



FRIENDS OF THE IXCHEL MUSEUM

Supporting The Textile Arts of Guatemala

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June, 2016

Dear Friends of the Ixchel Museum – once again we return from our annual meeting in Guatemala, pleased with the work done within the Museo and happy to have seen a different and exciting tranche of the amazing collection.

Last year we approved funding for an ambitious new temporary exhibit – not only was our contribution more significant than usual thanks to a generous bequest, but we also used a project matching approach which the Museo met! Despite turnover at the Executive Director level, the technical staff pulled together and we were able to preview a stunning exhibit on **Cofradías**. This is the first time that field research (done in 2014), a publication, and an exhibit “came together” synergistically. We will feature it in our next bulletin for sure!

The Museo generated a *Cofradías* publication, a new set of awareness flyers, and developed activities programming for both children and adults. We granted continued support for all these and welcomed the return of María Renée de Aguilar to the position of Executive Director.

Within the US, we continue to publish this bulletin and add new pieces to our collection, but also completed a major refresh of our website. Do check it out -- especially the new section on “**Piece of the Month**”, which you can appreciate both live and in an archive. At the meeting itself, we approved three new Friends directors: Elizabeth Bailey, Chase Davis, and Shannon Davis – their bios will be on the website shortly. Regarding 2016 funding, we affirmed Yolanda Alcorta’s cooperative work with indigenous Guatemalan weavers in the Washington, DC area and continued our development of mini-exhibits for smaller museums. Interested in either? Let us know. We also called out Washington as a strategic location and will be actively seeking both Board members and project volunteers – let us hear from you, and do introduce us to your friends who are Guatemalans, weavers, educators or who just love things Latin-American.

To those of you who donated in 2015, many thanks. You are acknowledged on the reverse, but that is just a small nod compared to our gratitude and that of the Museo itself for enabling so many worthwhile projects. We especially appreciate those of you who have sustained contributions over the years. Mil gracias!

Ana-Maria V. Zaugg
President, Friends of the Ixchel Museum