



**The town of Arbúcies** is located in a valley in the Montseny mountains, eighty kilometres from Barcelona and some fifty kilometres from Girona. It is located in a natural park, but it is also well-known for its industry, which mainly focuses on vehicle body manufacturing.

Over the past three decades Arbúcies has attracted migrant workers from around the world who have settled there, transforming a sleepy Catalan inland village into a complex cosmopolitan social ecosystem. But after the financial crisis began in 2008, manufacturing activity decreased and factories started to downsize or close down, leaving many families in precarious situations. A few returned to their places of origin, but many decided to stay, particularly those with children who had already put down roots in their new home.

Against this backdrop, in spring 2011, a group of kids and teenagers (11-18 years old) started to demand a place to skate – a space where they could freely gather and practice skateboarding and other activities. Their demand came out of a lack of suitable spaces for skating, in a traditional small town largely paved with rough materials. But it was also a demand for their own space, given that they were usually “gently ejected” from the only place that was good for skateboarding: the parking lot in front of the public health clinic, near their schools.