

Newsletter december 2022

On our 30th anniversary we launch a new website

It contains news and latest updates, contents published in the media, accessibility and disability regulations, useful tips about frequently asked questions, and a specific section with documents of our own or in which we have collaborated.

Cecilia García Rizzo and María Rodríguez Romero put together the material, with inputs from the rest of the team. Go to page ▶

Honors received this year

SOY ARQUITECTA 2021-22 Special mention in the Activist category



to Silvia Coriat.

March 30. The Soy arguitecta.net prize showcases the production of women architects across the country through the presentation of works, designs or projects. The international jury included women architects from Uruguay, Paraguay, Brazil, Argentina and the United States.

Silvia Coriat was awarded an honorable mention (Argentine National Endowment for the Arts Grant) for her track record and the book "Lo Urbano y lo Humano. Hábitat y Discapacidad" (1st Ed. 2002, 2nd Ed. 2011). More info ▶

BUENOS AIRES CITY LEGISLATURE: The Foundation was declared to be of social interest.



October 31. Congresswoman Laura Velasco, author of the declaration of social interest, led the ceremony where Rumbos received a diploma. On that occasion Eduardo Joly - President of the Foundationextended this acknowledgement to "all the organizations of persons with disabilities, partner neighborhood organizations. and environmental organizations, and all the political organizations that have adopted our cause as their own".

See video (English subtitles)▶

Influencing Public Policies

NEW DISABILITY BILL: Contributions, participation and demands

Pursuant to the National Disability Agency's (ANDIS) call to prepare a New Disability Bill, we drafted a document with accessibility inputs. We participated in Federal and Regional Public Hearings, and in "Citizen Participation Forum towards a new disability act" in Commune 8.

Read document with imputs ► See our statements ►

The text of the bill has not been made public. Its general guidelines were shared with a limited number of lead players in the disability community in meetings prescribed as confidential. Given such limited participation, we requested that ANDIS make public the text, so as to introduce changes, if deemed necessary.

Read notice presented to the ANDIS ► (525 persons consulted this notice)

BUILDING CODE: Latest updates in the appeal

The Supreme Court of Buenos Aires City confirmed Judge Liberatori's resolution declaring herself partially incompetent. Consequently, the cause will be considered only as affecting the due process of citizens who participated in public hearings and will not analyze the contents of the Code. In this regard, we

continue to hold our ground claiming that the regulatory content is inconsistent with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. RAIL TRANSPORTATION: we support a claim regarding the faulty functioning of elevators at the University of Buenos Aires campus station.



At the end of March, a user of an electric scooter consulted us about an accessibility issue in the path she normally takes to attend an entry level course for Sociology at the University of Buenos Aires campus.

Following our intervention, in early July the operator of the Belgrano Norte Rail Line (Ferrovias) informed that the elevators were in working condition. We will continue to keep tabs on proper maintenance and expected progress in the improvement of accessibility conditions in railway transportation. Read notice



ALTERNATIVE NGO REPORT - 2022: Our contributions on accessibility and other areas -such as participation- have been added to this NGO report, which will be presented to the Committee for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Geneva.

Community Involvement and Networking

<u>BUENOS AIRES CITY</u>: We continue to work with neighborhood organizations in the defense of green and inclusive public space.

El Playón Park, Colegiales neighborhood

Throughout the year, María Rodríguez Romero participated in different activities related to the park's design: Neighborhood Workshop on Participatory Design: meetings with members of the Undersecretariat of Urban Landscape, the General Directorate of Urban Regeneration and the Community Board of Commune 13; and a meeting with the Disability Commission of the City Legislature, along with organizations of persons with disabilities and with teams of the GCBA (Government of Buenos Aires City) to discuss accessibility guidelines for the new project.



October 19: Public Hearing. We demanded a stop to building towers that block our vision and contaminate the environment, and we requested rezoning for a park in four protected lots, opposing the City Government's intent to sell them for real estate speculation. See statements of Rodriguez Romero y García Rizzo

Neighborhood Organizations Network

July 9: Organizations met in front of the Obelisk demanding more green spaces, in defense of neighborhood identity and heritage, free access to our river, the environment, and citizen participation. No more cement in our neighborhoods, more quality green spaces! More info

Avellaneda Park



October 29: Meeting of organizations to celebrate the 25 years of the Avellaneda Park Work Group. This was a step forward in participatory experiences to strengthen bonds and teamwork in the development of a common agenda for 2023.

More info ▶

Work project for the former Dorrego Market

December 2: Public Hearing. We rejected the project and reported that it is part of the systematic privatization of public spaces carried out by the City Government, showing once again its contempt for the people's interests.

See statements ▶

MORENO, BUENOS AIRES PROVINCE

Throughout the year, we participated in COMUNIDIS (Municipal Council for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities), Álvarez-La Reja Area of the Local Council for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights in Childhood and Adolescence, and we spearheaded the creation of the Advisory Council for the Roggero Special District.



In these settings Cecilia González Campo shared her technical and political expertise to include accessibility in the design and construction of physical and social environments. She coordinated activities among City Hall's different areas of architecture in charge of the execution of sidewalks, schools, parks, health centers, among others. She also brought different groups onboard, enhancing activities and projects carried out in the

context of direct and democratic participation.



Among other ongoing processes: strengthening of the tourist infrastructure of the Protected Natural Area Dique Roggero, creating better visitability conditions. We embraced the challenge of influencing production of neighborhood parks and developing a network in support of mobility.



Work in Human Rights and Disability

The Undersecretariat of Human Rights of Buenos Aires Province invited us to participate in the XIII International Seminar on Memory Policies, with the experience of "Visitability Workshops". In this context, Cecilia González Campo led a course on "Accessibility and Human Rights. Towards social inclusion of persons with disability". <u>See course</u>

Likewise, she continued to incorporate accessibility guidelines in Memory Spaces, such as the Arana Detachment (one of the many sites of torture and disappearances during the dictatorship). See notice

Academic & Community-based Activities

COURSE: DISABILITY RIGHTS

María José Lubertino invited us to co-organize this virtual course as part of the Professional Oriented Research Program in Private and Public Law at the University of Buenos Aires Law School. We developed contents and invited renowned national and international specialists with whom we taught the course.

Attendees were students in their last years of Law School, as well as graduates from other universities and disability rights activists. Thirty-four students completed the coursework and, given the interest it aroused, we will repeat it next year

See classes ▶



ACCESSIBLE AND SAFE SIDEWALKS

In coordination with the Disability Program of the School of Philosophy and Literature of the University of Buenos Aires and the Lucioni Chair of Geography, María Rodríguez Romero –in charge of Rumbos's Accessible and Safe Sidewalks program – took part in the data-gathering of accessibility in Commune 4, under the

motto viewing the city with other eyes (June 25). She also participated in the presentation of findings on urban accessibility to the community (July 6).

More info ▶



SEMINAR: What is disability? How do we think about it and approach it?

During October, Silvia Coriat delivered this virtual seminar organized by the Association of Psychologists of Buenos Aires (APBA). The course covered the following topics: Disability as a social construct; Intersectionalities; Identities; Body, subjectivity and context; Neuroscience: an organicist step back and its landing in inclusive design.

See videos and material ▶

SOUNDING BOXES

The Urbe Foundation invited us to participate in a number of encounters, with the idea of discussing aspects of strategic urban development. The objective was "to create, maintain and open spaces for debate and discussion, precisely like a sounding box for policy makers and opinion leaders".

<u>See statements of Coriat, González.</u>
Campo and Rodríguez Romero ►

Articles and Interviews

- February 7. Publication of Eduardo Joly's lecture <u>Disability: struggles and perspectives</u> in the Redbioética/UNESCO Magazine (presented at the 8th Edition of the "Disability from a Humanities Perspective Seminar", School of Philosophy and Literature, University of Buenos Aires, August 10, 2021).
- Interview with Cecilia García Rizzo on the importance of including accessibility resources in the media, for an article by Alan Levy <u>Disability: Making Prejudices</u>
 Visible in the Tercer Sector Magazine, Year 27, N°134 (April).
- June 30: <u>Activism with history: moving towards cities with greater accessibility</u>. Interview with Eduardo Joly, conducted by Ph.D. candidate Francisco Fernández Romero (Disability and Accessibility Program SEUBE FILO, UBA). Extension Networks, 1(9), 42-49.
- <u>Teaching Geographic Information Technologies oriented towards territorial and interplayer work: start viewing the city with other eyes.</u> Lucioni, N., Rusler, V., and Heredia, M. about our data gathering teamwork on accessibility in public spaces (January-June).
- September 8: Article written by Eduardo Joly and published in the NACLA Report on the Americas. The Struggle for Disability Rights in Argentina and Beyond. Disability struggles must move towards an anti-capitalist horizon with demands for jobs and accessible, affordable housing at the forefront.
- December 3: Article released on our website and published in Política Obrera.
 International Day of Persons with Disability and Pan-American Day of Physicians.
- Prologue by Cecilia García Rizzo in the book <u>Access to health of the population with disability in Argentina. Demands, barriers and rights</u>. Vázquez, N., Sustas, S. and Venturiello, M. P. (coordinators).



MORE THAN EVER BEFORE, WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT TO CHANGE TOGETHER THE REALITY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES. **DONATE NOW**









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