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.

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.