

Leadership in Action:

Picacho con Futuro

Working with a social organisation in Comuna Seis of Medellín, alongside three other Laidlaw scholars, for six weeks, I worked towards a proposal for a **cultural café** (called 'Barrio Mío'; 'My Neighbourhood') that will serve the local community. To build an understanding of the specific needs and desires of this community, we carried out targeted focus groups, surveys, and visits to existing cultural cafés across the city.

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



We found it useful to consider the UN's sustainable development goals when considering our goals and overall approach to this project.

For the future development of Barrio Mío we...

Produced a written proposal for grant applications.

Ensured that everything remains in Spanish and editable, so the work can continue without us.

Made it clear where the ideas and selected designs came from in the community and why.

As a sociologist and person that hopes to continue to work with social organisations in the future, this experience in Medellín was instructive.

An important nuance of this project was to distinguish Barrio Mío as a cultural café from cafés that function simply as places to eat. For this reason, it was important for us to take part in and incorporate the activities of the diverse groups that function under Picacho.

Learning leadership in a central project which requires group work was nonetheless invaluable. I was able to learn that leadership is not synonymous with authority and that flexibility is key to working in a co-leadership system.

An unexpected highlight of the city was the metro network—especially the cable cars we took daily!

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CORPORACIÓN PARA EL DESARROLLO

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