

SOCIAL PROJECTS AND NGOS, PROPOSALS OF THE THIRD SECTOR

Policy Brief VI.7

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policy brief

VI.7.1 Introduction

Maré has significant activities of NGOs in various segments, especially in the field of education and memory. The presence of this type of institution reflects the neoliberal situation where the universal spaces and public investments are replaced by partial and limited initiatives developed by the so-called Third Sector.

At Maré, the dialogue between NGOs, State and residents often produce misunderstandings due to the lack of more intense communication channels with the locals. Claims call for a permanent dialogue channel between residents and the Third Sector active in place to enhance their demands, as well as crystallize any social gains already achieved, such as the construction of a museum in the slum. Maré is a territory rich in diversity, and the constant interaction between non-governmental institutions and the favela can produce the improvement of socio-spatial relations on site.

Many respondents indicated the constant action of NGOs in Maré. These institutions have produced different forms of activity in the territory over the years. The products of their actions are varied: the construction of a museum, an increase of the number of slum dwellers who accessed the university through the popular pre-university courses, arts center, demographic censuses, social memory files, gastronomy contests, dance and theater spectacles, affirmation of local identities, demonstrations against oppressions of the State, among others.

Although NGOs have promoted changes identified as positive in Maré, their structural dynamics of operation is similar to that of a company, which means that the institutions working in Maré are in constant competition for funds, support, marketing, and due to this much time is lost in bureaucratic aspects, besides subordinating their work to the interests of those who finance them, leaving aside social character actions, like listening more often the demands of residents, and guide their performance from what they wish to enjoy.

The residents claim to be of paramount importance that NGOs keep themselves democratic and mirror the demands of slum dwellers, because there are critics to decisions within such spaces, which are considered as political, that would be controlled by a kind of "favela elite" (persons who had operated in universities, social movements and political parties) and that such decisions often are not open to broad and democratic dialogue.

Non-governmental organizations work through partnerships with public and private sectors, and the relationship has been guided by the interest coveted by funders. This results in projects that do not represent the slum's needs but the needs of capital in its various disguises.

VI.7.2. Policy Recommendations:

- Improve the dialogue channel with the locals, they should propose changes in Maré. Democratization of the actions planning by NGOs;
- Preparation of social projects pacted with the socio-spatial development of Maré;
- Uphold the guidelines of the residents and not those of their funders;
- Expand the scope of action, focusing on actions directed more often to the environmental and the elderly issues;
- Search in universities for partnerships to consolidate local action through university extension projects;
- Greater integration between the active NGOs in Maré, breaking with the competitive logic that undergo these institutions.