

FIGHT THE STIGMA

**A JOURNEY TO
LA PERLA**

Acknowledgements

Thanks to:

Lourdes Diaz Pabón

Lourdes Lopez

Scott Jiusto

Leslie Dodson

The entire community of La Perla

Our friends and families

For making this all possible



FEED



MADE FOR MIXING

ELBOW

Welcome To La Perla



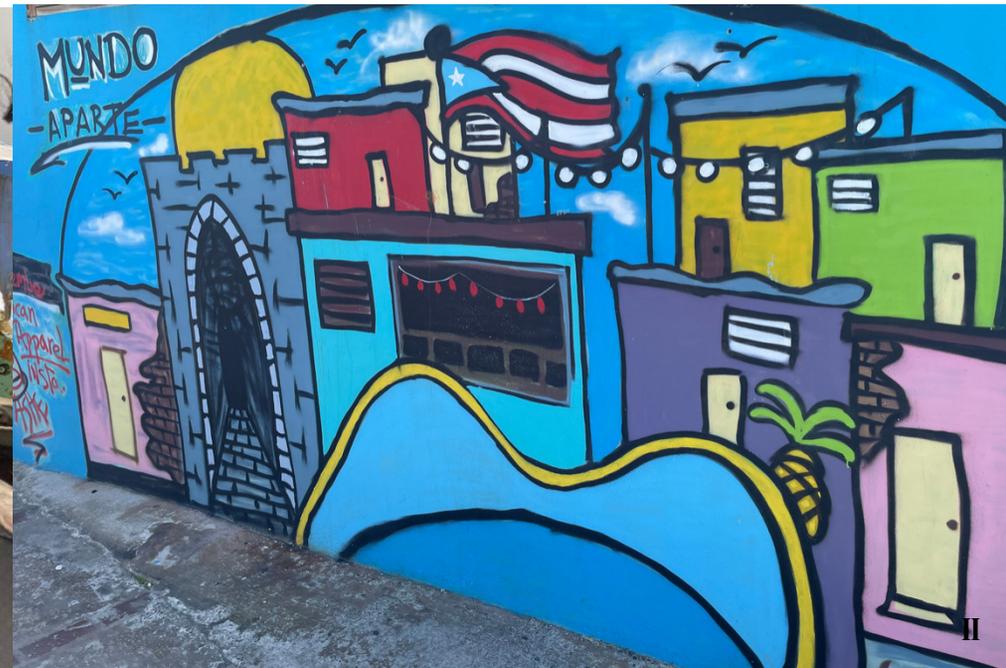
Why THIS book?

This book serves mostly to document our 7-week journey in Puerto Rico. It highlights the incredible people we met and field work we completed in La Perla (outlined on the following page). There were challenges we had to overcome, and a beginning of a new partnership between our sponsor, La Perla, and our university, that we are proud to be apart of. We also highlight each important person we met and how they affected the project, key moments in the development of our work, and the journey that we and the project took over the course of our 7 weeks in Puerto Rico.

This book also serves partially as a memento, a look back on what we were able to accomplish thanks to the incredible people who helped us along the way. A love letter to the community of La Perla, with whom we could not have done any of this without. A heartfelt thank you and goodbye as we leave a seed that we are confident will bear fruit, as the people in charge are some of the most dedicated and driven people we've had the pleasure of meeting.

We are so lucky to have been a part of this community, even if only for the briefest of moments.

In short, this book is part memento/keepsake, part summary of important project outcomes, all in our own words. If you're interested in the work we did, or generally the experience we had with La Perla, then this book is for you. If you're interested in neither of those things, our apologies.



Why THIS project?

"Why?" is an interesting question. We think the easiest answer is because La Perla asked us to. They saw the potential in our Project Director's vision, and ultimately we were the ones tasked with seeing it through.

This project was, for a very long time, hard to place. We knew we would be working with maps. We knew we'd help La Perla with said maps in some way. But we didn't know how, or what that would look like. We grappled with that for a while before we struck what the project would turn into.

The project summary is as follows. We talked to the community of La Perla to figure out the most important issues they face. After figuring that out, we gathered as much information as we could about how to highlight said issue using a map. Once we figured out the best way to display or highlight the issue, we trained residents of La Perla so they could work to solve the issue without needing to hand us vital personal information.

We also provided some sample maps for them to add on to as they go, which you can find in the Appendix at the end.

You can find an overview of the project here:
<https://wp.wpi.edu/puertorico/projects/2023-mar-may-2/fondita/>

Table of Contents

Meet the Partners

(p. 1 - 3)

Journey Map

(p. 6 - 25)

About the Team

(p. 4 - 5)

~~La Perla~~

Evacuation

Routes

Facilitators

Guides

Map

Template

Asset Map

Template

Full Sectors
Map Template

Tourist Map
Template

La Fondita de
Jesús

La Perla

Worcester
Polytechnic Institute

Project
Assignments

La Perla

In the
Community

La Fondita

El Centrito

The Roadblock

The Arrival

The First
Training

Touring
Around La
Perla

Final
Presentation
and Group
Trainings

Appendix

(p. A-A.5)

We began this project by learning helpful and valuable history of La Perla. For more history and background about La Perla please visit a great website here:

<https://www.discoverpuertorico.com/es/articulo/visitando-el-barrio-la-perla-en-el-viejo-san-juan>

The document may need an English translation if you only speak English.

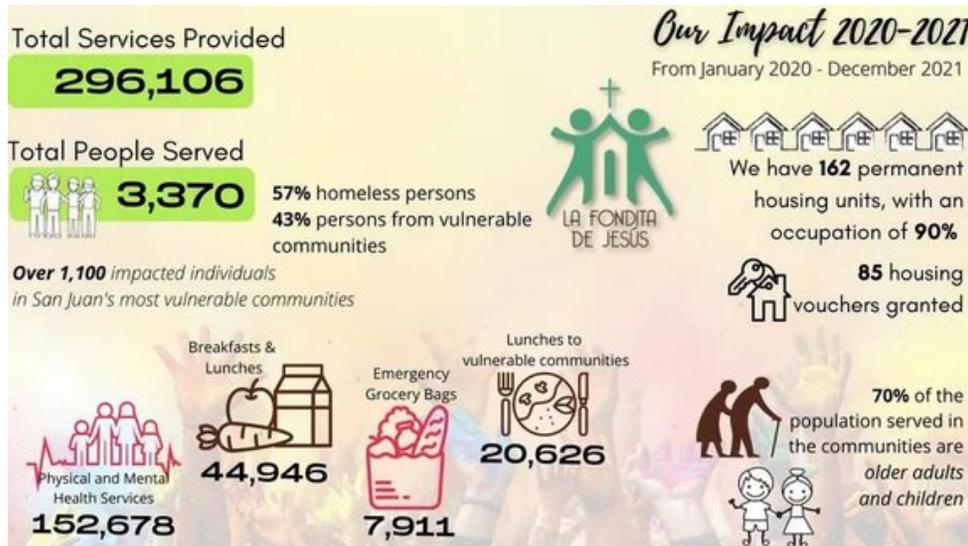


La Fondita De Jesús



Both pictures courtesy of La Fondita de Jesús. The top left picture is of Lou and Manny in La Perla.

La Fondita de Jesús is a non-profit organization that has focused on transforming vulnerable communities and homeless citizens in Puerto Rico for the last 37 years. Lourdes Diaz Pabón (Lou) is the Equity & Social Justice Coordinator for La Fondita. Lourdes has been an important part of this project since she has been the guardian angel between our work and communicating with La Perla residents. Lou leads with her passion, drive, and demand for respect. She is positively impacting all of Puerto Rico one day at a time, and we are blessed to have her and all of La Fondita de Jesús as a part of our team.



La Fondita de Jesús works with 25 municipalities as seen in the map above.

La Perla



Courtesy of Discover Puerto Rico

La Perla, the community that started as a pilot project to help Fondita and became our third home (sorry, our families had to take second). La Perla is as much a partner in this project as La Fondita or WPI. It is impossible not to fall in love with La Perla. It's a beautiful community filled with wonderful people and marvelous art. The only shame is that the stigma, reinforced by centuries of "clearance" efforts and selective media coverage, refuses to show that. Every walk, every tour, every conversation. All of it reinforced this love and respect for La Perla, this pride in the project, in the extraordinary circumstances that led us here.

Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI)

WPI's Puerto Rico Project Center (PRPC) provides students the opportunity to participate in a 14 week program for their Interactive Qualifying Project (IQP) requirement. Seven weeks are preparing for each group's project, and the following seven weeks has students work with their sponsor and related communities to their project. The PRPC one of WPI's longest continuously operating project centers, having hosted groups of students every year since 1992. Scott Jiusto and Leslie Dodson are co-advisors for the spring 2023 section of the IQP experience.

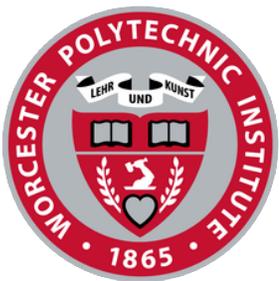


Courtesy of Security Magazine

For more information on the projects: <https://wp.wpi.edu/puertorico/>

PRPC Spring 2023 Projects

- CCAN - Developing a Critical Information Toolkit, working with two community centers
- Fondita - Community Mapping in La Perla
- Goyco - Volunteer Management System improvements for a leading cultural and community center
- Museo - Digital Archive System implementation for the San Juan Museum
- Rivera - Rehabilitation and improvement project for The House Museum of Ismael Rivera
- Teatro - Designing a café and stage area for a performing arts organization



WPI

Courtesy of WPI

This work was produced by undergraduate students in the Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) Global Projects Program. For more information: <http://www.wpi.edu/academics/ugradstudies/project-learning.html>

Alexi Echevarria

Humberto Torres

John Adams

Lou

Tai Le



Meet The Team

Jonathan Adams



Fun Facts:

- Mechanical Engineering Major
- Men's Basketball Player
- Lived away from home for 4 years of high school

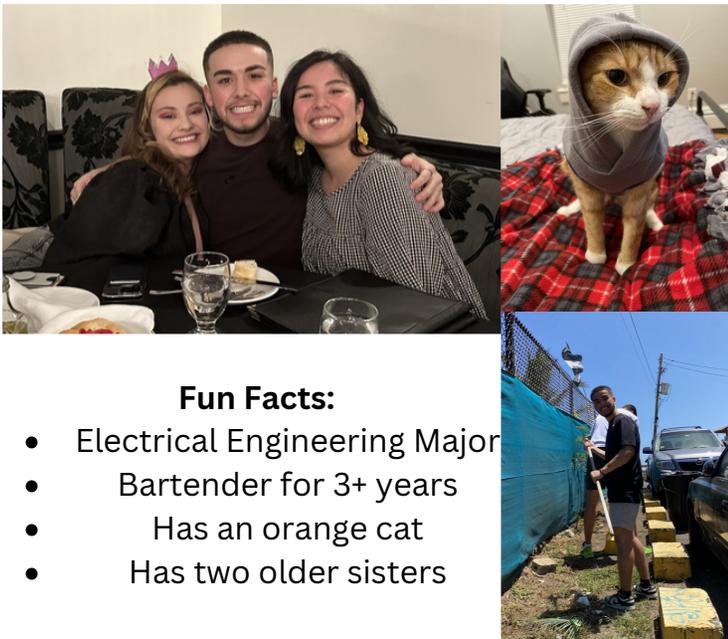
Humberto Torres



Fun Facts:

- Video Game Design Major
- Writer for Tech News (WPI Newspaper)
- Transferred to WPI from Becker College
- Lived in Toa Baja, PR for 7 years

Tai Le



Fun Facts:

- Electrical Engineering Major
- Bartender for 3+ years
- Has an orange cat
- Has two older sisters

Alexi Echevarria



Fun Facts:

- Civil Engineering Major
- First Generation College Student
- Wants to open a restaurant
- Family is from Puerto Rico

The Journey



Here, there, and back again

Jan 11: Project Assignments

Twenty-Four students, six projects, seven weeks. Every student was eager to learn what the next 14 weeks would look like. “Project Assignments!” is the title of the email assigning our teams. John, Alexi, Tai, and Humberto were assigned to a project on mapping in a community within Old San Juan, La Perla. Team meetings and initial research on the community began almost immediately. Research on our sponsor, La Fondita de Jesús, and the many types of mapping, followed.

Feb 10: A First Zoom Meeting

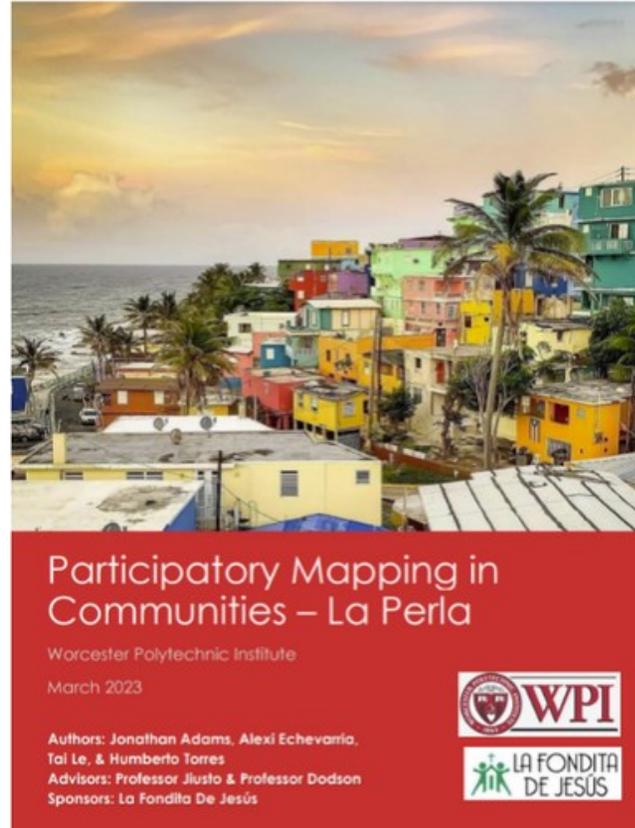
The first Zoom call with Lou was incredible. She began the Zoom call by thanking us, beginning with honesty, and explaining that “Puerto Ricans [are] either acknowledging that they are losing their island... or deciding to not pay attention.” We needed to understand this before even attempting to grasp the situation La Perla is in. When talking about La Perla, Lou used words like virtuous, smart, resistant, culture, art, humble, and honest; the same impactful words were commonly spread each and every time we were in La Perla. She concluded our talk by preaching, “At the very end you will be a different person, but you will be very proud about being part of something that will change forever.” She was right, and we could not be more thankful and blessed.

Jan 31: An Email from Lou

Lou moved and inspired us from the first email. She wrote a thoughtful introduction email to set the tone for what would become such a transformative and humbling experience. A highlight of her email was:

“Our relationship with La Perla has driven us to recognize it as a *virtuous* community, with deep generational and *ancestral wisdom*. They have a culture of *resilience and resistance* that leads with abundant and pure humility. In the past years, the community has distinguished itself through the production of organic rich initiatives that centers itself in the preservation of their culture, history and the propagation of their development as a ‘barrio’.”

Mar. 3: The Completed Proposal



The past seven weeks were filled with preparation - extensive research, planning, presentations, and a report. What do we want to achieve? How will we complete this project to the best of our ability? What are our teammates strengths and weaknesses? These were some, of the many questions still hovering over our team before arriving to Puerto Rico in a week. Written down in an official document was our idea for what the seven weeks may look like with ambitious goals and ways to achieve them planned out.

Feb 31: Another Zoom Meeting

Our second Zoom with Lou was filled with information, hope, and excitement. We learned that Lou talked with local leaders - Lourdes, Manny, and Keyla - in La Perla regularly before we even arrived, so community members knew about this upcoming project. It was essential that Lou shared our intentions and goals months before our arrival, to initiate a clear form of communication. Lou then shared some different issues in the community. She explained that most residents do not have an address, which causes difficulty for receiving government aid and mail. Another topic was displacement, the idea of people being directly or indirectly moved from their homes due to external (often government or corporate) projects. It's unfair and unjust, but an unfortunately commonplace reality for communities like La Perla

worked to finish up our IQP portfolio and prepared to arrive in Puerto Rico!

We

Mar. 10-13: The Arrival

After seven weeks of research and writing, it was finally time to take flight. To land in what would become our home away from home for the next two months. Those first days were... interesting. They were certainly an adjustment from our usual overcast, dreary setting of Worcester, Massachusetts. It was a time of new experiences, temperature adjustments, and (in Humberto's case) an overwhelming sense of nostalgia.



Humberto's childhood school, Colegio Bautista de Levittown (thanks for the assist, Google Street View)



HUMBERTO: As I mentioned before, I lived in Puerto Rico for seven years of my life. Most of my childhood, in fact. Having left when I was 12, it had been almost a decade since I last set foot on the island. So much had changed in that time, but everything felt the same. It was overwhelming to see everything I used to love still there, with new eyes changed by my more matured world view. I'm glad I spent my first few days away from the cohort because I can't imagine how annoying it would've been for me to ramble on and on about how everything was when I was a kid.

It had been a decade since I last went to El Morro, cut me some slack

Mar. 24: Touring La Fondita's Building

The tour of La Fondita's facilities in Santurce was impactful and put life into perspective. Lou and the case manager of the facility - who was only about 25 years old - explained all that is provided within the three-story facility. La Fondita daily provides food for every community they work with (25 municipalities), showers, lockers, canned goods, clothes and shoes, organized activities room for yoga and other events, offices for board members, therapist offices for drug and alcohol abuse, and so much more. The workers put their lives on the line every day to help people that are in need of things that we regularly take for granted.



Courtesy of Placeres PR



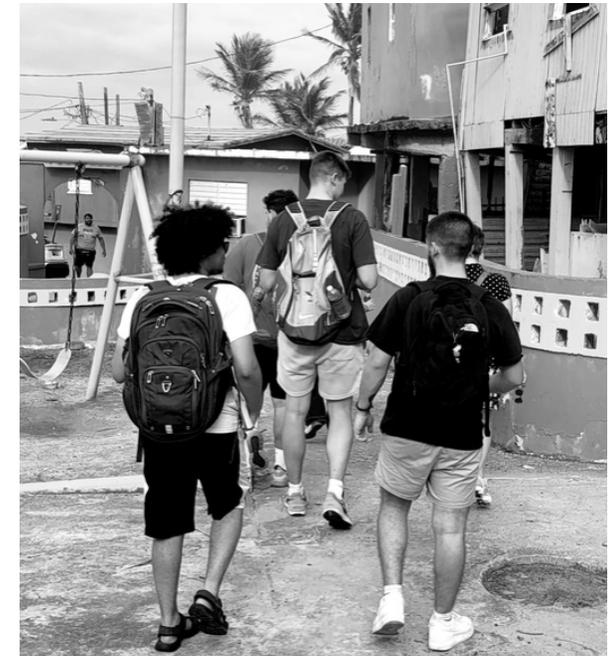
The onboarding session at La Fondita's Konect@os facility was a bright spot in the beginning of our time in PR. Lou and Ivonne, mindfulness coach and collaborator with La Fondita, prepared an impactful presentation that prepared us for completing work with vulnerable communities. We were all transparent, and opened our hearts to meditation and mindfulness and team-building exercises. One exercise had us choose a card and share how it made us feel related to a prompt. A set of those four cards can be seen here, and some examples were: "death", "devoted", "stuck", "blame". Another moving exercise was called a "Privilege Walk", where we each took a step backwards or forwards after a statement was read. No matter what that journey was, we all arrived in the room at La Fondita to work together and complete a 7-week project. It was such an impactful exercise that we kept close to our hearts as the trip progressed.

Mar. 15: Fondita Onboarding

Mar. 16: A First Night in La Perla



That first night in La Perla was tense. We were beyond nervous about setting this project off on the right foot. Especially since we were “intruding” in a La Junta community meeting to introduce ourselves. And those nerves showed. The way we stood awkwardly, slightly hunched over to not seem too confident but not so hunched over to look weird. Our tone of voice being super passive and trying not to come off as pushy while still showing our passion for the project we had researched so much for. It went well, probably better than we expected. Little did we know, La Perla knew of our coming and was waiting for us, expecting us, excited to see what we could do. In that night we set off on the best foot we could, which turned out to be a slightly shaky, yet optimistic acceptance.



Considering it was a first interaction, it would have been shaky no matter what we said. What mattered is what we did to capitalize on that acceptance, and how we made efforts to fortify it to the point where other students could hopefully start off on a less tense note.

Meeting the Community- Lourdes & Keyla

Lourdes (pictured on the right) has lived in La Perla for 63 years and has family members in La Perla, as well. She also is the Vice-President of La Junta, the La Perla Community Board, and she is such a well-respected resident from the community's eyes.

Lourdes was a huge help in so many parts of the project. She attended weekly meetings, helped us create our mapping templates, supplied us with a community space to work in, and learned the mapping software. She truly was apart of the backbone of the project, and we were blessed to have her work with our team.



Keyla is filled with knowledge about her community, and regularly takes outsiders on tours. She is a well-respected local leader of La Plaza de Negro, a sub-sector of Guaipao. La Plaza de Negro is named after her grandfather, so she has family ties with this art driven area of the community. Her goal is to continue to push for a more complete community within La Perla. She is truly passionate and cares deeply about how her community is perceived, and she works toward changing that outlook every day.

Although there was a distinct language barrier due to our being ill-prepared to speak Spanish, she was an important and necessary part of our team. When she has her mind set on things to help her community, they will get done.

Meeting the Community - Jerome & Manny



Jerome is the manager of a community garden for in La Perla, and has been for the past 6 years. He was once a resident of La Perla, while completing his Bachelor's degree. He is passionate about supplying and educating La Perla and other communities with medicinal plants, native foods, and composting areas. Puerto Rican diets regularly rely on imported food, and he believes residents should be open to learning about the root vegetables that are grown here in PR. Jerome also kindly gives his time regularly toward cooking where he makes incredible dishes for different events within the community. Jerome offered his time and knowledge to help us attempt to understand La Perla and its history. Jerome is also fluent in English, this allowed us reach out at any time and have many conversations without relying on anyone for translation.



Manny is another important part of La Perla. He is filled with knowledge, but his main area of expertise is Bomba. Manny runs his own shop, where makes musical instruments from recycled materials, including old wine barrels and coconuts. He often helps people make their own drums, where he helps share each drums' unique story through the materials, while incorporating the story of its future user. He also educates each person who is interested in learning about the history of the Afro-Caribbean descent form of music. In a community filled with local leaders that are regularly female, these two men have stood out for their efforts to help lead La Perla to a better future. We quickly learned how passionate both men are toward La Perla.

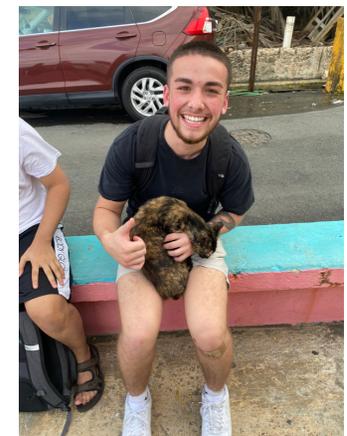


Mar. 17: Singing & Dancing & Drumming, Oh My!

The Kokobalé was the first major dip into the cultural aspect of Puerto Rico that we experienced. It is a weekly event for the children of La Perla, that combines machete fencing and bomba. It also acts as a time to get the children of La Perla together and insures the continuation of traditional Puerto Rican culture. Seeing the children laughing and having fun with one another spread a sense of happiness into our hearts. It was a great start to a special Friday filled with deep culture and arts. As the sun begins to set, the residents set up for the main event. The Batey is held every Friday and consists of incredible singing, dancing, and drumming. The songs have rich and resistant messages where the residents are filled with passion while beautifully singing with the ocean waves crashing against the La Perla coast.



During the intermission between the first Kokobalé and the Batey we attended, something amazing happened. As Tai and Humberto sat on a bench watching the event, a child walked up. This little girl handed Tai a drawing of the two of them, said no words, and walked away. Tai barely managed to say “gracias” before she left. We still have that drawing - our favorite souvenir we’ve received thus far.



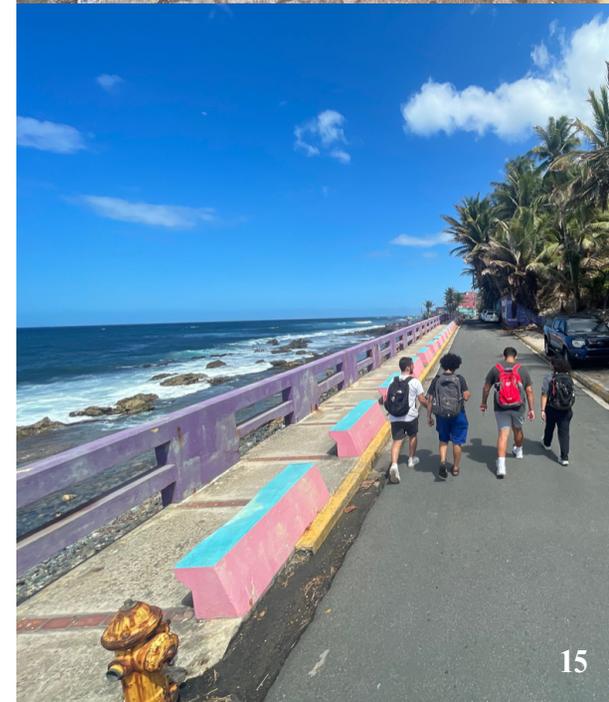
March 29: Community Walks

Walkabouts around the community at times were simply that, walking around and being present in the community. The more we could be in the community doing work, helping, eating, and simply playing a card game the better. When Daniela, our co-researcher, was with us, we stopped by some local businesses and houses to introduce ourselves. We were able to learn some great information about the history of La Perla, and how other residents think of the community. One resident that was a new local business owner, lived in the community for 39 years. He highlighted how the news, outsiders, and government only focus on the bad things within their community, and he has hopes for the future of La Perla being like a small community in Columbia called Comuna 13. He went on to explain how the government used to ignore this community, but in more recent times the government began helping the community with different aid, and the result brought in many tourists and the community is continuing to be on a positive track.



Pictured above is what housing in La Perla used to look like. Some homes were made out of recycled wood and metal and have since been upgraded to cement. This picture was given to us by Keyla and symbolizes that change is possible in La Perla.

Another community member had generations of family members from La Perla. He said the three main things that make up La Perla are the beauty, murals, and castles/fortresses. He continued on, by focusing on how the priority should be the people, since that is what makes this community so special. These conversations became a pattern throughout our time in La Perla, and slowly we learned what La Perla was all about. He continued to explain the history of La Perla, and what residents used to do on the beautiful beaches bordering the community.



Mar. 30: Working in the Community Garden



After a conversation with Jerome, we were invited to help him set up, clean, and cook in the community garden. We helped Jerome set up an event for public schools in the garden, cooked, and cleaned up trash from tourists from the prior weekend. The public elementary school students toured around La Perla was a huge milestone for La Perla. Jerome believed this was the first-time public-school children were being educated and visiting La Perla through a school trip. The focus of the field trip was to learn about displacement in Puerto Rico. The fact that La Perla has such a dark and deep history of over 500 years, and students are finally just beginning to learn about the community was shocking, yet shows a sign of hope and a continuation of positive change for the future.



The Roadblock

No journey is without its share of obstacles. Often it seems the further you travel, the more you tend to encounter. For us, this was that major roadblock. The slowdown in our workflow. The first point since landing where our wheels were spinning but we weren't progressing. It was no one's fault. Things take time, especially for a first partnership where things need to be handled extremely delicately. But that doesn't stop it from being demoralizing in the moment.

Our problem was focus. We had far too many ideas and far too few methods to implement them. We hit a point where we were coming up with and striking down a new idea every day. It was stressful and nothing quite felt like it fit what we were meant to do here. More importantly, it meant nothing got done until we figured out what we needed to focus on.

This disconnect between what we wanted to do and what we could reasonably do in our circumstances was brutal. We were constantly stressed, worried we weren't doing enough. And we lashed out on occasion. It ultimately took a major refocus of the project to get it right. We shifted from the idea of making maps for the community to the idea of teaching the community to use the tools to make maps themselves. It was an effective restart in terms of strategy but it worked beautifully.

In hindsight, we were very lucky to stumble upon our solution to that wall, that speedbump that felt like a cliff's edge. This project could have turned out very different otherwise.



La Fondita de Jesús
www.lafonditadejesus.org/
 Lourdes Diaz Pabón
 (787) 724-4051



WhatsApp



WPI Project Team
<https://wp.wpi.edu/puertorico/>
gr-pr23d-fondita@wpi.edu
 (774) 303-2723



WPI Project Team

"Corporación La Fondita de Jesús es una organización sin fines de lucro 501(c)(3) dedicada a transformar las vidas de personas sin hogar y de personas que viven en comunidades vulnerables en Puerto Rico."

"Corporation La Fondita de Jesús is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to transforming the lives of the homeless and people who live in vulnerable communities in Puerto Rico."



Somos un grupo de estudiantes universitarios voluntarios colaborando con La Fondita de Jesús para aprender más sobre La Perla, San Juan. Queremos escuchar la voz de la comunidad mientras introducimos y enseñamos estrategias de mapeo en la comunidad.



We are a group of university student volunteers collaborating with La Fondita de Jesús to learn more about La Perla, San Juan. We want to listen to the community's voice while introducing and teaching mapping strategies into the community.



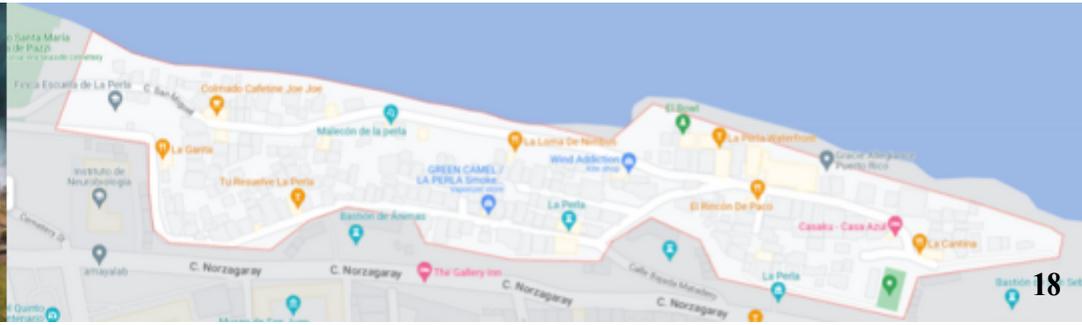
Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) lleva más de 30 años colaborando con Puerto Rico, realizando todo tipo de proyectos para ayudar a las comunidades de la isla.

Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) has worked with Puerto Rico for 30+ years, completing all kinds of projects to help the communities of the island.



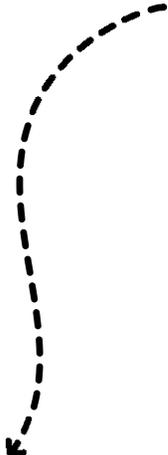
Apr. 5: El Centrito

Working in the community center, El Centrito, was an exciting step for our group. It allowed us to begin thinking about printing maps, creating brochures, creating map templates, and producing two facilitators' guides. The brochures can be seen above. Once we began working in El Centrito twice a week, things began falling into place. We tried to stick to working for 3 hours in El Centrito twice a week to be available to the community. This space was where we felt the most connected to the community, working on the project in La Perla amplified our passion and dedication to creating a resource for the community.



Apr. 10: A First Go at Training

Our first mapping training was with Lourdes during one of our weekly meetings. It went for about 30 minutes, and we took her through each feature within Google My Maps, and had her create her own test map. Seeing her begin to understand the software was exciting, and she continued to teach us more possibilities this software may be used for in the future. The top picture on the right shows us completing the training, and the bottom picture shows Lou helping us label the sectors on the printed out maps in El Centrito.



Apr. 19: Training with the President of La Junta

The training session with Yashira, the president of La Junta, was quick, yet productive. We shared mapping techniques with her while she shared with us how some mapping tools could be used to help La Perla (as well as a casual mention that Google Maps was wrong about the street names). A goal of ours was to attempt to train most of the local leaders we were working with. We wanted to thank Yashira as well for always welcoming us into her community, and we cannot wait to see how La Perla progresses over the years.



Apr. 21: Cooking with Jerome

One of Jerome's goals with his community garden, Finca Escuela de La Perla, is to open up a community kitchen to expand his services to the community. Jerome has spent years in the restaurant industry, and his love for cooking shows in his belief that "cooking is one of the noblest things we as people can do for others". Alexi joined Jerome again in his garden to help prepare a traditional Puerto Rican stew, Sancocho. One highlight of the night was using coconut shells as fuel for the fire, creating natural charcoal.

The stew was served as lunch during a live exhibit on the attempted Dutch invasion of San Juan at Museo de San Juan.



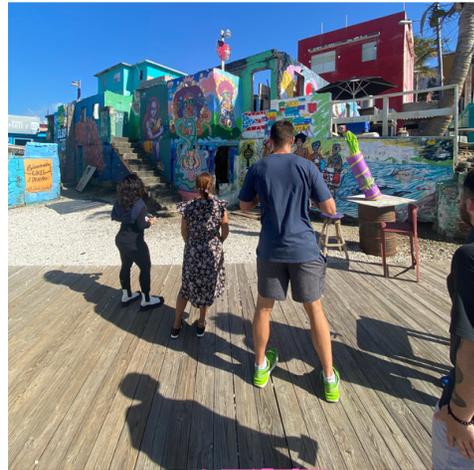
Apr. 7: Malcom, the Muralist

One of the many floating ideas we had for La Perla was to ask someone to implement a visual version of our collective work, to display one of the resulting maps in a way unique to La Perla. As such, we voiced this idea to Lou, who seemed interested in the potential. She got us connected to a muralist named Malcom Ferrer who lived in La Perla some time ago.

Our discussion with Malcom was phenomenal. He mentioned that he cares more about teaching people to paint than making money painting. In that way he related very nicely to the project. He also added a whole new layer to the idea of displacement by mentioning that often "community events" are sponsored by banks or companies interested in building a facility in the community. He indicated such companies seek to gain goodwill before slowly driving people out to gain the land for themselves.

Apr. 12: A Tour of La Perla

Lourdes took the team, accompanied by Daniela, on a tour around the community in the afternoon. It was so helpful for our mapping templates, and our knowledge about the community. We learned the history of some of the artwork, businesses, and the community as a whole. Lourdes has so much knowledge about her community, and utilizing her knowledge in different maps will be very beneficial for all La Perla.



Apr. 14: Welcome to La Perla, PRPC

Although every Batey is special in its own way, this one was a little more special to us. Sharing La Perla, and their traditions with most of our cohort meant a lot to us. The beauty of La Perla shined through our eyes and ears, with the crashing waves, resilient voices, and the beat of the drums all in unison. The smiles on our friends' faces during the songs and dances made our night. We felt fully immersed and welcomed into the culture, which was such a warm feeling.

Apr. 24: Training with La Fondita

The La Fondita training and final presentation went great. We shared what the project consisted of with members of La Fondita willing to learn, and showed pictures of our field work, and mapping templates. We followed the final presentation with the Google My Maps training. For our first larger group setting, we believe we successfully began teaching the necessary knowledge on Google My Maps, but more importantly we showed the trainees the possibilities for what they could create with this software. The conversations they were having with one another made us smile, since we just knew they were connecting the software with possibilities to help their vulnerable communities they were working with. We hope these training sessions can become a domino effect, and with the facilitator's guides' help, they will be able to train and work with this software for many years to come. At the end of our presentation, we enjoyed an amazing lunch, and talking with some of Lou's coworkers that we consider a part of our team after the training session was completed.



Apr. 26: Training with La Perla Residents



We were really happy with how the workshop and final presentation went in La Perla. Every person that we can introduce to the possibilities of community mapping is a huge win in our minds. Mapping is such a powerful tool, that can visually help La Perla become a safer community. Similar to the La Fondita training/workshop, our favorite part of the session was when the trainees began conversing about different ideas and possibilities the mapping software could do for their community. We just tried to plant the seed, and from there, we hope it grows to help La Perla prosper and share different maps with the community and tourists. Also, the ending of the workshop seeing smiles, some hugging, and people being relieved in a way made it feel even better for our group. We hope this partnership between WPI, La Fondita, and La Perla will continue to grow every year projects continue. We are honored to be that first project that laid the foundation.



May 3: A Tearful Goodbye

"The idea of leaving this project (and La Perla) behind hurts. But ultimately 'goodbye' is just as much a part of life as 'hello'. I'll always cherish the people I met and memories I formed in La Perla. I hope to never forget the time I spent here and the work we managed to achieve together. Thank you to everyone even slightly involved in this project."

- Humberto Torres

"This project has been life-changing. I could not be more appreciative for how this project turned out. The memories I made and people I met are unforgettable.

Thank you to the community of La Perla for your hospitality and being so welcoming to us. Thank you to my advisors, Lou, and all of La Fondita de Jesús for being great mentors. And thank you to my teammates, for being more than just teammates and being great people. I'll always remember the time we shared during this project.

- Tai Le



Final Reflections

"It has been 7 weeks? I guess time flies when you're having fun, right? These guys, this team, our sponsor, the community we worked with could not have been more perfect. Looking back on this whole experience, going back 14 weeks ago, I can say I would not change a thing. I cannot help but feel we were the secret ingredient - wont change the outcome but amplifies the dish. This journey will come to an end, but "The Mappers" will live on forever."

- Alexi Echevarria

"These past 7 weeks of preparation and then 7 weeks of field work were so rewarding for my soul, heart, and mind. I am thankful for my teammates, Lou, all of La Fondita de Jesús, every member of La Perla, and my advisors for working with me and making me a better version of myself. I will take the unique and special learning experiences with me for the rest of my life, and I plan to continue to help others around the world that are need help when my time permits."

- Jonathan Adams



APPENDIX

OUR DELIVERABLES

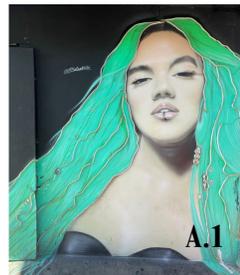
Tourist Map Template – Art, Murals & Attractions

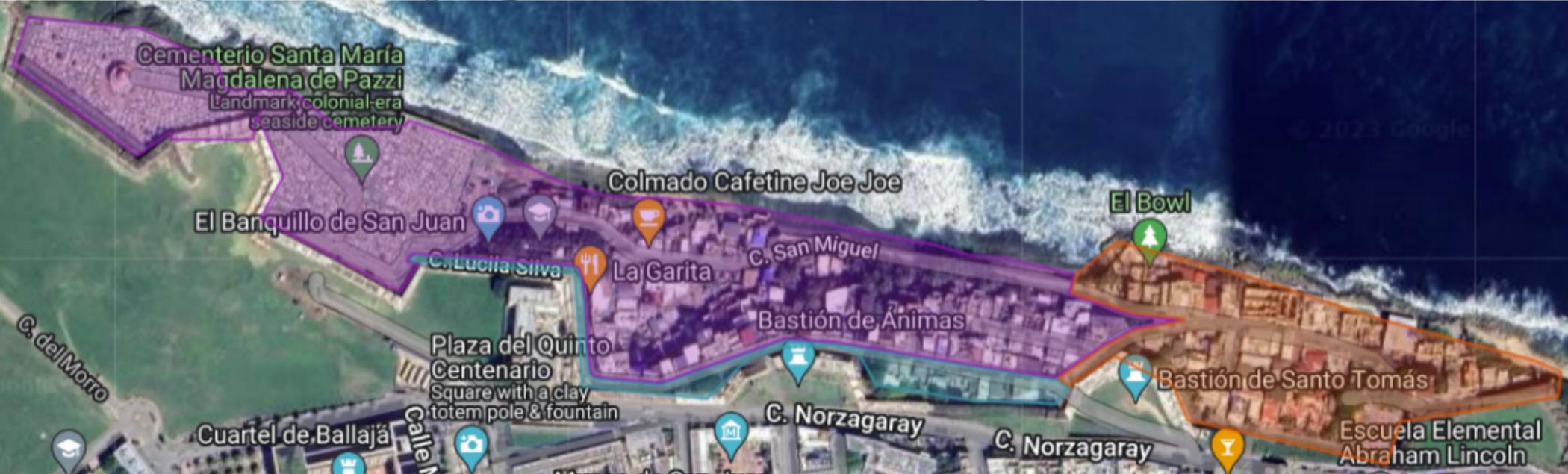


-  Alas de Puerto Rico
-  La Perla
-  La Perla
-  I Love La Perla Sign
-  El Bowl & Artwork
-  Concha San Miguel

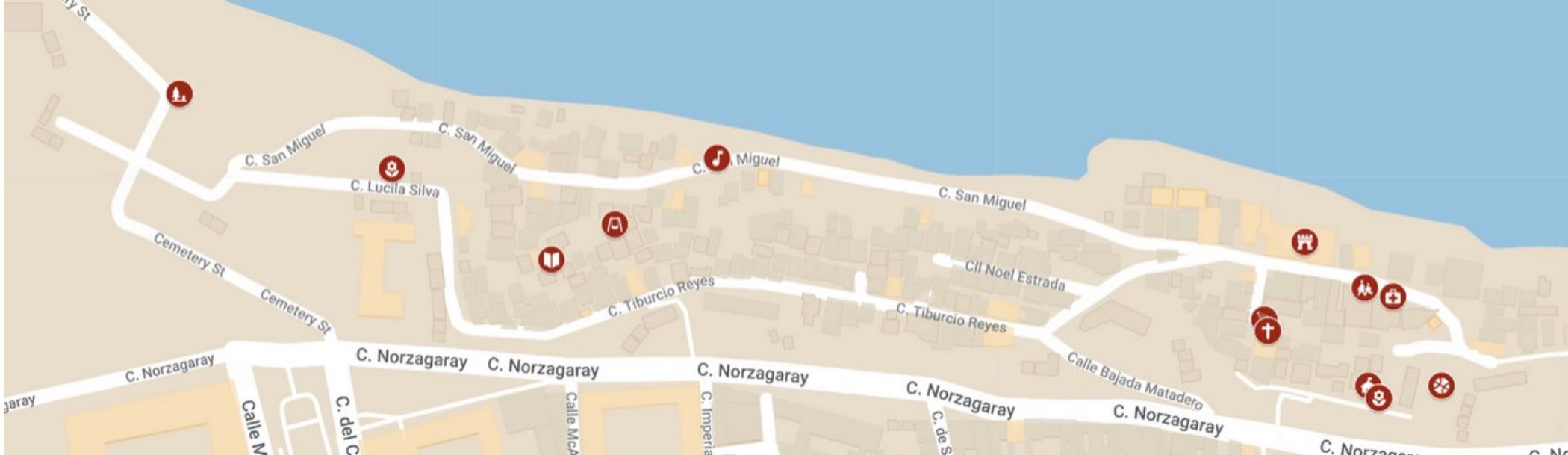
-  Future Painted by Them
-  Vaca Iguana
-  Salsa Artists Wall
-  Ismael Rivera Hood
-  Slaughterhouse
-  Serrano

-  Bridge
-  Parque Ramirez
-  Diva del Microfono
-  Take Trash Finca
-  Urinal Finca Sign
-  Batey





Full Sectors Map Template



Current Assets on Template

-  Cancha San Miguel
-  El Matadero
-  Clinic
-  Homeless Services
-  Church
-  Headstart
-  Finca Escuela de La Perla
-  El Centrito
-  El Centrio Garden
-  Parque Ramirez
-  Los Libros Libre
-  Batey Community Plaza
-  Santa María Magdalena de Pazzi Cemetery

Possible Assets

-  Information Area
-  Phone
-  Parking
-  Smoking
-  No Smoking
-  Viewpoint
-  Picture Spot
-  Plumber
-  Electrician
-  Laptop/Computer
-  Wifi
-  Printer
-  Restrooms
-  Recycling
-  ATM
-  Generator
-  Bar
-  Picnic Table
-  Gambling
-  Surfing

Asset Map Template

Gathering Points

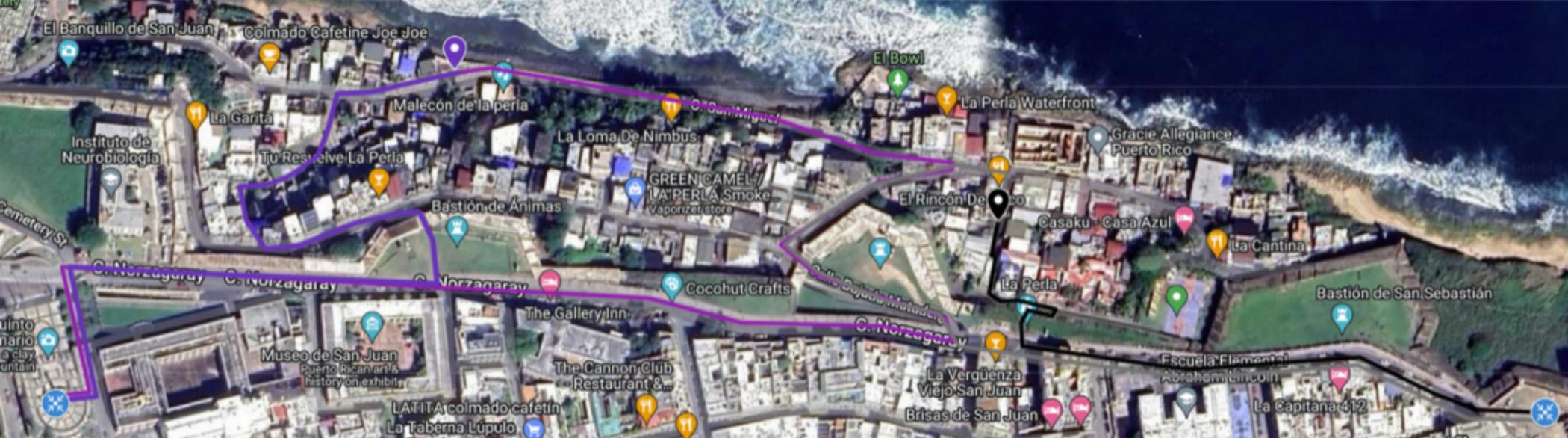
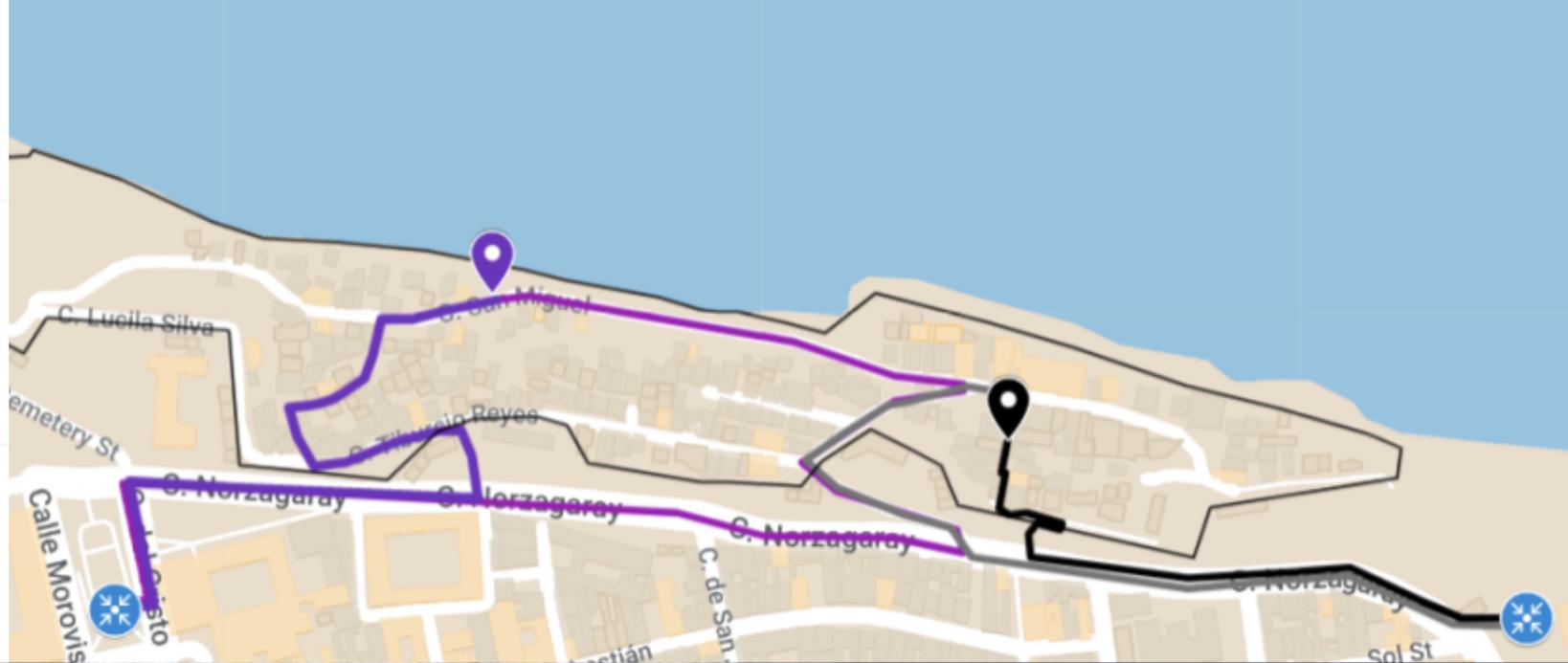
- ⊗ Totem
- ⊗ San Cristobal

Batey Community Evacuation

- 👉 Evacuation Driving Route from Batey
- 👉 Evacuation Walking Route from Batey
- 📍 Batey Community Area

San Miguel Evacuation West

- 📍 Evacuation Spot San Miguel Left
- 👉 Evacuation Driving Route from San Miguel E...
- 👉 Evacuation Walking Route from San Miguel ...



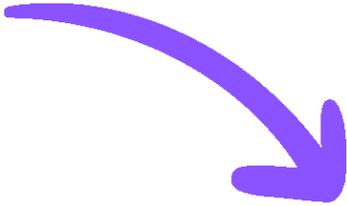
Evacuation Routes Map Template

☰ Google My Maps

+ CREATE A NEW MAP

Google My Maps Facilitators Guide

Google My Maps is a free and user friendly, mapping software that will allow an extensive amount of maps to be created for the betterment of La Perla.



This facilitators' guide can teach anyone interested in learning how to map and use Google MyMaps which allows continuation of this project when we leave.



Register your Work On Google

Informs business owners on how to register their business or organization on Google for greater online visibility.



An option for business owners who may want to have their business highlighted online.

