

**HACIA UNA PARTICIPACIÓN CIUDADANA
EXPERIENCIAS, RETOS Y OPORTUNIDADES**
*TOWARDS CITIZEN PARTICIPATION
EXPERIENCES, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES*

**Adriana Hernández Sánchez
Christian Enrique de la Torre Sánchez
(eds.)**

University of Barcelona Editions

Abstract

Citizen participation is an essential element to make city. Slowly, urban and architectural processes are changing in the world and they are no longer considered only from the governmental point of view or with approach is based on the opinion of specialists who, in practice, end up excluding the inhabitants.

The citizens are more valued because they are who really knows their sites and their needs, and they are considered paramount in decision-making. Through their empirical knowledge and their technical possibilities, the inhabitants realize specific actions, undertake self-management initiatives, provide information, and help define projects that contribute to the construction of city and citizenship.

The book “Towards citizen participation. Experiences, challenges, and opportunities”, has its origin in the concern of researchers, teachers, students, volunteers, and neighbors to spread the processes that happen in different territories in the exercise of an urban, architectural, artistic, heritage conservation project and recovery of public spaces based on the commitment of the people for the transformation of their environments. Thus, the different processes are shared, including the problems and forms they have passed, and the benefits of collective work are shown.

It is important mentioning that the documents of the four thematic axes (Historic Centers and Heritage, Citizen Initiatives, Memory and Identity and Urban Peripheries) seek to confront exclusion based on strategies of social participation, with different degrees of complexity and that are open to recognition of the diversity that characterizes these places. Some of them includes urban regeneration strategies and actions —like the improvement of public spaces— and analyze the social changes that have occurred because of these experiences. In other cases, participation has come about through educational projects and has achieved short, medium, and long-term objectives, combining immediate results with the possibility of achieving permanent transformations. It is a compendium that includes works from various places in Mexico and Brazil.

