¡HACIENDO LA CALLE!
LABORATORIO CIUDADANO
WALKING THE STREET! CITIZEN LABORATORY
RECOMMENDATIONS GUIDEBOOK
ROUTE & MAP OF INTERVENTIONS

WHERE was this citizen laboratory celebrated?
“Barrios Altos de Bilbao” is actually composed of three neighborhoods: Bilbao La Vieja (Bilbao’s old suburb), San Francisco (small popular expanded district) and Zabala (a space attached to the old mines and railway lines).

WHY in this context?
Nowadays it is the most intercultural area of the city with a strong associative network that works to improve many social problems (inclusion, unemployment, prostitution, drugs...). Although the three neighborhoods are part of the same district, historically and geographically related, there is a morphological and social atomization which causes a lack of real connection. In addition to these problems, it is attached to a public space not well adapted for the use and enjoyment of the people due to the narrowness of streets, slopes on which articulates the district and a sexist public space that creates a sense of insecurity for women.

WHAT were the basis?
This context offers a very interesting moment to develop a project like this. The City Council is designing an agenda of actions for the period 2016-2020. In a parallel way the Coordinator of Social Groups of the district realized their own participatory diagnosis of the area. Urbanbat accompanied these processes through a few citizens laboratories (HACIENDO LA CALLE!-I) that invited neighbors, municipal technicians, socio-cultural agents and artists to collaborate from the neighborhood with the goal of designing joint solutions to some of the urban needs of the area. The diagram reflects the roadmap of the laboratory.

WHEN did it happen?
It was celebrated during 2016-2017, taking place within the festival 5-6º Cultural Festival of Urban and Social Innovation URBANBAT. The project has been realized in the context of Human Cities, a network of European cities that aims to put people at the heart of the design of cities.

WHAT were the results?
– A guide which collects 20 recommendations for future interventions in the public space of Barrios Altos.
– 10 artistic interventions on blinds that make visible and put in value the important contribution of women in the construction of the neighborhood. A historical memory exercise which unfolds through the three high districts of Bilbao.
– 4 pedestrian routes are collected on a map that put in relation the three neighborhoods and propose a visit through interventions on the blinds. Each of the routes traced a positive word about these stigmatized neighborhoods.