ISCTE IUL
REPOSITÓRIO
INSTITUTO UNIVERSITÁRIO DE LISBOA

Repositório ISCTE-IUL

Deposited in *Repositório ISCTE-IUL*:
2025-03-19

Deposited version:
Publisher Version

Peer-review status of attached file:
Peer-reviewed

Citation for published item:
Crowley, D. & Belchior, C. (2020). Creating a sustainable & just Lisbon. In Marilyn Hamilton (Ed.), Urban Hub 20: Accelerating city change in a VUCA World: Thriveable cities. (pp. 184-192).: integralMENTORS.

Further information on publisher's website:
https://integralcity.com/2020/04/14/how-can-we-accelerate-city-change-in-a-vuca-world/

Publisher's copyright statement:
This is the peer reviewed version of the following article: Crowley, D. & Belchior, C. (2020). Creating a sustainable & just Lisbon. In Marilyn Hamilton (Ed.), Urban Hub 20: Accelerating city change in a VUCA World: Thriveable cities. (pp. 184-192).: integralMENTORS.. This article may be used for non-commercial purposes in accordance with the Publisher's Terms and Conditions for self-archiving.

Use policy

Creative Commons CC BY 4.0
The full-text may be used and/or reproduced, and given to third parties in any format or medium, without prior permission or charge, for personal research or study, educational, or not-for-profit purposes provided that:

- a full bibliographic reference is made to the original source
- a link is made to the metadata record in the Repository
- the full-text is not changed in any way

The full-text must not be sold in any format or medium without the formal permission of the copyright holders.

Serviços de Informação e Documentação, Instituto Universitário de Lisboa (ISCTE-IUL)
Av. das Forças Armadas, Edifício II, 1649-026 Lisboa Portugal
Phone: +(351) 217 903 024 | e-mail: administrador.repositorio@iscte-iul.pt
https://repositorio.iscte-iul.pt

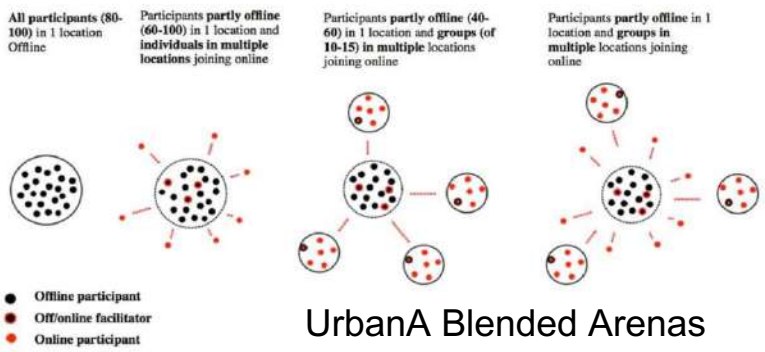
Creating a Sustainable & Just Lisbon

Creating Sustainable and Just Cities

UrbanA is a 3-yrs (2019-21) European funded academic project that revolves around four “Urban Arenas”, each one explores specific themes with a range of “City Makers” to better understand how to create Sustainable and Just cities.

The project consortium is nurturing a “Community of Practice” to better connect communities translocally and building a “Knowledge Commons”, offering processes where collaboration happens by online, offline and blended approaches.

UrbanA´s Portuguese team is seeking to ground this process by creating face-to-face “Local Arenas” in Lisbon. The purpose is to identify, connect and co-create with local communities responding to local urban challenges, who have clear insights on urban justice, or who are developing local solutions to climate breakdown.



UrbanA Blended Arenas

ROTTERDAM	BARCELONA	BERLIN	BRUSSELS
28-29 November **2019**	May/ June **2020**	Feb/ March **2021**	October **2021**
MAPPING APPROACHES TO URBAN SUSTAINABILITY AND JUSTICE	UNDERSTANDING HOW MAKING CITIES SUSTAINABLE CAN CREATE (IN)JUSTICE	IDENTIFYING DECISION-MAKING APPROACHES FOR SUSTAINABLE AND JUST CITIES	DISTILLING POLICY SOLUTIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE AND JUST CITIES

URBANA = URBAN ARENAS FOR SUSTAINABLE AND JUST CITIES

UrbanA is a 3-year project funded by the European Union, and led by a consortium of seven partners

ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability · drift for transition · CEU Central European University · ICTA Institut de Ciència i Tecnologia Ambientals - UAB · Ciências ULisboa · Uni Freiburg · ECOLISE

CONTACT

www.urban-arena.eu
twitter.com/arena_urban
www.linkedin.com/company/urban-arenas
www.instagram.com/arena_urbana
info@urban-arena.eu

urbanA

URBAN ARENAS FOR SUSTAINABLE AND JUST CITIES

Cities play a key role in responding to the great challenges of our time.

However increasing poverty and inequality, exacerbated by the recent financial and housing crises, are putting the social cohesion and resilience of European cities to the test.

Many researchers and innovators have focused on understanding urban social inequality and ecological unsustainability and have identified numerous ways of making cities more just and sustainable. This knowledge and experience needs to be further consolidated and effectively communicated.

UrbanA takes up this challenge

- Distilling and sharing knowledge generated by research and innovation projects and translating it into action.
- Facilitating interaction and knowledge exchange.
- Empowering UrbanA participants to apply this knowledge locally.
- Influencing policies in favour of sustainable and just cities.

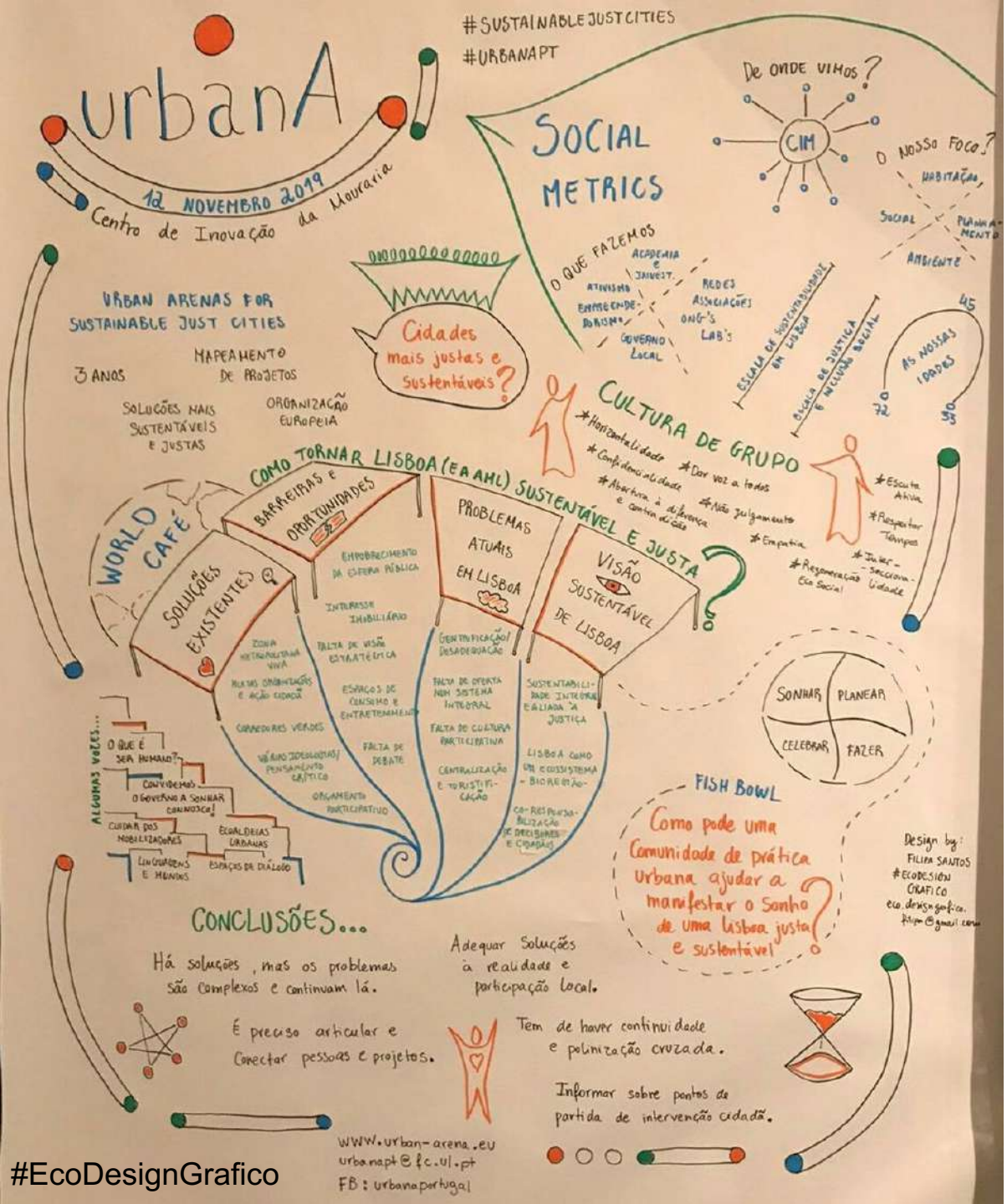
urbanA

URBAN ARENAS
FOR SUSTAINABLE AND JUST CITIES

The first UrbanA Local Arena in Lisbon, the new capital of gentrification & evictions.

November 12th 2019 was the start of the UrbanA project in Lisbon, a city going through such rapid and profound change that it was recently deemed “The new capital of gentrification and evictions”. After much time reaching out to local groups and projects active in the city, a group of about 30 participated in a full day of activity in the cities most multicultural community, Mouraria. The event started with a walking tour of the labyrinthine neighbourhood under the old castle, where, like many European cities, touristification, gentrification and short-term housing are driving up rents so quickly that locals can no longer afford to pay and are moving out of their *bairros* (neighbourhoods). Minimum wage raised 6% to 635 euros in 2019, but it is still the lowest in western Europe. Activists from Housing and Right to the City groups *Stop Despejos* (Stop evictions), *Jardim Martim Moniz* and *Habita* led a mostly local group through the streets to the heart of this transformation, the now mostly emptied, *Rua Dos Lagares*, where remaining families recently had their evictions stalled due to mobilisations in the streets. Then, in the Mouraria Creative Hub participants explored how the approaches to urban justice and sustainability identified in UrbanA translate to the Lisbon context, using Fishbowl, World Café and other participatory methods. Their findings are being fed into the wider UrbanA project through its collaborative processes and tools, including a Community of Practice and Knowledge Commons.

(All links available on the UrbanA Zine: https://tinyurl.com/vp7ml2z)



urbanA

URBAN ARENAS
FOR SUSTAINABLE AND JUST CITIES

Live Sketching at Local Arena #1

Social metrics: Where are we from / Who are we / What's our focus / Age / Measure Lisbon Sustainability and Justice levels.

Group Culture: Horizontality / Give a voice to all / Confidentiality / Don't Judge / Explore differences and contradictions / Empathy / Ecosocial Regeneration / Intersectionality / Respect Time / Active Listening.

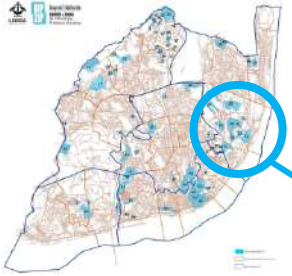
World Café: Existing Solutions / Barriers and Opportunities / Current Problems in Lisbon / Sustainable Vision for Lisbon.

Fish Bowl: How can an urban Community of Practice help manifest the dream of a Sustainable and Just Lisbon?

Conclusions: Many solutions exist, but complex problems persist / Need to better connect communities & projects / Local participation need deepening & expand included voices / Identify Citizen intervention points.

urbanA

URBAN ARENAS
FOR SUSTAINABLE AND JUST CITIES

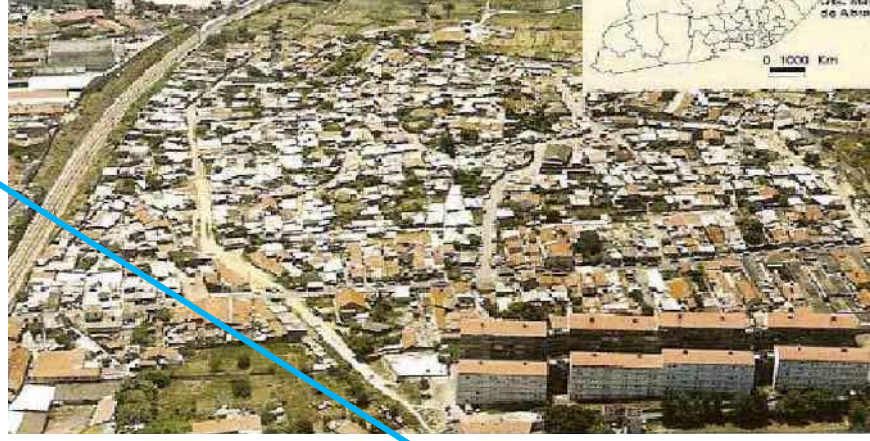


How might UrbanA enable integral capacities in Lisbon?

UrbanA will continue its local community engagement process in Lisbon by grounding its activity in Marvila, a rapidly transforming riverside neighbourhood on the Eastern side of Lisbon. The objective is to identify how best can the needs of the local communities be supported by the wider UrbanA “Community of Practice” and the project´s tools. It also aims to explore how to accelerate the transformation of Marvila into an Integral City Neigbourhood by applying perspectives and tools from Urban Hub 20.

This port industry and working class area was forgotten about for many decades and housed one of Lisbon’s largest shanty towns, the *Chinese Neighbourhood*. This was replaced in the late 1990’s by fragmented modern housing blocks of high rise towers, amidst large, empty, unused spaces. The latest urban transformation sees rent and land prices rise rapidly, established communities being forced to leave and even evictions happening.

Marvila is beaming with transformation potential. Many research and social innovation groups are already active here, working with the local government and communities to increase citizen collaboration in planning processes and to explore issues of equality and urban sustainability.

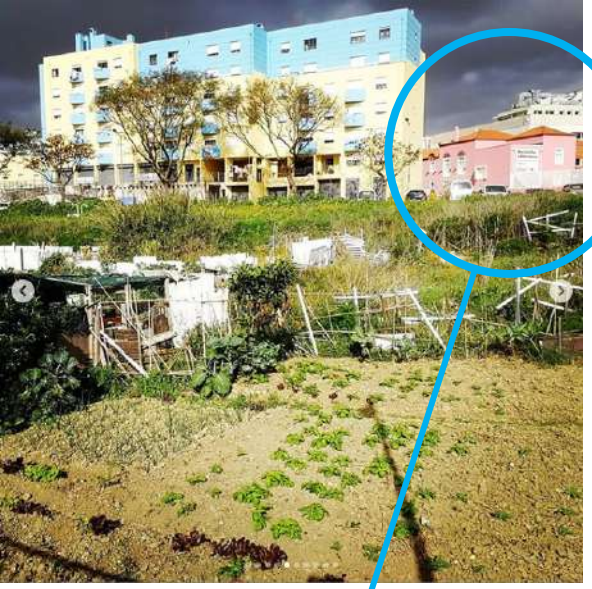


Chinese Neighbourhood & Quinta do Chale, 1990’s (Soares 2011, ROCK 2018)

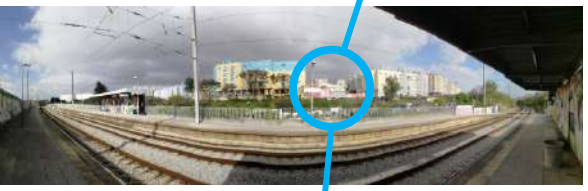
Chinese Neighbourhood & Quinta do Chale, 2018 (Google Earth, ROCK 2018)

urbanA

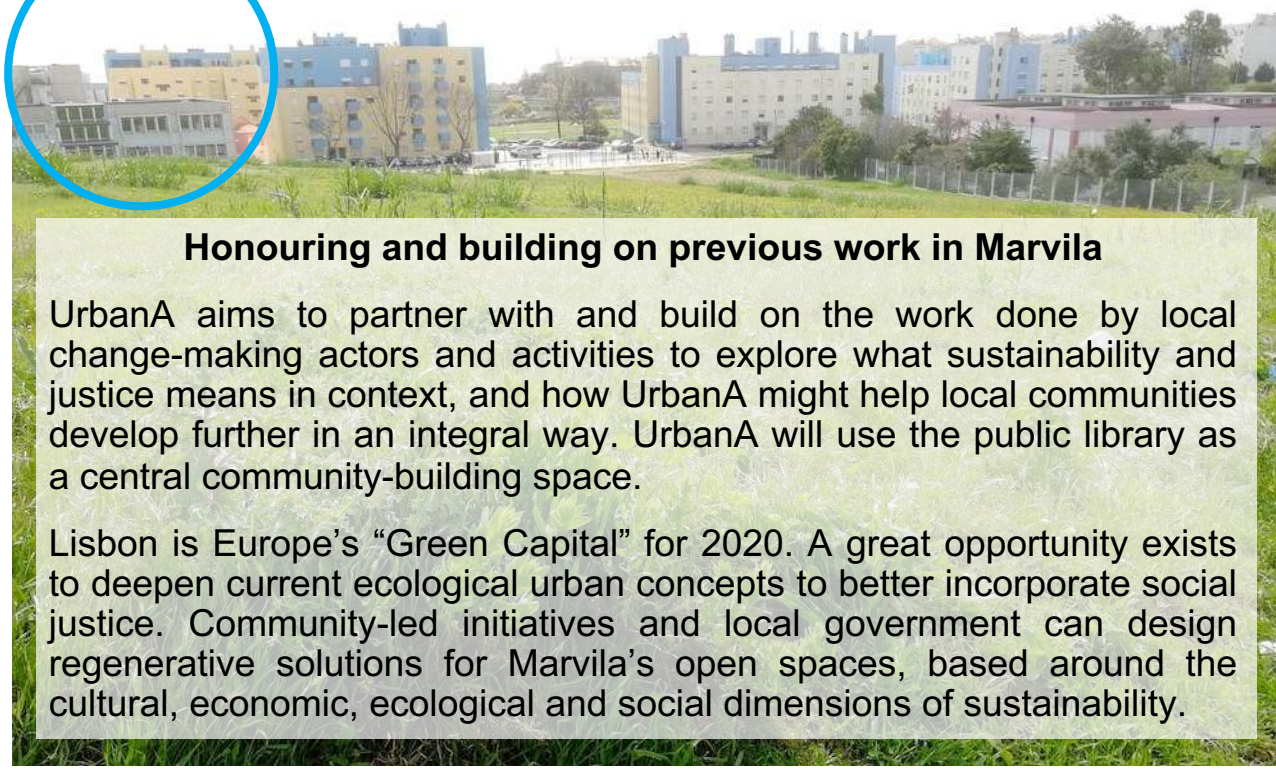
URBAN ARENAS
FOR SUSTAINABLE AND JUST CITIES



Marvila library, tower blocks and community gardens



Marvila´s fragmented communities & empty spaces



Honouring and building on previous work in Marvila

UrbanA aims to partner with and build on the work done by local change-making actors and activities to explore what sustainability and justice means in context, and how UrbanA might help local communities develop further in an integral way. UrbanA will use the public library as a central community-building space.

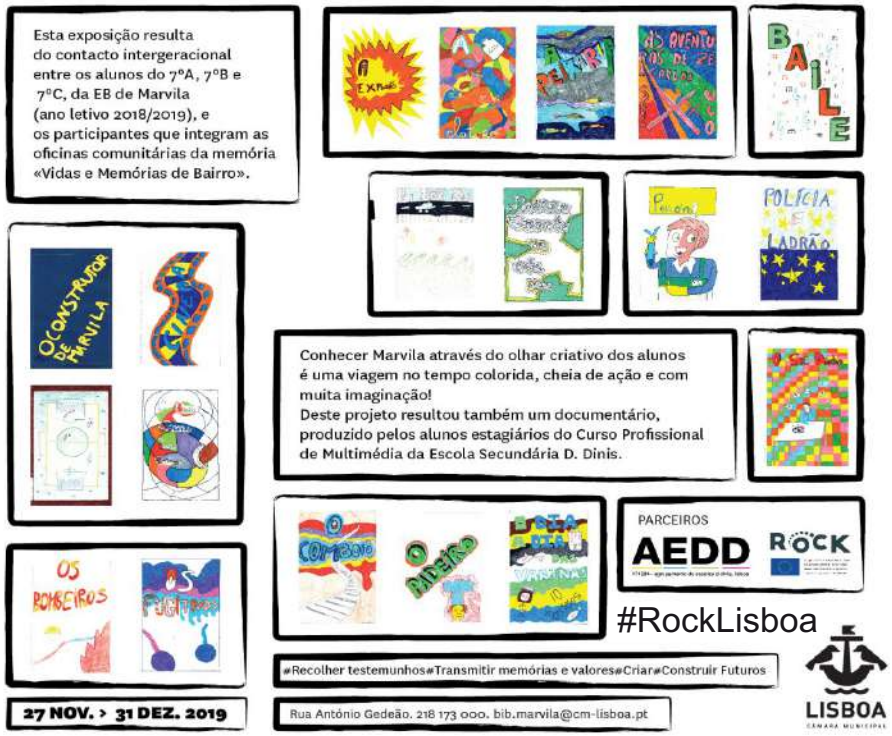
Lisbon is Europe's "Green Capital" for 2020. A great opportunity exists to deepen current ecological urban concepts to better incorporate social justice. Community-led initiatives and local government can design regenerative solutions for Marvila's open spaces, based around the cultural, economic, ecological and social dimensions of sustainability.

urbanA

URBAN ARENAS
FOR SUSTAINABLE AND JUST CITIES

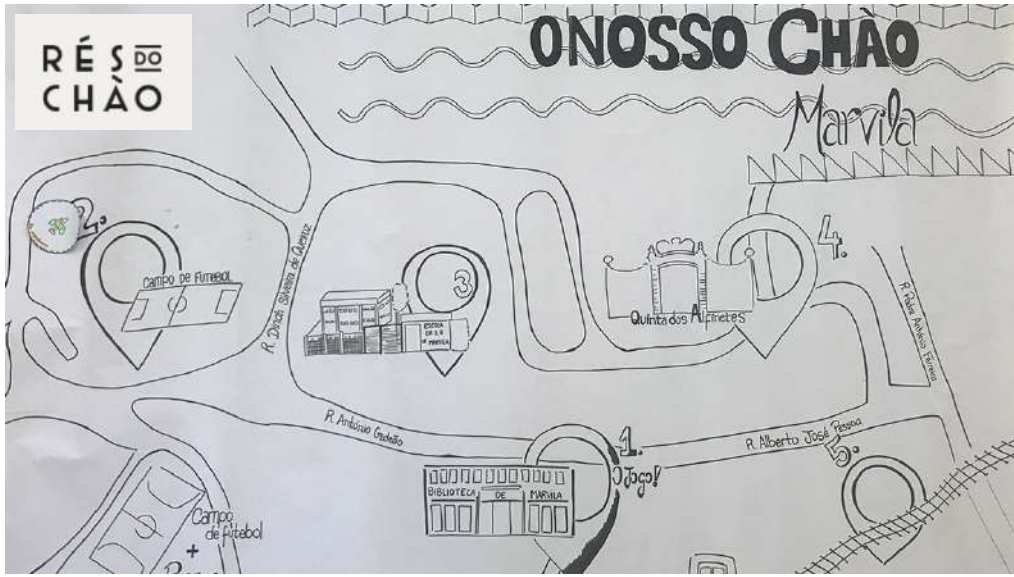
Supporting existing projects in Marvila

Illustrations of community projects in Marvila, orchestrated and co-created by local change agents, such as the EU-funded ROCK project (Cultural Heritage leading urban futures), an urban regeneration non-profit association *Rés-do-Chão* and the *4 Crescente* community group.



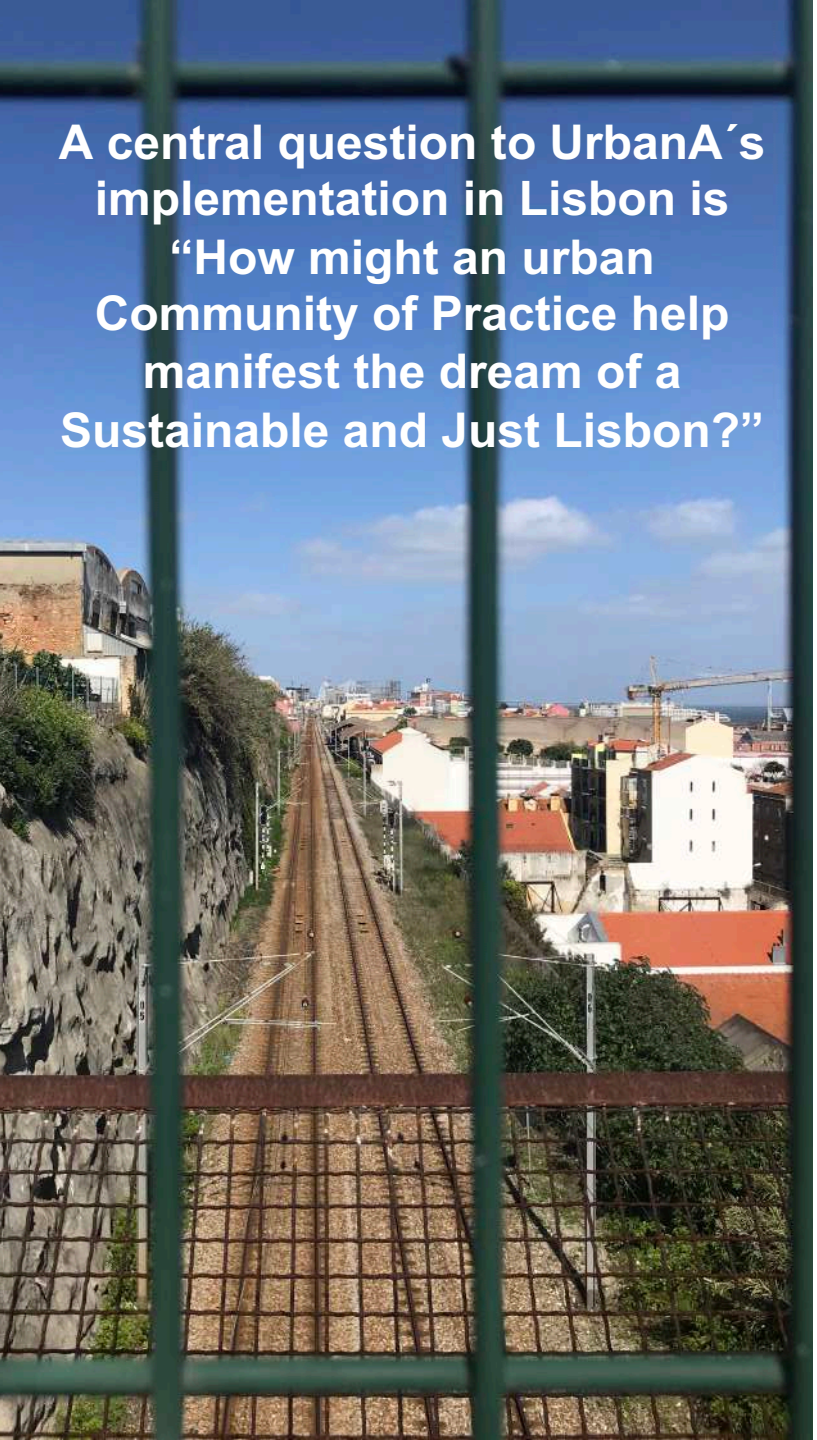
ROCK's trip through Marvila in the 20th century, told by elders, translated by youth

Development of a pathway of games in Marvila – *O nosso Chão* (Our Ground), directed at children and youth, as a tool to promote citizenship appropriation of public spaces.



ROCK Coffee Talk #3 "Neighborhood memories", in local library.

ROCK Cultural Heritage leading urban futures



A central question to UrbanA´s implementation in Lisbon is "How might an urban Community of Practice help manifest the dream of a Sustainable and Just Lisbon?"

UrbanA´s intention for Marvila

UrbanA´s Portuguese team will ground this central inquiry in Marvila with the intention of acting as a meta-collaboration platform for actors of change, both local and translocal (through the UrbanA Community of Practice). Preliminary conversations with local actors in Marvila indicate the need for continuity of previous collaborative and co-creative community work. UrbanA will work with a microsmos of Marvila and together explore how to best serve the flow development of this neighbourhood as a nested system in the wider Lisbon.

UrbanA will realize this intention by applying selected approaches from Urban Hub 20 to guide the unfolding of our inquiry and our project development. These include:

1) What are the worldviews and capabilities in our team to help the system see itself? (*Integral Project Design)*
2) Who are the 4 voices we will join in to help transform Marvila, and how will our common project evolve over time? (*Integral Civil Society; Salutogenic Cities; Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative)*
3) How can we help tell better stories about the meta-impact the communities are having? (*Wisdom Economies*)
4) How to include and understand the four critical relationships between behaviour, systems, relationships and mindsets in our responses? (*Making a Place Making a Place We Can All Call Home)*