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Dear Patrons of the Mexican Cultural Institute,

I am pleased to share this overview of our productive and lively year of cultural programming, artistic dialogue, and arts education in Washington, D.C. In 2018, the MCI team had the opportunity to present a wide array of exhibits, concerts, film screenings, cooking demonstrations, lectures, and more to over 20,000 visitors.

We are pleased to have witnessed a continuing increase in visitors to our Institute, as well as an expansion of institutional partnerships. By showcasing Mexico as a country characterized by diversity and creativity and emphasizing its rich dialogue with the United States, we were able to foster artistic collaborations of many kinds throughout the year.

The support we receive from dedicated patrons and collaborators allows us to continue presenting and promoting relevant, high-quality, multidisciplinary programs. As a non-profit organization, the Mexican Cultural Institute plays a vital role in promoting access to the arts within our local community and to our visitors from around the world. These cultural programs would not be possible without the fundamental support of the Embassy of Mexico and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It is my hope that you have enjoyed the cultural and educational events we offered in 2018. I look forward to another fantastic year with your presence and support.

Sincerely,

Alberto Fierro
Executive Director
Mexican Cultural Institute
In 2018, 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, concerts, theater productions, film screenings, gastronomy, literature, architecture, and other artistic or academic lectures. Almost all of our programs are free and open to the public.

2018 Cultural Programming Highlights

Inside the drawing room at the Mexican Cultural Institute, which overlooks the Roberto Cueva del Rio murals.
VISUAL ARTS

A Dark and Scandalous Rockfall was a collaborative installation by Perla Krauze and Barbara Liotta, artists from Mexico and the United States, curated by Laura Roulet. Krauze and Liotta showed their art using the embedded meaning of natural stone - where it came from, its form, color, and texture, what it is used for - to enhance their stacked and suspended sculptures, and create a joint installation together.

Wixárika was an exhibition of native artisanry presented by the Hermes Music Foundation. The Wixárika, also known as the Huichol, are a native people of pre-Colombian origin from Mexico’s western Sierra Madre region. The Huichol have employed an intricate and painstakingly beautiful beading technique, nearika, to record their history and spiritual traditions through artwork. This exhibit presented musical instruments decorated in this style by Huichol artisans.

Constructing Mexico68, an exhibit which celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the first Latin American Olympic games, took audiences through a simple and concrete exploration of the sporting venues built for the 1968 Mexico City Summer Olympics. This exhibit examined the architectural innovation of the games and spotlighted the urban art that played a fundamental role in the iconic MEXICO68 games.

Vested Values, curated by Jose Manuel Springer is a selection composed of more than 40 works of various Mexican contemporary artists, explores the representation of nature and its sociocultural environment. Each of the works come from the program, Payment in Kind, which allows Mexican artists to pay their taxes with their art works.
PERFORMING ARTS

A performance of traditional and contemporary Mexican and Latin American choral music by *Staccato*, choir of the National Autonomous University. Keeping with the University’s spirit of innovation, the choir constantly seeks out newly-written and avant-garde music, focused mainly on *a capella* choral music of the 20th and 21st centuries.

To complement American University Museum’s exhibit, *Toledo Multiple*, the Oaxacan musical group *Alma de Cuerdas* performed at American University’s Katzen Arts Center. The ensemble is composed of eight professional musicians from Oaxaca and is committed to promoting the arts among the youth, and spreading Mexico’s culture abroad through its music.

The MCI presented the Music Series, *La Música de México*, curated by Carlos Sánchez-Gutiérrez. It included a connected and comprehensive program of concerts, conferences, and recitals with some of Mexico and the US’s most renowned composers, musicians, and academics. The participants in the series were among the best in their respective fields, and included the Alla Balaena Ensemble, Saúl Bitrán and Sally Pinkas, and the Momenta Quartet, among others.
FILMS

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.

MCI PARTICIPATION IN DC FILM FESTIVALS

|= MCI-sponsored Q&As with Mexican filmmakers
|= Mexican films co-presented by MCI

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

In 2018, the MCI celebrated the 11th anniversary of its popular Mexican Table cooking demos, pioneered by celebrity Mexican chef Pati Jinich. This year featured four sessions: Flavors of Oaxaca with Guest Chef Alex Ruiz, Mexican Fish and Seafood from North to South, Exploring Mexico’s North: Chihuahua, and End of the Year in Mexico: Tamaliza!
LECTURES AND READINGS

Through a partnership with the Americas Initiative and Georgetown University, the MCI presented a conversation between Georgetown Professor John Tutino and UChicago Professor Emilio Kourí. Moderated by Catholic University Professor Julia Young. The talk focused on John Tutino’s new book, The Mexican Heartland: How Communities Shaped Capitalism, a Nation, and World History, 1500-2000.

Through the Cátedra Cultura de México Program, a lecture series created through a partnership between the MCI, the Mexican Ministry of Culture, and American University’s Center for Latin American & Latino Studies, Mexican author and professor Carmen Boullosa participated in a public panel discussion at American University about her work. The Cátedra program is an arts-based initiative that invites notable Mexican artists to visit American University to engage faculty and deliver public lectures.

As part of the José Emilio Pacheco Distinguished Lecture Series / Cátedra José Emilio Pacheco presented by the MCI and the Department of Spanish and Portuguese of the School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures at the University of Maryland, writer Cristina Rivera Garza gave a lecture at the MCI, titled, “Writing in Spanish in the United States Today.” The lecture series was a joint effort that served as a forum for intellectuals whose work focuses on the literary and cultural traditions of Mexico and Latin America.
As part of the Mexican Cultural Institute’s "Música de México" series, Ana R. Alonso-Minutti, Associate Professor of Musicology & Ethnomusicology at The University of New Mexico Department of Music, presented a lecture titled, “Chavela’s Frida: Singing pain, Performing Desire” where she discussed Frida Kahlo through the lens of Chavela Vargas and her performances of “La Llorona.”

A conversation with designer Manuel Cuevas and altarista, or altar maker, Ofelia Esparza, two artists of Mexican heritage who received the 2018 NEA National Heritage Fellowship, moderated by Director of the Smithsonian Latino Center, Eduardo Díaz. The NEA National Heritage Fellowships recognize the recipients’ artistic excellence and support their continuing contributions to the United States’ traditional arts heritage.

The MCI supported the National Museum of Women in the Arts in their presentation of Mexican sculptor Betsabee Romero’s sculptures as part of the fourth iteration of the New York Avenue Sculpture Project, the only public art space featuring changing installations of contemporary works by women artists.
MEXICAN TRADITIONS AT THE MCI

Our 2018 Day of the Dead altar was titled, “They Silence Us,” and was prepared by Irene Clouthier, Mexican artist based in Washington, D.C., in collaboration with artists, María Freixas, Enrique Quiroz Sanchez, and Marta Pita. The altar was dedicated to all of the women worldwide who have lost their lives due to violence.

Dia de 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 an annual event where Embassies in Washington DC open their doors and welcome visitors to experience art and culture from countries all over the world. In 2018, visitors were able to see two art exhibits at the MCI, “A Dark and Scandalous Rockfall” and “Constructing MEXICO68” as well as three dance performances by group, “Corazón Folklórico.” Beyond the exhibits and performances, visitors were also able to view the mansion and its famous murals.
The MCI attracts diverse audiences year-round with its free admission and high-quality cultural programming. In 2018, the MCI opened its doors to 20,273 visitors, over a 12% increase from 2017. 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.

**MCI VISITORS IN 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Visit</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Independent Visit</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guided tours</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational presentation</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCI Cultural program</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private/Embassy Events</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SPOTLIGHT: STUDENT GROUP VISITORS**

- **Higher education**: 26%
- **K-12**: 70%
- **Other (Adult ESL, Diplomats)**: 4%

**Chart Title**

- **Guided tours**: 17%
- **Educational presentation**: 6%
- **MCI Cultural program**: 30%
- **Independent Visit**: 12%
- **Private/Embassy Events**: 35%
- **Other (Adult ESL, Diplomats)**: 4%

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**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

- **First meeting of CONACyT scholars in North America**
- **Resident Artist: Corazón Folklórico**
- **Embassy Adoption Program**
GUED 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 Pre-Hispanic traditions, colonization, industrial era modernization, and Pan-American 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 2018, MCI tour guides led over 160 tours for over 4,600 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.

Adjacent panels of the Roberto Cueva del Río mural, Landing of Columbus and Founding of Tenochtitlán, tell a Mexican narrative of colonozation of the Americas to visitors of the MCI.

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.
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.

The MCI is proud to make Mexican art accessible to local students, fostering a globally aware and culturally sensitive youth.

**ARTS EDUCATION**

**TYPES OF STUDENT VISITORS**

![Graph showing types of student visitors]

Students: 62%
K-12: 38%
Higher Education: 18%
Other (Foreign Language Schools, Foreign Service Institute): 20%

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

**ARTS EDUCATION**

**TYPES OF STUDENT VISITORS**

Members of Corazón Folklórico Dance Company performing at the Día de Muertos altar opening.

Mexican-American flautist, Elena Durán, played a selection of pieces at the MCI to celebrate Mexican actor and singer, Pedro Infante. The program included some of his most popular songs, played together with clips from his iconic movies.
INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS

Over the past 29 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 2018, the MCI co-presented programs with these U.S. partners:

- American Film Institute (AFI)
- American University School of Communications and Center for Latin American and Latino Studies
- Corazón Folklórico
- District Architecture Center
- DC Public Schools (DCPS)
- Dumbarton Oaks
- Environmental Film Festival
- Films Across Borders
- GALA Hispanic Theater
- Georgetown University
- Iberoamerican Cultural Attachés Association (AACIA)
- Immigration Film Festival
- The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
- Library of Congress
- National Endowment for the Arts
- National Gallery of Art
- National Museum of the American Indian
- National Museum of Women in the Arts
- ProMexico
- Spain Arts & Culture
- Smithsonian American Art Museum (SAAM)
- Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage
- Smithsonian Latino Center
- University of Maryland
- Washington Performing Arts

FEATURED COLLABORATIONS

Film Across Borders: Stories of Women 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 Q&A sessions showcased films that are both by women and about women. This film series presented vital issues that women face, from fighting gender inequality to helping other underrepresented groups present their own stories.

The MCI partnered with Halcyon Labs, the Goethe Institut, Artechouse, and the Embassy of Canada for the presentation of Envisioning the Future - Other World Perspectives in Virtual Reality Art. The exhibit, curated by Mexican curator Erandy Vergara and by Tina Sauerlander, used Virtual Reality to transport its viewers to vastly different parallel futuristic worlds.
DONORS

The Mexican Cultural Institute sincerely appreciates its 2018 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, allowing us to offer cultural programs at no cost to the public.

2018 CORPORATE SPONSORS

2018 INDIVIDUAL DONORS

Hortensia Saginor
Rick Trevino
Mary Margaret Miller
Margaret Parsons
Ernesto Castaneda
Eduardo Diaz
Christine M. Garcia
Eduardo Wallentin
Evi Triantafyllides
Alan Brandes
Lynnette Asselin
Bob and Peggy Dennis
John Lynch
Mari Paz
K. Mitchell Snow
Louise Meyer
Fabien Armogathe
Maria Delima
Margaret Dennis
Judy Bauer
Diane Eames
Victor Hernandez
Patrick Kidd
Judith Neibrief
Gabriel Espana Carbajal
FY 2018 BUDGET SUMMARY

FUNDING SOURCES

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<th>Funding Source</th>
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<td>Corporate Contributions</td>
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<td>Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs Cultural Programs</td>
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<td>Other Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs Contributions</td>
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<td>CONACYT Scholars 2018 Program</td>
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<td>Contributions for use of facilities of the MCI</td>
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<td>Ticket Sales (Mexican Table Program)</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>$656,426.70</td>
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EXPENDITURES

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<th>Expenditure</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Programs and Exhibits *</td>
<td>$120,320.14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Programs (MexAm Festival Seattle 2018, Casa Mexico SXSW, CONACYT Scholars 2018, National Celebrations of Mexico 2018)</td>
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<td>Fixed Costs **</td>
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<td>Administrative Costs ***</td>
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<td>Mexican Table Program</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>$654,896.07</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* Travel expenses, artists fees, design and printing, materials, guards, catering, etc.
** Insurance, accounting and audits, banking services, fees and memberships, etc.
*** Hospitality, guest house expenses, maintenance, transportation, support services, etc.

Restorers from Mexico’s National School of Conservation, Restoration and Museography with Ambassador Gerónimo Gutiérrez, Bank of America VP Gisela Pazmino and MCI’s director Alberto Fierro.
Thanks to a grant from the Bank of America Art Conservation Project, the Institute welcomed expert art conservationists and their students from the National School of Conservation, Restoration, and Museography of the National Institute of Anthropology and History to perform a months-long restoration of the murals.

The project treated the alterations and deterioration from natural aging and anthropologic causes to restore the fresco, now more than 70 years old, to its original state. This timely revitalization of this cherished work of art allowed it to continue to serve as a valuable education resource and emblem of cultural diplomacy.
Visiting hours:

Monday-Friday: 10 AM - 6 PM
Saturday: 12 - 4 PM
Sunday: Closed

front cover:
Tehuantepec Flower Festival Mural by Roberto Cueva del Río at the Mexican Cultural Institute after the summer 2018 restoration

back cover:
Tehuantepec Flower Festival Mural by Roberto Cueva del Río at the Mexican Cultural Institute before the summer 2018 restoration