

The societal value of L'Àgora Juan Andrés Benítez

An impact valuation of a self-organised community space facing eviction

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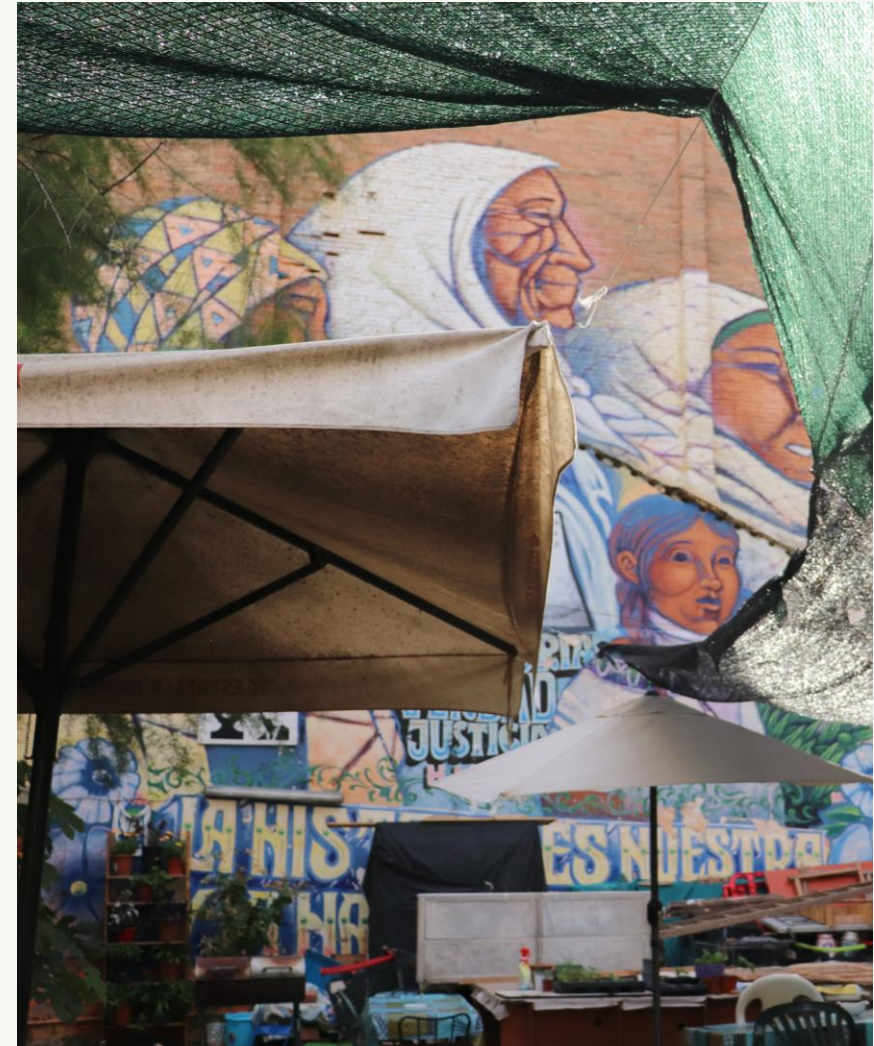


Why this report exists

Reclaimed for Juan Andrés Benítez in 2014. Facing eviction on 14 May 2026.

On 13 October 2013, **Juan Andrés Benítez** - a Raval resident and member of the local queer community - was killed by police officers. A year later, neighbours of this marginalised community **reclaimed the empty plot** beside the killing and named it after him. Eleven years later, it has become an urban commons, a green space, a climate shelter against heat waves, a kitchen, a refuge, a sanctuary for animals, a children's space and a meeting place for collectives, all on a 700 m² lot.

This report estimates the **societal value** of what would be lost if the eviction proceeds. Even on **conservative** assumptions - built only on what the community could share in the days the notice gave them - L'Àgora enables **€1.83M a year** in measurable social value, around €20m cumulatively since 2014, serves 5,000 visitors a year and 150+ collectives, and has produced more than six thousand free meals in the past twelve months alone.



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01

L'Àgora

Eleven years of community stewardship on an abandoned lot

01 • The case

L'Àgora and El Raval

L'Àgora sits on a 0.07-hectare lot in El Raval, one of the densest migrant neighbourhoods in Europe (47,274 residents). The site was reclaimed in 2014, one year after Juan Andrés Benítez was killed by police nearby. The conviction of the six officers involved is the only conviction for a death in police custody in Catalonia in the last fifteen years.

El Raval is structurally marginalised, heavily policed, has very little green space, and a recorded 88 tropical nights in 2025 - almost double the city average. L'Àgora is a place of memory and healing, a heat refuge, kitchen, legal clinic, children's space, held together by volunteer labour and the community's own organising.

There are no protagonists in L'Àgora. Everybody is the same. It's a place of equalisation, of flattening the field, of respect. The space recognises that people have the same worth and that everybody has something to offer.

Quick facts

11 years

of continuous self-organised community management

400+

collectives have used the space since the space opened

700 m²

of green, shaded, and open ground

60

daily users on a typical day

5,000

unique visitors per year

€ 0

of public funding received

01 • The case

Why now: the eviction

Sareb is the Spanish state's asset management company - the "bad bank" - created in 2012 to absorb 'risky' real estate from rescued banks, and now mandated to wind down by 2027. Since April 2022, the Spanish government has held its majority stake and its mandate has explicitly required the principles of sustainability and social utility (FROB, 2022).

The lot under L'Àgora is being sold off as part of this wind-down. The eviction is scheduled for 14 May 2026. To date, Sareb has proposed no alternative use that retains community benefit on the site - though its own mandate now asks it to consider exactly that.



02

How impact valuation works

Putting a number on benefits that don't show up on a balance sheet.

02 · Method

How impact valuation is used

Most of the things that matter most to people, including health, clean air, community, social support, safety, don't come with a price tag. This makes them easy to overlook when decisions get made about where money goes.

Impact valuation is a way of putting those outcomes into the same language as costs and revenues. The idea is straightforward, if a programme improves people's health or reduces pollution, that benefit has real and measurable impacts, even if it never ends up on a balance sheet.

This is not experimental, many actors already use this kind of analysis as standard practice. The UK Treasury's Green Book requires social and environmental value to be monetised when appraising any public project. The Netherlands' Statistics Office and the New Zealand Treasury apply the same principle to national decision-making, and the European Commission's Better Regulation Toolbox does the same for EU policy.

The methodology in this report, eQALY, builds on tools that have been in use in health economics for decades, specifically the QALY framework and disability weights from the Global Burden of Disease study. It is also aligned with the International Foundation for Valuing Impacts (IFVI) and the Capitals Coalition, which are setting the emerging standards for corporate impact measurement.

Used by governments

UK Green Book, EU Better Regulation, Netherlands and New Zealand Treasuries all monetise non-market impacts in project appraisal.

Used by international institutions

OECD, the European Commission, and national statistics offices use it to track natural and social capital alongside GDP.

Used by capital markets

IFVI, Value Balancing Alliance, and Capitals Coalition standards inform corporate impact reporting under IFRS sustainability disclosure.

02 · Method

Two numbers and what they mean

Two numbers appear throughout this report, both are in euros. Read together, they give a fuller picture of what L'Àgora enables.

Market-equivalent value

What this would cost if it had a price tag

What would it cost to replace L'Àgora's services through the market? A meal at meal prices, a legal hour at lawyer rates, cooled green space at what cities pay. Summed up, that is the Market-equivalent value (face-value euros). Unless otherwise stated, results presented here will be in market-equivalent value.

eQALY-adjusted value

What the same benefit is worth as well-being

The eQALY method, drawn from health economics, expresses benefits as quality-adjusted years of life. A euro of free childcare to a single parent in El Raval is worth more well-being than a euro in a wealthy household, and a euro saved by taxpayer money can be reinvested to produce more value to society. eQALY captures these effects.

The two numbers are usually close, but not identical.

02 · Method

This analysis is a floor, not a ceiling

L'Àgora, at its core, resists measurement. It produces no invoices, charges no fees, and most of what happens there is between people who do not record it. An outsider may see a patch of greenery and not much else, since standardised accounting language has no name for what is going on inside. While this report goes some way to capturing the unseen benefits of the L'Àgora, it cannot describe the whole thing, nor capture the intrinsic value that space provides to the community and people it serves.

This analysis was prepared in the weeks after the eviction notice, and many individuals and collectives were not interviewed. Several things L'Àgora provides are not included in this report, such as collective memory work, the trauma recovery of a neighbourhood that is subject to heavy policing, the building of solidarity across migrant, queer, women's, and labour groups, and the simple worth of the every day user of being known, recognised and being given a safe space in a city that is increasingly being touristified, financialised, further marginalising and pushing out vulnerable people and communities.

In addition to the above, every assumption has been checked against published evidence and chosen on the conservative side. The numbers that follows are a floor, not a ceiling. While the numbers help reveal a wider truth - there is value here that does not belong to any market, any balance sheet, or any system fixated on monetising the world around. This reports has measured what it could, the rest is what makes this place unique.

02 · Method

What this report does not measure

Each pathway below is real, evidenced in the literature, and likely happening at L'Àgora, but is not captured in the €1,831,007 figure for reasons of data, time, or methodological caution. Every one of them would push the figure higher.

Reduced petty crime & conflict de-escalation

Hours of low-level mediation, tensions defused before they become police calls or fights. Likely substantial; not yet quantified.

Trauma recovery for survivors of police violence

The lot is named after a man killed in police custody. For survivors of similar violence in El Raval, the space is part of a healing process the literature recognises but the model does not.

Collective memory & political imagination

Oral history kept, archives written, neighbourhood identity preserved. Recognised in cultural-economics literature but excluded from this analysis.

Material reuse and avoided emissions

Most of what L'Àgora runs on is recovered, including reused furniture, rescued groceries that would otherwise have been thrown out, and a single generator used only when essential. The waste, energy and embodied emissions avoided over more than a decade of operation are substantial.

Long-term climate adaptation

Heat-illness cases avoided over the next decade as Barcelona warms. Modelled here as a single-year flow, the cumulative climate-shelter value compounds.

Solidarity infrastructure

How the lot enables other initiatives to form mutual aid networks, political education, shared logistics across collectives. Recognised by economists as catalyst value but uncounted.

Ecology beyond the lot

Pollinators travelling to neighbouring lots; soil microbiome enriched; small biodiversity corridors formed.

Housing-pressure relief

Stable community means people do not leave the neighborhood early which means the housing market is less inflationary. Demonstrated in the displacement literature; not modelled here.

The €1,831,007 figure is therefore a floor, not a ceiling. The real value of L'Àgora to El Raval is meaningfully larger.

03 · Headline

A note on attribution

Many of today's societies attach value to ownership, everything needs to be attributed to a person or entity. A company earns the revenue from its products; a landlord owns deeds to land; an organisation claims the societal value that flows from its work. The value documented in this report cannot be attributed in that way. L'Àgora has no formal owner, no incorporated body, no governing board, no balance sheet of its own. The lot beneath it is owned by Sareb, and the space itself has no 'formal' personality.

What L'Àgora has, instead, is stewardship. Hundreds of collectives, neighbours, regulars, and visitors have made the space, kept it, used it, shared it, and passed it on. The value documented here was created collectively, by people most of whom were not paid and most of whose contribution does not appear in any contract. We attribute it, accordingly, not only to L'Àgora as an **enabling** space, but also to the complex, local, necessary and inimitable network of relationships that enable it.

This is in keeping with the space's purpose: a place that enables value rather than captures it, and a place whose worth is measured by what it makes possible rather than by what it owns.

03

The headline numbers

What L'Àgora enables in a year, and where the value goes.

03 · Headline

L'Àgora enables over €1.8 million a year of value

Market-equivalent value

€1,831,007 *per year*

eQALY-adjusted (well-being)

€2,169,334 *per year*

From a 700-square-metre lot, run by volunteers, with no public funding. Across forty-two measured pathways covering health, well-being, ecosystem services, food, legal support, and avoided costs to taxpayer money.

03 · Headline

What that means in context

€2,616

per square metre, per year

Higher than typical commercial rent in El Raval
(around €500–600/m² per year, Idealista listings).

€5,016

per day of operation

Equivalent to the budget of a small public service
running every day of the year.

>€20m

cumulative over 11 years

What the community has produced for El Raval since
the lot was reclaimed in 2014.

03 · Headline

Where the value goes



L'Àgora's value reaches three groups, and means different things to each. The largest share stays with El Raval, in the support for vulnerable young people, the 16,000 meals a year, the daily heat refuge for residents, the 240 collective meetings that which, due to lack of resource, might not happen, the harm-reduction support for 150 women, the iftar that fills the lot for thirty nights, and the regulars whose well-being is enriched by belonging to something.

A material share accrues to local and central government - emergency-room visits that don't happen, immigration and fines processes that don't escalate, welfare claims that don't need to be filed because the informal childcare keeps parents in work. This is money taxpayer money keeps every year that L'Àgora keeps running.

A smaller share goes to nature itself: 0.07 hectares of pollinator-friendly green in one of the densest urban cores in Europe, plus the ecological literacy that sticks with the children who visit the garden.

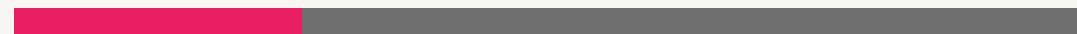
Local community

€1,371,027 · 75% of total



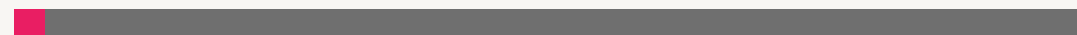
Local & central government

€434,630 · 24% of total

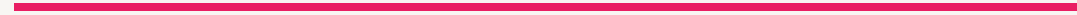


Nature

€25,350 · 1% of total



For the authorities reading this: closing L'Àgora does not save the state €434,630 a year - it transfers that bill onto Sanitat, Justícia and Benestar Social. On conservative assumptions; in practice the cost transfer is almost certainly higher.



03 · **Headline**

What the government saves

~€435k /year **~€4.8m** *cumulative since 2014*

€434,630 a year of avoided cost flows directly to local and central government, at no additional cost. This is what closing L'Àgora would transfer back onto the state, and most likely grow

Sanitat (Department of Health)

€52,500

Avoided healthcare costs from the meal service. 6,000 free meals a year intercept food insecurity before it becomes doctor visits, malnutrition admissions, and diabetes complications the public health system would otherwise absorb.

Justícia (Department of Justice)

€208,450

Avoided justice-system processing. €21,250 from legal aid for sex workers and migrants, plus €187,200 from the youth programme keeping vulnerable young people out of the criminal-justice system entirely.

Benestar Social (Welfare)

€169,180

Welfare claims not filed. Informal childcare for ten children keeps seven parents in paid work - that is €169,180 of subsidio Spain does not pay, plus tax revenue from the income enabled.

Interior (Police & enforcement)

€3,000

Avoided enforcement costs. The fines-fund settles administrative fines before they escalate into enforcement, court referrals, and police involvement.

What this figure shows and what it does not yet count

What this shows - each line is conservative, probability-adjusted, and validated against published Spanish cost data. What it does not yet count - e.g. Reduced 17 / 39 calls. Foster-care and child-protection cases averted through informal kinship support. Detention and immigration-enforcement costs. Mental-health treatment costs for the wider community. Heat-illness ER admissions over the next decade as Barcelona warms.

04

Eight ways L'Àgora enables value

Youth support. Garden. Belonging. Food. Culture. Refuge. Health. Care for the next generation.

04 • Theme 1 of 8

A safe space for vulnerable youth

100 vulnerable young people a year: care leavers, abuse survivors, criminalised youth.



Around 100 vulnerable young people a year find their way to L'Àgora - care leavers, abuse survivors, unaccompanied young people, and youth criminalised in El Raval. The lot offers a safe place to be, a network of adults who ask how they are, and a stability and support that diverts a life from homelessness, incarceration, or unemployment. Numbers below are heavily probability-adjusted, drawing on Spanish and European care-leaver and substance-recovery research, and are capped to a single-year benefit (all impacts are likely to last for more than a year, e.g. homelessness, employment, incarceration). These are therefore conservative estimates.

For Justícia and Benestar Social:

Each young person diverted from the criminal justice system saves Spain ~€23,400/yr of incarceration cost; each homelessness case averted saves ~€15,000/yr of shelter and emergency services. The youth programme is the single largest avoided-cost pathway in this report and the part with the highest overall social value.

Per-pathway methodology in the appendix.

Annual societal value

€967k

€1,255k eQALY-adjusted

Pathways

Employment earnings uplift	€414k
→ 25 young people in stable work	
Avoided criminal-justice costs	€187k
→ taxpayer money	
Avoided homelessness costs	€158k
→ taxpayer money	
PTSD / trauma symptom relief - wellbeing	€134k
→ 60 young people	
Substance abuse recovery	€45k
→ 35 young people	
Avoided homelessness - wellbeing	€29k
→ stabilised young people	

04 · Theme 2 of 8

Belonging, against loneliness

Community connection, valued through quality-adjusted life years.



Loneliness shortens lives in measurable ways. Health systems worldwide use quality-adjusted life years to capture this - about 0.061 years lost per year of chronic loneliness, 0.020 for the milder kind. For L'Àgora's regulars, daily contact at the space recovers some of those years. Beyond that, civic pride extends across nearly nineteen thousand El Raval households, and during Ramadan the lot fills nightly with people who make community.

For Sanitat:

Loneliness has tangible health costs, and chronic isolation has been compared in mortality risk to heavy smoking. The regulars at L'Àgora represent fewer cases the public health system absorbs over a decade.

(Civic pride refers to the well-being neighbours get from L'Àgora simply existing, valued via standard existence-value methodology over a conservative 40% of El Raval households).

Per-pathway methodology in the appendix.

Annual societal value

€209k

€194k eQALY-adjusted

Pathways

Loneliness - regulars- wellbeing	€68k
→ 30 daily regulars	
Loneliness - semi-regulars- wellbeing	€45k
→ 30 semi-regular visitors	
Iftar - regulars	€39k
→ 70 nightly Ramadan attendees	
Civic pride	€38k
→ 18,910 El Raval households	
Iftar - visitors	€20k
→ 450 rotating Ramadan visitors	

04 • Theme 3 of 8

Food, dignity, and a kitchen run by neighbours



Sixteen thousand meals a year, prepared by volunteers.

Sixteen thousand meals leave the kitchen at L'Àgora every year. Six thousand are free and the rest cost five euros or less, and the volunteers who cook them put in over three thousand hours a year. Among the people who eat them are unhoused people, sex workers, pensioners, undocumented migrants, and students - people for whom spaces and services like these are invaluable. The biggest piece of value here (other than the provision of the meal itself) is the healthcare cost (from malnutrition-related admissions) taxpayer money never pays because the meal was given.

For Sanitat and Benestar Social

16,000 meals a year intercept food insecurity before it becomes malnutrition or a hospital admission. The €52,500 of avoided healthcare cost is what this kitchen prevents - at zero cost to taxpayer money.

Annual societal value

€191k

€215k eQALY-adjusted
Pathways

Avoided healthcare costs	€52k
→ taxpayer money	
Avoided meal cost	€48k
→ 6,000 free-meal recipients	
Volunteer labour	€33k
→ kitchen team (donated)	
Affordable meal access	€30k
→ 10,000 low-cost meal recipients	
Malnutrition averted- wellbeing	€28k
→ free-meal recipients	

04 • Theme 4 of 8

Cultural and civic life

150+ collectives, around three thousand cultural attendances a year.



L'Àgora hosts about 240 collective sessions a year for many kinds of meetings and many kinds of organising that the neighbourhood's groups need a venue for. On top of that, around three thousand people pass through for cultural events that elsewhere in the city could easily charge fifteen euros a ticket. The value here is the price of avoiding these costs.

For the City Council:

150+ collectives that would otherwise need municipal venue subsidies are operating here for free (or they might not happen). The cultural programming this lot delivers is what the Council might otherwise budget for.

Per-pathway methodology in the appendix.

Annual societal value

€84k

€134k eQALY-adjusted

Pathways

Avoided venue hire	€48k
→ 60 collectives meeting at L'Àgora	
Cultural event access	€36k
→ ~3,000 event attendees	

04 • Theme 5 of 8

Paperwork, fines, and the system

Legal aid, passport help, and a fund for unfair fines.

L'Àgora helps with paperwork, including passports, visas, sex-worker legal aid, a small fund for unfair fines. Many of the people fined would not have gone to a lawyer, they would have gone home with the problem and tried to sleep. Anxiety reduction is what shows up in the figures: someone helping you understand your rights, in a place where you do not have to be afraid of the police. The avoided costs to emergency rooms, courts, and enforcement also add up.

For Justícia and Interior:

Passport help, legal aid, and the fines fund all keep people from sliding into court costs, deportation processing, and enforcement spirals. The women, and others, receiving legal aid here are cases not taken on by Catalunya's already-backlogged turno de oficio.



Annual societal value

€157k

€176k eQALY-adjusted

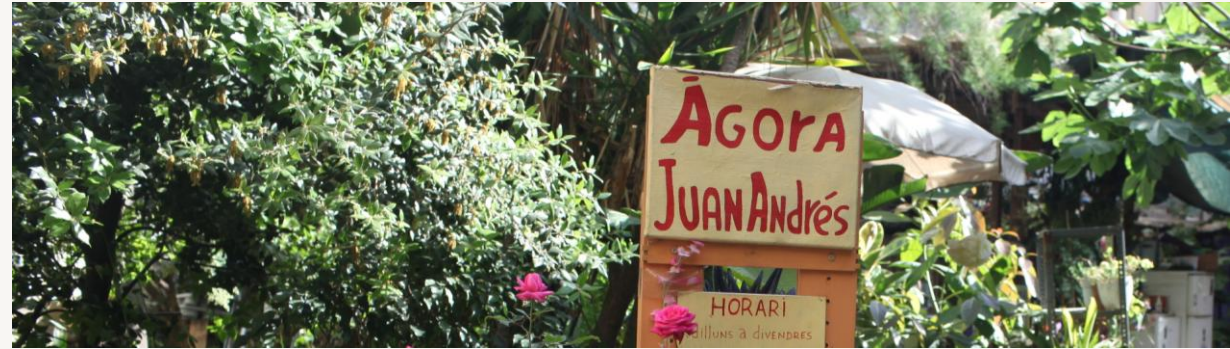
Pathways

Legal aid - anxiety reduction - wellbeing	€50k
→ 25 women (sex workers)	
Passport - anxiety reduction	€36k
→ 20 paperwork users	
Passport - avoided policy enforcement	€1.5k
→ taxpayer money	
Legal aid - avoided justice costs	€21k
→ taxpayer money	
Legal aid - avoided legal cost	€20k
→ 25 women	
Passport - avoided legal cost	€10k
→ 20 paperwork users	
Fines - anxiety reduction- wellbeing	€9.4k
→ 20 fines-fund users	
Fines - debt relief	€6.0k
→ 20 fines-fund users	
Fines - avoided enforcement	€3.0k
→ taxpayer money	

04 · Theme 6 of 8

Health and harm reduction

Punto Lila - health advice and HIV/STI prevention.



Punto Lila is the harm-reduction service that runs out of L'Àgora - counselling, anxiety support, HIV/STI prevention information. All of this is free, all confidential, and delivered without the police presence. About 150 women a year use it. The figures below are heavily probability-adjusted: anxiety is only counted where the woman would not otherwise have received support, and STI prevention only where transmission would plausibly have occurred. These are therefore conservative estimates.

For Sanitat:

Punto Lila reaches a population public services struggle to engage - sex workers in particular avoid services with police presence. STI/HIV prevention here costs next to nothing, a positive case in the system cost a lot.

Annual societal value

€78k

€70k eQALY-adjusted

Pathways

Anxiety reduction - wellbeing	€56k
→ 150 women using Punto Lila	
Avoided healthcare cost	€18k
→ taxpayer money	
STI/HIV prevention	€4.0k
→ women & their partners	

04 • Theme 7 of 8

Care for the next generation

Childcare for ten children, plus regular school visits and ecological education.



There are on average ten children per day in informal childcare at L'Àgora. These children might change throughout the year and can often be more. Their parents (seven of whom can hold paid work because of it, according to literature) bring around fifty-two thousand euros of additional income into their households each year. There are also fifteen hundred school visits a year, around five hundred unique children, who learn about ecology, the bees, the history of the lot, and are given a space to play and connect to the community.

For Benestar Social and Educació:

Families with informal childcare means seven parents in paid work, or €11,680/yr of welfare claims the state doesn't pay, plus tax revenue from parental income. School visits also count toward the Climate Plan's environmental-education commitments.

Annual societal value

€131k

€96k eQALY-adjusted

Pathways

Parental income enabled → 7 parents (mostly mothers)	€52k
Pro-environmental behaviour → future generations & environment	€25k
Environmental education → schoolchildren visiting the garden	€22k
Avoided childcare cost → 10 families	€20k
Avoided welfare costs → taxpayer money	€12k

Per-pathway methodology in the appendix.

04 · Theme 8 of 8

A garden that cools, cleans, and heals



0.07 hectares of green, in one of Europe's hottest urban cores.

In summer 2025, El Raval recorded 88 nights when the temperature did not fall below 20°C. For thousands of residents, those days and nights are dangerous. The trees and shaded ground at L'Àgora let the air cool - and let people cool with it. Visitor's mental health is supported by the greenery. Children learn the names of plants. Insects are given space in a neighbourhood mostly stripped of green. 800 distinct plant species exist on the plot. The largest piece of value here is microclimate cooling; the smallest is carbon. None of it is captured by an estate agent's view of the lot.

For the City Council:

A heat shelter and a piece of biodiversity already delivered, in a neighbourhood the Climate Plan 2018-2030 has flagged as a priority for greening - at zero acquisition cost. The Pla Endreça commitment, already existing in physical form.

Annual societal value

€13k

€30k eQALY-adjusted

Pathways

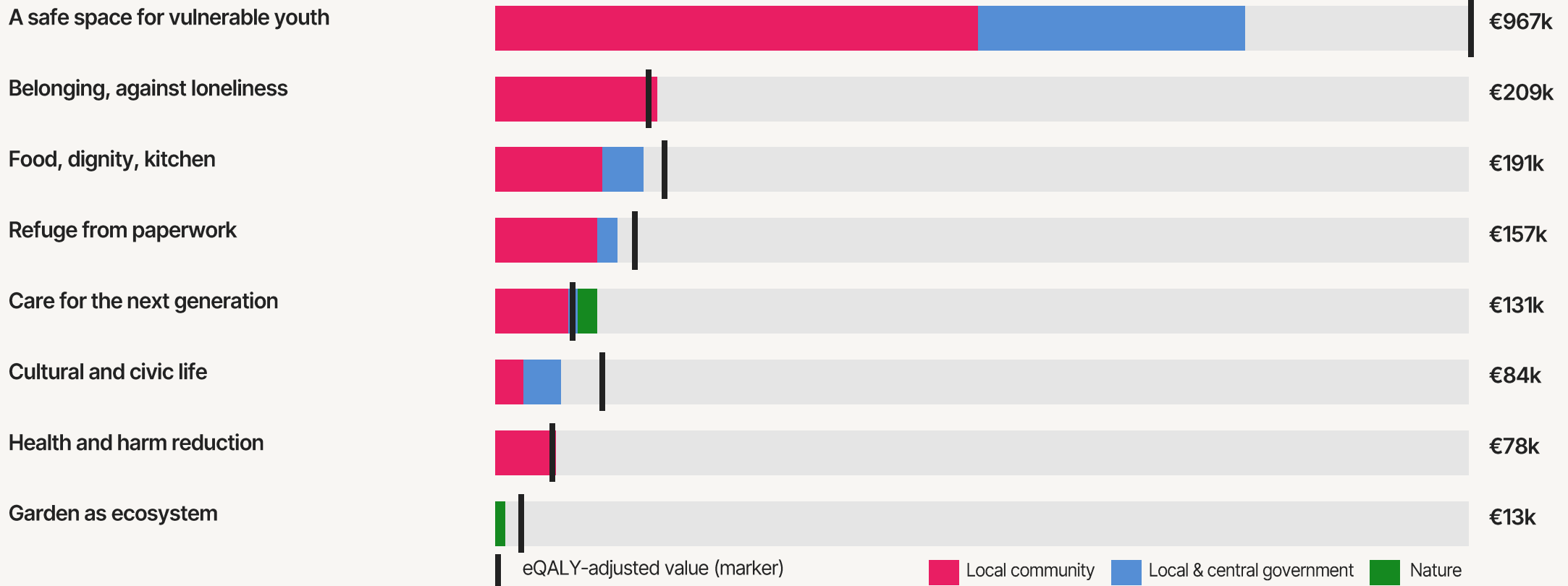
Heat relief and microclimate → Summertime visitors in need of shade	€11k
Air purification → nearby residents	€1.1k
Mental health restoration → garden visitors	€560
Biodiversity and habitat → ecosystem	€210
Pollination → local plants & food gardens	€140
Carbon sequestration → global climate	€20

Per-pathway methodology in the appendix.

04 · Themes

All eight themes, side by side

€ thousands per year - bar segments show where the value goes - market equivalent value



05

What the data refuses to say

Three common claims about places like L'Àgora, and the evidence on each.

05 · What the data refuses to say

Three first impressions and three sets of evidence

What a passer-by might assume, and what the analysis shows on each.

On the surface

“A small space doing not much.”

What the analysis shows

At least sixty people use it every day; and at least 5,000 across the year.

Six thousand free meals, ten thousand affordable ones, around 240 collective sessions, regular school visits, and a daily heat refuge through Barcelona's hottest months. By any measure of activity per square metre per year, the lot is one of the most intensively used 700 m² in El Raval.

€1,831,007 of measured value per year · ~€5,016 per day

On the surface

“Not productive land. No economic value here.”

What the analysis shows

A minimum of €435,000 a year of avoided cost flows to taxpayer money.

Emergency room visits Punto Lila users don't make. Fines that don't escalate into court costs. Welfare claims parents don't file because the informal childcare lets them work. Enforcement processes never opened. Close L'Àgora and these costs don't disappear, they land back on Sanitat, Justícia and Benestar Social, and almost certainly multiply.

24% of market-equivalent value · €435k/yr to government

On the surface

“Just one corner of the neighbourhood.”

What the analysis shows

One of the few places where completely different walks of life share the same ground.

On any given week, schoolchildren, undocumented migrants, sex workers, local organisers, elderly neighbors, and families breaking fast at iftar pass through the same lot. Around 60 collectives use the space (migrant, women's, queer, climate, labour) and they share it with people who would otherwise never cross paths.

5,000 unique visitors a year · 60 collectives that rarely meet elsewhere

06

Conclusions

06 · Closing argument

A vital organ, not only a flowerbed

Local community spaces are not service providers. They are infrastructure. The €1.83M in this report measures one year of one space - already a conservative figure. It does not measure what happens when the space is gone, when the people it served disperse, and the network it knits together unravels.

L'Àgora is one small node in a wider web of care work in El Raval. When a space like this closes, its users do not simply move to another. They lose a hot meal, a children's hour, a legal contact, a heat refuge, the people they had come to depend on. The harms that follow do not show up on the Sareb balance sheet - they show up in the public health system, the welfare system, and the neighbourhood itself.

Closing L'Àgora is not a service the city can re-produce. Closing it is not a neutral act of asset disposal - it is the removal of a working piece of social infrastructure, with consequences the community and the public sector will then have to absorb.

06 · Closing argument

Stated commitments, and what they imply

Sareb

Stated mission

Since April 2022, Sareb's mandate explicitly requires sustainability and social utility in managing its assets ([FROB](#)). 11,500+ social-housing leases have been delivered under this principle.

Implication

An asset producing a minimum of €1.83M of annual social value should not be disposed of through eviction without dialogue or consideration with local authorities and the community. The space is already providing the stated mission of Sareb (which acquisition contravenes), and to acquire, rather than allow it to continue, would likely lead to more harm than good for the community and local government finances.

Barcelona City Council

Stated commitments

The [Pla Endreça](#) (€435m, 2024–2027) commits the Council to public-space maintenance and citizen co-responsibility. [The Climate Plan 2018–2030](#) commits to a climate shelter within a 5-minute walk of every resident by 2030.

Implication

L'Àgora is already a climate shelter within five minutes of thousands of residents, and an example of the citizen co-responsibility the Pla Endreça asks for - at zero cost to the Council.

06 · Recommendations

Three possibilities

Sareb

Open dialogue

From Sareb's seat - a 700 m² lot to dispose of under a mandate that now requires sustainability and social utility. Pausing the 14 May eviction and opening dialogue with the community delivers exactly the social-utility test the 2022 FROB mandate set out - at zero operational liability for Sareb.

Barcelona City Council

Consider using the public-interest tools already in hand

From the Council's seat - 47,274 residents in El Raval, a Climate Plan 2030 commitment to a climate shelter within five minutes of every home, and a Pla Endreça co-responsibility programme in active deployment. Expropriation for public use, acquisition through a municipal real estate fund, or designation as climate shelter would meet the climate target on a lot already enabling €1.83M/yr of value, retain ~€435k/yr of avoided cost to Sanitat, Justícia and Benestar Social, and prevent the alternative scenario where a private owner replaces it with a use the Council might later need to subsidise.

To both

Treat self-organised community spaces as infrastructure

Looking at this jointly - Sareb has tens of thousands of assets to wind down before 2027, and Barcelona has dozens of self-organised community spaces operating without legal protection. Treating these spaces as infrastructure - and recognising the care work that built them as a public good - gives both bodies a working pattern for the cases ahead. The reduced bill on Sanitat, Justícia and Benestar Social wherever these spaces operate is real money.

*L'Àgora is the neighbourhood.
The neighbourhood is l'Àgora.*

- Anonymous, l'Àgora organiser

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Appendix

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Methodology notes

Framework

eQALY methodology developed by Valuing Impact. Disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) valued at \$59,446 per DALY, converted at the ECB 2023 average exchange rate of 1.064 USD per EUR, giving €55,879 per DALY.

Health weights

Disability weights from the Global Burden of Disease Study (Salomon et al.). Loneliness and isolation decrements from Engel et al., 2025 (HILDA, n=53,108).

Income adjustment

Health Utility of Income (HUI) translates monetary value into well-being on a diminishing-returns curve - a euro produces more well-being for low-income households. We use Albania's HUI (0.569) rather than Spain's (0.107) because El Raval's median household income is roughly half the Spanish average and includes high concentrations of undocumented and informally-employed residents whose income profile is closer to Albania than to median Spain. Albania is the closest readily-available proxy for the income level of L'Àgora's beneficiaries; using Spain's national HUI would understate the well-being a euro produces in this population.

State-cost adjustment

Health Utility of Tax (HUT) Spain (2.355) applied to public-sector cost savings, reflecting the well-being multiplier of public goods.

Ecosystem services

Per-hectare factors from peer-reviewed urban ecology studies (Chaparro & Terradas; Baró et al.; TEEB Valuation Manual), applied to the 0.07-hectare site.

Conservatism

Probability adjustments applied to all DALY-based pathways to reflect counterfactual uncertainty. Several plausible value pathways are not quantified in this report due to time constraints.

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How each pathway is calculated

Theme	Pathway	How it's calculated
Garden	Air purification	PM _{2.5} /ozone removed × avoided respiratory harm
Garden	Carbon sequestration	tCO ₂ e captured × Spanish carbon shadow price
Garden	Biodiversity / habitat	TEEB per-hectare biodiversity value × area
Garden	Noise reduction	dB attenuation × hedonic noise valuation
Garden	Pollination	TEEB pollination value × pollinator-friendly area
Garden	Heat relief / microclimate	Cooling capacity × heat-stress avoided per resident
Garden	Mental health restoration	QALY decrement averted × DALY value
Belonging	Loneliness - regulars	Engel QALY decrement × 30 regulars × DALY value
Belonging	Loneliness - semi-regulars	Engel QALY decrement × 30 semi-regulars × DALY
Belonging	Civic pride	Existence value × 18,910 households
Belonging	Iftar - regulars	Connection value × 70 regulars × 30 days
Belonging	Iftar - visitors	Connection value × 450 rotating × 30 days
Food	Avoided meal cost	6,000 free meals × €8 replacement cost
Food	Malnutrition averted	GBD disability weight × meals × DALY value
Food	Avoided healthcare costs	Food-insecurity costs avoided to taxpayer money
Food	Affordable meal access	10,000 meals × €3 consumer surplus
Food	Volunteer labour	3,280 hours × Spanish hospitality wage
Cultural	Cultural event access	3,000 attendances × €12 ticket-equivalent
Youth	PTSD / trauma symptom relief	100 × 60% × 30% × DW (anxiety proxy) × DALY value
Youth	Substance abuse recovery	100 × 35% × 20% × DW (drug dep.) × DALY value
Youth	Avoided homelessness wellbeing	Loneliness DW × averted homeless cohort × DALY

Theme	Pathway	How it's calculated
Cultural	Avoided venue hire	240 sessions × Barcelona venue-hire rate
Refuge	Passport - avoided legal cost	20 cases × €500 lawyer rate
Refuge	Passport - anxiety reduction	Probability-adjusted anxiety DALY × 20 cases
Refuge	Passport - avoided policy enforcement	Avoided enforcement & processing costs (state)
Refuge	Legal aid - avoided legal cost	25 cases × €800 lawyer rate
Refuge	Legal aid - anxiety reduction	Probability-adjusted anxiety DALY × 25 women
Refuge	Legal aid - avoided justice costs	Avoided justice-system processing
Refuge	Fines fund - debt relief	20 fines paid × ~€300 average
Refuge	Fines fund - anxiety reduction	Probability-adjusted anxiety DALY × 20 fines
Refuge	Fines fund - avoided enforcement	Avoided enforcement and escalation costs
Health	Punto Lila - healthcare cost	150 women × avoided GP/ER episodes
Health	Punto Lila - anxiety reduction	Probability-adjusted DALY × 150 women
Health	Punto Lila - STI/HIV prevention	Counterfactual transmission × DALY value
Care	Childcare - avoided cost	10 children × Spanish nursery rate
Care	Childcare - parental income	7 parents × additional working income
Care	Childcare - avoided welfare cost	State welfare cost avoided per stable family
Care	School visits - education	school visits × education-experience value
Care	School visits - behaviour change	schoolchildren × €50 behaviour shift (climate-ed lit.)
Youth	Employment earnings uplift	100 people × 25% × Spain SMI 2025 (€16,576/yr)
Youth	Avoided criminal-justice costs	100 people × 20% × 40% × €23,400 (ACAIP)
Youth	Avoided homelessness costs	100 people × 30% × 35% × €15,000 (Spain shelter)

Per-pathway euro values shown on the theme slides (16–22) and on the next slide.

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All forty-two pathways

Theme	Pathway	Real (€)	eQALY (€)	Theme	Pathway	Real (€)	eQALY (€)
Garden	Air purification	1,117	2,629	Cultural	Avoided venue hire	48,000	113,028
Garden	Carbon sequestration	20	47	Refuge	Passport - avoided legal cost	10,000	5,691
Garden	Biodiversity / habitat	210	494	Refuge	Passport - anxiety reduction	35,673	35,673
Garden	Noise reduction	70	165	Refuge	Passport - avoided police enforcement	1,500	3,532
Garden	Pollination	140	330	Refuge	Legal aid - avoided legal cost	20,000	11,382
Garden	Heat relief / microclimate	10,800	25,431	Refuge	Legal aid - anxiety reduction	50,166	50,166
Garden	Mental health restoration	560	1,319	Refuge	Legal aid - avoided justice costs	21,250	50,039
Belonging	Loneliness - regulars	68,173	68,173	Refuge	Fines fund - debt relief	6,000	3,415
Belonging	Loneliness - semi-regulars	44,703	44,703	Refuge	Fines fund - anxiety reduction	9,388	9,388
Belonging	Civic pride (existence value)	37,819	21,524	Refuge	Fines fund - avoided enforcement	3,000	7,064
Food	Avoided meal cost	48,000	27,318	Health	Punto Lila - healthcare cost	18,000	10,244
Food	Malnutrition averted	28,108	28,108	Health	Punto Lila - anxiety reduction	55,740	55,740
Food	Avoided healthcare costs	52,500	123,625	Health	Punto Lila - STI/HIV prevention	4,023	4,023
Food	Affordable meal access	30,000	17,074	Care	Childcare - avoided cost	20,000	11,382
Belonging	Iftar - regulars	38,848	38,848	Care	Childcare - parental income	52,360	29,799
Belonging	Iftar - visitors	19,979	19,979	Care	Childcare - avoided welfare cost	11,680	27,504
Food	Volunteer labour	32,800	18,667	Care	School visits - education	22,500	12,805
Cultural	Cultural event access	36,000	20,488	Care	School visits - behaviour change	25,000	14,228
Youth	PTSD / trauma symptom relief	133,775	133,775	Youth	Employment earnings uplift	414,400	235,843
Youth	Substance abuse recovery	45,374	45,374	Youth	Avoided criminal-justice costs	187,200	440,811
Youth	Avoided homelessness wellbeing	28,633	28,633	Youth	Avoided homelessness costs	157,500	370,874

TOTAL - 42 pathways (conservative model) **Market-equivalent €1,831,007** **eQALY €2,169,334**

Beneficiary breakdown (Local community / Government / Nature) on slide 27. Methodology in the appendix slide before this one and the publicly available excel model.

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Sources and contact

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This analysis was prepared by Valuing Impact

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