

Bienvenidos! Welcome!

Our 35 participants include executive arts administrators representing 18 institutions. Seven of us are traveling with spouses -- many of whom are artists and instructors. Two international colleagues are with us – from Australia and New Zealand. And we warmly welcome a father-and-son duo!

Our flight arrivals begin on Tuesday and continue through late Saturday. Pre-paid transfer vouchers from Benito Juarez International Airport (MEX) to The Hilton Reforma, in the heart of Mexico City across from Alameda Central Park, will be provided. The hotel address is Av. Juárez 70, Colonia Centro, Centro, Cuauhtémoc, 06010 Ciudad de México, CDMX, Mexico and its telephone number: +52 55 5130 5300. Telephone numbers for Martin and Alison are included on the FAQ document.

Here is what our week will look like. If you would like to have an agenda that includes menus and more detailed transfer times, please don't hesitate to request it.

Saturday, May 27, 2023

After checking in and settling in, please meet in the lobby at 3:30 p.m. Please bring bottled water from your room, if you would like to have water with you as we walk through the park that was once an Aztec marketplace and is now one of Mexico City's primary green spaces, a site of public art and a frequent place for civic gatherings. Constructed in 1592, **Alameda Central** is the oldest public park on the North American continent and possesses a rich history.

On the other side of the park awaits **Diego Rivera's mural *Dream of a Sunday afternoon in the Alameda Central*** (Diego Rivera, 1947), a work in which Rivera himself as a child, Frida Kahlo, La Catrina and José Guadalupe Posada are represented. Diego Rivera painted the mural for the dining room of the Del Prado hotel, located on Juárez Avenue, just a few meters from its current location. Due to the earthquakes of September 1985, the work was rescued and transferred to the land where the building would later be built for its exhibition. In the main room of the museum, photographic and documentary material on Rivera's life and work is exhibited. The lobby has a photographic selection that follows, step by step, the transfer of the mural from the Del Prado hotel; next to it is a bronze head of Diego Rivera made by the sculptor Antonio Castellanos.

Recognizing that many have experienced a long day of travel, we promise to be sure our **Welcome Dinner** begins early and flows comfortably and efficiently. Let's plan to go directly to dinner on the hotel's outdoor terrace as soon as we return to the hotel, allowing everyone to retire as early as you wish. Sunday is an early and long day!

Sunday, May 28, 2023

The **breakfast buffet at the Hilton Reforma** hotel ordinarily opens at 7:00 a.m. If all goes as planned, this morning it will open at 6:30 a.m. for our group. Please enjoy a full, healthy breakfast knowing that we plan to depart at 7:30 a.m. and that lunch will be at 12:30 p.m. We plan to have fresh fruit and 'somewhat healthy' snacks on the bus today – and each time we are on the bus this week.

Please be in the lobby a few minutes ahead of our scheduled 7:30 a.m. departure for our one-hour and 10-minute drive to experience one of the most important Mesoamerican sites in Mexico: **Teotihuacan**. The most architecturally significant Mesoamerican pyramids built in the pre-Columbian Americas are Pyramid of the Sun and Pyramid of the Moon. With our bilingual guide, we will explore the city of Teotihuacán, learning about the rituals, beliefs and everyday life of the Aztecs. We will also tour **Tlalocan**, surviving as an all-encompassing concept embracing the subterranean world and its denizens.

After an authentic Mexican lunch at Monte Cristo, we will walk the cobblestone streets of Mexico City's historical center, also offering hotel drop-off for colleagues whose day feels 'long enough' at this point. Our walking tour of **Centro Histórico** will include time in the world's third-largest public square; **Colegio de San Ildefonso**, considered to be the birthplace of the Mexican muralism movement; **Palacio de Bellas Artes Museo** with immense murals by world-famous Mexican artists dominating the top floors of this splendid white-

marble palace – a concert hall and arts center commissioned by President Porfirio Díaz; **La Quinta Casa de Correos; Templo Mayor; and more.** We will include some free time to explore the city's historical center on our own. **A group dinner at El Bajío** will provide opportunity to relax and share observations and experiences with each other. Our dinner reservation is for 7:00. The restaurant address is Simón Bolívar 14, Centro Histórico de la Cdad. de México, Centro, Cuauhtémoc, 06080 Ciudad de México, CDMX.

Monday, May 29, 2023

After enjoying the hotel's **breakfast buffet**, please meet in the lobby a few minutes before our scheduled 8:00 a.m. departure to **Centro Nacional de las Artes (CENART)**, the largest educational, cultural and artistic center in Mexico exploring new models for artistic education in art, music, dance, film, theatre, interdisciplinary research, and new technologies.

CENART was created in 1994 by the National Council for Culture and the Arts, a predecessor of the Ministry of Culture, as a space that brought together professional schools and artistic research centers from different disciplines, with forums for the practice and dissemination of the arts, a specialized library, and a center dedicated to the interrelation of arts and technologies. CENART is also one of the most outstanding works of contemporary architecture in Mexico City, in whose creation renowned architects participated: Ricardo Legorreta, Teodoro González de León, Enrique Norten, Luis Vicente Flores, Javier Calleja, Alfonso López Baz and Javier Sordo Madeleine.

Our time on the 12-hectare campus with its main hall, galleries, squares and extensive green areas that contribute to the development of a rich and intense academic and artistic life, will include 45 minutes of touring time with executive arts administrators in each of five schools: The National Schools of Theatre Art; Classical and Contemporary Dance; and Painting, Sculpture & Engraving; The Higher School of Music; and the Cinematographic Training Center.

Tours and time with program leaders individually will be followed by an hour-long gathering with administrators for collaborative discussion and idea-sharing.

Transportation will then be provided to **Coyocan**, originally a quaint village that has retained its old-time village feel, completely different from the hustle and bustle of the rest of Mexico City. Enjoy exploring its cobbled streets and colorful houses on your own after our meal together at Casa Aura. We have invited colleagues from CENART to join us for lunch.

We plan to return to the hotel at approximately 6:45 p.m. We have not scheduled dinner nor activities this evening, providing time to explore our neighborhood, more of Centro Historico or other parts of the city we can recommend. Or maybe settle in with a movie like *Frida*, as tomorrow we will visit Casa Azul.

Tuesday, May 30, 2023

After enjoying the hotel's **breakfast buffet**, please meet in the lobby a few minutes before our scheduled 8:30 a.m. departure to **UNAM**, the National Autonomous University of Mexico, Latin America's largest public research university and Ciudad Universitaria, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

UNAM's modern, attractive campus is a hub of educational and cultural activity as well as Mexico-related research. We will spend time touring Centro Cultural Universitario, which is the most important outreach of the university for fine arts - dance, theatre, visual arts and music - the most "visible" part of how the arts are spread into the city by the university. Institution administrators aim to promote the creation and artistic and cultural production as a substantive object, in addition to guarding, enriching and disseminating the artistic heritage of more than 65,000 historical assets of which the Fine Arts Department is a depository. Our visit will include experiences in *Espacio Escultórico; Centro Cultural Universitario; a rehearsal or concert performance; and lunch on campus – perhaps in the café of The Museo Universitario Arte Contemporáneo (MUAC)*, the first Mexican public museum exclusively focused to the arts created in the XXI century.

After our time on campus, we will tour with knowledgeable guides **The Blue House - Casa Azul**, Frida Kahlo's

childhood-home-turned museum and **Anahuacalli**, a temple of the arts designed by Mexican muralist Diego Rivera, displaying a vast selection of per-Hispanic pieces and extensive collection of pre-Columbian art, also known for its Ecological Space that protects endemic flora and fauna.

Dinner will be as a group in the affluent suburb of **San Angel**, with streets of beautiful mansions, quaint little parks and fountains, and posh restaurants. We will include time for us to explore the community on our own. We plan to return to the hotel at approximately 9:45 p.m.

Wednesday, May 31, 2023

After enjoying the hotel's **breakfast buffet**, please meet in the lobby a few minutes before our scheduled 8:15 a.m. departure to **Chapultepec Castle**, an 18th century palace known for its impressive gardens and murals and located on top of Chapultepec Hill. This beautiful castle is the only royal castle in North America that was actually used as the residence of a sovereign. During the Second Mexican Empire, it was the home of Mexican Emperor Maximilian and his consort, Empress Carlota. The name Chapultepec stems from the Nahuatl word "chapoltepec" which means "at the grasshopper's hill". The hill was a sacred place for Aztecs, and the buildings atop it have served several purposes, including a Military Academy, Imperial residence, Presidential home, observatory, and presently, the National Museum of History. From atop the hill, you will be able to enjoy one of the most impressive views of Paseo de la Reforma and Mexico City.

From here, we will walk to the ethnographic halls of the **National Museum of Anthropology** where we will learn about the many ethnic groups that comprise Mexico's cultural fabric. A few steps away is **Museo Tamayo Arte Contemporaneo**, housing modern and contemporary collections including works from its founder, artist Rufino Tamayo.

Lunch will be on your own, as you explore **Polanco**, an upscale Colonia, noted for its luxury shopping on the most expensive street in Mexico.

The afternoon's explorations will include **Museo Soumaya**, which Mexican President Felipe Calderon praised as a place where "Mexicans can learn the great masters of all time" and founder Carlos Slim describes as his attempt to increase the "humanistic capital" of Mexico City. It is next door to **Collection Jumex**, an institution devoted to contemporary art whose aim was not only to serve a broad and diverse public but also to become a laboratory for experimentation and innovation in the arts. We are invited to experience both at our leisure. Tentative curator welcome at a specific time TBD.

Details about where to meet transportation and when are still being determined at the time of sending this. If you choose to Uber back to the hotel earlier, please text Alison to let her know, so that we are not holding the bus for you.

After a short time to freshen up at the hotel, please meet in the lobby for a scheduled 8:00 p.m. walking departure to an 8:30 p.m. performance by the Mexican folkloric ensemble **Ballet Folklórico de México**. Founded more than six decades ago and representing its country in the most important forums worldwide, Ballet Folklórico captures both national audiences and foreigner visitors with aesthetic representations deeply rooted in Mexican culture and folklore. In its fine artistic quality in serving as an ambassador of Mexico, the ballet has diffused Mexican emotions and sentiments throughout the people of the world. Since 1961, when the ballet first won a dance group prize at the Festival of Nations in Paris, it is hard to keep track of just how many performances and recognitions have been fulfilled through the numerous tours internationally and in its home theater Palacio de Bellas Artes.

After the performance, we will walk as a group to the hotel.

Thursday, June 1, 2023

Enjoy a morning on your own exploring the markets, parks, many museums, and pieces of public art that are within a short walk of our hotel.

Please meet in the lobby a few minutes before our scheduled Noon departure for **Universidad Panamericana**, a private institution with leadership supporting artistic opportunities to improve human dimension and cognitive skills through the fine arts. You may have previously met Dean Gabriel Pilego at ICFAD's Conference in Seattle in 2018. He looks forward to welcoming us, hosting us for lunch, and touring us around campus.

It is here that **two members who are planning to present** will do so:

- Andrea E. Morris, Head of Advancement, College of Arts and Social Sciences, The Australian National University in Canberra, will share a presentation titled *Leveraging Resources for Indigenous Australian Art and Music Education within International Partnerships*. The presentation will highlight the globalization of Indigenous Studies, with art and music major foci, as Australia experiences an increase in interest from students and academics abroad. She plans to showcase two case studies of ANU programs that have benefitted immensely from leveraging resources for mutual benefit with international partnerships, one each from Art and Music. Both involve Indigenous Australian faculty leaders, staff and students partnering with Advancement professionals to take well advantage of international opportunities.
- Federico Freschi, Head of College, Te Maru Pumanawa College of Creative Practice & Enterprise, Otago Polytechnic, will share a presentation titled *Supporting Internationalization and Diversity Efforts through Decolonization Projects: Case Studies from South Africa and New Zealand*. As academics and administrators, we have long been mindful of the importance of internationalization and diversity efforts in building a better world. As a global community, now more than ever we need to be able to communicate and work together effectively, while also acknowledging and celebrating the unique perspectives and experiences of individuals from diverse backgrounds. In this presentation, Federico will share experiences supporting and expanding diversity efforts in South Africa and Aotearoa New Zealand. Specifically, he will discuss two projects focusing on decolonization, one an undergraduate student project entitled 'Recast', and the second a book entitled *The Politics of Design: Privilege and Prejudice in Aotearoa New Zealand, Australia, and South Africa*.

Universidad Panamericana students from the School of Fine Arts look forward to celebrating our visit to campus by working collaboratively with students from the School of Food Business Management to prepare a closing reception for us, with music and a farewell toast.

We plan to return to the hotel at approximately 5:45 p.m. After freshening up, please meet in the lobby a few minutes before our scheduled 6:30 p.m. departure for a 6:45 **Farewell Dinner** reservation at Café de Tacuba.