



TALLER COMUNIDAD LA GOYCO INC.

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WPI





TALLER COMUNIDAD LA GOYCO INC.

A Case Study from
Taller Comunidad
La Goyco
Santurce, Puerto Rico

2022

Acknowledgments

Authors and Editors

WPI Project Team:

Tiana Am
Nicholas Chantre
Noah Skinner
Christian Stilwagen

Project Sponsor

Taller Comunidad La Goyco

Mariana Reyes
Eunice Jimenez Emmanuelli
Iliana Garcia
Ricardo Otero Garabis

Worcester Polytechnic Institute

WPI Project Advisors:

WPI Global Projects Program
WPI Puerto Rico Project Center
WPI Puerto Rico Project Center Co-Directors:

Alex Sphar
Brigette Servatius

John Michael Davis
Scott Jiusto

Description of Study

For the past two years, La Goyco has been providing invaluable services to its community. Through the support of sponsors, donors and the local community, La Goyco has been able to provide programs, initiatives, and opportunities that empower the residents of the Machuchal community. In their effort to continually identify and address the needs of their community, La Goyco's impact has been fundamental in empowering the Machuchal neighborhood.

> This study is a joint effort between Worcester Polytechnic Institute students and La Goyco to create a document that captures the invaluable social work La Goyco offers to its community.



Figure above shows the school building that La Goyco repurposed.

La Goyco's Mission:

To highlight the historical, social and potential wealth of the Machuchal community and Loiza Street sector by offering weekly education, health and culture programs. (La Goyco, 2022).



Figure shows La Goyco's monthly community fair



La Goyco's History

The Pedro G. Goyco School was a publicly funded elementary school located in Santurce, Puerto Rico. Due to lack of enrollment and the underperformance of students, the Goyco School was closed permanently in 2015. During the period of Hurricane Maria, the Pedro G Goyco school was used as a safe haven for residents to receive necessities and take refuge. Beyond the school closure, there was no organized process to enroll the students at a different school or repurpose the school building.

After the Machuchal community's unsuccessful attempt to keep the school open, they began grassroots efforts to repurpose the school building for the community, as the school helped preserve their communities' resilience. After five years of grassroots efforts to organize community support through social movements and gatherings, they were able to obtain ownership of the building in 2020.



Fundamental Pillars: Culture, Environment and Health

“We are a community entity that works with three fundamental aspects as pillars: **Culture, Health and Environment**. These are areas where the quality of life of the people who live in this sector can be definitively improved,”

Mariana Reyes (PR Pop, 2021).

Fundamental Pillars: Culture, Environment and Health

The programs and services offered at Goyco can be divided into three pillars: **Culture, Health and Environment**. It is important to note that the Machuchal sector in Santurce, Puerto Rico is made up of a predominantly elderly population. Many of the community's needs are linked to this population, therefore La Goyco places strong emphasis on health resources at the center.

In addition, the Machuchal sector is home to a very diverse population of artists, musicians, actors, and more. Because of this, Machuchal has always been a pillar for rich cultures that defines the community. Beyond the physical threats of hurricanes that face these populations, financial actors such as gentrification also pose a threat to the community. With rapid gentrification of the area, its growing presence threatens the preservation of culture within the Santurce community. This results in the need for continuous community promotion and empowerment of the culture that is still there. La Goyco's cultural pillar aims to preserve Santurce's existing cultural identity.

Lastly, the Machuchal community attracts many tourists. For this reason, the streets tend to have lots of trash. La Goyco's environmental pillar aims to keep the Machuchal area clean.

Example of Recurring Events



- Plena Classes
- Outdoor Movie Nights



Community Fair where physical and mental health services are offered



- Neighborhood Cleanups
- Monthly Brigade

Culture

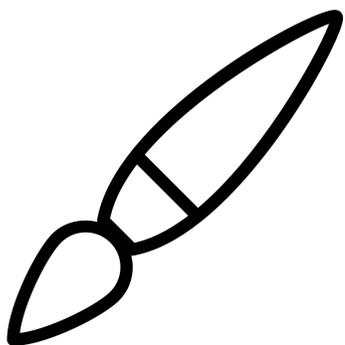
Culture is the heart of any community's preservation of identity. La Goyco offers multiple cultural events of the arts such as music, theatre, dance, literature and visual arts to celebrate and promote Machuchal's deep history. The Arts are an important dimension of La Goyco's and of Puerto Rican history. At La Goyco these celebrations take shape in the form of regular weekly and monthly events and workshops available to the greater community.

Music



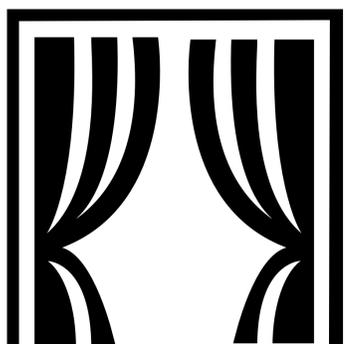
This art has deep roots in the Machuchal's community in the form of the plena. To celebrate and promote the culture of Puerto Rico, La Goyco offers many events and workshops to its community.

Art



At La Goyco the arts are celebrated through community workshops for children and adults to allow them to create and express themselves through formal art classes. La Goyco also provides community spaces and materials for members of all ages to create art.

Theatre



The Community center is also home to theater which is another practical art that is offered by the center for its community members to engage with. La Goyco

Example of Cultural Events

Jazz Sundays



On the last Sunday of every month, live music jazz performances are given at the community center produced by Viento de Agua Inc.

La Casa de la Plena



A project meant to preserve the influence of the plena that provides workshops to teach, and discuss the history and influence of plena.

Recurring Cultural Events

Cinema Paradiso en la Loiza



On the second Sunday of each month, films are curated by Cinema Paradiso en la Loiza. These films are shown in the courtyard of the center free of charge to community members and the general public.

Bomba Classes

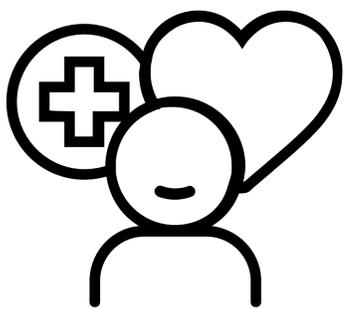


A project meant to preserve the influence of the plena that provides workshops to teach, and discuss the history and influence of plena.

Health

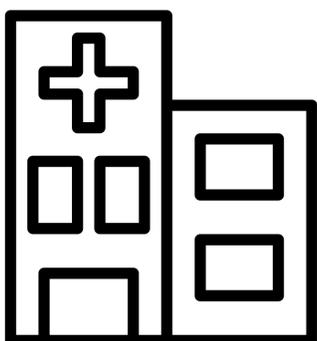
Health is an important part of keeping any community safe. For a community that contains mostly elderly people, it is very important to make sure these people stay healthy and get the services they need. In recognition of this, La Goyco offers health services to the community. During the pandemic these services include handing out test kits and being a place to get the COVID vaccine. They also offer psychoanalysis clinics once a week.

Caring for Our Community



The Machuchal community contains a mostly elderly population which is why La Goyco prioritizes health as part of its mission. La Goyco holds health fairs and other events each month to provide health services to the community. These services are geared to the elderly population of the community but can be accessed by anyone.

Distribution of Health Services



La Goyco holds a community fair each month that provides the majority of the health services for the community each month. La Goyco also hosts other health related events throughout the month. These events have included COVID vaccines and tests. These events are run by La Goyco volunteers and retired nurses that reside in Santurce.

Recurring Health Events

Community Fair



Every month La Goyco hosts a community fair event that includes free health services to the community. These include blood-pressure readings, acupuncture services, COVID tests and vaccines, and massages

Yoga



Once a week a yoga class are offered to members of the community

Environment

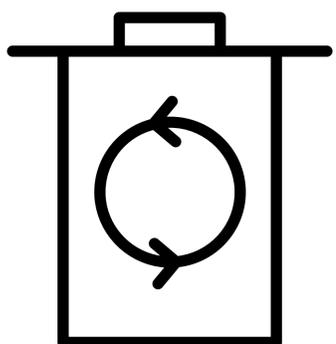
The environment in which a community resides affects how the community can grow. La Goyco has a passion for growing the Machuchal neighborhood and keeping it strong. This in mind, La Goyco chooses to educate the Machuchal neighborhood on the environment and how to care for it. The community center holds many environmental education workshops and also houses microbusinesses that recycle waste into art.

Educational System



La Goyco hosts environmental workshops for both young and old residents of the Machuchal community. These workshops include explanations of basic waste and recycling management that is easy for everyone to understand. Residents of the community are also encouraged to help with the garden walkway seen in the back of the property. The walkway includes native flowers and shrubs as well as some of the repurposed glass that La Goyco has collected. La Goyco is able to use the walkway to educate those in the community about what they can do for their own gardens and the environment.

Sustainability



La Goyco stands as an example for responsible waste and recycling management. Walking through the building and throughout the courtyard of the community center, both trash and separated recycling bins can be

Recurring Environmental Events

Waste & Recycling



Every month La Goyco collects and manages the waste and recycling of glass as well as cooking oil

Glass Art Workshops



La Goyco's glass art workshops show the attendees how to recycle the collected glass into art such as wind chimes.

Environmental Partnerships: Estuario

ESTUARIO is an outside company that La Goyco has been working with on waterway conservation. Through this relationship, La Goyco has been the contact point between the organization and the Machuchal community. The organization aims to protect the local waters through education and cleaning the trash from the streets. ESTUARIO is also the organization that helped La Goyco obtain their solar panels and water cistern systems.

ESTUARIO 
Programa del Estuario de la Bahía de San Juan



Sustaining Impact

Below are methods La Goyco uses to maintain their organization in term of funding.

Renting System



La Goyco rents its second floor space to community based micro businesses to support their growth. Additionally, some of these spaces are rented by artists to support their own projects

Sponsors



Through the generous support of their sponsors La Goyco is able to work with local businesses and organizations to collaborate on community programs

Volunteers



Residents of the Machuchal community and others participate in La Goyco's events related to maintaining the building. Volunteers help reduce the funds spent by La Goyco.

La Goyco is possible in part thanks to the sponsorship of:

- > Miranda Foundation
- > The Jazz Foundation
- > Aireko Foundation
- > Optical Fiber
- > Flamboyan Foundation
- > Northwestern University
- > Resilient Power Puerto Rico
- > Empowered by Light
- > Dr. Luz Claudio
- > and all the people who donate

About the Authors

Tiana Am is a third year aerospace engineering student. Outside of academics, she is a part of the Society of Women Engineers and the Women of Astronautics and Aeronautics club.

Noah Skinner is a third year mechanical engineering student. Outside of academics, he is a part of the varsity football team and Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Nicholas Chantre is a third year electrical and computer engineering student. Outside of academics, he is a part of Engineering Ambassadors, and is a Residential Advisor.

Christian Stilwagen is a third year robotics engineering student. Outside of academics, he is a member of the Kilroy Sketch Comedy and the Game Development Club.

