



# FRIENDS OF THE IXCHEL MUSEUM

Supporting The Textile Arts of Guatemala

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Dear Friends of the Ixchel Museum:

We hope you enjoyed our expanded Fall newsletter and “thank you” to those who complimented our new design.

I report with pleasure the Museo Ixchel’s progress on our 2023 FOIM-funded projects. With curator Violeta Gutiérrez at the helm, three important projects advanced. The most significant grant was for the **Ethnographic Fieldwork** being done in Huehuetenango, one of the most distant and least-researched areas near Mexico. The team (anthropologist, photographer, curator and driver) interviewed, recorded, and photographed most of the 11 villages comprising the department and will complete the work once things simmer down. Key findings will be the comparisons between historical styles held at the Museo with what is worn today. A second project (sparked by Raymond Senuk) was the **Re-Photography** of 817 “collection jewel” huipiles. Prior records were updated/expanded and 3,268 digital photos were made and uploaded to the cloud, replacing old analog files at risk. And finally, we were pleased to fund **Staff Development**, sending a team of three to Mexico to support and learn from the second *Encuentro Textiles de las Américas* held in San Luis Potosí, Mexico. This experience will set up the Museo Ixchel even better as they prepare to host the third *Encuentro* in 2025.

Our work in the US continues on the two fronts described last year: an Instagram Challenge devised to encourage artists inspired by Guatemalan textiles (see the lead article in this newsletter)...and small exhibits and weaving demonstrations supporting textile cultural awareness, especially during Hispanic Heritage month.

We’re again looking forward to our upcoming FOIM annual meeting in Guatemala, and also to an overlap with a Peace Corps reunion (chaired by Anne Lamborn) also being held there in April.

As always, we count on and appreciate your generous support. Many small organizations like ours are either still building back from Covid or encountering “competition” from urgent and worthy overseas needs. Yet you have continued your donations and we and the Museo Ixchel are grateful and inspired.

Wishing you all an active and positive 2024,

*Ana-María V. Zaugg*

President, Friends of the Ixchel Museum

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