Out of the scenarios developed with students during an idea workshop organized within “Urban Spaces in Action” project, we chose two situations in which the possible partners could ensure a high degree of sustainability after the completion of the actions. Thus, a public cultural institution with an existing network in the neighbourhoods – the Bucharest Metropolitan Library – and an active group of citizens – “Lacul Tei” Group of Civic Initiative – established the basis for the two actions.

Public neighbourhood libraries are among the few organisations and resource-spaces present in the neighbourhoods, with public and community activation potential.

The emergence of Groups of Civic Initiative meant to solve particular current problems of their neighbourhood is one of the bottom-up solutions for the current crisis of the administrative processes of Romanian cities.

The conclusion of the partnerships resulted in two major directions for the project: the presence of culture in the neighbourhoods and the community activation.

“Gârleanu Sitting Room” was designed following a process of collecting ideas from the users of the library and “A Place in Tei” was sketched during a workshop with members from the civic group.

Both structures were built on site, with help from volunteers, students and locals.