

Public space is fundamental because of its potential to bring people together, to question and represent who they are and to foster community. Public spaces facilitate encounters, and thus social learning. Public space teaches. The coexistence of the different in public space is important to cultivate inclusive and plural societies, not to mention the productive conflict it generates between different interests, political groups and classes, and the consequent exchanges, compromises and negotiations. In the city, the neoliberal practices that enclose, privatize and, therefore, diminish the availability of public spaces, the practice of appropriation and commoning is important to protect and ensure these spaces have the democratic values they inscribe. A recent phenomenon happening in many cities around Brazil, and particularly in Brasilia, has given rise to new forms of citizenship. It has been through the reclaiming of public spaces, for social, cultural, economic or environmental purposes that social movements, community organizations and cultural producers have been creating new spaces and new means for action, experimenting with different collective forms of democratic governance and communal decision-making. Through the understanding of the necessary actors, resources and protocols to occupy public space, this is a series of collaborative tools that summarizes and guides on how to appropriate, transform and/or reclaim public space. It provides support for people to participate in the existing initiatives and/or begin their own actions, amplifying and replicating the movement that has begun.

how to organize a community garden

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rights + responsibilities

As citizens, we are entitled to many rights. The deep mobilization on the part of social movements culminated in the inclusion of the very right to the city in our Constitution. However, other than rights, as citizens we also have responsibilities. When it comes to our cities and public spaces, we are responsible for our actions, for how we treat space and neighbors. As a collective creation, the city is ultimately a reflection of our attitudes and relations.

- + **Portaria 314/Iphan**: Preservation of Brasilia's urban complex
- + **Lei 448/93**: Provides for the adoption of squares, public gardens and roundabouts, by entities and companies.
- + **Lei 10.257/2001 Estatuto da Cidade**: Establishes general guidelines for urban policy and guarantees the right to the city and the right for democratic governance through participation.
- + **Lei 10.406/2002, Civil Code**: Among many things, defines that public space such as streets, roads and squares are of common use of the people.
- + **Lei 4.772/2012**: Provides guidelines for policies that support urban and peri-urban agriculture in the Federal District.

For more info, access: www.espacopubli.co/rights

organize

+ People: There are many people involved with the urban agriculture in the city. The last section of the guide provides actors which you can connect to, but start with your friends, neighbors, work or school colleagues. People who have similar interests and aspirations can be a good start, but remember to diversify!

+ Space: The location and conditions of space are important things to consider. Proximity to home to carry materials and tools might be convenient, but consider the proximity to infrastructure such as water. Look into the allowed activities per zoning, the openness or constraints that allow for larger or smaller crowds, or more or less plants, and if there is a lot of circulation of people. For gardening, pay attention to sun exposure and shade and the presence of other amenities for community meetings.

+ Time: Consider your availability of time, but also that of those who work in different shifts, depending on your audience. What times are the spaces empty? When can people meet to organize and plant? Consider the weather: Brasilia has long periods of draught, which are perfect for day-long events, but not so good for gardening. Take time into consideration.

+ Access: Make sure you think of inclusive forms of access to your garden. How are people getting there? Are there sidewalks and bike lanes near by? In the case of bringing large tools and plants, is it close to a parking lot?

+ Structure: What do you need for your garden? Make a checklist. Do you need furniture for people to gather in the garden as well? Do you need a place to keep the tools and seeds? What type of cheap, reusable materials can you use for that? Do you need roofing or any type of stands?

+ Infrastructure: Consider where you will get power from, if you need it. In this case, you might need a generator or you can 'borrow' power from gas stations and public amenities. Think about waste collection - who will collect the trash and where will it go? Where will the water come from? Is there a building nearby, or some form of rainwater harvest?

+ Communication: How will you collaborate among each other and with other organizations, and publicize the garden? Consider creating whatsapp or facebook groups for organizing, and then communicating it to other community members using facebook events, pamphlets, community newspaper, sound cars and wheat-paste posters.

+ Funding: There isn't a lot of funding for community-oriented initiatives in Brazil, but pay attention to private grants, and consider crowdsourcing the garden through the contribution of community members through donations or monthly memberships. Promoting events and getting the revenue from selling foods and beverages can also be a form of converting the income into funding for the garden.

+ Knowledge: Consider the different knowledges necessary and who might be a collaborator. Technical, legal and urban knowledges might be important, but also informal knowledges provenient from experiences, etc. Connect to and collaborate with other people!

