



# FRIENDS OF THE IXCHEL MUSEUM

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## FOIM DISPLAYS TRAJES AT BAK'TUN EVENT

**“[A] singular opportunity to educate people about the Guatemalan textile tradition in the US”**

**Models for the "desfile de trajes tipicos" featuring traditional woven textiles from the FOIM collection during the Baktun 13 celebration, and the Maya Calendar "alfombra" made of colored sawdust.**

Photos: Beth Johnson and Yolanda Alcorta

At the invitation of the Guatemalan Mission to the Organization of American States, FOIM participated in 13 Bak'tun events held at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) in Washington, D.C. From December 14-16, a full program entitled *Bak'tun 13: a Guatemalan Celebration of Time* featured photography, dance, lectures, marimba music, on-site weaving, a sawdust rug designed for the occasion...and a show of stunning textiles on live models.

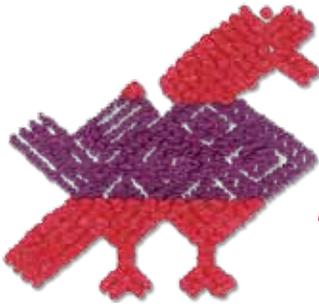
Board vice-president Yolanda Alcorta led the effort, assembling 7 complete costumes from the FOIM collection and supplemented with items owned by board members or the models themselves. Communities were selected based on the depth of FOIM holdings, and by their being featured in the concurrent photographic exhibit by Juan Carlos Lemus on the Rabin Ajaw displayed in the museum's Potomac Atrium. Yolanda recruited 14 models, a weaver from the local Guatemalan community, friends and family, to participate in the event. Rehearsals were complex – it

takes a long time to put on a full traje, and models had to learn to catwalk to son music!

Performances were a festival of color and sound, and the textile desfile (parade) was complete with Yolanda at the microphone, offering bilingual explanations. Board member Ana-Maria Zaugg enlivened the scene further with a table displaying FOIM publications, Museo Ixchel information, and the large huipil map. Guatemala's tourist board, INGUAT, offered general information about the country. We were fortunate that our presentation attracted not only people interested in the event itself, but also, due to our central location, visitors entering the museum.

Rodrigo Vielmann, Guatemalan Ambassador to the OAS, gratefully acknowledged our participation in this important event, and FOIM was delighted with this singular opportunity to educate people about the Guatemalan textile tradition in the US, a key element of our mission.





# THE MUSEUM

**The Museo Ixchel is located on 6a Calle final, zona 10, on the grounds of the Universidad Francisco Marroquín in Guatemala City. The museum is open from 9am to 5pm, Monday through Friday, and from 9am to 1pm on Saturday. Admission is Q35 for adults, Q15 for students and Q8 for schoolchildren. For further information on library access and holiday closings and more, please visit [museoixchel.org](http://museoixchel.org) or telephone 502 2331 3622**

Lorena Guinac (middle) from Quetzaltenango, the second place contest winner in the Category of Weaving and Embroidery sponsored by Anchor, presented by Angélica Valenzuela (right) from Anchor and Maria Renee de Aguilar (left), the director of the Museo Ixchel.



☼ Museo Ixchel sent eighteen pieces (16 huipiles and 2 su'tes) to an exhibit of traditional textiles from the Americas at the Palacio de la Moneda in Santiago, Chile. The exhibit opened on March 14, 2013 and is on display until July 14, 2013. Other countries lending textiles to the exhibit include Mexico, Peru, Bolivia, Argentina and Chile. In the past, the process of sending pieces abroad has been complicated and expensive. New procedures established by the Guatemalan Ministry of Culture have streamlined the process, allowing the museum to participate more easily in international exhibits. The textiles on loan represent thirteen communities and seven different linguistic and ethnic groups. Museum registrar Violeta Gutierrez traveled to Santiago to help with installation and label copy.

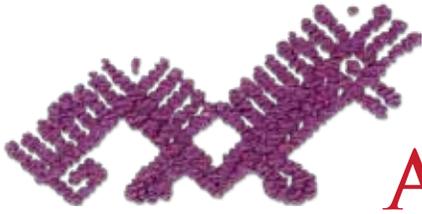
☼ In January, a museum research team funded by FOIM traveled to the Quetzaltenango region to visit six communities: Almolonga, Concepción Chiquirichapa, San Martín Chile Verde, San Juan Ostuncalco, La Esperanza and San Francisco El Alto. Their goal was to gather current information about these communities by interviewing weavers, adding to the photo archive, and by purchasing textiles in new styles not represented in the collection.

☼ New Staff: New museum store manager Greta Bock de van Blerk brings a wealth of retail experience and marketing to the position. Maria Isabel Nolck's task is to rejuvenate and develop the Museum's traveling exhibit program within Guatemala.

☼ Anchor, producer and distributor of fine threads used throughout Guatemala for weaving and embroidery, sponsored a second annual weaving contest. As in years past, Anchor supplied contestants with threads to use as raw material, and three months later a committee of local experts judged the submitted pieces and awarded prizes. Twenty-five weavers participated in three categories, and the proud winners were Silvia Karina Icu of San Juan Comalapa (embroidery and weaving), Cristina Lem Pérez of San Cristóbal, Alta Verapaz (innovation and creativity), and Claudia Johana Cael Icu of San Juan Comalapa (belts/sashes).

☼ Our annual picnic and fundraiser again took place at Finca El Zapote, attracting the largest crowd ever--over a thousand people. Multi-generational families enjoyed swimming, fishing, and other activities designed for children and adults. Everyone had a great time, and the event proved a very successful fundraiser. Our thanks go to the Leonowens family for extending their hospitality in making the spectacular finca available to the Ixchel Museum for this wonderful event.

☼ In April, over a hundred guests attended a luncheon fundraiser at Mitchell Denburg's beautiful, art-filled home in Antigua. Before lunch, guests visited a private collection (Colección Palacios-Weymann) of early 20th century Guatemalan paintings, colonial religious art, and silver. This collection soon will be open to the public in a new museum under construction in Antigua. Everyone agreed that the collections and venue were spectacular, and we raised significant funds for the museum.



# AN ACTIVE YEAR FOR FOIM



**Skilled weaver Sheba Velasco. Maya-Ixil from Nebaj, demonstrates alongside FOIM's table at the NMAH's Central American Traditions Festival kicking off Hispanic Heritage Month at the Smithsonian.**

Photos: Beth Johnson and Yolanda Alcorta

This past year Friends sponsored or participated in numerous outreach programs:

Last May, for the 30th anniversary of Maya Weekend and the opening of the exhibit *Maya 2012: The Lords of Time* at the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archeology and Anthropology, FOIM board members worked with museum staff to develop an exhibit showcasing examples from FOIM's collection. Ray Senuk, Yolanda Alcorta and Barbara Knoke de Arathoon presented a workshop entitled *Continuous Threads of the Maya Weaver* to demonstrate how types of thread, size of designs, dominant colors and weaving techniques can help date textiles. The workshop was such a success that FOIM has been invited by the International Hajji

Baba Society to conduct a similar workshop at the Textile Museum in Washington, DC on May 19, 2013. At that event, FOIM will host a table featuring Museum publications.

The summer season brought two outdoor *GuatFest* events, in Arlington, Virginia and in Lewis, Delaware. At both events, FOIM hosted a booth and managed a show with participants who wore their own *trajes* to the festival.

In September, a weaver worked alongside our table at Central American Traditions Family Day to open a series of events for Hispanic Heritage Month at the Smithsonian Institution. Juanita Velasco showed hundreds of visitors to the National Museum of American History how Maya textiles are woven on the backstrap loom in the *Ixil* tradition.

Delaware *GuatFest* connected FOIM to the new Ambassador and staff of the Guatemalan Mission to the Organization of American States (OAS) and led to our participation in the December Bak'Tun 13 event they co-organized at the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, DC. (See article)

In April 2013, we used *trajes* once again to greet 400 attendees of the OAS's annual gala fundraiser, *Spirits of the Americas*, this year sponsored by Ron Zacapa.

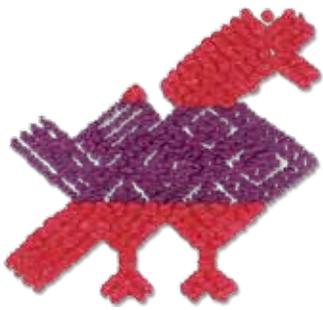
## TEXTILE MUSEUM OF CANADA FEATURES FOIM PIECES

Friends of the Ixchel Museum and Museo Ixchel are proud to announce their collaboration with the Textile Museum of Canada, lending 20 textiles to *Ancestry and Artistry: Maya Textiles of Guatemala* at the museum in Toronto (55 Centre Avenue). The exhibition opens on May 29, 2013 and runs until October 2013, and features approximately 90 textiles, including early 20th century examples as well as contemporary pieces. The exhibit catalog (approximately \$25-30 US) will be available through [shop@textilemuseum.ca](mailto:shop@textilemuseum.ca), or through the distributor ABC Art Books Canada ([abcartbookscanada.com](http://abcartbookscanada.com)). *Ancestry and Artistry* will travel to three additional venues

in Canada beginning in January 2014: The Reach Gallery Museum, Abbotsford; the Nickle Arts Museum, Calgary; and the Musée de Civilisation, Québec.

As part of the project, the Education Departments of the Textile Museum of Canada and the Museo Ixchel are collaborating on an initiative to engage Guatemalan school age children with classes in the Greater Toronto area.

[abcartbookscanada.com](http://abcartbookscanada.com)



## IXCHEL PUBLICATIONS



Three of the Ixchel's most appealing publications will now be available through the American-based Friends of the Ixchel Museum, eliminating the complications of ordering from the museum itself. *Rostros de la Guatemala Indígena, Images of Indigenous Guatemala* by Anne Girard is \$35, *Bordados: Stitches That Unite Cultures*, the lavishly-detailed catalogue for last year's embroidery exhibition is \$30, and both the *Maya Ceremonial Huipiles of Guatemala* and *Maya Huipiles of Guatemala* folded maps will be \$15 each, plus shipping and handling. **To order, please send your request to foiminfo@gmail.com**

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## WE ARE SPINNING A WEBSITE

The Friends of the Ixchel Museum website has moved into the pilot phase. Content creation is still underway, but aspects of the site, such as access to past bulletins and the ability to donate on-line, are functional. The Friends website will be cross-linked extensively with

the MUSEO IXCHEL website in order to drive traffic in both directions. Have a look now if you are interested at [ixchelfriends.org](http://ixchelfriends.org) – we'll let you know when it is formally launched!

[ixchelfriends.org](http://ixchelfriends.org)

Our growth is only possible through your generosity! Join Us Now!



## FRIENDS OF THE IXCHEL MUSEUM

PO Box 30, Princeton, NJ 08542 USA

**Members receive free entrance to exhibitions of FOIM in the U.S. and to the Museo Ixchel in Guatemala City and discounts on purchases in the Museum Shop.**

Benefactor	\$1,000	Contributor	\$100
Patron	\$500	Family	\$50
Sponsor	\$250	Individual	\$25

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Check Enclosed       Interested in Volunteering

Please indicate your donation amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Checks should be made payable to Friends of the Ixchel Museum, Inc.

**Please mail this form with your donation.**

For more information e-mail foiminfo@gmail.com

Friends of the Ixchel Museum is an American foundation and donations are deductible by the donor for U.S. general income tax purposes.