

Handy guide to setting up a Guanyem

We at Guanyem Barcelona (Let's win back Barcelona) are publishing this guide to help anyone who wants to set up a Guanyem. We also want to use it to explain the processes that define Guanyem's DNA and philosophy.

Clarifications: As we said in our press release of 31 July, "A citizen municipalism that breaks from the past and builds the future at the May 2015 elections", "Guanyem Barcelona has neither the capacity nor the desire to lead a campaign for the May 2015 elections that goes beyond our own work in Barcelona.", "Guanyem Barcelona doesn't have any authority to validate or coach other citizen municipal movements", and "Guanyem Barcelona will recognize and collaborate, if necessary, with any initiative which, whatever its structure, is made up of citizens, is not monopolized or led by political parties, is constructed according to the same democratic processes that we want to see reflected in our public institutions, and which defends ideas similar to those in our 'Principles and commitments to guide the way'"

Basic principles for Guanyem citizen platforms: they should support the Guanyem Barcelona Manifesto and the text of our 'Principles and Commitments' (ES). Each platform should be rooted in its local networks and social context, share the aims and working methods of Guanyem and be led by citizens. Any person or political party that wants to be involved should accept these minimum conditions, and no Guanyem platform should be led by any political party.

1. How to get started:

The first step is to bring together a group of citizens who have a shared diagnosis of the crisis of the Establishment and who want to set up a citizen platform to build a joint candidature to win back and transform the public institutions in their city. The aim of such a citizen platform should be to launch a collective process to win back the city, with 'winning' meaning much more than just taking control of local institutions. Winning means governing in a new way, a way that is local, transparent and participative, accountable to citizens, so that we can implement fairer, redistributive and sustainable policies to tackle the current social and political crisis.

2. This process should move forward by consulting and listening to local people in

order to secure their endorsement and gain local legitimacy.

A target of signatures of support should be set, and the initiative should be presented in different neighbourhoods and districts to collect the views and opinions of the people. This work should be based on concrete, achievable goals based on: urgent measures to deal with the consequences of the aggressive neoliberal and neoconservative handling of the economic crisis, a new 'ethical code' or contract between representatives and the people that allows us to come out of the economic crisis with more democracy, not less.

3. Organization:

The organizational structure of each Guanyem must be horizontal and transparent, with

minimum conditions to guarantee its effectiveness and collective construction.

These minimum conditions are as follows:

- **Technical committees:** this is where the work that is essential for the everyday functioning of Guanyem is done. Each committee determines its own size, nature and internal organization (sub-committees, roles, working groups, etc.). People who want to participate should send a request to the relevant committee and attend a welcome meeting. Invitations can also be sent by the committees to potential participants. Two representatives from each committee attend the coordination team, and all committee participants can attend the plenary meetings.
- **Policy groups:** these are meeting and participation spaces for organizations and individuals related to different policy areas. Their main role is to propose and validate the policy positions of Guanyem, and to assess the issues related to their area and draw up proposals for the election manifesto. Guanyem tries, as far as possible, to have two representatives for each area. These representatives make up the policy committee.
- **Coordination team:** this is the executive body of Guanyem. It is responsible for maintaining an overall view of the process (strategy, roadmap, calendar, analysis of current affairs, etc.), and for coordinating the rest of the organization. It is made up by the spokespeople of Guanyem and their support team, as well as two representatives from each technical committee.
- **Plenary:** this is the most important space for communication and decision-making within Guanyem, especially in

terms of strategic decisions and internal organization. All members of the technical committees, the coordination team, and anyone whose name is put forward by the plenary or the coordination team, can attend. Participation may have to be restricted to a limited number of people from each committee and neighbourhood in the future in order to keep the sessions viable and effective. The organizational structure can be adapted to the reality of each city, but it should follow similar steps to the Guanyem model. The organizational structure should be dynamic, participative, and sustainable, and facilitate the construction of a joint candidature. There must be clear, transparent mechanisms for including people who want to participate in the project. This is how Guanyem is organized: Organizational structure. The process is impossible without the active participation of citizens.

4. Functioning:

The functioning of any Guanyem platform should be transparent and democratic. It should be a space that is open to all citizens, social movements and organizations who want to contribute to the project. There are no quotas for the representation of organizations in Guanyem citizen platforms; individuals participate in their own name.

Decision-making: the responsibilities and roles of each working group, committee and the plenary should be clear, and democratic and consensual mechanisms must be used to make decisions. These mechanisms should be laid down in a written protocol.

The technical committees and policy groups can make their own decisions regarding their activity and development. Other important decisions are made in the plenary, which is held fortnightly or monthly, and which is attended by members of all committees and

policy groups. The coordination team, which is made up of representatives of all of these groups, makes urgent operational decisions between plenary meetings.

All of these spaces should make an effort to include diverse work areas and levels of commitment, and seek a balance between horizontality and effectiveness. They should show a strong commitment to internal democracy. Guanyem foresees the establishment of new validation, election and consultation mechanisms to include different sectors in decision-making.

We will not accept attitudes that are sexist, xenophobic, authoritarian, homophobic, denigrating, or insulting, nor defamations, physical or verbal violence, or any activity in conflict with human rights from anyone who wishes to be associated with Guanyem.

5. Financing: there must be a policy of transparency and clear accounting. Income and spending figures must be published. There should be a commitment to avoid campaign financing from banks and to follow the priorities of ordinary people.

6. Territory: there should only be one Guanyem platform in each locality. If more than one radical citizen candidature is launched, Guanyem should make every possible effort to bring people together around concrete goals and proposals and to cooperate rather than compete in any municipal elections.