



**l' ateneu**  
popular **9** b a r r i s

# BUILDING AN IDENTITY



Nou Barris is a district located on the periphery of Barcelona. It is a result of the immigration from the rest of Spain during the sixties and seventies of the XXth century.

Ateneu Popular 9 Barris is 30 years old. The project was born when a group of citizens, one Sunday in 1977, decided to occupy an asphalt plant, very close to their own apartment buildings, in an area without the basic public services.

# BUILDING AN IDENTITY

Participation and debate about the management and functions of the Ateneu allowed to talk about values, professional-volunteer binomial, civil society self-management, etc. Ateneu has become an example of the civil society neighbourhood-based political vanguard for the rest of the city.



# BUILDING AN IDENTITY



Early at the beginning the Ateneu started an artistic programation. Paratheater arts were complimented by children's performances, flamenco, theater, cinema, exhibitions and a variety of musical styles.



The circus activities merit special attention. Because the spaces of the factory allowed it, the Ateneu fastly becomes a meeting point attracting people interested in circus activities.

# THE DEFINITIVE ATENEU

After several negotiations with city council, finally the ancient factory was readequated and in 1994 the new space for Ateneu was inaugurated.



# THE DEFINITIVE ATENEU

Although the space was adequated by the city council and it is the owner of the building, the project and the cultural centre is still managed by an association created in 1988 as a formalisation of the assemblies and commissions that were working in the definition of the project. This association, called ***Bidó de Nou Barris***, receive a subsidy to manage the centre.



**El bidó de  
Nou Barris**

# VALUES OF THE PROJECT



**Autonomy/responsibility:** The idea is guaranteeing a decision making system without external interferences. It is considered the best way to establish commitment to and identification with the project. It is also useful to move towards a responsibility that allows people to imagine new projects and purposes.

# VALUES OF THE PROJECT

**Art and culture as instruments of transformation:** Art and culture are not rare objects of a minority but rather widespread practices vital to people's individual and communal development. The goal is to achieve widespread circulation, strengthen creativity and to promote artistic training from a non-commercial viewpoint.





# VALUES OF THE PROJECT

**Innovation:** from the social point of view it is necessary to understand any activity as a proposal for progress, for rethinking, and to achieve constantly better conditions.

**-In the artistic ambit** with the research for new languages, news expressions and the promotion of multidisciplinary proposals and their connection.

**-In the management and organisation field,** looking for more agile and participative formulas. In general, constantly rethinking the project allowing for advancement toward new solutions in order to achieve established commitments.

# VALUES OF THE PROJECT



**Solidarity / justice / social cohesion:** the Ateneu is born out of contact with and relationships to the reality that surrounds it. It promotes support of the community movement of Nou Barris as well as projects with a wider dynamic that try to improve the society around us.

# VALUES OF THE PROJECT

- **The work through networks:** networks is the main instrument to establish relationships. The ateneu is member of two kind of networks.
  - **Local networks,** in Nou Barris ambit working together with other entities to think about culture in the neighborhoods and to organise festivals and activities.
  - **And international networks like TRANS EUROPE HALLES.** A European network of cultural centers that share the characteristic to be ancient factories reconvered on cultural centres and managed by independent organisations.

# VALUES OF THE PROJECT



**Creativity:** Ateneu opts for an artistic environment open to change, mixture and fusion, as a guarantee of its own existence.

There is an open door to improvisation, a sensibility towards everything that people may bring.

# Circus: Artistic main axis

- In Spain, in general, public administration has considered the circus activity as a minor cultural manifestation and the professionals of this sector had been considered in the periphery of the cultural activity.



# Circus: Artistic main axis



- Nowadays in the Ateneu Popular 9 Barris there is the only **circus school** in Barcelona and Catalonia.
- The students are young people from all over the world, between 18 and 25 years old. Young people that want to be a professional circus artist.
- Also there is a **children circus school and teenager circus school** (from 6 to 17 years old and basically from Nou Barris).
- At the same time in the Ateneu there is a **specific program** of production of professional circus and advice for the circus artists.



# Circus: Artistic main axis



**Production of circus.** Every year:

**The winter circus.** A show for all audiences and aims for productions along the lines of the new circus. Circus adaptable for conventional theatres, with a mixture of expressive languages.

**The circus combinations** in which diverse artists present short skits.

# In Conclusion

**In conclusion nowadays in the ateneu the programs and activities are:**

**1) To vitalize and to promote the participation:**

- Participation to manage and to make possible the project.
- Work together and to impel projects with the Rest of associations of Nou Barris.
- Organise debates and seminars and activities of rethinking.
- Is the seat of some of the cultural association of Nou Barris

**2) diffusion and program of cultural activities. The only condition is the artistic quality:**

- Programming every weekend performances, concerts, cinema, and activities for children.