

# LGM Niterói/Rio de Janeiro in 2017



*Illustration 1: Niteroi from above (CC - Non Commercial - R. Assumpção)*

Proposal to hold the Libre Graphics Meeting in Niteroi/Rio de Janeiro in 2017

## Team and Contact

João S. O. Bueno - [gwidion@gmail.com](mailto:gwidion@gmail.com)  
Carlos E. L. Cruz - [cadunicomail@gmail.com](mailto:cadunicomail@gmail.com)  
Guilherme Razgriz - [razgriz@crialivre.com.br](mailto:razgriz@crialivre.com.br)

## Proposal presentation

Niteroi is a beautiful city across the bay from Rio de Janeiro (the city) - featuring about 500.000 inhabitants. It is the living city of Carlos E. Cruz and the palce where the last installs of the GNUGraf - a local conference in Free Software Graphics, focused on users, had taken place.

As the first LGM out of Europe/North America axis, this would take the conference to one of the most famous landscapes in the World - Rio de Janeiro, and at once, a place where a conference on Libre Graphics Software already takes place for almost a decade.

Over the last 7 years, Carlos E. Cruz had brought forth the GNUGraf conference - either in Niterói or in Rio de Janeiro - a Designer Conference presenting the Libre Graphics tools (exclusively) aimed at students professionals of design. The proposal is for the year 2017 to join both conferences, making GNUGraf take place inside the Libre Graphics Meeting.

Beyond these local events, Brazil itself hosts two large FLOSS events each year - FISL at Porto Alegre and Latinware at Foz do Iguaçu - both events at their peak around 2010 gathered nearly 10000 attendants.

That combined with the opportunity to extend the LGM reach beyond North America/Europe were it normally takes place, and the natural beauties that can be met both in Niterói and Rio de Janeiro themselves and on the adjoining cities and places should be enough motive to bring LGM to Niterói.

There is an outline bellow for Accommodation, Travel and transportation information, security, health, and other relevant issues, that should be important for deciding whether the city is suitable for hosting LGM or not. The information in this document, however is not complete for people actually travelling, and on the upcoming months, as part of preparation for the LGM, we shall build an extensive document containing the detailed relevant information for attendees.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Niter%C3%B3i>

## Partners

The main proposed partners for the conference would be the Niteroi city municipality itself. Other potential partners in the area are some (more than 5) universities and colleges, both in Rio de Janeiro and on Niterói, which had in the recent past given full support for the realization of the local conference with the same focus: GNUGraf.

UFF: Universidade Federal Fluminense: with several buildings and spaces across the town, is sympathetic to FLOSS, and we can count with institutional aid, to be formalized on the months following the acceptance this proposal.

The GNUGraf conference itself - averages 100 participants, mostly students - that is more or less the same size LGM's have been. At each of these times he has been able to establish partnerships with a local College, and in 2013/2014/2015 with Niterói municipality, in order to secure the Venue for the conference - and establishing other partnerships - mainly with Serpro:Brazilian official data processing organ, for lending computers where practical workshops could be held, and local branches from Banco do Brasil for additional sponsorship.

Besides these local institutions, Brazil features stabilished Free Software committed NGOs to which the organizing team have good relations or direct participation which can back-up the conference as needed with institutional help: ASL (Associação de Software Livre - which yearly organizes FISL - one of he

largest Free Software Conferences in the World), Associação Python Brasil, and ALTA (ALTA - Associação Libre de Tecnologias Abertas) (not, at this moment signatories of this proposal)

There is not, at this moment, secured partnerships for a 2017 LGM at this location - but there is a sure commitment as there can be with the historic realization of seven libre graphic conferences, and a scheduled 8<sup>th</sup> for 2015, with varying partners in the area.

There are other, Free Software Contributors related to the Libre Graphics Scenario in Brazil which would help - mostly remotely with a LGM realization

## Proposed Date

There is no fixed date as of yet, but the ideas would be to make LGM 2017 happen in September/October that year: it is spring time, and historically the dates closer to GNUGraf realization.

A tentative date maybe set for 17, 18 and 19<sup>th</sup> September 2017 - and should be fixed, along with the Venue, by May 2016 should this proposal be approved by LGM.

## Main Location



*Illustration 2: Caminho Niemeyer: proposed main venue as seen from the Guanabara Bay*

The last GNUGraf took place at the Caminho Niemeyer complex at Niterói, and there is a strong chance the venue could be secured for LGM 2017 - ([http://pt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caminho\\_Niemeyer](http://pt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caminho_Niemeyer) )

It is a complex of buildings designed by world famous architect Oscar Niemeyer, owned by Niterói municipality. The main auditorium there has 130 places, plus adjoining classrooms. Should we detect in the preparations this size not to be enough, we'd divert the venue to a larger place in the UFF Campus.

In the event a partnership with the municipality is not secured, there are also contacts at UFF (Universidade Federal Fluminense) which could grant the venue in Niterói and other Colleges in Rio de Janeiro as fallback.



*Illustration 3: Caminho Niemeyer*



*Illustration 4: Cam. Niemeyer, main room, evening during GNUGraf 2014*

## More about the Team

The main, initial team for organizing Brazil LGM would be

### João Sebastião de Oliveira Bueno

Log time GIMP contributor and LGM attendee for every year but for 2013 and 2015. Would deal with securing contacts, helpers and possible sponsors from remote location (Campinas - SP ~ 600Km from Niterói)

### Carlos Eduardo Mattos da Cruz

Local organization person - will make the deals for the venue and local partnerships. Lives in Niterói, is seven times organizer of the GNUGraf conferences. User - and lectures on the use - of Libre Graphics Software

### Guilherme Razgriz Magalhães

Well known graphics designer using Libre Graphics Software, organizes commercial courses and workshops on LG-Software - and is a long time helper on the FLOSS scene in Brazil - also currently living in Niterói.

Besides these 3 on the initial team, there are several more people on the Free Software Scenario in Rio de Janeiro, and Libre Graphics scenario in Brazil who will jump on the boat - the two year horizon however was too far for we to get oral commitment in order to have names written down here for now.

## **Free software acceptance or support in the host country**

Brazil is a major user of FLOSS and open standards at Federal government level. To the point the Open Document Format is a national recommended specification for interchange and archival of official documents. A lot of the federal government internet portals are built around Free Software, and there is a growing movement towards enhancing the collaboration of the agencies building those services back upstream. We highlight “<http://www.brasil.gov.br>” - a large portal which aggregates hundreds of news sources and services and is built with the Plone CMS.

Beyond the implied hundreds of people which would be enthusiast about bringing LGM to Brazil, this support will be leveraged while looking for LGM Sponsorship

## **FLOSS Events at Rio:**

Brazil has got a large user base for FLOSS, among students, and government alike. There are no remarkable regular events at Rio de Janeiro (or Niterói) itself - but for two issues of the Brazilian Python Conference (Pythonbrasil in 2008 and 2012) and GNUGraf itself. Niterói is also one of the host cities to “FLISOL” - a large event that takes place simultaneously in various cities across Latin America. There are local Free Software “personalities” in Rio that will most likely be around, if not as direct collaborators, as participants on LGM.

## **Enrolment with local communities**

As part of the preparation (and sponsorship deals) we will take extra efforts to try and get Libre Graphics more known to publicity, TV, and other media companies from Rio, Niterói and other locations - we should get some workshops along the event to get new enthusiast users with that.

Also, we would usually contact more development professionals - from the Python community and others, besides computer sciences (/related) students to try to get more people to get involved in direct code collaboration with the LGM related projects.

## **As for Hacker spaces**

At this moment there are no active hackerspaces in Rio or Niterói which could provide a meeting point/maker culture party for LGM participants. There are, as outlined above, several people with both professional and enthusiast ties with free software that should get close.

## **Ethical and political issues**

### **Political issues**

There is a scenario of economic unease, which in 2015 had led to a people gathering on the streets against the government. The general manifestations against the federal government are taken in a democratic way, and there were no issues of repression on the instances we had on March, the 15<sup>th</sup> and April the 12<sup>th</sup> this year. Manifestation of striking workers - teachers included - asking for improvements in pay, career and school infrastructure, on the other hand have been met with strong reaction from the

Police - but in other states than Rio de Janeiro. The cover of international and local mainstream press for the real issues is poor. Both kind are localized and unlikely to interfere with events going on outside the manifestation areas.

## **Racial and other prejudice**

With politics for open migration on the early XX century, and an Iberic Colonial past Brazil is on of the most racially diverse countries in the World - while in real world this means a far from day-to-day absolute prejudice free the situation is much better than in other places were racial difference is notable at a distance.

However the society is built in such a way there is a veiled “rich” vs “poor” separation and while there is no direct confrontation, this can lead to uncomfortable situations.

Likewise there is no discrimination of discomfort with woman in any role they might be - that we are just now on the second term for our first female president is just one more thing to put there.

## **Code of Conduct**

From the inception there is a strong commitment to improving and following the Code of Conduct as currently required for LGM - in order that everyone may attend with no harassment issues at all. Should issues take place, there will be on local contact persons to help access the issue as per the guidelines, and as should be detailed in a following document.

## **Getting there**

Niterói is located close to Rio de Janeiro - which is fit with an International Airport, the second major Airport in Brazil (and featuring also another, local airport)

There is bus service each 12 minutes (during the day) from the Airport to Niterói downtown - and a taxi ride is set to cost less than the equivalent to USD30.00. Bus tickets are under USD 2.50.

There is both bus and boat service from Niterói to Rio - the boats being used as regular urban transportation, (doubling as touristic attraction) costing less than USD 2.00 for the 20 min trip to/from Rio de Janeiro downtown (suited to tourism)

## **Safety and Security**

Some places in Rio de Janeiro city are internationally infamous for lack of security, and there is not much we can do to help that. For one staying on regular people/tourism routes, the places are rather safe, though - and it would not differ from a visit to may other places in the World.

Besides, Rio is set to host the 2016 Summer Olympic Games, and as preparation for such, the regional

security schemes should be greatly improved.

In short: of course no one can recommend climbing a Favela alone while bearing a 1000 + USD camera, both Rio and Niterói are very nice places to be, and Rio remains the single largest tourist destination in Brazil - despite any news.

Real World issues: English communication skills among the population are low, and there may be people set to try to take advantage on that (with just a little English it is easy to approach foreigners asking for information/directions, since most people would turn them away) . This scenario is supposed to improve a bit with the preparations 2016 Olympics Games - and as part of the preparations for a LGM in Rio we will prepare a short leaflet with tips of who to engage/where to go/who to contact and remain safe.

## Health issues

The main health concern for people in Brasil over the last few years is the sickness known as “Dengue” - it is transmissible by Mosquito bite. Current rates are not alarming, and one in an urban area in Ri de Janeiro state is “statistically safe” - as the dates set for LGM (Sept/Oct) are in the low mosquito season. There is no vaccination for Dengue, but usage of mosquito repellents can mitigate the chances of dangerous bites to non-issue levels.

Should the worse happen, the person will feel ill, with fever and severe pain along 7 - 15 days. Fatality rates are under 4 in 10000 cases of the sickness. Again, more information on this and prevention will be in the document to follow acceptance. (Personal note from João: in 40 years, I had one close relative to get ill once from this - although its spread may vary from year to year - and neither me or relatives use repellents on a regular basis)

## Visa

It is easy to get to Brasil, and there are more than 70 countries that are Visa free for up to 90 days stay - two notable exceptions for which a Visa is required are travelers from the USA and Canada (due to a fair diplomatic reciprocity policy).

The full list of example countries can be found here:

<http://www.cgbrasil.org/Templates/InsideTemplate.aspx?PostingId=267>

As LGM Brasil approaches, we shall issue a travel guide with thorough instructions to get a Visa, if needed (And the team will be happy to help individual people with issues finding the needed information as well)

## Accommodation

Accommodation in Rio or Niterói should not be a major issue - with “world class” hotel rooms costing at most USD120.00 for two people and several cheaper options - again, the future leaflet to be composed for LGM Rio will contain more information will detail the more affordable options and transportation



to/from the Venue from those.

## **Food**

Brazil thrives with good food options, and eating close to the venue - a street cross away from downtown Niterói is easy.

Access to vegetarian meals is also easy for Ovo-Lacto vegetarian folks - strict vegetarian will also find it easy to eat “proper food” at lunch time, as normal “urban” restaurants feature dishes with rice, vegetables, leaf salad, and fruit.

We should detail it further, but coffee breaks should be supplied along the conference on the venue space, which will allow for snacks - (although we don't expect now this will be able to replace main meals for most folks)

## **Budget and Expenses**

Budget for an LGM in Brasil is possibly the major challenging point of it all - LGM usually sponsors the flight for willing participants and tickets here are more expensive than across E.U. or North America. This should be the major expense for the conference.

Budget for the venue, electrical power, internet connection are expected to be covered from our venue and traditional GNUGraf partnerships. Travel costs, however would add significantly to that - a typical roundtrip from Europe to Brasil will be around 1100.00 Euro compared to 400.00 Euro for intra-Europe flights. We will have to rely on the international community pledges and help for sponsor partnerships for this type of funding - even though we will make great efforts for getting local corporate sponsorship for the conference.

Another nicety we will settle to is real time translation services - that would greatly improve the experience for Brazilian participants (most LGM events, if not all, will be held in English) - the cost to that may also amount to something close to USD10000.00 for 3 days of conference.

## **Sponsorship Possibilities**

There are a few major corporations which can typically help Free Software events if enough advance/care is taken on the approach - namely Banco do Brasil and Serpro - these are official Brazilian institutions that usually sponsor FISL.

We will get in touch with medium/large media enterprises and as part of the Sponsorship deals, tell them about free software for Graphics - which is actually a win-win situation given the LGM goals.