



APPRECIATIVE INQUIRY FOR THE RECOLETA NEIGHBORHOOD.

Eleven Civic Associations (NGOs) from the Recoleta neighborhood in the City of Buenos Aires had been engaging in regular meetings to coordinate activities related to the upcoming enforcement of Municipal Law. Under the counsel of Sergio Abrevaya, they decided to use the appreciative inquiry methodology to plan the association-coordinated tasks.

Two Saturday workshops (October 25, and November 15) were held at the Roca Museum.

Approximately eighty participants-motivated by the need to be involved in the problems of the community and with a mind-set affixed to defending preconceived views rather than building a new vision-took part in the first workshop. At first, and once the inquiry methodology had been introduced, we sensed a strong reluctance to put it to use. Participants could not budge from the firmly established channels of argument and controversy.

The first item on the agenda, the discovery, was approached in a rash manner, as if the participants were overly eager to get on with the discussion process. The same seemed true at the start of the second part, imagining or dreaming up the Recoleta neighborhood in 2008. It was at this point, however, to the great surprise of the coordinators, that an energetic change seemed to take place in the group. The various breakout groups gradually began describing their dreams and the main features of the transformed neighborhood. That which had once seemed disorganized and lifeless began to take shape in a coherent, vigorous, and enthusiastic manner.

The first session set the main thematic issues to be further worked on at the following meeting. The second workshop, held on November 15th, moved on to the final two phases of methodology, design, and projects to be implemented. The conclusions drawn and projects set forth by the participants can be seen in the Annex.

Although the method applied for the inquiry was brief and summarized, we believe the outcome was positive. It is the job of the associations to evaluate in upcoming weeks the efficiency of the work performed.

Coordinated by Jorge Llambías, Guillermo González and Beatriz Álvarez.