The Community Articulation in the Neighbourhood (CAN) is a urban planning project with the theme of Education and City that proposes a articulation process between high school students, community, public university and state bureaus to address better solutions to change the social condition in the Subúrbio Ferroviário, a peripheral area in the north-western in the city of Salvador, in Brazil. This proposal is located in the neighbourhood of Escada, which has the Community School of Escada that works in a network with four others community schools in pedagogical actions to contribute for the expression of the citizenship by teenagers. The proposal is configured as a plan of socio-educational actions, which discuss Education and City from six axes: Environment, Culture, Health, Urban Mobility, Collective Spaces and Income Generation.

The data about the Subúrbio Ferroviário reveals a large population in social and economic vulnerability conditions that are accentuated by political planes directed for economic interests of a small part of people. The approach with the locality of Escada implied a process of study in the field – and with the field – from the speech of its residents, getting together different people to think and propose the city spaces. This popular action, through education, brings new perspectives to the social transformation, making possible the dialogue with different social agents. In approach with the Community School of Escada, and with the community where it is located, through the Faculty of Architecture, which started during the year 2017, were discovered new possibilities in the city. Such possibilities propose a dialogue between education and urban planning, concerning the participation and the autonomy of the citizens in decisions about the cities.
This proposal presents itself as a possibility to amplify the debate about the city, by the construction of a citizen conscious and the young position in face to urban planes that implicate the space where they live. Starting from a network of community schools in the Subúrbio Ferroviário of Salvador, we propose a process of community formation and mobilization to young people, between 14 and 18 years old, from high school institutions. The project looks for a dialogue between Education and City with six axes that have a relation with urban planning: environment, health, culture, urban mobility, collective spaces and income generation. The CAN project is an experience of collective actions that include popular participation, by the association between school, community and public university to think and construct a different model of territorial ordination and management.

Education and City

By the moment when the Urban Development Bureau, the Culture Bureau and the Education Bureau are active, there is a new relationship between the population and the public services. This activation provides a new way to work, in a local perspective and for the social agents, thinking the social rights in a horizontal model. Also, the participation of a public university helps in the integration between institutional tools and social demands, thinking about a collective knowledge construction, which implies a permanent renovation according to the reality of the city.

The CAN proposal has the intention in being a process of collective formation and action that will happen weekly, in the school year, inside the Community School of Escada. These activities will be performed in the opposite shift of the curricular mandatory agenda of high school public institutions.

The project will take place in three stages, which will be distributed over eight months:

1. Approach and axe’s design
2. Formative process and collective actions of the six axes
3. Conclusion and process systematization

Each axe will be split in two moments. In the first, with theoretical training and instrumentalization about rights and strategies to claim the axe in question. The second, with more practical view, when the young students will plan collective actions in the neighbourhood. These practical activities can be workshops, micro interventions, meetings and others.
Escada is a urban settlement that has relations with different physical and natural aspects of the territory - the approach with the sea, the relief, the green spaces and native vegetation. However, these areas has been compromized with improper disposal of waste and sewage. In this sense, the population has mobilized community actions to promote awareness about the maintenance and care with the nature.

The Brazilian population is assisted by a huge public health system (called SUS). In Escada, this system presents a precarious situation that had grown because the only public health center was closed in 2016. This event made inexistent the public service in this part of the city.

The Subúrbio Ferroviário of Salvador has an important railway system that it is part of the identity of the population and is a point in the discussion with the State about urban mobility. This debate is an opportunity to increase the perspectives about transportation facilities in a large way.

The neighbourhood of Escada has a limited collective spaces. They usually use the beach, the church or the streets as places to collective relations and social interaction. This axe works in the sense of improve the existent spaces and to think in implementation and consolidation of new spaces.

According to the data of the Economic and Social Studies of Bahia Superintendence (SEI), 25.7% of the economic active population in Salvador and metropolitan area are unemployed. In an effort to reduce this situation, in this location we have popular initiatives to generate income to their families through groups of solidarity economy and local business.

The local population has their own lifestyle and tradition that affect in the feeling of belonging in their area. So, we believe in the potential of transmit and discussion the local culture of the students.
In 2016, the new federal government created the programme Médiatec with the provisional measure 746/2016. This programme implied a change of public high school education with a technical formation, which makes these students don’t see the university as their space. This project pretends to amplify the student vision to see the university as a real possibility.

Gathering in groups and organizing ourselves politically is a fundamental and revolutionary action nowadays. Since the military dictatorship in the 80s, and recently with the presidential impeachment in 2016, the insecurity and disbelief in the actual political system, in which have been denied collective actions and mobilizations, has grown. For this reason, it is very important to put the vote for the young people as a fundamental and democratic action.

The project aims are the expectation of multiplication of these actions, which should occur by circulation of information, articulation of formal and informal networks, community mobilization and young political organization. To think and to actively build the city implies a sense of belonging to the space. After this first experience in the Community School of Escada, the project should be implemented in the others community schools in the area of Subúrbio Ferrovário of Salvador: (2) Nova Constituinte, in the neighbourhood of Periperi; (3) São José Operário, in the locality of Coutos; (4) Nossa Senhora Medianeira and (5) Vinte de Novembro, both in the district of Paripe. Beside this, the participants in their own neighbourhoods can afford the proposal.

NEXT STEPS...

The CAN proposal has a huge potential of transformation in the time-space where it will be placed. The strengthening of a citizen conscious, which may be horizontal constructed in idealized dialogues and activities, has the possibility of reinvention of these individuals in the dispute field of the urban and regional planning, believing in the importance of popular participation to build the city. By the moment when the State Bureaus are active, there is a new relationship between the population and the public services. This activation provides a new way to work, in a local perspective and for the social agents, thinking the social rights in a horizontal model. Also, the participation of a public university helps in the integration between institutional tools and social demands, thinking about a collective knowledge construction, which implies a permanent renovation according to the reality of the city.