



FRIENDS OF THE IXCHEL MUSEUM

Supporting The Textile Arts of Guatemala

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Dear Friends of the Ixchel Museum,

Thank you for your continuing interest in Guatemalan textiles and support of our activities on behalf of the Maya textile tradition. We're off to a good start this year!

At the recent annual meeting at the Museo Ixchel, we were impressed with the good work being done by museum staff, headed by Jessica Hodgson de Kaehler (president of the Guatemala board) and Maria Renee Diaz de Aguilar (museum director). The renovated first gallery is stunning, with newly added textiles and pre-Columbian pottery providing color and context to the history of weaving. FOIM support of the museums' field research continues to provide photographic and ethnographic documentation of disappearing textile traditions and the emergence of new traditions. A new museum team is launching efforts to create off-site exhibits in public spaces – and their ability to create on-site events for publicity and revenue has accelerated. This year, Baysis Hempstead funds will be used to bring Maria Renee to the US Museum Association meeting in Baltimore in May. We believe this is an important step for the professional and organizational development of the Museo Ixchel.

Our work as Friends continues to evolve as well. Thanks to board member Yolanda Alcorta, US outreach activities have expanded (see articles). Our developing relationship with the Textile Museum of Canada resulted in their request to use FOIM collection pieces in an upcoming exhibit. We've also pursued more convenient ways to communicate with you; the newsletter is available via email by contacting us at foiminfo@gmail.com and our pilot website www.ixchelfriends.org. We hope the website will attract new members to the museum and to our US exhibits as well.

We appreciate all those who have made contributions to Friends, and I continue to ask for your support, as well as for donations of textiles and old photographs. Soon, we plan to create a list of specific communities where our documentation is lacking; in this way, you too can participate in the challenge of preserving the Maya textile tradition.

Raymond E. Senuk

President, Friends of the Ixchel Museum

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