

Project Management Update from Argentina



By Cecilia Boggi, PMP
International Correspondent
Buenos Aires, Argentina

“2018 Summer Youth Olympics Games in Buenos Aires”

Under the slogan "*Feel the Future*" and with an ambassador of the stature of Argentine footballer Lionel Messi, Olympic gold medalist, the City of Buenos Aires prepares to host the "*III Summer Youth Olympic Games*" taking place in dates October 6th to 18th, this year, after been selected by the International Olympic Committee in 2013 and beating the other two finalist cities: Medellin and Glasgow.



Photo: The Olympic Rings in the center of 9 de Julio Avenue, emblem of the city of Buenos Aires.

This international multi-sport event takes place every four years, and this is the first time it takes place outside the Asian continent. The previous games were held in Singapore in 2010 and China in 2014.

Although it is the first time that Argentina is hosting the Olympic games, Buenos Aires has already organized the Pan American Games in 1951 and the South American Games in 2006.

This Olympic competition, consisting of 241 sporting events over 32 disciplines and in which will participate approximately 4,000 athletes from more than 200 countries between the ages of 15 and 18, will take place in four parks and four other independent stadiums.

To carry out the Games, it has been necessary to develop multiple projects and programs, from different industries, ranging from the design of the emblem of the games, the creation of the Olympic mascot that turned out to be a young Yaguareté (a southamerican animal, very similar to the Jaguar) called "Pandi" and the design of the Olympic torch, to the construction of the Olympic Village where the athletes will reside and the intervention of the Roca Sports Park, incorporating new sports infrastructure, such as olympic pools, sports courts and athletic tracks, constituting the new Olympic Park.



Photo (left to right): Emblem of the Youth Olympic Games Buenos Aires 2018, image of the Olympic Mascot called "Pandi" and design of the Olympic torch.

Roca Sports Park, the base of the new Olympic Park, was designed at the end of the 70s by the architect and Olympic athlete and South American champion of jumping on fence, Estanislao Kocourek, who was part of the Olympic delegation in Helsinki 1952.

The Olympic Park project, designed by the architect Álvaro García Resta, undersecretary of Projects of the Buenos Aires Ministry of Urban Development and Transportation, respects the Kocourek masterplan and includes six sports halls in an area of 33 hectares: one dedicated to water sports; another for artistic and rhythmic gymnastics and four multipurpose pavilions for various activities. Cost of this project is 100 million dollars.

The most impressive pavilion, 65 meters wide by 135 meters long and 17 meters high, have two professional swimming pools, one Olympic and the other for jumping.

The construction of the swimming pools was millimetric, without margin for error, since the international federation must measure and approve it. A mobile bridge allows the 50-meter Olympic pool to be divided into two professional 25-meter pools in order to carry out two tournaments at the same time.

The pavilions are linked by a pedestrian path with pergolas of 1500 meters linking all buildings and outdoor sports areas with spaces for recreation, food and rest.

The new facilities of the Olympic Park were validated by the International Olympic Committee, respecting highest world standards in sports equipment and contemplating criteria of sustainable construction, such as energy efficiency, the rational use of materials and resources, respect for green areas and reforestation.



Photo: Roofing Project of the Mary Terán de Weiss Stadium, one of the venues of the Olympic Games.

In addition to the new facilities, another important project carries out the installation of a sliding roof to the Mary Teran de Weiss Stadium, one of the main venues of the Olympic Games.

The structure will cover the entire surface of the stadium, approximately 13,000 square meters, and will enable the opening and closing of its central area, mounted on two big arches that act as a support and also as rails for the movement of the roof when it needs to be opened or closed. Each arch weighs 190 tons, reaches a height of 43 meters and is made up of 17 modules made of steel pipes.

With this project, the city of Buenos Aires will have the largest indoor arena in the country, which will allow it to host as both sporting events and music recitals well as shows in general.

With regard to the so-called Olympic Village, the project that ended in record time and had a budget of 250 million dollars, consisted of the construction of 31 buildings of up to eight floors, with units of one, two and three rooms, built at a distance of 500 meters from the Olympic Park, to host international athletes. The work also involved laying all the infrastructure: running water, sewers, gas and power lines, since there was no service in the place.



Foto: Villa Olímpica que albergará a los atletas internacionales.

Ms. Florencia Piñero Villar, General Director of the whole project, had the function of coordinating the simultaneous work of the different contractors, with more than 2000 people working at the same time and 13 giant cranes, during several moments of the work.

A very important aspect of this Olympic Village is that it will be inhabited by 1200 families once the games were finished, constituting a totally new neighborhood, responding to the need for housing in the south of the city of Buenos Aires.

The Project Director says that they took the experiences of the Olympic Villas of Barcelona, London and Rio de Janeiro, to see what they recommended to do and what not to do.

As you can see, projects are part of our lives, not only in the professional aspect, but also in sports, recreation and family and personal life. In Argentina today we are witnessing large projects that improve the quality of life of many people.

For more information about the Olympic Park and the Olympic Village, check the following links of the Government of the City of Buenos Aires: [Olympic Park](#), [Stadium](#) and [Olympic Village](#) (Spanish) or [2018 Summer Youth Olympics Games](#) (English)

From the point of view of the activities of the PMI chapters of Argentina, it is worth noting that calls for papers for the PMI Tour Cono Sur 2018 to take place in the cities of Buenos Aires, Rosario, Cordoba and Mendoza, have already been launched under the motto "*Manage, adapt and reinvent a world through Projects*".

You can find the bases and forms to present the proposals in the links: [Buenos Aires](#), [Rosario](#), [Córdoba](#) and [Mendoza](#).

More information about local Project Management events, enter the sites **PMI Buenos Aires Argentina Chapter** [website](#), **PMI Nuevo Cuyo Argentina Chapter** [website](#), **PMI Cordoba Potential Chapter** [website](#). To contact **PMI Rosario Chapter in Formation** write to email rosario@pmi.org.ar.

About the Author



CECILIA BOGGI

International Correspondent

Buenos Aires, Argentina



Cecilia Boggi, PMP is founder and Executive Director of activePMO, giving consulting services and training in Project Management and Leadership skills in Argentina and Latin America.

After graduating with a degree in Computer Science Engineering from Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina, she has managed software development projects and PMO implementation projects for more than 20 years both in the government and private sector. Cecilia has an Executive Master in Business Administration from Universidad Francisco de Vitoria, Spain and also has graduated from an Executive Program in Business Management at Universidad del CEMA. She holds the Project Management Professional (PMP®) credential since 2003, is certified as SDI Facilitator from Personal Strengths©, is a Professional Executive Coach accredited by Association for Coaching, UK, and alumni of the PMI Leadership Institute Master Class 2012. Ms. Boggi was President of the PMI Buenos Aires Argentina Chapter in 2011, and is a founding member of the PMI Nuevo Cuyo Argentina Chapter and other four PMI Chapters in Latin America. She has been designated by PMI as Region Mentor of Region 13, Southern Latin America, for the years 2014-2017. Cecilia has participated in the development of PMBOK® Guide 5th Edition, leading the Chapter 9, Human Resource Management, content team and she is professor of Project Management and Leadership in some Universities and Institutes in Latin America.

She can be contacted at cecilia@activepmo.com and www.activepmo.com