

Picacho Con Futuro

Café Cultural



Barrio Mío



Victoria Dai 2026 LiA in Medellín, Colombia – Cornell University

Introduction and Project Overview

Picacho Con Futuro was founded in 1987 as a response to decades of violence, displacement, and limited opportunities in Comuna 6 of Medellín, Colombia. My role was to collaborate with three other Laidlaw Scholars to explore cultural café's in Medellín, understand the needs and wishes of Picacho Con Futuro, and design a proposal for Barrio Mío, Picacho Con Futuro's own future cultural café.



Reflection

My LiA in Colombia was such an incredible learning experience. I gained a deeper understanding of Colombia's history and Medellín's transformation while adjusting to a new culture and working with students from around the world. Most importantly, Medellín showed me the power of community driven change, something I hope to carry with me as I pursue medicine and work to positively impact communities.

Café Vists



Itaca



Antimateria



La Pascasia



Casa Loma

In order to get a better understanding of a "cultural café" in Medellín, we visited four different cafes: Itaca and Antimateria in Laureles, La Pascasia in La Candelaria, and Casa Loma in Comuna 13. Most of the cultural cafe's were also part bookstores, and we took the most inspiration from Casa Loma.

Café Proposal

We created and designed:

- The inside and outside of the café using software and AI
- Multiple logos ideas
- Food and drink menu
- A monthly activity calendar
- Ideas for board games
- An inventory of materials needed for the café and kitchen
- A webpage for the café on their website
- A pamphlet that summarizes our café design

Café Barrio Mío won't be built immediately, so our final proposal serves more as a suggestion than a concrete plan.



Pamphlet



Before
Outside



After
Outside



Presentation

Café Interviews



Kid drawing activity



Proyectoando Sueños



Proyectoando Sueños



Mujeres Con Futuro

We interviewed Proyectoando Sueños and Mujeres Con Futuro to understand what people within Picacho Con Futuro wanted in this café. We also asked the kids to draw what they imagined the café to look like. Meeting these various community members ended up being my favorite part of my LiA!

Acknowledgements

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