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Dear Friends,

On behalf of my colleagues at the Mexican Cultural Institute, I am proud to share this overview of our fruitful and dynamic year of cultural programming, artistic dialogue and arts education in the nation’s capital.

We welcomed over 18,000 visitors in 2017, and hosted several exhibits, concerts, film screenings, cooking demonstrations, lectures and more. This year was an especially exciting time to create spaces to showcase Mexico as a diverse, creative culture in rich dialogue with the United States.

With Mexico’s cultural presence on the rise across the United States, we are pleased to have witnessed a corresponding increase in visitors to our Institute, as well as an expansion of institutional partnerships, philanthropy, school field trips, and artistic residencies. It is this support from dedicated patrons and collaborators that allows us to continue presenting and promoting relevant multidisciplinary programs of the highest quality.

As a non-profit arts organization, the Mexican Cultural Institute plays an important role in making the arts accessible to our local community and to our visitors from around the world. This would not be possible without the fundamental support of the Embassy of Mexico, particularly Ambassador Gerónimo Gutiérrez Fernandez, as well as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. I hope that you have enjoyed the numerous events we have offered this year as much as we have, and I look forward to another great year ahead!

Sincerely,

Alberto Fierro

Executive Director
Mexican Cultural Institute

Mexican visual artist Chantal Peñalosa (left) created a performance-installation piece about Mexican muralism as part of a new year-long artistic residency by St. Paul-based art collective FD13 at the MCI.

2017 Cultural Programming Highlights

In 2017, the MCI brought an eclectic mix of innovative and timely cultural programs, new artistic residencies, and cherished annual traditions to its growing audience in the nation’s capital. The MCI presented 64 programs, both in-house and through its many collaborations with Washington’s leading artistic institutions and universities. These programs included top-tier art exhibits, music concerts, theater productions, film screenings, gastronomy, literature, architecture, and other artistic or academic lectures. 95% of our programs are free and open to the public.
VISUAL ARTS

TIERRAS AMBULANTES, an exhibition curated by participating Mexican artist Paloma Torres, explored the work of seven sculptors who use clay as a means of returning to cultural roots and origins. The works by Ana Gómez, María José Lavin, Perla Krauze, María José de la Macorra, Gustavo Pérez, Saúl Kaminer and Paloma Torres show the versatility of clay and the breadth of Mexico’s ceramic tradition.

EL VUELO Y SU SEMILLA was an exhibit of installation pieces by renowned Mexican artist Betsabeé Romero. The exhibit underscores the role that eating and cooking play in Mexican identity and culture around the world. Romero’s works explore these phenomena through symbols like papel picado and tires, and culinary components, like bread and corn.

BEFORE THE 45th marks the first exhibit of Chicano art displayed at the MCI. These works from the AltaMed Art Collection reveal how Southern California-based Latino artists have documented their communities’ experience over the past four decades of the Chicano movement.
EVA YBARRA, the “Queen of the Accordion,” is one of few professional women accordionists in conjunto music, a unique regional musical genre originating in the late 19th century in working-class communities along Texas-Mexico border. This year, we honored Eva Ybarra at the MCI to celebrate her receipt of the prestigious NEA National Heritage Fellowship. This was one of 12 Mexican music programs presented in our gilded Music Room.

PASATONO ORQUESTA filled the stunning Kogod Courtyard with the sounds of Oaxaca, in conjunction with the Smithsonian American Art Museum’s Tamayo: The New York Years. The exhibit is the first to examine Oaxacan artist Rufino Tamayo’s work created in New York. The Pasatono Orquesta Mexicana is dedicated to preserving and reinterpreting indigenous Oaxacan music on traditional instruments.

YO TAMBIEN HABLO DE LA ROSA, an Emilio Carbadillo play produced by GALA Hispanic Theatre and co-presented by the MCI, featured award-winning Mexican film, TV and theater actress Julieta Egurrola as the Medium. This U.S. premiere beautifully transported the audience to 1960s Mexico City in a searing look at poverty and society’s diverse ideological responses to it.
In 2017, the MCI celebrated the 10th anniversary of its popular Mexican Table cooking demos, pioneered by celebrity Mexican chef Pati Jinich. This year’s four-part series featured regional cuisine and guest chefs from Puebla, Oaxaca, Baja California and the common Mayan region of Southern Mexico and Guatemala.

MCI collaborations with DC’s top film festivals, series and symposiums throughout the year brought award-winning new and classic Mexican films, directors, producers, and actors to theaters across the city.

GASTRONOMY
ELENA PONIATOWSKA is a French-born Mexican journalist and author, specializing in works on social and political issues concerning disenfranchised women and the poor. She is the recipient of the Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra Prize. As part of the University of Maryland’s José Emilio Pacheco Distinguished Lecture Series, the MCI hosted her for a talk in Spanish titled ‘En México siempre tiembla’.

VERONICA MURGUIA represented Mexico this year at the 2017 Library of Congress National Book Festival, which focused on literature for children and youth. Murguía is a Mexican fantasy writer who has won multiple prizes for her children’s literature and novels. She has worked as a columnist for cultural supplements in Mexican newspapers and as radio host and educator.

CRISTINA RIVERA GARZA, a Mexican author and professor, presented a lecture in Spanish at the MCI titled ‘Un Rulfo de Carne y Hueso.’ She examined the life of renowned Mexican writer and photographer Juan Rulfo, and the day jobs that both sustained and influenced his creative work. This talk was presented in collaboration with the University of Maryland Department of Spanish and Portuguese.
TATIANA BILBAO, an award-winning Mexican architect, spoke at the District Architecture Center about affordable housing with high spatial efficiency in urban Mexico. The MCI co-hosted this interactive lecture.

OTHER LECTURES

SERGIO GOMEZ, an archaeologist at Mexico’s National Institute of Anthropology and History, presented recent findings from his research on the ancient city and civilization of Teotihuácan. Presented at the MCI as the inaugural event of the Dumbarton Oaks Teotihuacan: The World beyond the City Symposium, the lecture revealed a new insights on the links between ancestral urban design and cosmology.

CARLOS SANCHEZ-GUTIERREZ and RICARDO ZOHN-MULDOON shared video footage of their recent opera “Don’t Blame Anyone/No se culpe a nadie,” a staged work involving music, physical theatre, and puppetry, based on the drawings of noted Mexican cartoonist Jis. The Mexican composers engaged in an open dialogue at the MCI about the encounter between imagination and creativity in their artform.
DIA DE LOS MUERTOS is our most popular celebration at the MCI, bringing in thousands of visitors and students to learn about the altar tradition, a colorful display of Mexico’s intangible cultural heritage.

PASSPORT DC is a hallmark of Washington’s vibrant cultural diplomacy scene, and this year the MCI was especially pleased to share with friends and families a selection of new works by its resident folkloric Mexican dance group, Soles de Mexico. In 2017, the MCI hosted three extended artistic residencies to cultivate, promote and present the work of emerging Mexican artists and companies in DC.

NOCHE IBEROAMERICANA is an annual night of international food, music and art organized in collaboration with the Ibero-American Cultural Attachés Association (AACIA). In 2017, the featured countries on the menu were Cuba, Paraguay, and Spain, with drink pairings from Argentina, Chile, Peru and El Salvador, and a VIP section for Ecuadorian chocolate tasting. On this occasion, the MCI opens its doors to the rich and diverse cultures of the region.
The MCI attracts diverse audiences year-round with its free admission and quality cultural programs. In 2017, the MCI opened its doors to 18,028 visitors, a 25% increase from 2016. In addition to these visitors, the MCI welcomed thousands more at event collaborations in other venues. The MCI’s audience ranges from students, educators, families, diplomats, artists, government agencies, tourists, and neighborhood friends.
GUIDED TOUR PROGRAM

As part of our mission to promote arts education and practice cultural diplomacy, the MCI offers free guided tours of its historic mansion and its permanent three-story mural by Roberto Cueva del Río. The guided tour engages visitors with different painted scenes from Mexico’s social, cultural, and economic history, including prehispanic traditions, colonization, industrial era modernization, and Panamerican integration. Now over 75 years old, the Roberto Cueva del Río mural is also an exemplary visual tool for introducing students to the 20th-century artistic movement of Mexican Muralism.

In 2017, MCI tour guides led over 130 tours for over 4,000 students, government officials, foreign service trainees, senior homes, and professional associations. The most popular season for guided tours is during our annual celebration of Day of the Dead, during the month of November, when our fresh and colorful altar display and holiday traditions become a focal point of the tours.

TALKS WITH THE DIRECTOR

For university students and special high school groups, such as Model United Nations or leadership programs, the Executive Director of the MCI offers interactive educational presentations about current U.S.-Mexico relations. These talks are intended to nurture interest in bilateral relations in a new generation of leaders.
ARTS EDUCATION

Many local K-12 school teachers and university professors have incorporated a visit to the Roberto Cueva del Río mural into their Spanish language or cultural studies curricula. Every year, the Institute receives student groups from across the United States and abroad interested in learning about Mexican culture.

With 72% of school field trips from DC, Maryland, and Virginia (DMV)—and half of those from public schools—the MCI is proud to make Mexican art accessible to local students, fostering a globally aware and culturally sensitive youth.

ARTISTIC RESIDENCIES

Throughout the year, the Mexican Cultural Institute offers on-site temporary lodging for visiting Mexican artists who come to Washington to present work at the MCI or at other institutions.

The MCI expanded its artistic residency programs in 2017 to invite artistic collective FD13 and two emerging DC-based Mexican folkloric dance companies to rehearse, create, and perform in the historic mansion.

The two resident dance companies, Corazón Folklórico and Soles de Mexico, in turn offered free classes to community members, and performed periodically at schools, community centers, national parks festivals, and other non-profit organizations on behalf of the MCI.

In creating this new space for yearlong residencies, the MCI has become an incubator of new projects that preserve and teach important Mexican cultural traditions while engaging local residents with the arts.
INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS

Over the past 25 years, the MCI has developed ongoing partnerships with key artistic and academic institutions that have expanded the reach of Mexican culture and art beyond our Institute. Our most involved partner is the Embassy of Mexico, which founded the MCI and continues to support its administration. In 2017, the MCI co-presented programs with the following new and veteran partners in the U.S.:

**FEATURED COLLABORATIONS**

**FILMS ACROSS BORDERS: STORIES OF MIGRATION** is a festival presented by American University's School of Communications in partnership with the MCI and a consortium of film presenters, museums, and embassies. Free screenings and post-show talks told inspiring stories of courage and hope, through the lens of international filmmakers via dramatic features, documentaries and shorts.

**TAMAYO: THE NEW YORK YEARS** is the first exhibition to explore the influences between Mexican modernist Rufino Tamayo and the American art world, highlighting the hemispheric cultural exchanges of the early 20th century. With MCI support, curator Carmen Ramos brought 41 of Tamayo’s finest artworks to the SAAM. This collaboration is the latest in series of projects at the SAAM that aims to situate the art of the U.S. in a global context.
DONORS

The Mexican Cultural Institute sincerely appreciates its 2017 corporate sponsors and individual donors who have provided crucial support to the cultural programming presented this year and next year. Their interest and enthusiasm in our work continue to motivate us.

All donations are directly allocated to artist fees, event production and other program-related expenses.

2017 CORPORATE SPONSORS

PLATINUM LEVEL: $20,000

GOLD LEVEL: $10,000

SILVER LEVEL: $10,000

2017 INDIVIDUAL DONORS

The Army Distaff Foundation
Judy Bauer
Laurie and Phil Best
Thomas Cohen
Tammie Collins
Rita Cooley
Eduardo Díaz
Fidelity Charitable
Christine M. Garcia
Teresa Grana
John and Rosemary Lyon
Juan Bosco Marti
Mary Gale McCall
Judith Neibrief
Ofelia Nieto
Oneness Family School
Mari Paz
Mace Rosenstein
Hortensia Saginor
Guillermo and Cecilia Schultz
Ron and Edith Seckinger
Barbara Tenenbaum

DEDICATED ANNUAL SPONSORS
## FY 2017 BUDGET SUMMARY

### FUNDING SOURCES

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<tr>
<th>Funding Source</th>
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<td>Contribution from Mexican Ministry of Affairs</td>
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<td>2017 Earthquake Relief Fundraiser</td>
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### EXPENDITURES

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<td>Fixed Costs**</td>
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<td>Mexican Table</td>
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<td>Donation to 2017 Earthquake Relief Fund</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
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* Airplane and train tickets, artist fees, per diems, design and printing, materials, security, catering
** Permanent Collection Insurance, Accounting Services, banking fees, software subscriptions, etc.
*** Hospitality, office and guest house materials, maintenance, transportation, support services
BANK OF AMERICA ART CONSERVATION GRANT

The Mexican Cultural Institute was honored to receive a Bank of America’s Art Conservation Project Grant for the restoration of the Roberto Cueva del Río murals at the Institute. In 2017, Bank of America provided grant funding to 21 major art restoration projects in six countries, in an effort to preserve the historically and culturally significant works in danger of deterioration.

Now over 75 years old, the Roberto Cueva del Río murals at the Institute comprise the centerpiece of our guided tour program, an important educational resource for local community engagement.

The mural restoration will be executed by expert conservation technicians from Mexico’s National School of Conservation, Restoration and Museology (ENCRyM) from July through August of 2018 at the Institute.