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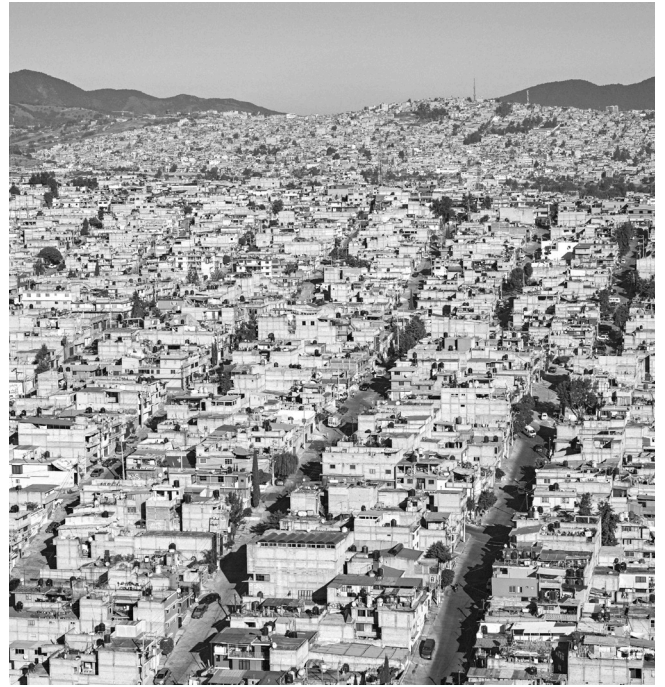
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## Foreword

Mexico City has long been a national and international reference in the recognition of Human Rights and social liberties. Its first Constitution, pays homage to the creators of its spaces and cultures, to the heralds of its sovereignty, its promoters of peace, and above all, recognizes our City as a sanctuary for those who have been object of dispossession and vassalage; for all the victims of oppression.

By taking federal dispositions as minimum viable dispositions, instead of limiting caps on what can be regulated by each entity of our Republic, the provisions of our new Constitution have challenged and renewed Mexican federalism. This renovation has also set an example on how cities can lead global conversations regarding new governance models. By establishing the Right to the City at its core, Mexico City's first Constitution has been recognized by the United Nations as a roadmap towards the accomplishment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The constitutive process itself, furthered the understanding of crowdsourcing legislation and co-creation of public norms, outreaching the specialized publics that traditionally take advantage of online participatory tools, towards a wider, more democratic scope of digital participation and civic engagement strategies.



“This Constitution has made an unprecedented effort to include men, women, people of different traits, Afro-descendants, native people, youth. For me it is the maximum social agreement to which citizens are going to be tight during the next years.”



# Why do we need a Constitution for Mexico City?



Mexico City has almost 9 million people and is one of the largest cities in the world. In it we find a multiplicity of people, infrastructure, geographies and histories. Despite our differences, there is something we all have in common: territory and future.

Despite its importance in the decisions and the composition of the country (17% of Gross Domestic Product and 7.4% of the national population), since 1997, the city could elect its rulers. After many citizen struggles arisen after the 1985 earthquake, in 1986 the inhabitants of the Distrito Federal were able to elect their representatives for the first time, in this case of a legislative kind, which would culminate with the creation of the Legislative Assembly of the Distrito Federal, in 1996. A year later, the first elections for head of government of the city, and in 2000, of municipal authorities.

After decades of social struggle for greater autonomy and democracy in the country's capital, in 2017 Mexico City welcomed its first Constitution. As a result of the articulation of political will and social energy, this document gives the city form and reason to be, delimits its territories, determines how its government works and the management of public goods. It also defines the foundations of its economic system and recognizes the rights, individual guarantees and duties of its citizens. In other words: this document is the city's DNA, reflecting its collective victories and aspirations.

The Assembly was installed on September 15, 2016, and four months later, on January 31, 2017, the Political Constitution was ap-

proved after completing the evaluation of the articles, which will come into effect on September 17, 2018. The rules of the legislature will enter into force on September 17, 2018; those of the executive power on December 5, 2018 and those of the judiciary on June 1, 2019.

Among the 71 articles of the document, there are initiatives such as the therapeutic use of marijuana, the rights of indigenous peoples and neighborhoods and resident indigenous communities, the elimination of exclusion and lack of access to secondary and higher education, legal recognition to all structures, manifestations and forms of family community; the revocation of mandate and privilege, the right to free sexuality, the establishment of Mexico City as a sanctuary city for displaced persons, political persecuted and refugees; as well as the right to a dignified life and death.

Its promulgation culminated a series of historical efforts to concretize the autonomy of the city as one more federative entity, and in turn, maintains the freedoms won by its inhabitants during the last 20 years.



“People who live in Mexico City or in the Mexican Republic we had the opportunity to give our opinion. This is what I find most interesting: transmitting it from another point of view, not directly from the government, but from us, that we are students”

Tomás López

Student, Industrial Administration,  
UPIICSA





# How to open the writing process of the first Political Constitution of Mexico City to the citizenship?



The constituent process designed by the federal congress did not have suitable spaces of participation for the citizenship nor mechanisms of incidence in the decision making. The most recent milestone in the democratization of the country's capital was excluding the voices, opinions, ideas and feelings of the millions of people who live and transit in CDMX.

The constitutional reform delegated the exclusive power of drafting the constitutional project to the head of government of Mexico City, who was to send it to the Constituent Assembly for discussion and approval. Recognizing that the process would require greater openness and participation, and that the drafting of the project would represent an opportunity to integrate citizen voices into it, the head of government created a drafting group composed of 30 great personalities from different spheres of life. the city.

As a second action aimed at opening the process of drafting the constitutional project, the head of government Miguel Ángel Mancera instructed the General Counsel and Legal Services and the Lab for The City to develop a digital platform to receive and systematize all citizen opinions that would be generated around the CDMX Constitution.



“The Movement #ConstituciónCDMX lays the foundations of something unpublished not only in Mexico but perhaps worldwide, the use of technologies to generate inputs for a foundational document count on a multiplicity of citizen voices.”

Alberto Herrera,  
Director, Change.org México

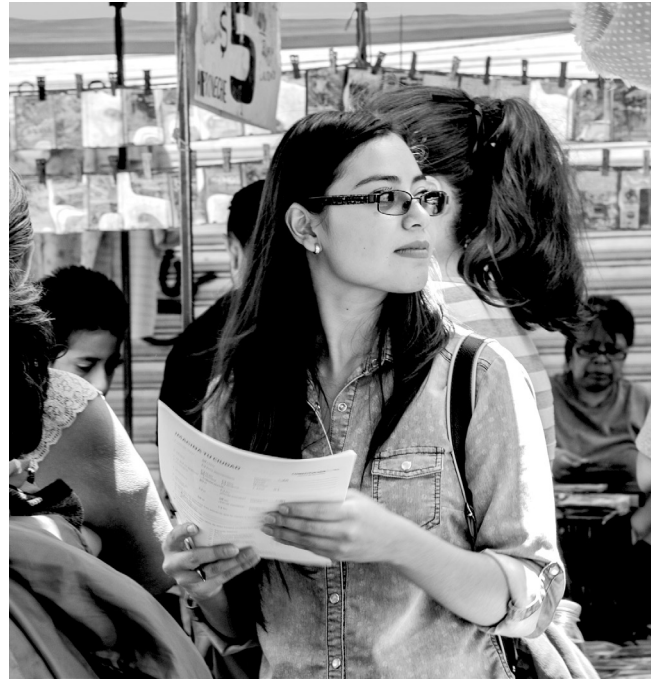


# Our Theory of change

Promote a process of co-creation in laws and public documents, through which inputs are integrated generated by different participation channels and that go beyond a collaborative writing. These channels are responsive to the different levels of interest, knowledge, communication and information capacity of the different participating publics.

# New rules: more power to the citizens

**Constitution CDMX - Espacio de Encuentro** was a web platform built with the contributions of thousands of people; It compiled the visions and aspirations for the future of our city through four channels of participation.



# PubPub: collaborative writing platform

The LabCDMX programming team, in conjunction with the MIT Media Lab, developed and adapted the PubPub platform with the aim of hosting public and governmental documents. PubPub allows collaborative writing and enrich text documents with graphic and audio-visual material, data, among others.

This tool was used three times by the Mexico City government. It was launched with the debate on the companies regulation such as Uber, where nearly 5,000 interactions were reached; the second exercise was carried out in the Dialogues for a Global CDMX, an effort promoted by the Coordinación General de Asuntos Internacionales, the Laboratorio para la Ciudad, the Allas organization and the European Union. It was also used in the participatory process of drafting the Comprehensive Road Safety Program (Programa Integral de Seguridad Vial PISVI). All the citizens had the access to comment and propose about every of the specific points that integrate it.

PubPub was adapted to harbor the essays with the constitutional proposals made by the members of the drafting group so that they could be commented and enriched by the public opinion.

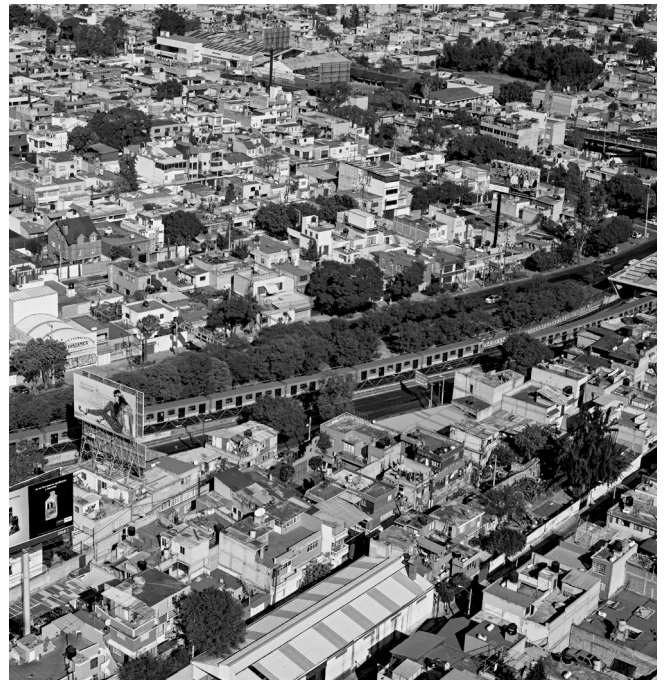


## Change.org: Online Petitions

In collaboration with the digital platform Change.Org Mexico, the draft of the first Magna Carta for the city was nourished by a novel online petition system. The Movement “Voces Ciudadanas en la Constitución CDMX” allowed ideas from residents, neighbors or students to add signatures to take them in the full senate.

“Voces Ciudadanas en la Constitución CDMX” was the first collaboration of this kind made by Change.org in Mexico and represented the first time in history that a government assumed specific commitments based on signatures received in online petitions. The reception of citizen petitions concluded with 341 proposals and more than 305 thousand signatures that backed them, breaking international records of citizen participation in the Change.org Movements platform. For its operation, the following rules were established:

1. Inquiries that restrict human rights and social freedom, already recognized and guaranteed in Mexico City, will not be taken into account.
2. Petitions with more than 5 thousand signatures will be subject to legal and constitutional analysis in order to agree on its viability.
3. Proposals with more than 10 thousand signatures will be presented by the petitioner to the CDMX Judicial Counselor and three representatives of the editor group, whom will discuss and analyse it with the petitioner with the possibility to include the content in the constitutional project.



4. Those inquiries with over 50 thousand signatures will be presented to the head of government Miguel Ángel Mancera, whom after an adequate analysis will assume the commitment to integrate them in the CDMX constitutional project.

Twelve of the inquiries were presented to the head of government, **which represented a new level in the way of understanding politics including the citizens.**

There were even proposals made by underaged citizens, as the one of Carlo Patricio Pérez, who, without being 18 years old, contributed to the public life of the city with his initiative to recover and protect the rivers in Mexico City, which brought together 16 956 supporters.

# Imagine Your City Survey

Another effort to change the way we understand politics was the “Sondeo Imagina tu Ciudad” (Imagine Your City Survey), a digital participation mechanism and on-site created to transmit the preferences of the citizens. Its objective was to capture the symbols, representations, imaginaries and visions of those who live and transit the city.

Every citizen had the opportunity to take part in the poll by answering the 18 questions that composed the exercise on the platform. To include also the citizens whom for different reasons did not had access to Internet, the poll was displayed physically in in the markets and metro stations to capture their responses. The team agreed to publish in open formats the results at the end of the exercise.

A participation certificate was given to every person that transmitted their preferences through the poll. To recover the information from different mobile kiosks located throughout the city, the team convened to youth from the National Youth Institute and the National Polytechnic Institute (UPIICSA), to participate as operators of the kiosks.

The Imagine Your City Survey was an opportunity to read the city from those who live them, to understand its meaning, the most valuable, the challenges and possible futures.



1. Culture was identified as the most valuable part of the city, followed by education, green areas and water.
2. The key identified challenge was corruption, followed by employment, transportation, mobility, quality education and water.

The Imagine Your City Survey allowed us to think about citizen thermometer exercises that facilitate participation by transmitting observable preferences in real time for all people. This is particularly useful in the development of city vision projects.



## Citizen encounters



The platform contains a tool for citizens to register and disseminate the events, forums, debates and conferences organized around the CDMX Constitution. This tool offered a visualization of all the events recorded in a timeline and one summary per event. In addition, it offered citizens the opportunity to send their conclusions of the events to the PubPub collaborative edition platform.



# Constitución CDMX by the Numbers



**480 000** followers  
of the movement “Voces ciudadanas  
en la Constitución CDMX”

**341** inquiries  
with specific proposals for the  
constitutional project, with over  
275 thousand signatories.

**20** work meetings  
between the Technical Secretary  
and citizens that participated with  
their initiatives in Change.org

**44, 516** answers  
to the Imagine Your City Survey.

# Who made this project possible?

“Constitución CDMX - Espacio de Encuentro” was a creation of Laboratorio para la Ciudad in collaboration with experts, academics, activists, collectives and social organizations.

- 24 public and private universities
- 10 international organizations and UN agencies
- 31 proposals and recommendations from government agencies
- More than 130 forums and citizen events in the 16 delegations with the participation of:
  - IEDF / INE / ALDF / INFODF / CDHDF / TEDF / Fepade / CDMX Citizen Council

Likewise, it was very important the collaboration of the Municipality Citizen Councils, the Citizen Committees, the Consejos de los Pueblos y Barrios Originarios, as well as different collectives and NGO's.

The platform concluded its formal activities on September 15th. However, its utility has exceeded the original purposes and continues to serve as a resource in the Constitutional process. The impact of the platform, and therefore of citizens incidence in the process, can be demonstrated in the explicit recognition of it made by the Mexican Supreme Court in its decision regarding the constitutionality of the process, challenged by the Federal Government. The Justices argued that by having representatives of both persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples participating through the online petitions facilitated by the platform, it complied with the consultation requirements that protect these vulnerable groups from any normative modification.

“When the Constitution of Mexico City will be enacted, we will begin a new stage in our city, based on new rules according to our values and aspirations, the product of a broad participatory and deliberative process.”



Dr. Miguel Ángel Mancera Espinosa  
Head of Government of Mexico City  
2012-2017

LabCDMX is the experimental office for civic innovation in Mexico's City local government and the first of its kind in Latin America. The Lab was founded with the purpose to reconnect the different actors from society with the common goal of building better cities. The Lab is constantly pursuing new forms of engagement with society with the purpose of building a more livable city through collaborative efforts. The team of collaborators from the Lab is conformed by a young, multidisciplinary team: architects, designers, technologists, editors, art historians, political scientists, journalists, urban planners, filmmakers, sociologists, internationalists, urban psychologists, etc—all acting in coordination in order to promote a new way of developing public policy. The interdisciplinary perspective established by the team can be reflected in the program Sesiones de Azotea, where roundtables, presentations and workshops take place on the terrace of the Urban Management Agency (AGU), where the Lab resides.

