



**Letter of Commitment presented by the Sustainable Favela Network
to Rio de Janeiro's Mayoral and City Council Candidates
MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS - RIO DE JANEIRO 2020**

Rio de Janeiro, October 30, 2020

Dear Candidate,

The Sustainable Favela Network—a community-based network that supports and amplifies sustainability and resilience-building initiatives in Rio's favelas, in order to strengthen favelas' potential as an integral part of a sustainable urban future—prepared, based on the collective knowledge of the Network, this **letter of commitment filled with proposals for inclusive and impactful public policies.**

Introduction

Rio de Janeiro society tends to see favelas as an intrinsic problem. However, both in terms of their origins (emerging as a solution to a lack of housing) and their ongoing evolution (constantly responding to underinvestment through individual and collective actions), favelas are not a problem. The truth is that **favelas are solutions factories.**

Rio de Janeiro's favelas, home to around 24% of the city's population, exhibit **diverse, sustainable urban qualities.** Qualities that are difficult to develop through centralized planning, and which urban planners across the globe attempt to stimulate, with great difficulty, often too late, such as: affordable housing throughout the urban fabric, density without too much verticality, a focus on pedestrians, high use of bicycles and public transport, residential and commercial "mixed use" development, organic architecture more easily adapted to the needs of residents, a high degree of collective action, and intricate networks of solidarity, among others. These are qualities that help achieve the United Nations 2030 Agenda's Sustainable Development Goals, of which Brazil is a signatory.

Consolidated favelas, through their numerous assets, represent an **opportunity for sustainable development outside formal standards.** Working towards sustainable development in favelas, with their existing assets as a springboard, will reveal **favelas as positive references for the city, which can even be taken as examples for formal areas** in terms of their flexibility, creativity, resilience strategies, sense of collectivity, etc.

Favelas make up a large part of Rio de Janeiro that has been **historically neglected**. Their assets are not recognized and their residents are systematically stigmatized for living in a territory considered informal and problematic. However, given that the development of these areas is necessary and that the favelas already boast characteristics of sustainable urbanism, nothing could be more timely than a new approach to urban development that surpasses the current predatory and speculative model.

Instead, we can **generate a new standard** where favelas develop in a sustainable way, increasingly becoming places of **resilience, creativity and solutions** by **strengthening sustainable initiatives** that are already common there. This type of development contributes to **historical reparations** by recognizing that **the assets of those territories have always been and will continue to be important for the city, and will be so in the future for a new, balanced society**.

Especially now, as we continue living with the **Covid-19 pandemic**, looking to an urbanism based on the wisdom and protagonism of favelas becomes essential. We have clearly seen how the pandemic has only exacerbated our collective problems. The response to this will lie in the decisions of the next mayor and the next City Council. Promoting sustainable development by recognizing the already-existing qualities of the favelas will promote health, quality of life and generate a fair and sustainable income for Rio's residents. This would translate into a city with less sewage and more education, less environmental risks and more culture. **It is about guaranteeing a fairer, more inclusive, and safer city for all cariocas.**

In these 2020 municipal elections, **we invite you to turn your gaze to these potent and inspiring territories, and commit to implementing laws and public policies that encourage the sustainable development of these territories, based on local knowledge and supporting existing local initiatives.**

An Invitation to Embrace this Letter of Commitment

A partir da compreensão da nossa realidade detalhada acima, abaixo apresentamos propostas ligadas a cada um dos sete temas trabalhados pelos Grupos de Trabalho da Rede Favela Sustentável¹. Estes temas, embora apresentados separadamente, conversam entre si e precisam ser entendidos e encaminhados pelo poder público de maneira **integrada**, sempre com **efetiva participação social**, seja na fase de elaboração de planos, seja na fase de execução e avaliação. **Pedimos que leia com atenção e sinalize [neste formulário](#) o seu grau de compromisso atual com cada item**, entre as opções:

- **Y—Yes, if it is already part of your government program..**
- **N—No**, if it is not part of your government program and will not be considered.
- **I—Intend to include**, if you see the importance of including it in your program.
- **C—Intention to consider**, if you see the importance of considering the proposal further.

¹ Os 7 GTs da Rede Favela Sustentável são: Água e Esgoto, Educação Ambiental, Energia Solar, Geração de Renda, Hortas e Reflorestamento, Memória e Cultura, e Resíduos Sólidos.

I. Environmental Education

The pandemic revealed the importance of environmental education for a healthy society. We are facing an uncertain future where it is necessary to invest in creative and transversal forms of education aiming to inspire and empower children, teens and adults toward constructions and perceptions of a world capable of assimilating environmental issues.

We ask for your commitment to focus public policies on actions geared towards the following three areas, specifically in municipal schools located in favelas or mainly targeting young people from Rio's favelas:

- 1. Development and Expansion of Environmental Education Activities In Public Schools:**
 - a. **Guarantee full sanitary conditions to students and school staff**, adapted to the pandemic context, with full guarantee of information on the prevention of the disease, access to clean drinking water, facemasks, medical assessment, and cleaning and hygiene products, as well as infrastructure which makes a clean and sanitary return to school possible for all.
 - b. **Invest in the training of all schools' teaching staff** so they can understand and discuss environmental questions which are fundamental to the future of their students, such as climate change etc., and consequently be able to **develop environmental education in schools, recognizing the transdisciplinary nature of environmental education**, involving all teachers, and working on a critical environmental education.
 - c. **Review the layout of schools**, of their space and history, and commit to improving these spaces with **gardens, recycling points, or small parks** (e.g., built with recycled materials in partnership with the Municipal Company of Urban Cleaning, COMLURB), with the objective of making the most of the space to undertake environmental education activities. Schools must become a reference for environmental education.
 - d. **Involve socio-environmental educators** from the local community—who know the reality of and how to act within that territory—in partnerships to develop a curriculum specific to each local school. Where possible, hire civil society organizations dedicated to environmental education in favelas to train teachers. It is fundamental that the City Council recognizes the pre-existing community institutions which promote environmental education in their territories, and provide incentives for projects that carry out these actions.
 - e. **Set up recycling hubs in schools** with local partners to undertake environmental education activities (e.g., teach to separate and recycle waste, teach the value of different materials, their origin and impact on the environment). A points system for the most committed class can be considered as an incentive. Recycling collection and activities should also be held with low-value materials, such as glass bottles and used oil, so that they can become a teaching station on waste management and allow for recycling activities. Schools can collect bottle tops and plastic bottles in exchange for school supplies. These recycling points can provide an opportunity for partnerships with universities resulting in transformative experiences (e.g. a “Zero Waste Week” competition in the school).

- f. **Debureaucratize, expand and improve** the municipality's existing projects, such as **Carioca Gardens** (*Hortas Cariocas*), guaranteeing transparency in the selection of schools, and expanding programs to more areas in the city.
- g. **Research and map all environmental education projects that are currently active** in these schools, identifying thematic axes and areas covered, and then update these existing programs by developing a school curriculum based on the above items, **guaranteeing high-quality environmental education in 100% of municipal schools.**

2. **Actions in Favela Territories Surrounding Public Schools:**

- a. **Establish a program to invest in socio-environmental projects** and environmental education within the favelas serviced by the schools.
- b. **Form partnerships with initiatives and protagonists of socio-environmental education from the favelas themselves** that are realizing extracurricular activities, from cultural production to cultivating vegetable gardens, finding ways to extend the school's activities to these projects and dialoguing with the territory as a whole through partnerships. In some cases, these projects were responsible for assisting young people who lost contact with their schools during the pandemic.

3. **Activities Related to the City as a Whole:**

- a. **Guarantee opportunities for monthly class trips to all municipal public school students**, providing adequate transportation and realizing actions that ensure students have contact with **nature, history, culture** and the tourist attractions of the city, ensuring **their appropriation of the city**, for it belongs to them as it does all citizens. **Favela and grassroots museums**, and neighborhood ecomuseums should also be on the list of places to visit.
- b. **Debureaucratize**, regulate and make transparent **access to the Regional Education Coordination Bodies** (CREs).

II. Gardens and Reforestation

For many residents of Rio's favelas, eating is not a right but a challenge, which has been exacerbated by the pandemic. It was through the action of several community-based projects and the generosity of neighbors within the communities themselves that food was put on the table for most of those in need during the pandemic.

In addition to food access, we need to worry about food quality. We know that fresh and natural foods—typically excluded from basic food baskets—are the most fundamental for a diet that strengthens people's immunity and well-being.

Seeking to guarantee the most basic right to healthy food—whether in routine or extraordinary times—and sovereignty regarding this right, we ask for the commitment of the candidates to the following actions so as to ensure residents' access to healthy food and food sovereignty:

4. **Guarantee Financial Incentives for Community Gardens:**
 - a. **Grants** issued by the Environment Secretariat or other entities for the supply of materials and inputs **to maintain and ensure the permanence of volunteer-run, existing community gardens** whose protagonists have already struggled to transform the space, often taking years to develop the garden.
 - b. Commitment to **increase investment in existing public projects and the autonomy of projects such as Hortas Cariocas**, as well as the **issuance of new grants** that pay well to promote produce markets and food sovereignty actions that integrate with favela projects.
 - c. **Creation of grants to hire civil society organizations to develop new projects** that strengthen agroecology networks and organic production in the favelas of Rio de Janeiro.

5. **Guarantee Access to Natural, Agroecological and Organic Food from Local Producers in the Favelas:**
 - a. **Creation and implementation of a municipal policy for the development of urban agriculture in the favelas**, including grants for the hiring of organizations to provide support services to urban food producers; destination of public and private areas for diversified production of food and medicinal plants; and stimulation to improve the infrastructure of backyards and community gardens in the favelas.
 - b. **Map schools in favelas and nearby producers** with the aim of making **agreements** with local farmers to **supply** food to schools, integrating this process with environmental education in schools.
 - c. **Guarantee logistical support to connect organic producers** and small producers in the city and state of Rio **to the favelas** and peripheral neighborhoods.
 - d. **Expansion of Rio de Janeiro's network of organic food markets** into the favelas and peripheral regions of **all 33 Administrative Regions** of the city.

6. **Connect Residents and Preserve Remnants of Forests Near the City's Favelas:**
 - a. **Preserve and expand the conservation mechanisms** for remnants of forest near favelas, **promoting solutions that stimulate their creative and sustainable use**, while maintaining a **full guarantee of the right to housing**.

III. Solar Energy

Recent research shows that the Rio de Janeiro Metropolitan Region is Brazil's most economically advantageous place for distributed photovoltaic (PV) energy generation (solar energy). This potential was evidenced by the fact that Rio de Janeiro has been among the Brazilian municipalities with more photovoltaic installations since 2012, having taken the lead for several years and losing its first place in August 2020.

We see the potential of renewable energy generation in the favelas and work together to promote its implementation. We have in our city the first favela-based solar energy cooperative in Brazil. Besides being more technically and economically feasible than the individual

installations model, the shared generation model also harmonizes with the traditions of collectivity, cooperation and self-management of Rio's favelas.

Rio de Janeiro also pioneered the first solar energy self-generation project in a favela approved under the Energy Efficiency Program (PEE) of the National Electric Energy Agency (ANEEL), the first social business dedicated to the democratization of solar energy in Brazil, the first community with cell phone PV charging stations, and the first favela with emergency solar lighting.

Initiatives of this kind—where favela residents are both beneficiaries and protagonists—encourage the adoption of renewable energy sources, reduce the weight of the energy bill in the budgets of families and community organizations, develop talent for the future economy, generate jobs and income at the local level, and stimulate the emergence of new social businesses and of community technological innovation. In addition, these initiatives prove that favelas can be protagonists of the future that we seek to build for our city and the world.

Rio has the potential to be a global player in solar energy. We want to see Rio grow in this sector and occupy such a role of national and global protagonism, bottom-up from the favelas. To this end, we ask for candidates' commitment to the following lines of action:

7. **Elaborate and Execute a Plan for the Installation of Solar Energy in Public Buildings within Favelas:**
 - a. **Implement a policy for the installation of photovoltaic solar energy in schools, health centers, etc.,** in the favelas of Rio de Janeiro, elaborated **with the full participation of residents**, with deadlines, goals and dedicated resources.
 - b. Include the **training of favela workers** (including women) in the plan, with a focus on generating local income and promoting the population's engagement, **in partnership with organizations that are already doing this**. These will be essential to deepen the analysis and detail the action plans.
 - c. Include in this plan the **elaboration of school curriculum** that encourages young people to visit and engage with the panels in order to understand the role of solar energy, energy efficiency and other energy solutions in the building a sustainable city.
 - d. The elaboration of the Installation Plan must be **done with effective social participation**, especially of the population living in the favelas and representative institutions that operate there. The execution of this Plan and its impact evaluation must also enable effective social control by these actors.

8. **Encourage Solar Enterprises by and for Favela Residents:**
 - a. **Develop an investment fund to invest in solar energy training and enterprises in the favelas**, so that residents are not merely beneficiaries of the energy but also protagonists in its expansion, accessing new sources of employment.
 - b. **Develop an investment fund with low interest rates so that favela residents can access solar energy** (suggestion: seek partnerships with AgeRio and CAIXA).
 - c. **Include distributed solar photovoltaic generation initiatives** in favelas in the city's **Sustainable Development Plan**.

- d. The design of these stimulus instruments must be **done with effective social participation**, especially of the population living in the favelas and representative institutions that operate there. The implementation of this proposal and its impact evaluation must also enable effective social control by these actors.

9. **Guarantee High Quality Energy Service, Regardless of the Energy Source:**

- a. Include in the 1746 municipal complaint hotline the possibility of registering complaints about Light, Rio's private electric utility which frequently fails in Rio's favelas.
- b. Commit to find solutions, through the participation of the Consumer Council, with the possibility of referral to ANEEL or in other ways that prove to be effective.

IV. Water and Sewerage

The Covid-19 and water crises of 2020 alarmed everyone when they exposed—for those who were not yet aware—the reality marked by precarious sanitation in Rio's favelas. In this particular context, we are experiencing total precariousness, which grew to global notoriety after the 2016 Olympics. We believe that there are practical and empowering solutions to work on the issue of sewage treatment and ecological sanitation systems in the favelas.

With this, we ask for the commitment of the candidates to the following actions in favor of both centralized and decentralized solutions and systems for the realization of full sanitation in all of Rio's favelas:

10. **Make Basic Sanitation the Absolute Priority of Public Authorities:**

- a. **Map and adapt the entire sewerage system in the favelas** of Rio de Janeiro, guaranteeing universal access appropriate to local conditions (through centralized or decentralized solutions); separating sewage and rainwater, ensuring that sewage is processed by treatment networks; prohibiting irregular sewage disposal in rivers close to the communities, among others.
- b. Sanitation projects should consider carrying out their pre-treatment on site or nearby so that **the local population can harness the generation of biogas and fertilizer**.
- c. **All sanitation works will be accompanied by structuring actions of environmental education**, with the goal of sensitizing and building capacity among the population when it comes to basic sanitation issues.
- d. **Revive and strengthen the Community Street Sweepers Program (*Garis Comunitários*)**, by hiring favela residents to work within their territories. In addition to cleaning, they will also be responsible for teaching neighbors and carrying out campaigns and collective actions to clean up the territories.
- e. **Ensure universal access to treated water in the favelas of Rio de Janeiro**.
- f. **Develop a rainwater catchment project** in favelas with a proven high rainfall rate, taking advantage of public and private buildings (day care centers, schools, Integrated Centre of Public Education (CIEPs), health centers, banks, markets,

other shops and local and nearby condominiums), as well as providing incentive schemes for residents.

- g. **Map water sources in the favelas and perform water storage** and protection actions to facilitate their **popular use**.
- h. **Incorporate basic sanitation and its relation to health into the curriculum** of municipal schools, within the framework of the environmental education program.
- i. **Any basic sanitation program** (including those mentioned here) **will be developed with broad community participation**.

11. **Ensure Ecological and Decentralized Basic Sanitation in the Favelas Where it is Most Appropriate or the Local Population So Desires:**

- a. **To provide incentives, grant opportunities, and make agreements with local businesses and organizations adept at realizing local ecological sewerage systems.** In certain areas of consolidated favelas, it is not possible to collect sewage without invasive and predatory works. In other more remote favelas, it may be economically unfeasible to integrate a community into the sanitation system in the short term. And in other places, communities may wish to develop an ecological sanitation system due to its economic and ecological benefits.

V. Solid Waste Management

The accumulation of waste along favela roads and in Rio's landfills is clear evidence of our governing authorities' failures: to guarantee the quality of life of the population; to take advantage of income-generating opportunities; to save public resources; and to think creatively. Good waste management promotes the population's health and relieves health care systems. But it does much more than that.

With attention and political will, this waste could: save resources if reduced through educational campaigns; be turned into new objects and sources of income if recycled; and become fertilizer and gas without even leaving the neighborhood.

Let's look at the example of how public authorities treat those who do most of Rio's recycling: the waste pickers. During the coronavirus pandemic, waste pickers were among the most vulnerable, despite being responsible for 90% of recycling in our country. Dependent on income from the collection of materials and without other revenue streams, few were able to self-isolate during quarantine. And there has not been a single initiative on the part of the public authorities to serve this population.

In this context, we ask for candidates' commitment to the following policy proposals regarding solid waste:

12. **Meet Basic Waste Collection Needs in the Favelas:**

- a. **Ensure an adequate number of garbage cans and skips in strategic collection points** (as defined by residents), as well as a more frequent waste collection in the favelas.
- b. **Revive and strengthen the Program of Garis Comunitários (Community Street Sweepers)**, by hiring favela residents to work within their territories. In addition to cleaning, they will also be responsible for teaching neighbors and carrying out campaigns and collective actions to clean up the territories.

- c. **Use local associations as a task force to ensure waste collection** in these spaces.
- d. **Conduct social awareness projects** about the importance of waste recycling at **municipal schools**.

13. **Ensure Necessary Resources for Community Cooperatives Conducting Recycling** in the Favelas:

- a. Introduce a **remuneration incentive program for groups**, associations and cooperatives **that manage solid waste** (recyclable, organic waste, etc.) within favela territories, as well as for projects that generate income through this management.
- b. **Provide technical support and financing for the purchase of equipment and regularization of cooperatives** and associations of waste pickers.
- c. Grant property tax **exemptions for those properties used exclusively for** industrial activities of **recycling** or reusing of recyclable materials.
- d. **Guarantee the remuneration of cooperatives that provide services to the Municipal Urban Cleaning Utility (COMLURB)**, so they do not only obtain profit from the sale of materials, but **are also paid for the service rendered**. This has already been undertaken in other Brazilian municipalities.
- e. **Expand COMLURB's recycling program** so that more cooperatives can receive materials collected by the company. *(At present, the company serves 115 neighborhoods and collects 1,700 tons of potentially recyclable materials per month, in about 9,000 locations, through 26 daily itineraries. Number of cooperatives currently benefited: 25).*
- f. Establish a **partnership for the inclusion of male and female waste pickers** who are illiterate, elderly or do not have a home **into associations or cooperatives** of waste pickers, ensuring follow-up and social assistance.
- g. **Guarantee minimum pay** and social **assistance to unregulated waste pickers** who do not work in cooperatives.
- h. **Ensure that recyclable materials are not incinerated** and that they are **destined to waste pickers' associations** and cooperatives.
- i. **To incentivize and support community initiatives that encourage the local circular economy and promote recycling**, generating employment and income and enabling reverse logistics in favelas poorly served by public services.

14. **Implement a Policy for the Community Management of Organic Waste:**

- a. **Make composting systems and/or biodigesters viable options for the treatment of organic waste**—which currently makes up 54% of our waste—in partnership with public schools and COMLURB in favelas in all of Rio's 33 Administrative Regions, sized to receive the organic material from the surrounding community and provide fertilizer and gas to the population.
- b. **Carry out this work together with local community gardens** that can receive the fertilizer and use it to provide local and healthy food to the population, whether these are school, public or individual gardens.

15. **Ensure Participation in Waste Management:**

- a. **Promote integration** between civil society, utilities and the public authorities, **specifically ensuring the participation of favela organizers and representatives of recycling cooperatives on the councils** dealing with issues related to public sanitation, urban cleaning, recycling and circular economy.
- b. **Expand the influence of technical chambers** linked to the municipal secretariats and implement the solutions presented by them, ensuring the broad participation of favela community leaders and cooperative representatives.

- c. **Introduce a corporate social responsibility for companies utilizing plastic packaging**, exercising the responsibility of the Council to charge companies operating in their municipalities to apply reverse logistics. Favela community leaders and representatives of waste picker cooperatives should be involved in the initial phase of discussions to ensure that their participation in reverse logistics systems generates decent work and income for the population living in the favelas.
- d. **Create a department of community relationships** so that **community associations and agents can dialogue directly with municipal officials** about the waste management demands within their territories.

VI. Income Generation

Mostly, it is favela residents who build the city and make its economy circulate, providing many of the essential services on which we depend, even during the pandemic. Unfortunately, these same workers go unrecognized and are poorly compensated for everything they do and the risks they take in the process. A transformation of society's vision regarding these workers—be they formal or informal—and the extremely critical role they play in our city is vital.

Besides being the backbone of the entire city's economy, many favelas churn their own economies, almost entirely without external investments. What's more, among the favela economy enterprises, there is a growing movement of workers seeking sustainable ways to build their dreams and ensure their livelihoods, in harmony with the environment and in building social resilience.

We therefore ask for candidates' commitment to the following specific proposal that seeks to recognize, stimulate and invest in the growing movement of fair, solidarity-based, sustainable and creative economy of Rio's favelas:

16. **Implement a law**—not a decree or a government program—which guarantees the **social organization of work in the favelas** through cooperatives and associations that allow for a fair, solidarity-based, sustainable and creative development (whatever the craft or occupation). The law will:
 - a. **Develop accessible means** (in terms of cost and process) **to formalize** income generation projects based on a fair, solidarity, sustainable and creative economy in the favelas.
 - b. **Guarantee that small entrepreneurs who are not part of the Business Mobilization through Innovation (MEI)** entrepreneurship portal and work in street stalls, **can work safely** or be legalized in an unbureaucratic and empowering way without risk of eviction. Workers in this condition tend to be the most vulnerable and when evicted, the damage has enormous impacts on their families' incomes and survival.
 - c. **Financially and institutionally support** local economic development actions in the favelas, **strengthening popular initiatives based on a fair, solidarity-based, sustainable and creative economy.**
 - d. **Invest in job training centers** in each of Rio's 33 Administrative Regions, with **stipends** generating income and **underpinned by a fair, solidary, sustainable and creative economy** (based on the Paul Singer model).
 - e. **Facilitate** procedures and **prioritize**, through a **10%** quota, cooperatives, associations and other businesses based on mutual cooperation in the favelas **to**

- participate in public bids for equipment or events.
- f. **Guarantee** that cooperatives or associations participating in the construction of a **fair, solidarity, sustainable and creative economy in the favelas** can access and exhibit their products—on a fully subsidized basis—at **10% of the public event venues** with exhibition or market spaces **promoted by City Hall** or its secretariats.
- g. **Recognize and invest in community culture and tourism workers** in favelas and peripheral territories, so they are **acknowledged and strengthened** as protagonists in the **production and maintenance of Rio's popular culture**.

VII. Memory and Culture

Slavery was abolished 132 years ago in Brazil, and it was 123 years ago that the word "favela" was first used to describe an informal settlement in Rio de Janeiro, the city that was the largest slave trafficking port in human history. Few residents of Rio are encouraged to reflect on this historical reality, so it is no coincidence that, after generations, the racial map of Rio de Janeiro continues to be almost synchronic with the formal and informal geographies of the urban fabric. Today's favelas are the clearest territorial manifestation of the continued legacy of slavery in Rio de Janeiro. The public authorities' disinvestment in the favelas has become the most guaranteed way to maintain the logic of a slave-holding society to this day: some live to serve and not to be served.

We have to stop this cycle. It is about time to value and invest in our favelas, quilombos, and peripheries. Time to recognize their remarkable contributions to culture, economy and city life. Getting in touch with the memory of the favelas is a critical step, both for us to develop a feeling of belonging among our own—which generates the ethics of care towards the environment sought after with this letter and for our world—and for society to learn to value our favelas, their contributions and potential.

And, with regards to culture, we know that it holds the power to change the lives of people as a whole, as well as to save those lives. It's no mystery that basically all the valued elements of Rio's culture—whether by ourselves, by tourists, or by the world—are born, cultivated or preserved in our favelas. So enough already! Most of our favelas have existed for decades, for generations. Enough of devaluing their contributions, of evicting them, of exploiting them. Roots are fundamental to human meaning, and we all have the right to cultivate them.

Based on this understanding and recognizing that the people to whom the memory belongs are the ones who should be in full control of projects to preserve that memory, we ask for the commitment of the candidates to create and implement a law whose objective is to begin to embark on the long path necessary to reverse the panorama of inequality which marks our society and build a future rooted in learning from our history.

This law will:

17. **Recognize, Promote, Strengthen, and Guarantee the Continuity of Culture and Memory Projects from the Favelas, Quilombos, and Peripheries of the City:**
 - a. Ensure that **the budget for the Municipal Cultural Plan is approved.**
 - b. **Guarantee that at least 24% of resources** allocated to culture by municipal

secretariats **are for favela initiatives** (corresponding to 24% of the urban population).

- c. **Provide incentives and grants for public events of small/medium size** in the favelas, quilombos and peripheries of the city.
- d. **Fund cultural actions in municipal schools in the favelas, carried out in partnership with organizations** from the favelas, quilombos, and peripheries of the city, including **community museums**.
- e. **Implement tax exemptions for companies in the municipality that invest in memory and culture projects in the favelas.**

18. **Stimulate the Constant Strengthening of Collectives and Independent Artists in the Favelas:**

- a. **Realize an online degree program aimed at cultural promoters** in the favelas, quilombos and peripheries.
- b. **Recognize street artists and legalize performers on municipal buses.**
- c. **Develop a basic income policy for cultural agents** from favelas, quilombos and peripheries.
- d. **Increase the number and value of unbureaucratic awards for collectives and independent artists** from favelas, quilombos and peripheries.
- e. **Provide tax exemptions and legal guidance for the regularization** of museums and cultural projects in the favelas, quilombos and peripheries.
- f. **Stimulate and assist larger museums and cultural houses to promote exhibitions in partnership with community museums and culture projects.**
(*Example: Costa Rica, where the National Museum has a department to assist community museums*).
- g. **Establish a special line of funding to empower women and girls in the field of culture** with scholarships for those girls and women who work on the street or the informal sector, as well as facilitating the registration of those who are artists.
- h. **Implement a special stimulus to culture circles** in favelas and peripheral public squares.

19. Create a **Summer Program in Public Schools in the Favelas Focused on the Construction of Belonging:**

- a. **Together with students, map the historical and cultural assets of their favelas** near their schools, which is necessary to develop a sense of belonging based on an understanding of local/territorial conditions.
- b. **Create exchanges to share experiences** among students and with local memory preservation organizations.
- c. Having conducted these actions, it will be important to **elaborate and develop memory projects linked to the local environment**, thus dynamizing classroom dynamics and encouraging responsibility and commitment towards the surrounding community. Establish partnerships with universities and public research agencies to carry out the activities (e.g. Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (EMBRAPA).

We also ask you to affirm that you will:

20. **Protect the Right to Housing, Memory and Roots in the Favelas of Rio:**

- a. Se posicionar contra qualquer ação que ofereça ameaças de remoção e promover ações que garantam a permanência das favelas e o direito à moradia. De nada adiantará concordar com todos os itens acima e não ter compromisso em não remover trabalhadores dos seus lares e comunidades.
Take a stand against any action that threatens eviction and promote actions that

guarantee the right to housing in consolidated favelas. There is no point in agreeing with all of the above if not committing to not evict workers from their homes and communities.

Before concluding, **we seek a further commitment from the candidates:**

21. **If elected, in the first 100 days of his/her administration, the candidate will schedule a day to learn and develop proposals with the Sustainable Favela Network.**

On the basis of these proposals, which deserve collective debate and attention, we in the Sustainable Favela Network believe that it will be possible to build a resilient and sustainable city through the valuing, promotion and political support of the favelas and the sustainable solutions proposed and carried out in these territories. Should you agree with us, we ask that you sign below.

I, _____(name), candidate for _____ (City Councillor/Mayor) of Rio de Janeiro, commit to the 21 proposals and 82 sub-proposals contained in this commitment letter should I be elected in the 2020 elections ([sign here](#) if you would like to indicate your degree of commitment with each item).

_____ (Candidate Signature)