

# Storefront for Art and Architecture

97 KENMARE STREET NEW YORK NY 10012 TEL 212 431 5795  
[www.storefrontnews.org](http://www.storefrontnews.org)

## CONTACT:

Jinny Khanduja, Deputy Director

Patrick Jaojoco, Development & Communications Associate

Email [press@storefrontnews.org](mailto:press@storefrontnews.org) or call 212.431.5795

Storefront for Art and Architecture presents:

## ***Aquí vive gente: Museum of History and Community of Puerta de Tierra***

*By Brigada Puerta de Tierra*



**Exhibition Dates:** June 1st - September 7th, 2019

**Social Media:** [#aquivivegente](https://twitter.com/aquivivegente)    [@brigadapdt](https://twitter.com/brigadapdt)    [@storefrontnyc](https://twitter.com/storefrontnyc)

**New York, NY -** *Aquí vive gente: Museum of History and Community of Puerta de Tierra* is the inaugural public presentation of a nascent community museum envisioned by the grassroots art

collective Brigada Puerta de Tierra in the neighborhood of Puerta de Tierra in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The exhibition, hosted at Storefront's gallery space at 97 Kenmare Street, is now open through September 7th, 2019.

### **About the Exhibition**

*Aquí vive gente (people live here)*. Throughout the neighborhood of Puerta de Tierra in San Juan, Puerto Rico, murals with this refrain brighten the walls and convey to passersby the self-determination of a community that is taking agency over the future development of its neighborhood.

This vision of collective action and cultural preservation, born out of hope and necessity, has been channeled toward efforts to realize a groundbreaking new organization in Puerta de Tierra. Storefront for Art and Architecture is honored to host the **Museum of History and Community of Puerta de Tierra (MHC PDT)**. Previously housed only in the minds and living rooms of community members, this nascent museum is presented publicly for the first time ever at Storefront's gallery space.

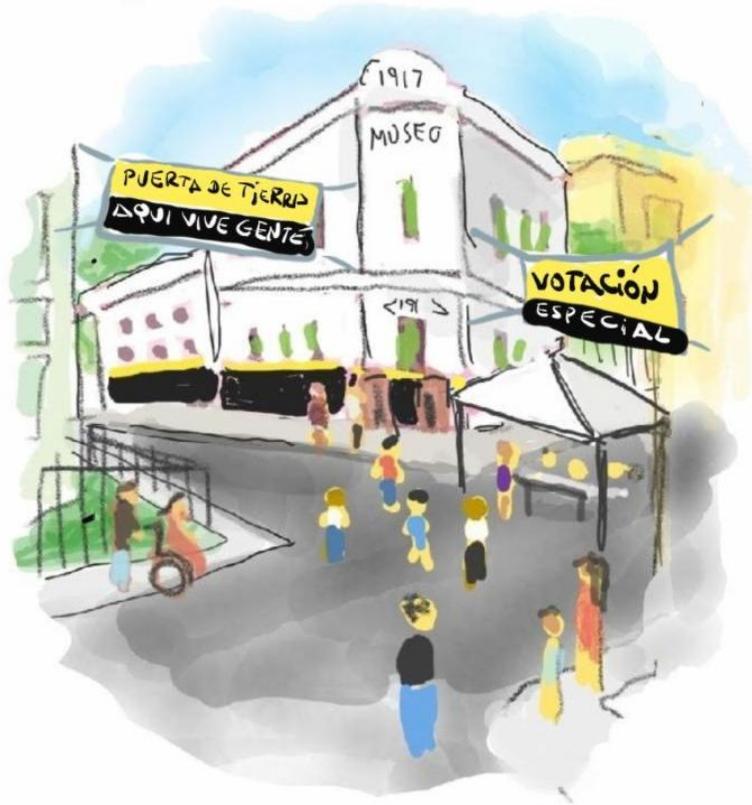
The museum emerged after years of work by Brigada Puerta de Tierra (BPDT), a multigenerational group of artists and activists. It puts forth the vision that the lived experiences of the people of Puerta de Tierra matter, and that they can uniquely tell the rich and complex histories of a community undergoing intense urban pressures that would drastically alter the character of its social fabric.

Brigada Puerta de Tierra is structured as a horizontal organization that uses art and storytelling as a tool for education. The group has its foundations in grassroots and collective action; it was formed in 2015 as a response to the construction of the controversial Paseo Puerta de Tierra, a major redevelopment project that lacked citizen involvement. With the goal of reclaiming the neighborhood, BPDT has been active ever since. Its members have cleaned, maintained, and transformed abandoned sites in Puerta de Tierra through creative initiatives such as mural-making, gardening, and other outdoor programs that bring neighbors together.

The Museum of History and Community of Puerta de Tierra is BPDT's most ambitious initiative to date. Over the last few months, Storefront has provided institutional support intended to help fulfill the museum's mission (developed through self-led workshops) "to affirm, care for, and carry with pride and dignity the cultural legacy of the neighborhood through community participation, and to preserve the cultural heritage and collective memory of Puerta de Tierra."

Currently without a long-term venue for the museum, Brigada Puerta de Tierra has been working toward rehabilitating and legally gaining access to the Edificio Infanzón, a historic building in Puerta de Tierra that has been abandoned for decades. After its presentation at Storefront, the MHC PDT will launch an international tour to create awareness of both the fragility and power of the neighborhood's identity. Eventually, Brigada Puerta de Tierra aims to present the museum at its permanent home at the Edificio Infanzón.

Read more about the exhibition, installation, and collaborators [here](#).



### **Affiliated Programming**

On Sunday, June 14th, Brigada Puerta de Tierra took the gallery to the streets, using murals and banners from *Aquí vive gente* to advocate for the Museum of History and Community of Puerta de Tierra at the National Puerto Rican Day Parade in New York City. Members of Brigada Puerta de Tierra marched alongside Alexandria Ocasio Cortez and community groups from New York and San Juan.

Members of Brigada Puerta de Tierra will provide guided tours to the public in July and August. On Saturday, September 7th, Storefront will host a closing day program featuring the music of Puerta de Tierra and a basketball tournament with youth from the neighborhood and New York City. Check [www.storefrontnews.org](http://www.storefrontnews.org) for updates on all programming.

### **Members of the Press**

If you would like to arrange an interview with the collaborators, or cover *Aquí vive gente*, contact [press@storefrontnews.org](mailto:press@storefrontnews.org).

### **About Storefront for Art and Architecture**

Storefront for Art and Architecture advances innovative and critical ideas at the intersection of architecture, art, and design. Storefront's experimental programming provides alternative

platforms for dialogue and collaboration focused on issues of the built environment and the future of our cities, territories, and public life. Since its founding in 1982, Storefront has presented the work of over one thousand architects and artists.

### **General Information**

Storefront for Art and Architecture

Gallery Address: 97 Kenmare Street, New York, NY 10012

Phone: (212) 431-5795

Hours: Tuesday - Saturday, 11 am - 6 pm

[www.storefrontnews.org](http://www.storefrontnews.org)

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### **CREDITS**

*Aquí vive gente: Museum of History and Community Puerta de Tierra* by Brigada Puerta de Tierra. Storefront for Art and Architecture, 2019.

### **A Project by Brigada Puerta de Tierra (BPDT)**

Collectively developed by members of BPDT and residents of Puerta de Tierra, with special thanks to [www.puertadetierra.info](http://www.puertadetierra.info).

### **Hosted by Storefront for Art and Architecture**

José Esparza Chong Cuy, Executive Director and Chief Curator

Jinny Khanduja, Deputy Director

Jessica Kwok, Gallery and Operations Manager

Patrick Jaojoco, Development and Communications Associate

Iara Pimenta, Curatorial Fellow

Chialin Chou, Associate Curator of Archives

Interns: Lin Sen Chai, Ellen Eberhardt, Ramses Gonzalez, Hana Halilaj, Caroline Koh Smith,

Ipek Kosova, Daniel Li, Adela Locsin, Amora McConnell, Karen Wang

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Graphic Design Assistance by Estudio Herrera

### **SUPPORT**

*Brigada Puerta de Tierra is the recipient of the 2017 Visible Award (Cittadellarte - Fondazione Pistoletto, Fondazione Zegna), funding from which has supported this exhibition.*

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*Aquí vive gente is the first exhibition of Building Cycles , a new year-long public program that will be launched by Storefront for Art and Architecture in June 2019. Founding support of Building Cycles is generously provided by Linde-Griffith Construction Company and the Graham Foundation.*

**Graham  
Foundation**



*Storefront's programming is made possible through general support from Arup; DS+R; F.J. Sciame Construction Co., Inc.; KPF; ODA; Rockwell Group; the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature; public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council; and by Storefront's Board of Directors, members, and individual donors.*



**NYC Cultural  
Affairs**

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Photo credit: *Aquí vive gente: Museum of History and Community Puerta de Tierra* by Brigada Puerta de Tierra. Storefront for Art and Architecture, 2019. Photograph by Hatnim Lee.

Drawing credit: *Aquí vive gente: Museum of History and Community Puerta de Tierra* by Brigada Puerta de Tierra. Storefront for Art and Architecture, 2019. Drawing courtesy of Jesús "Bubu" Negrón.

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