

**THE
MEXICAN
CULTURAL
INSTITUTE
OF NEW YORK**



**ANNUAL
REPORT
2014**

MISSION

The mission of the Mexican Cultural Institute of New York is to strengthen Mexico's image and foster a better understanding of the country through its arts and culture.

One of the main goals of the MCINY is to promote activities with a high and lasting impact among all the multiethnic and multicultural communities in New York City. In addition, the Institute aims to generate interest among the Mexican communities in the Tri-State area by presenting Mexico's most relevant artistic expressions ranging from the Pre-Columbian period to contemporary art.



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Throughout my activities as Consul General, I am constantly impressed by the deep impact of Mexican culture in New York City. The scope and intensity of its manifestations –from traditional expressions to the most innovative contemporary arts projects– have had a profoundly positive effect on the perception of Mexican culture in the Tri-State area. Culture is a central part of our country’s uniqueness. The creative vitality of our nation and the dynamism of our cultural expressions contribute to create an image of a plural, vigorous country. The Institute strives to eliminate stereotypes and to build a balanced relationship between the government and the private sector, leading to a more efficient platform on which to promote arts and culture. However, the MCINY still faces many challenges. We are working hard to strengthen the role of the Board, thus providing members with better, durable tools to contribute to the Institute’s mission. In order to spread the impact in the larger New York area, it is vital to work closer and more actively with new institutions all around the Tri-State area. Also, finding a more adequate and permanent space for the Institute is a crucial consideration for the coming years.

This has become one of my biggest commitments to the MCINY. Having this venue will strengthen the MCINY’s ties with cultural and academic institutions. Furthermore, it will enable it to launch new, more ambitious projects.

The Institute's important work would not be possible without the combined efforts of the many institutions and individuals that believe in its mission and have contributed, in their own unique way, to making these programs happen. I want to especially thank every member of the Board of Directors, the corporate sponsors, the advisors, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for its constant support through the AMEXCID, and particularly its Executive Director, Juan Manuel Valle Pereña. Congratulations to the MCINY team, led by Executive Director Caterina Toscano, for undertaking with such enthusiasm the quintessential endeavor of bringing Mexican culture to life in New York.

Ambassador Sandra Fuentes-Berain

Honorary President of the Board

It is a pleasure to introduce The Mexican Cultural Institute's 2014 Annual Report. It has been a thrilling year in which we have had the opportunity of organizing and supporting amazing programs. Not only has our work at MCINY enriched New York's cultural life, but it has also contributed to strengthen the relationship between Mexico and the United States. In the following pages you will find the activities sponsored or co-sponsored by the Institute during 2014. These include visual arts projects, film-related activities, performing arts events, concerts, book presentations, and special events. While many of our activities were held at the Octavio Paz Gallery, we have also worked with a great number of venues. A special recognition goes out to all the institutions, festivals and fairs with which we partnered with this year, including Lincoln Center, World Trade Center, Columbia University, New York University, The Empire State Building, The Rockefeller Estate, Fashion Institute of Technology, Cervantes Institute, Kingsbridge Armory, Neuberger Museum, Bronx Museum of Arts, Bric Gallery, Museum of Arts and Design, Manhattan Movement and Art Center, Flamboyant Theatre, American Ballet Theatre, Wagner College, South Street Sea Port, Americas Society, Baruch Performing Arts Center, Greenwich House Music, Lighthouse Guild, Dillon Gallery, East River State Park, Pregones Theatre, Brooklyn Bridge Park, The Town Hall, and Duane Morris LLP.

I want to highlight a series of interconnected events that took place this year to pay homage to one of Mexico's most cherished writers and foremost intellectual figures, Octavio Paz. To celebrate the life and work of this Nobel Prize winner, the Institute organized a series of multidisciplinary events in the field of visual arts, music, poetry, and film. In close collaboration with other institutions, this tribute was one of our most acclaimed programs this year. The MCINY extends its most sincere gratitude to the Board of Directors for their undying commitment to the Institute. Their active involvement has truly been vital to the success of the Institute's activities.

We are also grateful for the continuous support of our Consul General, Ambassador Sandra Fuentes-Berain and of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Director General for Culture, Lizeth Galván. The Institute's achievements could not have been possible without their enthusiasm and devotion to MCINY's mission. Finally, I want to acknowledge my colleagues Roberto Campos, Andrea Valencia, and Isabel Zapata, for their perseverance and dedication to each and every program that the Institute set forth this year.

Caterina Toscano

Executive Director



V I S U A L A R T S

3 - 12

P E R F O R M I N G A R T S

15 - 20

F I L M

23 - 24

L I T E R A T U R E

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M U S I C

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G A S T R O N O M Y

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S P E C I A L E V E N T S

47 - 52



V I S U A L A R T S

3 - 12



MARCH
6

ARTIST TALK WITH ERIKA HARRSCH

*March 6th
Neuberger Museum*

The Neuberger Museum of Art presented a lecture by Erika Harrsch, Mexican contemporary and visual artist based in New York. Through her drawings, paintings, photography, videos, animations, and installations, the artist explores matters of identity, gender, nationality, migration, and the relationship of human beings with their own nature and fragility.



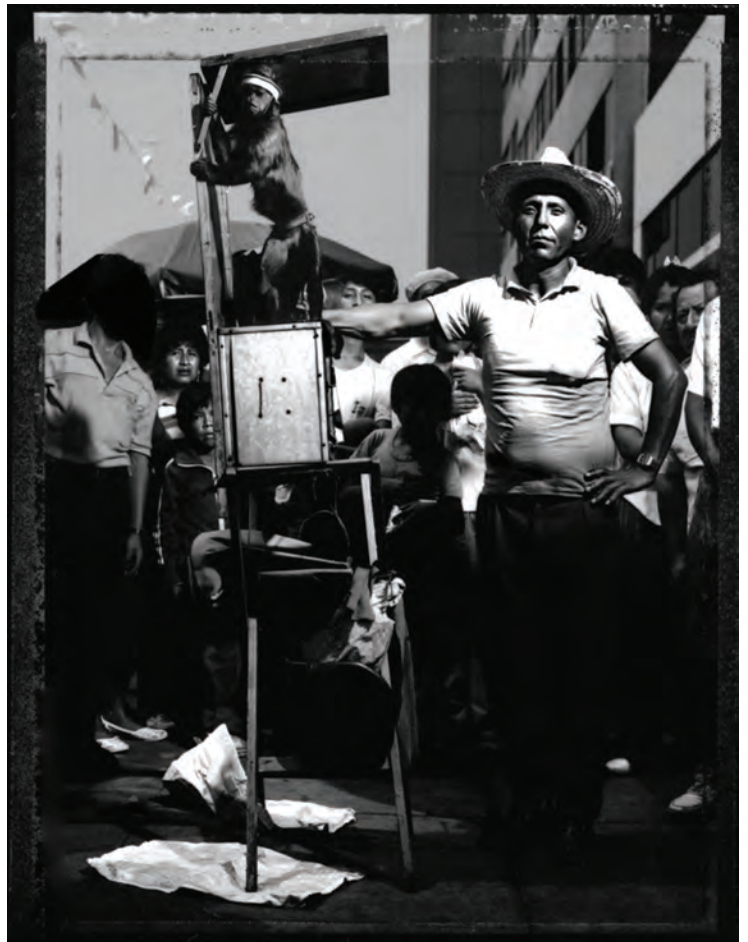
MARCH
8

ENCOUNTERS: CONTEMPORARY MEXICAN PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEO

*March 26th – May 2nd
Octavio Paz Gallery*

Curated by Alexis Mendoza, this collective exhibit included contemporary Mexican photography by Alejandra Regalado, Antonio Tovar, Delilah Montoya, Elizabeth Moreno, Elva María Salinas, Max Aguilera-Hellweg, Javier Carmona, Luis Delgado, Patricia Henríquez, Reyes Rodríguez, and Sofía Garfías.

The works displayed in *Encounters* portray and document the dynamics of social practice and everyday life in Mexico.



APRIL 22

**SURVEYS,
CANONS, AND
CONTEMPORARY
ART: A NEW LOOK
AT 500 YEARS OF
MEXICAN ART AND
ARCHITECTURE**

*April 22nd
Octavio Paz Gallery*

In conjunction with the publication of his most recent book, *Art and Architecture in Mexico*, author James Oles offered a lecture on the process behind the first comprehensive survey of Mexican art in almost half a century. His presentation explored how surveys were previously crafted by art historians and museum curators. Rather than emphasize continuity over time, the book explores cross-generational connections; therefore, focusing primarily on the historical context –direct and indirect– that informs the work of some of Mexico’s vibrant contemporary artists, such as Francis Alÿs, Melanie Smith, and Teresa Margolles.



MAY 1

BEYOND THE SUPERSQUARE

May 1st, 2014 – January 11th, 2015
Bronx Museum of the Arts

Beyond the Supersquare explored the influence of Latin American and Caribbean modernist architecture on contemporary art. The exhibition featured over 30 artists and more than 60 artworks, in photography, video, sculpture, installation, and drawing. Their goal: to examine the complicated legacies of modernism through architecture. *Beyond the Supersquare* was curated by Holly Block (New York City) and María Inés Rodríguez (Colombia), and designed by Benedeta Monteverde (Mexico).



Jordi Colomer • Avenida Ixtapaluca (Houses for Mexico), 2009 • video, 6 min • Collection of Joost & Siska Vanhaerents-Dezutter, Torhout, Belgium
Courtesy the artist and Michel Rein, Paris & Meessen De Clercq, Brussels

MAY 19

KYKUIT RESIDENCY

May 19th – June 13th
The Rockefeller Estate

Every year, The Rockefeller Brothers Fund extends an invitation to one student from Escuela Nacional de Conservación, Restauración y Museografía (ENCRyM) and one student from Escuela de Conservación y Restauración de Occidente (ECRO) to a three week residency at Kykuit, the Rockefeller residency at Sleepy Hollow, NY. During this time, participants work in the restoration of the select Rockefeller collection artworks under professional guidance. This year's students were Laura Gisela García and Mariana Alejandra Aguilar Gutiérrez.



MAY 30

MEX POSTERS IN NY: CROSS- CULTURAL POSTERS DESIGNED BY LUIS FITCH

May 30th – June 20th
Octavio Paz Gallery

UNO Branding (UNO) is an award-winning cross-cultural branding and communications design firm based in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Founded by Luis Fitch in 1999, UNO is considered to be Minnesota's first Hispanic branding agency. Luis, who was raised in Mexico and studied at the prestigious Art Center College of Design in Los Angeles, has a deep interest in traditional Mexican arts and culture. The exhibition at the Octavio Paz Gallery featured several of Luis's most successful design projects.



JUNE 13**RECEPTION IN HONOR OF
CURATOR
PABLO LEÓN DE LA BARRA**

June 13th
Octavio Paz Gallery

The Mexican Cultural Institute of New York offered a reception to honor Pablo León de la Barra, Guggenheim UBS MAP Curator, Latin America. León de la Barra is currently in a two-year residency at the Guggenheim in New York. As part of his residency, he curated the exhibition *Under the Same Sun: Art from Latin America Today*, which was on view at the Guggenheim Museum from June 13th to October 4th, 2014.

**JUNE 23 PAISAJE
DISCORDANTE**

June 23rd – August 7th
Octavio Paz Gallery

Paisaje Discordante was exhibited at the Octavio Paz Gallery during Morelos Week, event dedicated to celebrating the culture and art of the State of Morelos. This exhibit aimed to highlight the artistic talent of young artists from Morelos, and featured the various techniques from artists such as Pável Mora, Jaime Colín, Gabriel Garcilazo, and Miguel Ángel Madrigal.



JULY 1

LAS BICICLETAS, A PROJECT BY GILBERTO ACEVES NAVARRO

July 1st – September 30th

Press conference at the Consulate: July 1st

Various locations

To promote the use of bicycles on vehicle-dominated cities such as New York, Mexican artist and sculptor Gilberto Aceves Navarro created 122 metal bike sculptures which were installed throughout the boroughs of Brooklyn and Manhattan.



JULY 10

**TRANSCOMMUNALITY:
LAURA ANDERSON
BARBATA, COLLABORATION
BEYOND BORDERS**

July 10th – August 31st
Bric Gallery

Transcommunality is a traveling exhibition that documents the decade-long project of Mexican-born, New York-based artist Laura Anderson Barbata on stilt-walking communities in Trinidad and Tobago, Mexico, and Brooklyn. The presentation at BRIC Gallery was the inaugural showing in the United States. It included approximately 60 pieces of over 20 towering dressed figures and 23 alebrijes (Mexican miniature wooden figures).



FROM WORD TO GAZE: FIGURES AND FIGURATIONS

September 11th – October 6th
Octavio Paz Gallery

From Word to Gaze: Figures and Figurations was part of a series of events presented by The Mexican Cultural Institute of New York in celebration of the birth centenary of writer, diplomat, and Nobel Laureate, Octavio Paz. This exhibit brought together more than thirty works by renowned painters of the 20th Century who were contemporaries of Paz and, in many cases, his friends. Works by Mexico's Gunther Gerzso, Maqbool Fida Husain from India, Spanish painter Antoni Tàpies, and Japanese-American Toshihiro Katayama, among many others, were displayed in the exhibition.



SEPTEMBER

18

LA FRONTERA, A PROJECT BY STEFAN FALKE

September 18th – 28th
Photoville at Brooklyn Bridge Park

Photographer Stefan Falke's *La Frontera* project portrayed the cultural life of the border region between Mexico and the United States. The German photographer documented artists in border cities such as Tijuana, Mexicali, Nogales, Ciudad Juárez, Nuevo Laredo, Reynosa and Matamoros, spanning the entire 2000 mile physical divide. Over 180 skilled creators were assembled to demonstrate that the border region is much more than the sensationalism portrayed in the corporate media for ratings through depictions of violence. *La Frontera* was presented as part of the Photoville festival.



OCTOBER

30

REGISTERING IS ALSO WRITING: AN ART BOOK EXHIBIT BY XIMENA PÉREZ-GROBET

October 30th – November 20th
Cervantes Institute

Ximena Pérez-Grobet creates books as art objects. This exhibit, presented as part of the *Celebrate Mexico Now Festival*, depicted her unique vision through the artist's work produced over the last decade. On the show's opening night, a panel discussion was introduced about book art, language, art books, and the place they hold in the international art world.



NOVEMBER
4

NEW TERRITORIES: LABORATORIES FOR DESIGN, CRAFT AND ART IN LATIN AMERICA

November 4th, 2014 – April 5th, 2015
Museum of Arts and Design

New Territories explored the collaborations between small manufacturing operations and artisans, artists, and designers and showed how the resulting work addresses the issues of production, urbanization, displacement, and sustainability. Furthermore, it opened the dialogue between contemporary trends and artistic legacies in Latin American art, the blending of digital and traditional skills, and people's need to reclaim personal and public spaces.



NOVEMBER
5

JUAN SORIANO IN NEW YORK CITY: MONUMENTAL SCULPTURE AT DAG HAMMARSKJÖLD PLAZA

November 5th, 2014 – April 30th, 2015

Display of three sculptures by Juan Soriano at Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza (47th Street between 1st and 2nd Avenues), presented by NYC Parks' Art in the Parks program, The World Council of Peoples for the United Nations, The Consulate General of Mexico in New York, The Mexican Cultural Institute of New York, and the Fundación Juan Soriano y Marek Keller. Inspired by the popular and indigenous arts of Mexico, Cubism, and German Expressionism, *Pájaro III (Bird III)*, *Pájaro de Dos Caras (Bird with Two Faces)*, and *Paloma de Bronce (Bronze Dove)* bring Juan Soriano's unique perspective on art and society.







PERFORMING ARTS

15 - 20



JANUARY
10

ASSOCIATION OF PERFORMING ARTS PRESENTERS 2014

January 10th – 12th
Hilton Hotel Midtown

The Institute participated in the Association of Performing Arts Presenters (APAP) annual conference. At this three day event, more than 3,500 artists were brought together. APAP encourages the creation of networks among artists and promotes the exchange of resources and development of projects.



JANUARY
24

DZUL DANCE'S MÉXICO MAYA

January 24th
Baruch Performing Arts Center

Dzul Dance celebrated their ten-year anniversary with *México Maya*, a show by Javier Dzul. Inspired by *Mayan: the legends of creation*, the show channeled pre-Columbian Mexican culture. The show aimed to close the gap between the present and the past through a fusion of dance, acrobatics and contortionism.



FRIDA'S LETTERS

February 20th
Cervantes Institute

As part of the *Composers Now Festival*, Mexican composer Marcela Rodríguez's latest opera was screened at the Cervantes Institute. Directed by Marcela Rodríguez, *Frida's Letters* brings to life the original letters of a playful, politically involved woman who shaped Mexican art history. After the screening, there was a Q&A session with Marcela Rodríguez.



MARCH 23**ANABELLA GONZALEZ DANCE THEATER***March 23rd
Manhattan Movement & Art Center*

Annabella González Dance Theater (AGDT) presented a series of pieces from her repertoire, complimented by three premieres by Annabella González, Jinah Parker and guest choreographer Maxine Steinman. For this presentation, *Rhythmic Study* was accompanied by contemporary music by Mexican/American composer Max Lifchitz.

**APRIL 2****PRESS CONFERENCE FOR YOUNG DANCER BRAULIO FERNÁNDEZ***April 2nd
Consulate General of Mexico in New York*

The Consulate General organized a press conference to present 11-year old ballet dancer Braulio Fernández. Young Braulio, from Mérida, was a finalist in this year's Youth America Grand Prix (YAGP). The YAGP is the most important ballet competition for world-class dancers of all ethnic, economic, and geographic backgrounds between the ages of 9 and 19.



MAY 31

THE COMFORT OF NUMBERS 2.0

May 31st and June 1st
Flamboyant Theater

Mexican playwright Paulina Barros presented a revised version of her play *The Comfort of Numbers*, showed for the first time in 2013. This production was part of an artistic residence in Mabou Mines, for which Paulina was selected to participate.



JULY 28

ENRIQUE EMANUEL BEJARANO, YOUNG DANCER SUMMER WORKSHOP

July 28th – August 8th
American Ballet Theatre

During July and August, 11 year old Mexican dancer Enrique Emanuel Bejarano participated in the Young Dancer Summer Workshop. This program provides the opportunity for serious young dancers to flourish in a professional, yet nurturing environment. The Mexican Cultural Institute of New York provided support to Enrique Emanuel and his father during their stay in New York City.



SEPTEMBER **26**

ÑUU DAVI FOLKLORIC DANCE

*September 26th
Wagner College*

Ñuu Davi is a Mexican Folkloric Dance group that was formed in Staten Island in 2012. Ñuu Davi's founder and manager, Guadalupe Mendoza, has made great efforts to keep this group together and teach traditional dance to the younger generations. This year, the group performed at Wagner College as part of the celebrations surrounding Hispanic Heritage month.



NOVEMBER **21**

CONFERENCE ON THE RAIN: A PLAY BY JUAN VILLORO

*November 21st
Graduate Center, CUNY*

Just as a librarian is about to give a lecture on rain and its relation to love poetry, he realizes he has lost his notes, and begins to improvise. Thus begins a literary soliloquy that soon turns into a personal revelation. This monologue by Juan Villoro was presented at CUNY Graduate Center.



LARK SALON

December 9th
Octavio Paz Gallery

The Lark, in coordination with Mexico's National Fund for Culture and Arts (FONCA) and The Mexican Cultural Institute of New York, presented the 2014 Mexico/U.S. Playwright Exchange Program. This program focuses on the creation of stage-worthy translations of new plays from Mexico and introduces visiting multinational writers and guest observers to New York City's theater scene. This year's plays were: *The Dinosaur's Extinction*, by Luis Ayllón, *A Work of Art in Black*, by Flavio González Mello, *Mara or the Nights Without Dreams*, by Antonio Zúñiga Chaparro, and *22 Dreams... Far From the Sea*, by Aída Andrade Varas. The Mexican Cultural Institute of New York hosted an evening of reading, conversation, and celebration of this year's participants of these wonderful plays.







APRIL 8

A HUNDRED YEARS OF LA DOÑA, AN HOMAGE TO MARÍA FÉLIX

*April 8th, 9th, 16th, 30th
Octavio Paz Gallery – Cervantes Institute*



In celebration of 100 years since the birth of iconic Mexican film actress María Félix, a muse for poets, musicians and painters, Northern Manhattan Arts Alliance (NoMAA), Cervantes Institute, and The Mexican Cultural Institute of New York presented a panel discussion and a screening of six of her films. The opening night of the program was a panel discussion and screening of two short films on April 8th at the Octavio Paz Gallery.

Gonzalo Aburto, Entertainment, Arts & Culture Editor from *El Diario/La Prensa*, Sandra García-Betancourt, President & CEO of NoMAA, and Carlos Gutiérrez, Co-founder & Executive Director of Cinema Tropical participated on the conversation. The series of film screenings at the Cervantes Institute started the following day and continued throughout April.

April 9th:
El peñón de las ánimas and *Camelia*

April 16th:
La escondida and *Enamorada*

April 30th:
French Cancán and *Tizoc*

APRIL 25

FROM MEXICO TO THE WORLD: A CONVERSATION ABOUT TELENOVELAS

*April 25th
Octavio Paz Gallery*

Mexican soap operas, or telenovelas, are not only widely watched in Mexico, but they are also a huge exportation product. During this program, Tanya Meléndez, Curator of Education and Public Programs of the Museum at the Fashion Institute of Technology, spoke about the role of fashion in *Cuna de lobos*, one of the most successful telenovelas of all time, screened in Mexico between 1986 and 1987. Aldo Sánchez gave a lecture on the widespread impact that *Los ricos también lloran* (1979-80) had in Russia. This soap opera became so popular that at one point it was aired on one of Russia's most prominent TV channels multiple times a day.



JULY 11

LATINBEAT FILM FESTIVAL

July 11th – 20th
Lincoln Center

Each year, the Latinbeat Film Festival presents an exciting selection of Latin American cinema that combines personal, risk-taking works by emerging filmmakers with more traditional productions. In 2014, the festival presented three Mexican productions: *Paradise* (Mariana Chenillo, 2013), *We are Mari Pepa* (Samuel Kishi, 2013), and *The Searches* (José Luis Valle, 2013). All three directors were present at their film's screenings for Q&A sessions with the audience.



JULY 31

MEXICAN FILM & FOOD AT SOUTH STREET SEA PORT: NOSOTROS LOS NOBLES (WE ARE THE NOBLES)

July 31st – South Street Sea Port

The South Street Seaport Film and Food Festival, an international film and food series, featured Mexico on July 31st. After a delicious lineup of free Mexican cuisine presented by La Palapa Restaurant, internationally acclaimed Mexican film *Nosotros los nobles* was screened on the port's newly restored plaza. The movie is a comedy about three spoiled young adults who are cut off from their family fortune and forced to live and work in a challenging environment.



OCTOBER 31

SHORT FILMS: THE 11TH MORELIA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL WINNERS (CELEBRATE MEXICO NOW FESTIVAL)

October 31st
School of Visual Arts

Already a *Celebrate Mexico Now Festival* tradition, the Morelia International Film Festival short film winners were screened at the School of Visual Arts. The shorts were: *Tiempos supermodernos* (*Supermodern Times*), by Lubicana Durán, *La casa triste* (*The Sad House*), by Sofía Carrillo, *Las montañas invisibles* (*The Invisible Mountains*), by Ángel Linares, and *La Banqueta* (*The Sidewalk*), by Anaís Pareto Onghena.







L I T E R A T U R E



27 - 30



MAY 2

**BOOK LAUNCH "DANZÓN:
CIRCUM-CARIBBEAN DIALOGUES IN
MUSIC AND DANCE" BY ALEJANDRO L.
MADRID AND ROBIN MOORE**

May 2nd

Octavio Paz Gallery

Based on a combination of archival research, ethnography, and oral history, *Danzón: Circum-Caribbean Dialogues in Music and Dance*, explores the development, circulation, and continuous evolution of the danzón on the dance floor and the concert hall from the 19th Century to the beginning of the 21st Century. After the event, a brief danzón lesson was offered to the attendees.



MAY 12

**A CONVERSATION WITH
WRITERS FROM PUEBLA**

May 12th

Octavio Paz Gallery

During the Cinco de Mayo commemorations, poblano writers Jaime Mesa, Edson Lechuga, and Isa Gonzales participated in an open dialogue about writing and migration. The international experiences of these three writers shed light on the struggles of immigrants from Puebla, the Mexican state where most of the Mexican population of New York migrated from.



MAY 22

**THE STRAY BULLET: WILLIAM
BURROUGHS IN MEXICO,
BY JORGE GARCÍA ROBLES**

May 22nd • Octavio Paz Gallery

The Stray Bullet: William Burroughs in Mexico, published in English by the University of Minnesota Press, is an exciting account of Burroughs's formative experiences in Mexico. First published in Mexico in 1995, where it received the Malcolm Lowry literary essay award, this book by Jorge García-Robles makes no mistake that Mexico City was the place in which Burroughs embarked on his "fatal vocation as a writer." For this event, the author was in conversation with: Alex Wermer-Colan (Cuny Graduate Center) and Eric Zolov (Stony Brook University).



JULY 9

**BOOK LAUNCH
"DECEIT",
BY JORGÉ VOLPI**

*July 9th
Cervantes Institute*

Deceit, Jorge Volpi's most recent book, is a first-person narrative of a generation torn between risk and avarice that threw the world into one of the greatest economic—and human—disasters in recent memory. Alfred Mac Adam, who teaches Latin American literature at Barnard College-Columbia, presented this book on July 9th with the author.



AUGUST 23

**3RD
INTER-DIALECTAL
NÁHUATL
ENCOUNTER**

*July 26th
Octavio Paz Gallery*

The Third Interdialectal Náhuatl Encounter was held on July 26th at the Octavio Paz Gallery. All native speakers of Náhuatl who live in the New York area were invited to participate and discuss a variety of topics concerning the past, present, and future of their culture. Náhuatl students were able to attend and listen to the conversation.



OCTOBER
1**AN
HOMAGE TO
OCTAVIO PAZ***October 1st – 8th
Various locations*

Octavio Paz, one of Mexico's most brilliant thinkers, was a prolific writer, journalist, and diplomat. Having traveled vastly around the world, he incorporated elements of several traditions into his prose and poetry. In addition to his literary work, Paz served as a diplomat in France and India, among other countries. After resigning from the diplomatic service in 1968, he continued his work in Mexico as an editor and publisher of the two magazines he founded: *Plural* and *Vuelta* (now *Letras Libres*).

Paz was awarded the Cervantes Award in 1981 and the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1990, among the many other prizes and recognitions that he received during his lifetime. To celebrate his life and works, The Mexican Cultural Institute of New York presented a tribute aimed to evoke Paz's thoughts. The multidisciplinary program included presentations of visual arts, music, poetry, and film.

*October 1st***Conversation and screening at the Octavio Paz Gallery**

As part of the exhibition *Figures and Figurations*, and as the opening event for the Octavio Paz program, Brian Nissen and Pablo Helguera held a conversation at the Gallery on October 1st. The event included the screening of Brian Nissen's *Mariposa de obsidiana*. The main topic of discussion was the relationship between Octavio Paz and visual arts.

*October 3rd***Concert at St. Peter's Church: *The city sails in the middle of the night***

Silvia Navarrete (piano), Alejandra Gómez (mezzosoprano), and José Adán Pérez (baritone) performed the concert *The city sails in the middle of the night* at St. Peter's Church. The program included music by Federico Ibarra, Manuel Esperón, Salvador Moreno, and Manuel M. Ponce, all inspired by Paz's works.

*October 6th***A conversation about Octavio Paz's legacy at Americas Society**

Acclaimed writer and translator Eliot Weinberger and award-winning poets Coral Bracho and María Baranda discussed the Mexican poet's contribution to world culture and his strong role in the Mexican arts.

*October 7th***Poetry Reading at Poets House**

Octavio Paz believed that "to acknowledge the variety of visions and sensibilities is to preserve the richness of life". He ushered in a new era for Mexican literature and modern poetry. During this event, María Baranda, Coral Bracho, Nathalie Handal, Idra Novey, Kristin Prevallet, Roberto Tejada, Monica de la Torre, and Eliot Weinberger read fragments of his work, which spans over 60 years of writing.

*October 8th***Film screening at the Cervantes Institute: *I, The Worst of All***

Based on Octavio Paz's essay, *The Traps of Faith*, this Argentine production explores the convent life of Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, Mexican poet & intellectual, and emphasizes the challenges of living in an age that did not favor women as independent and talented individuals. Electa Arenal, professor at CUNY Graduate Center, offered a brief lecture before the screening and answered questions from the audience upon its conclusion.

OCTOBER **28**

**LA TACOPEDIA
(CELEBRATE MEXICO
NOW FESTIVAL)**

*October 28th
King Juan Carlos Center,
New York University*

Alejandro Escalante's *La Tacopedia* is the world's first taco encyclopedia. In it, Escalante presents his taco typology and offers a lesson in the art and style of taco eating. During this event, Escalante talked about legendary *taqueros* (taco makers) around Mexico, including the man in Ensenada who invented the fish taco, who today is nearly 100 years old.



NOVEMBER **10**

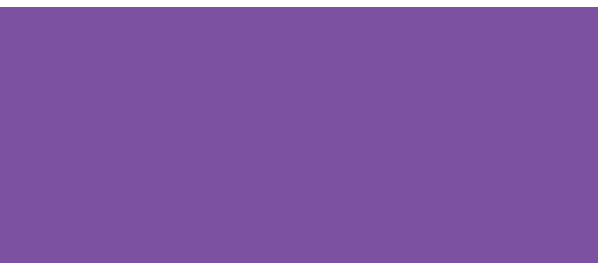
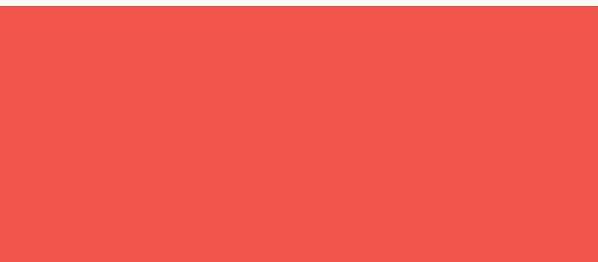
**GREAT VOICES OF
MEXICO:
ELENA PONIATOWSKA,
JUAN VILORO,
SABINA BERMAN**

*November 10th and 19th, December 8th
Cervantes Institute*

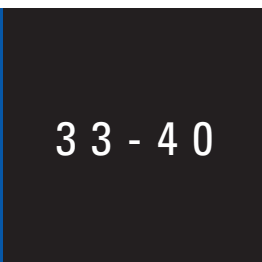
This series of talks featured lectures by three of the most important contemporary Mexican literary voices. On November 10th, Elena Poniatowska, in conversation with Siri Hustvedt, talked about her experience as a journalist and about the role of women in the art world. On November 19th, Juan Villoro and Naief Yehya, both writers and journalists deeply interested in the sports world, spoke about the role of soccer in Mexican culture and about the intricate relationship between this sport and Mexican identity. On December 8th, Sabina Berman spoke to Karen Phillips, Executive Director of Words Without Borders, about her career as a playwright and her use of humor and irony. In a relaxed conversation, Berman and Phillips explored the perception of Mexican literature in the United States.







MUSIC



33 - 40



FEBRUARY

3

CEPROMUSIC ENSEMBLE

February 3rd
Americas Society

In an effort to support the remarkable vitality of contemporary music creation in Mexico, Mexico's National Institute of Fine Arts (INBA) created the Centro de Experimentación y Producción de Música Contemporánea (CEPROMUSIC), a venue dedicated to the creation, performance, and dissemination of new music and sound experimentation. During their concert at Americas Society, CEPROMUSIC Ensemble presented new music by Mexican composers.



FEBRUARY

23

LAS AMÉRICAS EN CONCIERTO: A CONCERT BY MARCELA RODRÍGUEZ

February 23rd
Greenwich House Music

Under the artistic direction of composer Alba Potes, *Las Américas en concierto* is a music series dedicated to promoting musical and cultural communication between South America, Central America, North America and the Caribbean. Currently in its third season, the program featured five world premieres, including work by Mexican composer Marcela Rodríguez.



MUSIC WITHOUT BORDERS: A CONCERT BY SYLVAN WINDS ENSEMBLE

*February 28th
Octavio Paz Gallery*

During the *Composers Now Festival*, Sylvan Winds performed at the Octavio Paz Gallery. The Ensemble presented a program of modern Mexican music that included the work of Max Lifchitz. Led by Svyetlana Kabalin, Sylvan Winds Ensemble has a truly versatile professional experience that spans over thirty years.



MARCH 9 AMONG SONGS AND DANCES: JUAN PABLO HORCASITAS

*March 9th
Lighthouse Guild*

To celebrate the release of his first solo CD, Mexican pianist Juan Pablo Horcasitas performed a selection of this production at the Lighthouse Guild. The show was followed by a conversation with producer Juan Pablo Mantilla, composer Samuel Zyman, and Caterina Toscano, Executive Director of the Mexican Cultural Institute of New York. *Among Songs and Dances* includes works by Samuel Zyman, Manuel M. Ponce, Heitor Villa-Lobos, Astor Piazzola, Franz Schubert, Johann S. Bach, José Pablo Moncayo and Ricardo Castro. A portion of the sales will benefit The Lighthouse Guild, a beacon of hope for the visually challenged, where Mr. Horcasitas is a faculty member.



APRIL 17

DAWN: MAGOS AND LIMÓN

April 17th
Dillon Gallery

Magos Herrera, renowned Mexican-born jazz singer, together with Javier Limón, laureate composer, guitarist and producer, presented *Dawn*, their latest production. The *Dawn* repertoire is composed of select American and Latin jazz masterpieces including the songs *Afro blue*, *Skylark* and *Blue in Green* by Miles Davis and *O que tinha de ser (What Has to Be)* by Antonio Carlos Jobim, among others.



MAY 29

BUILDING BRIDGES: BAJA MUSICAL ARTS INITIATIVE (BMAI)

May 29th
Octavio Paz Gallery

The Baja Musical Arts Initiative is a non-profit organization that seeks to help and encourage children and teenagers in hardship situations through music. During this fundraising event, a live video was streamed from Tijuana, Mexico, where a small orchestra of BMAI students performed for the audience. Guitarist, Nilko Andreas, also offered a short performance. The program closed with a toast in which the public was invited to make a contribution to this important cause.



JUNE 19

MEXICAN MUSICIANS MEETING

*June 19th
Octavio Paz Gallery*

The Mexican Cultural Institute of New York organized a get-together for Mexican musicians and music professionals living and working in New York.



JUNE 21

MAKE MUSIC NY: JARANA BEAT

*June 21st
East River State Park*

During the *Make Music Festival (MMNY)*, Jarana Beat performed outdoors at the East River State Park. Led by Sinuhé Padilla Insunza, Jarana Beat is a Brooklyn-based band that weaves traditional Mexican rhythms, especially from Veracruz, with Afro-Caribbean rhythms. For an hour, park visitors enjoyed Jarana Beat's fresh and original take on Mexican music.



AUGUST 2

LA CASITA: ACARDENCHADOS

*August 2nd and 3rd
Lincoln Center and Pregones Theater*

This year's La Casita presented *Acardenchados*, composed by Tareke Ortiz, Leo Soqui, Juan Manuel Torreblanca, and Juan Pablo Villa. The band takes their name from the popular Mexican a capella style of music called Cardenche, which is created through the spontaneous interpretation of three or four voices.



**DANZAS
LATINOAMERI-
CANAS:
A CONCERT BY
THE MEXICO
CITY WOOD-
WIND QUINTET**

*August 6th
Octavio Paz Gallery*

The Mexico City Woodwind Quintet is one of the most important chamber music groups in Mexico today. They have toured around the world, dedicated to promoting the composition and dissemination of contemporary works by Mexican and Latin American composers. During their concert at the Octavio Paz Gallery, they performed “Milonga” by Astor Piazzolla, “Sandunga” by Carlos Chávez, and “Dios nunca muere” by Macedonio Alcalá, among many others.



OCTOBER **29**

DEL SALÓN AL DANZÓN (CELEBRATE MEXICO NOW FESTIVAL)

*October 29th
Greenwich House Music School*

During this exciting concert, pianists César Reyes and Michiyo Morikawa presented work by contemporary and classic Mexican composers. The performance featured Mexico's rich repertoire of piano music, including waltzes, mazurkas, salón pieces, and danzón.



NOVEMBER **10**

1ST ANNUAL LATIN AMERICAN PIANO AND SONG FESTIVAL

November 10th

Founded and directed by pianist César Reyes, the 1st Annual Latin American Piano and Song Festival was dedicated to exploring the classical, folk and popular traditions of Latin American piano and song repertoire. As part of the Festival, Reyes performed the concert *The Piano Music of Mexico*, in memory of José Pablo Moncayo.



ALONDRA DE LA PARRA AND THE PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA OF THE AMERICAS (CELEBRATE MEXICO NOW FESTIVAL)

*November 1st
The Town Hall*

Mexican conductor Alondra de la Parra and her Philharmonic Orchestra of the Americas (POA) returned to New York City for a special Day of the Dead concert. The Orchestra performed music in honor of late Mexican composers, as featured on the Orchestra's platinum albums *Mi Alma Mexicana* and *Travieso Carmesí*. This one-night only event also featured indie pop sensation Natalia Lafourcade.







G A S T R O N O M Y



43 - 44



FEBRUARY
27**MEET THE
WINEMAKERS***February 27th
Octavio Paz Gallery*

A wine tasting took place at the Octavio Paz Gallery on February 27th as part of the culinary festival Baja Meets New York. The wines featured were from the Valle de Guadalupe, the main wine producing area in Mexico and an important region for Mexican gastronomy. The winemakers who participated: Hugo d'Acosta (Casa de Piedra, Aborigen), Phil Gregory (Vena Cava), Amado Garza (Viñas de Garza), Mauricio Cantú (Cava Aragon 126, Madera 5), and Joaquín Prieto (Tres Valles). Chef Drew Deckman prepared finger food for the attendees.



MEXICO: THE COOKBOOK, BY MARGARITA CARRILLO ARRONTE

October and November

Mexican Chef Margarita Carrillo Arronte visited the city to promote her latest book, *Mexico: The Cookbook*. During her visit, Chef Carrillo talked about the process of making the book at La Casa Azul Bookstore on October 29th. She answered questions from the audience and gave advice based on the more than 25 years she has dedicated to researching, studying, teaching, and cooking Mexican cuisine. On November 1st, she participated on a Día de muertos event at Café El Presidente, where she spoke to the attending guests and signed their books.







SPECIAL EVENTS

47 - 52

JANUARY
27

MEXICAN MONDAYS

January 27th – May 5th
Columbia University

Mexican Mondays is a lecture series presented by the Center for Mexican Studies in Columbia University. This program brings leading scholars, journalists, artists, and public figures to Columbia for seminar-style discussions that aim to promote reflection about contemporary Mexican topics. This year's participants included Rubén Gallo, Blanca Heredia, Mauricio Tenorio, Sabina Berman, Soledad Loaeza, Yuri Herrera, and Guillermo de la Peña.



FEBRUARY
11

HISPANIC-AMERICAN FASHION CULTURE

February 11th – April 10th
Cervantes Institute and
Fashion Institute of Technology

The project's aim was to empower the Latino community of New York City by sharing successful Latin experiences in the fashion industry. With this in mind, the Cervantes Institute, The Museum at FIT, and The Mexican Cultural Institute of New York planned the following series of events:



MARCH 17

HOMAGE TO MIREYA TERÁN

March 17th
Duane Morris LLP

The Mexican Cultural Institute of New York offered homage to Mireya Terán, MCINY founder and its first director (1991-1996). Ambassador Fuentes-Berain talked about Mireya Terán's legacy to the more than fifty guests that attended the event. Ambassadors Jorge Montaña, Arturo Sarukhan, Jorge Alberto Lozoya, and Marifé Hernández were also present.



Tuesday, February 11th at the Cervantes Institute

Panel Discussion – *Empowering Artisan Fashion: Weaving Tradition and Innovation*. Ana Paula Fuentes (Communication and Marketing – El Camino de los Altos), Ellen Fish (Founder and executive director of Friends of Tilonia), and Claudia Muñoz (Textile designer in Chamuchic) discussed their collaboration with textile artisans and their fair trade practices.

Tuesday, February 25th at the Cervantes Institute

Panel Discussion – *Hispanic-American fashion illustration*. Fashion illustrators Jordi Labanda and Marcela Gutiérrez talked about the current Hispanic American fashion illustration scene. The conversation was moderated by Miguel Polidano (*Metal Magazine*).

Monday, March 3rd at The Museum at FIT

Movie screening – *Narraciones: Spanish fashion films*. A visual journey through some of the most relevant fashion works produced in Spain, including excerpts from documentaries and newsreels, as well as selections from the 1960s avant-garde known as the Barcelona School. Films by Eugenio Recuenco, Daniel Riera, Gorka and Diego Postigo and Josep María Ferrater. Charo Mora moderated the Q&A after the screening.

Tuesday, March 18th at The Museum at FIT

Latin-American Fashion. Colombian jewelry designer Paula Mendoza, Venezuelan accessories designer Yliana Yépez, Mexican menswear designer Ricardo Seco, and Venezuelan fashion designer Ángel Sánchez versed on the current fashion scene in Latin America, how they have inserted their brands in the United States and the importance of local and global perspectives in fashion.

Thursday, April 10th at the Cervantes Institute

Book launch – *Cross-Pollination: Masterpieces of the Collection*. The presentation was the result of the collaboration between students from New York (Fashion Institute of Technology, FIT) and Mexico (Atelier Romo & Sala de Arte Publico Siqueiros, SAPS) who participated in the 2012 Cross-Pollination workshop, Masterpieces of the Collections at the Museum at FIT (MFIT).

Monday, May 12th at the Cervantes Institute

Movie screening – *Interwoven Americas*. This documentary is a call to build a cultural bridge for the exchange of not only ancestral techniques, patterns, and materials, but ideas to preserve the legacy and traditions of our indigenous communities. This film has been instrumental in creating awareness of our own pre-Columbian cultural legacy. A subsequent Q&A session was moderated by Gustavo Carvajal.

JUNE 10**PRESS
CONFERENCE:
CERVANTINO
INTERNATIONAL
FESTIVAL***June 10th
Octavio Paz Gallery*

The Cervantino International Festival, one of the main cultural festivals in Mexico, takes place each fall in the city of Guanajuato. This year, The Mexican Cultural Institute of New York organized a press conference to introduce the Cervantino to new audiences in the city and present next year's program. Jorge Volpi, the director of the Festival, was present during the event.

**JUNE 25****WEAVERS
FROM
MORELOS***June 25th
Cervantes Institute*

During Morelos Week, the Cervantes Institute hosted a program in which five weavers from Morelos presented their craftwork. The event featured a presentation of the Chinelos, traditional costumed dancers. The Governor of Morelos, Graco Ramírez, attended the event.



NEW YORK FASHION WEEK: RICARDO SECO AND PINK MAGNOLIA

*September 9th and 10th
World Trade Center*

Mexican designer Ricardo Seco presented his latest collection, "Dream", in this year's New York Fashion Week (NYFW). Featuring colorful elements of the indigenous Huichol culture, "Dream" seeks to create awareness of this ethnic group whose clothing is characterized by its striking colors and nature elements. Seco chose cotton, silk, and leather for his summer creations.

On September 9th, Pink Magnolia presented their Spring – Summer collection. The collection was inspired in embroidery designs from the state of Chiapas and, to create it, Pink Magnolia worked directly with local craftswomen and producers from southern Mexico.



COMMEMORATION OF THE 204TH ANNIVERSARY OF MEXICO'S INDEPENDENCE

*September 14th
Kingsbridge Armory*

To commemorate the 204th anniversary of Mexico's Independence, the Consulate General of Mexico in New York and the Mexican Cultural Institute of New York organized an event at the Kingsbridge Armory, in the Bronx. During the event, the attendees enjoyed music, traditional food, and family entertainment. At 8 pm, the Consul General of Mexico in New York, Ambassador Sandra Fuentes-Berain, announced the customary Cry of Dolores, or Grito de Dolores, in remembrance of the heroes who sacrificed their lives for Mexican Independence.



SEPTEMBER

15

THANK YOU, EMPIRE STATE BUILDING!

*September 15th
Empire State Building*

On September 15th, in the context of Mexican Independence Day, the Empire State Building lit up its tower in the colors of the Mexican flag.



OCTOBER

27

A DAY OF THE DEAD OFRENDA FOR JULIA PASTRANA

*October 27th – November 24th
Octavio Paz Gallery*

This year's ofrenda was dedicated to Julia Pastrana, (1834 – 1860) an indigenous Mexican woman born with hypertrichosis, who took part in 19th-century exhibition tours in North America and Europe. Pastrana's face and body were covered with straight black hair, her ears and nose were unusually large, and her teeth were irregular. She was a remarkably intelligent, art-inclined woman. In just a few years, Pastrana went from a largely poor, rural section of Mexico's Pacific Coast to New York and London, to Vienna and Berlin. In Moscow, in the winter of 1860, just days after giving birth to a baby boy, she passed away. Pastrana and her baby's bodies were exhibited throughout Europe for decades. It wasn't until last year that Pastrana's body was returned to Mexico. Laura Anderson Barbata, the Mexican-American artist that led the efforts to bring Pastrana home, coordinated our ofrenda.



OCTOBER **27**

MEMORIA VIVA: AN INTERNATIONAL ALTAR ROUTE

October 27th – November 9th
Various Locations

Memoria Viva · Altars Route is a cultural initiative that promotes the Mexican tradition of the Day of the Dead, a celebration of pre-Hispanic origin that over the centuries, has maintained its original purpose: to honor the deceased. The project has been held in Barcelona since 2007. In its 2014 edition, Memoria Viva expanded to Barcelona, Los Angeles, Madrid, Mexico City, Miami, and New York seeking to keep this beautiful tradition alive in the Mexican communities around the globe.

SPECIAL EVENTS



www.memoriaviva.mx 27 de octubre al 9 de noviembre

Memoria Viva 2014

Ruta de Altares · Día de Muertos en México

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The MCINY would like to thank the following institutions and organizations for their support and collaboration during 2014:

Americas Society
 Association of Performing Arts Presenters
 Baja Meets New York Culinary Festival
 Ballet Folklórico Mexicano de Nueva York
 Book Expo America
 Bric Gallery
 Bronx Museum of the Arts
 Celebrate Mexico Now Festival
 Cervantes Institute
 Columbia University
 Dag Hammarskjold Plaza
 Dillon Gallery
 Duane Morris LLP
 Empire State Building
 Fashion Institute of Technology
 Guggenheim Museum
 Internacional Sonora Balkanera
 King Juan Carlos I of Spain Center at NYU
 La Casa Azul Bookstore
 Lark Play Development Center
 Latinbeat Film Festival
 Lincoln Center Out-of-Doors Festival
 Make Music New York
 Mi Casa es Puebla Passaic
 Museum of Arts and Design
 Neuberger Museum of Art
 New York Fashion Week
 Northern Manhattan Arts Alliance
 Photoville
 Poets House
 Sociedad Internacional de Valores de Arte Mexicano A.C.
 St Peter's Church
 The Baja Musical Arts Initiative
 The Cervantino International Festival
 The Juan Soriano and Marek Keller Foundation
 The Rockefeller Brothers Fund
 The South Street Seaport Film and Food Festival
 Transportes Marítimos de México

SPONSORS & CONTRIBUTORS

Aeroméxico
 Consejo Nacional para la Cultura y las Artes
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 International Spirits & Wines LLC
 Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 Mexico Tourism Board
 National Institute of Fine Arts (INBA)
 Pepita Serrano
 Proximo Spirits
 Renée Niño de Rivera
 Tequila José Cuervo
 Vinos L.A. Cetto

FINANCIAL REPORT 2014

FUND BALANCE AS OF DECEMBER 2014 **\$ 296,975.48**

INCOME

Contributed Income:		
Government		*\$ 15,244.86
Corporate and Individual		\$ 47,980.88
Total		\$ 63,225.74
Earned Income:		
Generated Income		\$ 270,479.19
Earned Interest Investment		\$ 291.64
Total		\$ 270,770.83

TOTAL INCOME **\$ 333,996.57**

Inkind Contributions \$ 613,585.65

GRAND TOTAL INCOME **\$ 947,582.22**

TOTAL INCOME + 2013 FUND BALANCE **\$ 1,244,557.70**

EXPENSES

Programs and Events:		
Cultural Programs		\$ 113,335.15
General Expenses:		
Administration		\$ 45,222.35
Photo and Copy Services		\$ 135,141.79
Total		\$ 180,364.14

TOTAL EXPENSES \$ 293,699.29

Inkind Expenses \$ 613,585.65

GRAND TOTAL EXPENSES **\$ 907,284.94**

NET INCOME **\$ 40,297.28**

FUND BALANCE FOR DECEMBER 31, 2014 **\$ 337,272.76**

Note: These numbers are based on a cash basis report of 2014 fiscal year.

* Only number based on accrual basis

