#### **REIMAGINA PUERTO RICO 2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS**



The primary goal of Relmagina Puerto Rico was to promote a stronger, more resilient Puerto Rico as it embarks on reimagining a reconstruction with more public participation and transparency, and develop an actionable and timely set of recommendations for how to use recovery funds to help rebuild Puerto Rico in a way that makes the island stronger and better prepared for future challenges. Consequently, as of January 2018, the Resilient Puerto Rico Advisory Commission, through its project Relmagina Puerto Rico, adopted an accelerated timeframe and ample participatory process to produce what later became the Relmagina Reports in order to influence and complement on-going post-disaster recovery efforts being enforced by U.S. federal agencies, the government of Puerto Rico, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) across Puerto Rico. Based on this intent, our achievements during 2018 are presented below under these four categories and main objectives:

#### Promote a Resilient Puerto Rico

- Published 97 recommendations in 7 reports that address sectors of high relevance for the reconstruction of Puerto Rico, including: Housing; Energy; Physical Infrastructure; Natural Infrastructure; Economic Development; and Health, Education and Social Services.
- ldentified 6 cross-cutting strategies and 4 guiding principles to steer all reconstruction efforts.
- Developed a document with 38 punctual recommendations for the Puerto Rico Central Office of Recovery, Reconstruction and Resilience (COR3) and the Puerto Rico Department of Housing to address challenges within the reconstruction implementation process.

## 2 Establish an Engaging and Participatory Process

- Relmagina participated in more than 77 meetings/activities and interacted with more than 748 people between February-May of 2018 for the development of the recommendations.
  - Defined sector needs, goals and recommendations by facilitating a technical discussion with Sector Working Groups that were comprised of subject-matter experts, business leaders, and relevant community actors. Three Working Group sessions per sector included approximately 200 participants.
  - Elaborated and validated needs, goals, and recommendations with Focus Groups to capture the realities of communities. 9 Focus Groups were held throughout 6 regions of Puerto Rico and in Orlando, FL with the participation of approximately 150 individuals, including community leaders and approximately 25 NGOs. Also, obtained input from about 360 school-aged children in 6 schools by applying a participatory photography program.
- Performed diaspora engagement activities in Hartford, CT; Holyoke & Boston, MA; Orlando, FL; and Washington, D.C. to define strategies and next steps to strengthen the Puerto Rican diaspora's long-term involvement in the reconstruction process.

# 3 Influence Government and On-going Efforts

- The Relmagina Puerto Rico Report was referenced in both the Puerto Rico Government's Economic and Disaster Recovery Plan (the Recovery Plan) and the Department of Housing's Disaster Recovery Action Plan for CDBG-DR funds.
- More than 66% of the 276 actions presented on the Recovery Plan were based on Relmagina's recommendations.
- ReImagina was asked to participate in the PR Senate's Energy Technical Advisory Committee for the development of the new PR Energy Public Policy and Regulatory Framework. This Committee worked regularly between May-October of 2018 and published a Report that set the basis and framework for the new energy public policy and regulatory framework legislation presented in Senate Bill 1121 on November 2018.
- ReImagina was also nominated to be part of the Southern States Energy Board's Blue Ribbon Task Force for Puerto Rico's Energy Transformation, which is also developing a recommendations report for the development of the new PR regulatory framework.
- ReImagina was invited to be part of the Puerto Rico Department of Housing Non-Profit Advisory Committee and HUD's Housing Non-Profit Advisory Committee.
- Began establishing collaborations with FEMA Community Planning Capacity Building Sector, Habitat for Humanity, Enterprise, Puerto Rico Builders Association, Association of General Contractors of Puerto Rico, Resilient Power Puerto Rico, and Resilient SEE.
- Conducted 19 meetings with the U.S. Congress and federal agencies involved in the reconstruction of Puerto Rico, establishing Relmagina as a viable resource in Puerto Rico.
- Participated in more than 10 panels at various seminars, workshops and summits related to the reconstruction of Puerto Rico.

### 4 Adopt a Transparent and Replicable Process

- Launched a website that is published in both Spanish and English to present all the material resulting from the project's process. All seven reports were published on this website on June 20, 2018.
- In the first months upon publication of the reports, we experienced over 1,000 downloads of reports from over 40 countries with 47 average daily visitors to website.
- Used Facebook and Twitter to communicate the project's efforts and transmit live events, such as Town Hall Meetings, as they were taking place.
- Held Town Hall Meetings in 5 of the designated regions to communicate the reports' results to the communities.