

CAETÉS COMMUNITY SPACE

Morro do Timbau, Maré/RJ

Help make “Espaço Caetés” become reality!

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Dear friends! We are a small collective, **Coletivo Roça!**, which was formed in 2010 and since then has carried out a variety of smaller and larger grassroots works in and parting from our favela, **Morro do Timbau**, which is part of **Maré**, a neighbourhood of favelas with 125,000 inhabitants in the **North Zone of Rio de Janeiro**. Our work evolves around key practices and themes such as **grassroots work, self-management, collective economies, agroecology, popular culture, education and communication**, seeking to **strengthen the favela and its resistances** at the same time as our work is strengthened through these.

We came out of the pandemic dedicating ourselves to strengthening networks between peripheries in the countryside and the city far beyond our territory, and we have reached a point where, inspired by the experiences we have learnt about, we want to take a step further right here where we live and work. We want to build the **Caetés Community Space, or Espaço Caetés (pronounced “Esh-Pa-Sue Kai-Teis”)** in **Morro do Timbau** and since the possibility of buying a small building has arisen very close to us, in a densely urbanised favela, where access to space is difficult, **we are running a solidarity crowdfunding campaign to make it a reality.**

We dream of building a space for study and popular education, with a community library, where we offer care for the children of the neighbourhood, we maintain a community cinema, for cultural activities, various artistic exhibitions, lectures and debates. We dream of being able to hold theatre classes, rehearsals, courses and workshops in the space, build a space for exchanging knowledge as part of the Peoples' University, an initiative of the Peoples' Web of which we are a part, a space for university extension, a corner for craftwork. A kitchen and three toilets will also make it possible to host visitors.

We think **Espaço Caetés** is as necessary as possible! Any little support can help make it a reality. **Espaço Caetés** can be ours, a space for the whole community!

We send a rebel salut to all of you and hope to be able to receive a visit of yours at **Espaço Caetés** any time soon!



How can I support the campaign for Espaço Caetés?

There are **four types of support**:

- 1_ **Activate your networks** and help us ensure that this campaign reaches more and more people, not only for support at this time, but also to make this initiative widely known. You can set up fundraising campaigns on your networks and one person just passes on the funds they have raised with the list of supporters.
- 2_ Support the campaign with a **direct donation**.
- 3_ Support the campaign with a **direct loan of money** that we'll pay back in instalments over the course of 2025.
- 4_ Support the campaign by pledging **to contribute monthly instalments** throughout 2025, so that we can pay back the money we borrowed.

We intend to contribute with around 15 per cent of the funds needed, the amount that is within our reach. For security reasons we won't disclose the financial details publicly, but **we will keep everyone who supports the campaign informed**, regardless of the amount of support - and any small amount in this great collective effort helps - and we also want to register all the names to share them on the **wall of mutual support** that will be part of the space. For supports from abroad, we'll arrange details by email or whatsapp. So, if you are interested to support the process, please get in touch!

Email: caminhosdaroca@gmail.com

Whatsapp: +5521992604991

instagram: @rocario.mare

Webpage (with multilingual info): www.roca-rio.com

We will set up direct lists to keep all supporters informed. More detail on the campaign and its progress we share on www.roca-rio.com and on instagram [@rocario.mare](https://www.instagram.com/rocario.mare). In addition to the minimum funds needed to buy the property, the space will need modifications and small reforms as well as furniture and infrastructure, so any additional funds raised will be invested directly in these.

Coletivo Roça!

December 2024/January 2025

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On the following pages you find more a more detailed context of the proposal!



DETAILED CONTEXT OF THE IDEA FOR CAETÉS COMMUNITY SPACE with fotos

Since the **Roça! Collective** was formed in 2010, **our dream has been to build a community space** that has economic and political independence and can thus devote itself fully to community demands and strengthen the community of which we are a part. That's why **collective economies** have been part of our proposal since we were formed. By selling natural and agroecological products via delivery, our first collective achievement in 2010 was the purchase of a cargo bike and shortly afterwards we managed to set up a stand at the Morro do Timbau weekly market. A few months later, we were able to rent a small shop in the street of the market and, by the end of 2012, we were able to buy a small space which we have since transformed into **Loja da Roça!** through various stages of joint efforts and renovations. Even though it's very small, due to its direct access to the street, this space allowed us to organise community activities, such as **CinePipoca**, movie exhibitions with children from the neighbourhood or cultural activities like **Sarau Cultural**, with diverse cultural presentations, as well as to serve as the base for the small scale production of **Caetés craft beer**.

With the pandemic came changes, we worked with deliveries of organic food and craft beer and with the money this generated we realized a few activities with the children from **CinePipoca**. In the post-pandemic years, a lot of our energy went into **(re)-connecting with territories**, learning from many experiences of community resistance in visits of our own as well as in visits we received. Be it different networks of agroecological groups, favela initiatives or the **Teia dos Povos** network (<https://teiadospovos.org/>; @teiadospovosrj), that we are part of since 2022, we see great importance of direct ties between peripheries and their struggles.

For us, **self-managed** food production and distribution, even if at a very small scale, is both an end in itself, making healthy food accessible for lower income groups, and a means that helps us to be part of and build together an ever larger and broader network in **the struggle for territorial autonomy in the peripheries**, for **agroecological transformation** and for strengthening the multiple and much-needed resistances from below against the racist, classist, patriarchal and transphobic oppression that constitutes the societies we are part of. Along the way, we've learned a lot and built many ties and partnerships with family and friends, neighbours, collectives and movements, from those that work near us, to those that resist in other peripheral territories, in countryside and city, and those that organise and network in their territories, their places of work and parting from the collective identification of common struggles. With the intensification of our participation in these networks, whether in our metropolis or across Brazil, we feel that the time has come to go one step further in our local work. Even in the face of the difficulties we deal with in the favelas, we insist that we can't stop dreaming and we have realized



that our humble dreams no longer fit in the small space of **Loja da Roça!** we've been able to build so far.

We sat down and reflected, putting down on paper who has already participated here, who has already visited us, who we have already visited, spaces, groups and movements with whom we have relationships, with whom we have already learnt and who has learnt from us, with whom we have relations of mutual support. And we think that this great network which we are part of and which is still growing, makes us capable of joining forces and resources for a collective fund raising to buy and reform a space right here on the hill where we live, to give birth to **"Espaço Caetés"**, a space in which many dreams will fit, those we are already dreaming, the dreams of those that will come to join in and the dreams we will have together once we make this space happen. Many people and various groups, movements and organisations will participate directly or indirectly in the activities and maintenance of the space. Since we can't mention them all here, we're going to record everyone who joins in with the campaign to build the space on our website, and we'll also add all names to the **mutual support wall** that will be part of **Espaço Caetés** itself.

We live in a favela that is both densely and precariously urbanised, and new spaces are scarce and difficult to access. Large spaces here where we live are either occupied by institutions that have been established for decades, or by large churches, or by commercial uses, all with their own logics of larger scale financing mechanisms. And with the mega-events of the Male's Soccer World Cup in 2014 and the Olympics in 2016 and false promises of diminishing violence against and in our favelas, real estate speculation has arrived with force in the favelas we face an unfavourable scenario for opening up a self-managed community space. But since the possibility of buying a property with three spaces that can each be used in different ways has arisen in our neighbourhood, and the family selling the space supports our initiative, we decided to give it a try: we have until end of January to raise the funds needed to buy the property, and that's why we're running this big solidarity support campaign for the collective construction of **Espaço Caetés**!

For **Espaço Caetés** we plan with different environments, a slightly larger room for **workshops, rehearsals, courses** - activities that involve **collectivity, the body in movement and the exchange of knowledge**. In this space it will also be possible to offer **daycare to children in the neighbourhood**. As one of our members recently became mother for the second time and another member is due to become mother in 2025, the space will thus also meet community needs of this new stage our collective is entering. In the second room, the aim is to set up a **study space** with a **community library of** popular resistance and struggles of those from below, of emancipatory and counter-colonial thinking and practices, where we can also set aside a **corner for craft work**, with the installation of our sewing machine and other craft work tools.





View from the top. **Caetés Square** from two perspectives. The square is located in the middle of **Morro do Timbau** and is a central location in **Maré**. Timbau is a favela marked by its **community life** since the first days of its occupation in the 40's. With various spaces and experiences of **community mobilization**, like the other favelas in Maré, it has a history of struggle that stands out. In the hills to the rear are the favelas of Alemão and to the right on the horizon the Church of Penha.



In the space with access to the street, it will be possible to set up a small **community cinema**, and realize **cultural activities, artistic exhibitions, talks and debates**. With a **small kitchen** and **three toilets**, the combined spaces will also give the opportunity to **host visitors** from all parts of our continent and beyond. **Espaço Caetés** will function as a **hub for popular education** in the construction of a **Peoples' University (Universidade dos Povos)**, a collective initiative of the **Teia dos Povos** that we are a part, as well as a space for **activities in collaboration with universities and partner groups and institutions**. The space will receive visits by groups from public and community educational entities.



Will **Espaço Caetés** become a reality here in 2025?

And we're also hoping for the possibility of **laying a roof** to alleviate the heat on the second floor - we live here between the city's main motorways and therefore on a heat island... – só we'll also have a **terrace** where we can relax, keep a small **vegetable garden** and do leisure activities.

Having said all that, we think that **Espaço Caetés** is as necessary as possible! And to make it a reality we are running this campaign. **With a lot of small support, we think that Espaço Caetés can be ours!**



It's important to emphasise that we're not asking for one-time support, unilateral, but that we understand that every support received at this time will be a form of collaboration that can take on various possible forms in and through **Espaço Caetés** in the future. From our side, we certainly commit to everyone who helps make the space a reality that it will be open to all kinds of activities and collaborations that arise from the network we are activating with this campaign. **Espaço Caetés belongs to all of us!**

We send a rebel hug to everyone and hope to be able to receive a visit from you at **Espaço Caetés** in 2025!

Roça! Collective

Morro do Timbau, Maré/Rio de Janeiro. December 2024/January 2025.

Roça!

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ROÇA!