DESIGN TOOLKIT FOR ARTISAN COLLECTIVES

Research

Experiences (workshops, events)

1. Introductory
   - Who am I?
   - Exploring artisanal symbols
   - Participatory determination of topics for upcoming sessions
   - Observation
   - Activity Diary

2. Packaging
   - 2-minute rehearsal
   - Participatory observation exercises

3. Design principles found in nature
   - Universal design principles present, in nature
   - Making of nature workbook
   - Illustration exercises
   - Circle of life

4. Illustration & stamping
   - Pattern making and stamping exercises

5. Packaging II
   - Visual time-tracking tool
   - continued packaging exercises

6. Collective feedback session
   - Feedback session
   - Introduction to women’s circles
   - Reflections
   - Appreciation cards
   - Checking my emotions
   - Dancing and singing
   - Circle of love

7. Women’s circle
   - intro to SE and RedESS
   - Precious and precious associated with SE
   - Concept dice
   - Héroe de trama

8. Solidarity Economies (SE)
   - Present prototypes
   - Mind mapping exercises
   - Present web of life
   - Focus group / round table
   - Celebration / shared meal

9. Final day
   - National Encounter of Solidarity Economies (RedESS)
   - Interviews
   - Artisan home visits
   - Observation
   - Informal conversations
   - Feedback cards

About this project

How do I create a process for artisans to develop their own visual identity and support their personal/professional aspirations? My field research examined participatory design as an interdisciplinary framework for implementation a participatory research and design curriculum for artisan collectives that have low access to digital technologies and consulting services.

This toolkit is composed of methodologies, techniques, materials, tools and strategies which can be flexibly combined to aid artisan collectives in using their knowledge to co-create meaningful products. The project was implemented in Puerto Jiménez with the artisan group Mujeres de Carcaró (Women of Carcaró). Transversal themes are gender and solidarity economies.

Mujeres de Carcaró

Puerto Jiménez, Península de Osa, Costa Rica

Product prototype samples

Visual time-tracking results

On average, 49.9 weekly hours dedicated to housework. How much time does this leave for their artisan enterprises?

For the second phase, engage more stakeholders with diverse specializations, transition into processes of collective ownership of the knowledge, and extend implementation time from 8 to 10 months.

Place more emphasis on conflict management.

Conclusions & recommendations for future replication

- The fact that participants crucially that graphic design made them feel more represented by the RedESS project.
- Continuous dialogue between participants and facilitators enriches the creative process and makes it possible to create knowledge and co-create knowledge about the process.
- Extend implementation-time from 8 to 10 months.
- Place more emphasis on conflict management.