Live audio description to the 2017 Samba Carnival Parade in Florianópolis, Brazil

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Project

Out of the passion for samba and Brazilian culture, I applied for and was granted the Fellow Mundus Scholarship at the Federal University of Santa Catarina in Florianópolis, Brazil.

Tasks:

- desk research on Brazilian culture and social life
- AD workshops for UFSC staff and students
- visits to Rio de Janeiro & Salvador
- live AD at the Sambódromo in Flopranópolis

Brazil in numbers

- population: 190 mln
- area: 8,5 mln sq. km
 ←→ Europe 10 mln sq. km
- 18,8% = over 36 mln
 people with visual
 impairments or sight
 loss problems



Challenges of the project execution

Former president Dilma Rousseff lost impeachment trial, Michel Temer assumed presidency on 31st of August 2016 and due to his reforms, the wave of strikes has paralysed Brazil. Students occupied universities and the City Hall cut off 50% of funds for Carnival, including the budget for audio description.



Qualidad

What is samba?

- Lively, rhythmical dance of African origin that was first brought by
 African slaves to Salvador (Bahia, Brazil) and cultivated there, then
 transferred to Rio de Janeiro. Today, it is the dance of Carnival that
 symbolises fight for liberation and equality, social satire, mockery of
 authorities, sense of social unity among various social classes.
- An extremely symbolic, colourful, details-saturated event.
- Samba parades, referred to by Brazilians as the "Greatest Shows on Earth", consist of samba schools parades, with participation of up to 3,500 people at each school placed on giant platforms /carros/ and walking in columns /alas/ - they are drummers, dancers, acrobats and extras.
- Every year, each samba school writes lyrics and composes music of their samba piece /samba enredo/, using scenography and sets of the platforms as well as costumes /fantasias/ of participants to interpret it.

Samba school parade

Preparation

- travel to Salvador, visits to qiolombos, participation to Bahian National Ballet show
- visit to Museu do Samba in Rio de Janeiro, watching 8
 Parades during the 2017 Carnival at Sambódromo in Rio de Janeiro
- watching on YouTube recordings of samba schools rehearsals for 2017 parades
- a thorough study of the media guide and schools' websites
- analysis of samba enredo of each school

Audio Introduction & AD script

- description of the venue, its dimensions, exits, toilets, food
 & drink courts, parades schedule
- brief school's history, founders, victories, artistic team
- texts on the grandstands
- samba enredo

- subsuquent elements appearing on the avenue
- costumes description
- dance movements description
- meaning (story) of platforms and costumes

Delivery

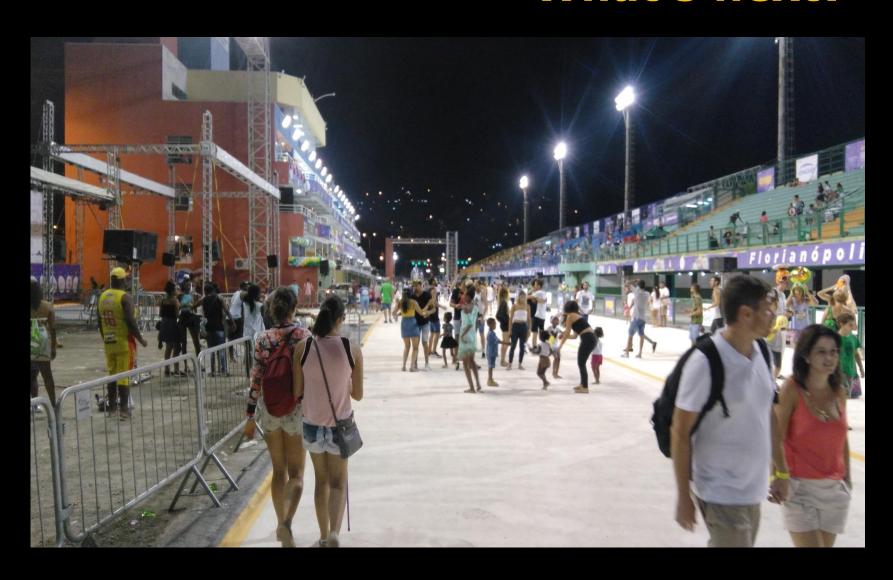




Suggestions for the future

- Touch tour including touching fabrics, costumes, props, instruments & platforms
- Samba workshop for the visually impaired conducted by a samba dancer, during which samba movements would be explained and showed (and touched by the participants), different positions and rhytms would be presented, so that they could be referred to during the audio description

What's next?



Thank you!

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