



FRIENDS OF THE IXCHEL MUSEUM

Supporting The Textile Arts of Guatemala

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Dear Friends of the Ixchel Museum:

Once again, we held our annual meeting in Guatemala, and once again there was a museum treat awaiting – but this time, elsewhere. Museo Ixchel Curator Violeta Gutiérrez organized a special tour of the newly-renovated *Museo Nacional de Arte Maya, Arqueología, y Etnografía*. Some may recall a musty pink building and antiquated galleries. Prepare to be amazed! It is gorgeously redone with multi-lingual labels, the latest technology, and brilliant displays of their many treasures.

We enjoyed our Museo work sessions and meeting the new, talented additions to their Board. Regarding our projects, we were glad to see the field research in Huehuetenango completed and agreed to fund work in the Alta Verapaz. Documenting these challenging remote regions is vital work. Our multi-year support of the Photography Archive is complete, for now, and their many treasures safely digitally recorded. We are hoping to support a Collection section on their new website, similar to what many US Museums now offer. Also on staying current, the Museo Ixchel is commencing a multi-year renovation of their early galleries and we have funded the “expert research” first step of their plan.

In the US, our work continues on small exhibits and displays – with heightened activity around the corner for Hispanic Heritage month, especially for our co-op demonstrators. Check our website for where we’ll be. Soon we will post a virtual exhibit of the stunning contemporary artworks from our Instagram Challenge. In California, former Board member Leslie Claxton invited Susan Hurst to address a gathering with Mam community leaders, potentially leading to a local exhibit.

We continue to receive offers of textiles, and appreciate your increasing interest. It’s the aging thing. During our meeting, we overlapped with the Peace Corps Reunion of Guatemala Group V (1965-67) where I made a FOIM presentation to 30 volunteers and their families — unsurprisingly, several menswear donations came out of that encounter, as well as a visit to the Museo with our director Anne Lamborn, also their reunion chair. Meanwhile, our sincere advance thanks for all your contributions this year. We will happily put them to good use.

Wishing you all a wonderful Fall season,

Ana-María V. Zaugg

President, Friends of the Ixchel Museum

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