contrast to calls for eviction; and 4. Build a laboratory to develop legal and normative mechanisms that bring materiality to the aforementioned three items.

ALEX MAGALHÃES

Laboratory for the Studies of Transformations in Brazilian Urban Law (LEDUB) / UFRJ What I most love is your work on substantive issues like your Favela Community Land Trust detailing... That could have major impacts across the globe. Keep going with your wonderful work:

MARJA HOEK-SMIT

Director/Founder, International Housing Finance Program, Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania

The CLT project has been realizing all of the phases that were presented last year during the visit from the Caño delegation, such as meeting together, presenting in the communities so that residents become aware. This year we experienced all of the phases that were programmed to take place.

MARCELLO DEODORO

Comissão de Moradores da Comunidade Indiana-Tijuca

The CLT project is of fundamental importance due to its potential to guarantee the right to housing for popular classes, fighting the forces of real estate speculation and the risk of evictions. It's a project that promotes local solidarity, the feeling of belonging to one's community and the right to the city.

ORLANDO SANTOS JUNIOR

Metropolis Observatory / UFRJ

financialization, the CLT project emerges as an opportunity for favela residents to discuss the role of individual property titles and their limits as a form of protection for the right to housing as a basic human right and to propose another form of legal protection.

MARIA LÚCIA PONTES

land rights Public Defender Rio de Janeiro Public Defenders' Office

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

The Growth of the Global CLT Movement Series

 In celebration of the 50th anniversary of New Communities Inc., the world's first Community Land Trust, and as planners and community members alike gather to celebrate at the Reclaiming Vacant Properties Conference 2019 in Atlanta, Georgia, RioOnWatch issued a call for articles highlighting the current growth of the CLT movement worldwide. Contributors wrote in from around the world, with stories about the expansion of CLTs-both in number and in approach—in Mississippi, the United Kingdom, Belgium, France, Puerto Rico, Rio de Janeiro, and Florida. This varied series disseminates news of the successes of the CLT model as it adapts to new times and circumstances, bringing greater attention to this innovative solution to guarantee the right to housing and community development, and its potential in resolving the global housing crisis. Link: www.bit.ly/CLTMovementROW

Chapter "The Favela Community Land Trust: A Sustainable Housing Model for the Global South"

— Written by CatComm Executive Director and cocoordinator of Rio de Janeiro's Favela CLT Working Group Theresa Williamson, and published in Vienna Architecture Museum's exhibition book *Critical Care: Architecture and Urbanism for a Broken Planet*, edited by Angelika Fitz and Elke Krasny (Cambridge: MIT Press, 2019).

Guest speaker at 35th anniversary of Champlain Housing Trust, the world's largest CLT - On

November 14, Theresa Williamson delivered a speech at the Burlington City Hall in Burlington, Vermont, to a full house of housing advocates and community members committed to the city's CLT. CHT is responsible for providing 8% of the housing in Burlington and has developed a homelessness-to-ownership housing pipeline through their CLT. Williamson's talk, "Community Land Trusts and the Global Housing Crisis," shared the progression of the model from the US Civil Rights movement to informal settlements of the developing world, with a focus on the current work of the Favela CLT Working Group in Rio de Janeiro.

Panel presentation in San Juan at 'International Conference on Recovery, Titling and Displacement: Reflections Rooted in Community Organizing— Organized by representatives from the Caño Community Land Trust, the event took place at the Architects' and Landscape Architects' College of Puerto Rico during the community's international peer exchange supported by the Ford Foundation.

Interview on Lincoln Institute of Land Policy podcast "Land Matters" — On August 30, Theresa Williamson discussed the role of informal settlements in cities and the potential of Favela CLTs in the episode "Solutions in Slums" with Enrique Silva, director of International and Institute-Wide Initiatives for the Institute, and Anthony Flint, presenter of the podcast.

Listen here: catcomm.org/lilp-podcast-2019

Taster presentation on the Rio de Janeiro CLT process at University of Pennsylvania's Perry World House conference 'Why Cities? Informality as a Way of Life: Challenges to Sustainable Urban Development.'

Chapter "Proporcionar seguridad de tenencia para los actuales habitantes del barrio" — Theresa Williamson contributed a chapter to the book Barrio 31, los inicios de una operación transformadora, edited by Agustina Gonzalez Cid and published by the Inter-American Development Bank, based on her participation in 2017 as part of an IDB panel providing input based on the potential of a CLT model to Buenos Aires' Barrio 31 redevelopment plan.

Biennial of the Americas presentation on panel "Bringing Empathy Home: Housing Innovations from Abroad" — On September 25, Theresa Williamson spoke on a panel at Denver's Biennial of the Americas, sharing Rio de Janeiro's growing Favela CLT movement with participants from across the Americas.

Thesis "The Experience of Community Land Trusts in Promoting Affordable Housing and Resistance Against the Commodification of Land"

— Research conducted by Felipe Litsek, a member of the Working Group, and presented to qualify for his law school graduation. The thesis anlyzes the CLT in this current moment of land regularization in Brazil. Sewn together are considerations about the model's applicability in the country and its potential to protect land rights and the right to housing in urban informal settlements.

RECOGNITION

The Favela Community Land Trust program has been higlighted as part of the "Local Projects Challenge" project gallery of the Accelerating SDGs initiative, the result of a partnership between the Center for Sustainable Urban Development at Columbia University and the Architecture and Urbanism School at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro.

LEARN MORE: www.bit.ly/LocalProjectsFCLT

LOCAL PROJECT CHALLENGE

Center for Sustainable Urban Development
EARTH INSTITUTE | COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

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