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FOLKLORAMA FESTIVAL MANITOBA 2019

The 2019 edition of the Folklorama Festival was held in Winnipeg, Manitoba, from August 4 to 17. This multicultural event is the biggest and oldest of its kind in Canada, according to the International Council of Organizations of Folklore Festivals and Folk Arts (CIOFF).

The Folklorama Festival began in 1970 and has become an annual celebration of culture and diversity. The national and regional pavilions offer entertainment, cultural exhibitions and authentic ethnic cuisine.



At the Winnipeg Convention Centre, Manitoba's Mex Y Can Association (which is dedicated to preserving and promoting Mexican culture and traditions abroad) operated a Mexican pavilion during the week from August 11 to 17.

This year, the Folklorama Festival set a new record for attendance with more than 20,000 visitors, including both Canadians and members of the Spanish-speaking communities living in or visiting the province.



The Mexican exhibition featured cultural displays related to the traditions of Día de Muertos (Day of the Dead), with pieces created by the Mexican community in Manitoba, and particularly at workshops organized by the German artist Ingo Lamerz.

Also featured was a wall display of photographs organized by Miguel Romero, with support and materials from the José Guadalupe Posada Museum in the Mexican state of Aguascalientes.



Mexico's cultural and artistic involvement included a performance by the Veracruz Folk Ballet and Ensemble, directed by Ángel Ciro Silvestre and José Demetrio Fernández.

Samples of Mexican cuisine were offered by Chef Fernanda Vergara and her team of students from the Autonomous University of Guadalajara (UDG), who prepared around 15,000 dishes to be enjoyed in the Mexican Pavilion.

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

CANADIAN NATIONAL EXHIBITION (CNE) OPENING CEREMONY



The Consulate General was present at the opening ceremony of the Canadian National Exhibition (CNE) at Exhibition Place in Toronto on August 16.

Speaking at the opening were Toronto mayor John Tory, Ontario Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport Lisa MacLeod, and CNE President John Kiru.

The Canadian National Exhibition (CNE) is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1879 with the purpose of promoting the development of agriculture, industry, and the arts.

The CNE has become a major community forum in Canada and one of the five most important agricultural fairs in North America. The "Ex" attracts more than 1.5 million visitors a year, reflecting Toronto's economic importance.



The CNE offers Canadian and international businesses an excellent platform to promote their products and technological innovations. Visitors can also enjoy air shows, cultural events, exhibitions, parades, rides and concerts.

Every year, the CNE employs more than 5,000 people and, together with its partners, contributes more than \$128 million to Ontario's economic activity.

CULTURAL AFFAIRS

OPENING OF TORONTO'S PANAMERICAN FOOD AND MUSIC FESTIVAL



On Friday, August 16, the Consulate General took part in the opening of Toronto's Pan-American Food and Music Festival PANAMFEST, held at Daniels Spectrum near Regent Park.

Attending the ceremony were special guests like Ontario's Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth Dowdeswell and federal MP for Davenport Julie Dzerowicz, as well as business leaders and members of the city's diplomatic corps.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau sent an emotional video-recorded message praising the Festival's great work. This annual event is the biggest of its kind in Canada, bringing together dozens of countries to celebrate the cultural and artistic diversity of the Western hemisphere.

It featured cooking presentations by 20 international chefs, live music and dance shows, food competitions and a Pan-American vendors market displaying different foods and other products.



The guest chefs included Mexico's Erika Araujo, who promotes Mexican traditional cuisine and culture through her Ixiim brand in Ontario.

The seventh edition of the PANAMFEST Festival was held in Toronto's Yonge-Dundas Square and was attended by 50,000 people, who had the opportunity to enjoy around 40 events and the presence of more than 600 artists from different countries and communities.

MEXICAN COMMUNITY

CONSULATE GENERAL PARTICIPATES IN THE TRADITIONAL “ELOTADA”



The get-together took place on Sunday, August 18, at the Andrews' Scenic Acres farm, located in the Milton region of Ontario. The event was attended by around 100 people, who were able to enjoy and share Mexican dishes accompanied by the farm's own delicious corn.

The community gathering also included a musical program featuring the mariachi band México Amigo, which performed traditional Mexican songs.



The Consulate General participated in the traditional summer “ELOTADA” this year, organized by the community organization Enlace with the purpose of getting together with Mexican seasonal agricultural workers, exchanging experiences and facilitating their integration into Ontario society.

Enlace is an association dedicated to providing support to Mexican agricultural workers in economic and social matters, and especially in the areas of taxes, health and legal assistance.



For the members of the Mexican communities, the meeting offered a chance to talk with seasonal agricultural workers and to take a tour of the facilities. The visitors were shown the vegetable and flower cultivation practices at the farm, as well as wine and fruit cider production.

The event coincided with the beginning of the fall season for Mexican seasonal agricultural workers in the province.

CULTURAL AFFAIRS

PERFORMANCE BY THE FOLK DANCE ENSEMBLE “PURO MÉXICO”



On Saturday, August 24, the Consulate General attended a performance by the folk dance ensemble Puro México, which has been performing beautiful dance numbers representative of Mexico's cultural diversity for more than 15 years.

The folk dance troupe features more than 40 dancers. The performance took place in the international pavilion at the Canadian National Exhibition (CNE) in Toronto, with traditional dances and Mexican music to display the vast artistic and cultural wealth of our country.



OPENING OF “SIN FRONTERAS MONARCH BUTTERFLY EXHIBITION”



On Thursday, August 22, the Consulate General attended the opening to the exhibition of the “Sin Fronteras Monarch Butterfly” project at the Gardiner Museum in Toronto.

The exhibition was supported by the Davenport-Perth Community Ministry and the Canadá Nos Une Cultural Organization, which organized a series of community workshops that resulted in the creation of more than 1,000 ceramic monarch butterflies.



PRESENTATION OF THE FILM *TIGERS ARE NOT AFRAID*



On August 23, the Toronto International Film Festival presented the Mexican fantasy-horror film *Tigers Are Not Afraid* (*Vuelven*) by screenwriter and director Issa López, at the TIFF Bell Lightbox in Toronto.

The film was introduced by the filmmaker Guillermo del Toro, who, together with the director Issa López, took part in a Q&A session with the audience after the screening.



TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2019



The first film was "Chicuarotes", directed by the actor Gael García Bernal. It is an urban story of two teenagers fleeing their neighborhood on the outskirts of Mexico City.

The premiere of the film about the playful experiences of the elderly "The Devil Between the Legs" by the famous director Arturo Ripstein, in collaboration with the screenwriter Paz Alicia Garciadiego, was also presented.



The highly successful 44th edition of the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF 2019) was held from September 5 to 15, 2019.

The festival included screenings of 333 feature films, documentaries and shorts, 133 of which were world premieres.

This year, Mexican cinema was represented by four excellent films.



The third national work was "My luminous skin" by Gabino Rodríguez and Nicolas Pereda who enters the world of the dream, transforming the mundane into fantasy to meditate on the nature of rituals and childhood.

In "Labor" by David Zonana, the accidental death of a construction worker and the denial of justice lead his brother to seek compensation by his own hand.

MEXICO IN THE NEXT FILM FESTIVALS

Festival ImagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival

From October 22 to 27, 2019 at the TIFF Bell Lightbox Box Office in the city of Toronto.

Annual film and media arts festival that shows films, videos, audio and interactive digital media made by indigenous people. The Mexican Antonio Coello participates with "The creation of the world"

<http://www.imagenative.org/>

AluCine Latin Film+Media Arts Festival

From October 3 to 6, 2019 in Toronto, at the Jackman Hall (Art Gallery of Ontario) and Cinecycle.

Regional forum in which more than 40 films from Canada and Latin America will be screened, including several Mexican productions, feature films, animated shorts, fiction, documentaries and experimental films.

<https://www.alucinefestival.com/>

Toronto Latin American Film Festival (LATAFF)

From October 5 to 26, 2019, in Innis Town) and the Jackman Hall (Art Gallery of Ontario).

Cinematic platform in which the Mexican film "Las bien bien" by director Alejandra Márques Abella participates.

<http://lataff.ca/>

INTERVIEW WITH MEXICANS

PEDRO NARVÁEZ AND EMMA LÓPEZ

**Who are Pedro Narváez and Emma López?**

We are Mexican designers and animators, who graduated with honours from Universidad de las Américas Puebla and who have been working professionally for more than 15 years. In Mexico we founded the company AVA Artes Visuales y Animación, one of the most widely recognized Mexican studios in the world, specializing in projection mapping and content for digital media.

What has your experience been like as immigrants?

This is the second time we've immigrated to Canada. We first came in 2005 to complete graduate studies in visual effects for film and television. We graduated with honours from Seneca College of Applied Arts and Technology and then began working in the Canadian animation industry.

We returned to Mexico to found our company in 2010 and we've been back in Toronto again since 2018 to establish a subsidiary here in Canada, AVA Animation and Visual Arts, and to continue growing in the North American market.

Our experience has been fantastic; we've found time and again that Canada welcomes Mexican talent with open arms. We believe that this positive response is due mainly to the visual culture that characterizes our work, our colours and our capacity for problem solving.

While in other countries there are very high levels of specialization, we Mexicans are excellent at adapting to different challenges and situations. With new technologies being implemented every day, the creative scene is changing constantly and it is vital to be able to adapt in order to keep growing.

What have been your biggest achievements?

Since 2011, since we began specializing in projection mapping, we have had the honour of participating in a lot of very important festivals around the world: The Amsterdam Light Festival, the Circle of Light in Moscow, the Mapping Festival in Geneva, the Light and Avant-garde Arts Festival in Salamanca, Niigata Minatopika in Tokyo, the Okazaki Light Festival in Kyoto, and the Kuzefest Festival in Santiago, Chile.

We've also had the honour of illuminating iconic buildings like the Burj Khalifa in Dubai, the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow, Gallier Hall in New Orleans, the Santa Rosa de Viterbo Church in Querétaro, and the Palace of the Parliament in Bucharest, Romania.

We have had the good fortune of collaborating with excellent Mexican composers like Alejandro Basulto, and international composers like Hideaki Takahashi, and recording the music for our projects with symphony orchestras in Slovakia, Hungary, and Macedonia.

Our work has been presented in Spain, Switzerland, Netherlands, Japan, Lebanon, Chile, the United States, United Arab Emirates, Armenia, Russia, Canada, and Mexico.

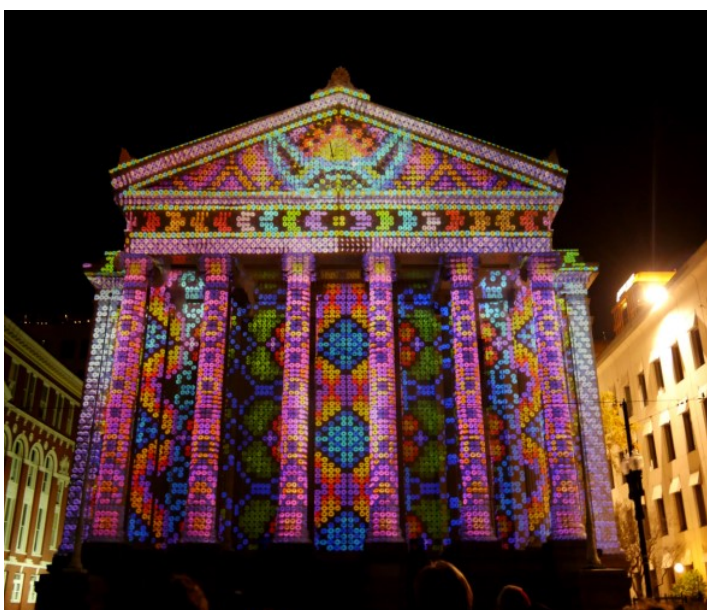
Do you feel there is a stronger presence of Mexican artists in Canada?

Absolutely. There is now a notable presence of Mexican artists in Canada and it keeps expanding every day thanks to international collaborations. We have numerous talented colleagues: illustrators, animators and art directors working in Montreal, Ottawa, Vancouver, and Toronto.

The Internet has allowed talent to cross borders and we've had the opportunity to collaborate from any corner of the world.

What future projects are you planning?

In the coming weeks we will be participating in the One-Minute Projection Mapping Festival in Japan, projecting onto the iconic Odawara Castle from September 20 to 23, and on September 27 and 29 we will be headlining at the Light Move Festival in Lodz, Poland, where we will be illuminating the famous Teatr Wielki, the city opera house.



FUTURE EVENTS

HEALTH WEEK

VII Latin American Health Week in Toronto

From October 7 to 11, 2019

The Mexican Day will be on October 9 in:

The Mount Pleasant Library located at: 599 Mount Pleasant Rd. M4S 2M5.

- 5: 30-5: 40 pm - Opening of the Mexican Day by General Consul Porfirio Thierry Muñoz Ledo.
- 5: 40-5: 50 pm - "The welfare of students in their academic development", Lic. Ericka Aguilera.
- 5: 50-6: 20 pm - "Pulmonary transplant: a new opportunity to live," Dr. Andrea Mariscal.
- 6: 20-6: 50 pm - "Myths of nutrition", Paulina Cortés.
- 6:50 - 7:00 pm - Break.
- 7: 00-7: 30 pm - "Mental health in families with children with serious illnesses," Dr. Maru Barrera.
- 7: 30-8: 00 pm - "Mindfulness: A tool to control emotions", Verónica Torres.
- 8:00 - 8:30 pm - "What you should know about cancer", Dr. Olga Sayuri Rivera.
- 8:30 - 8:35 pm - Closing.

USEFUL LINKS

The Registration System for Mexicans Abroad (SIRME, for its initials in Spanish) has the purpose of facilitating communication between the Mexican government and its citizens living abroad. Through this system, registered Mexicans can receive timely information to avoid facing adverse conditions while travelling, staying or residing outside Mexico.

<https://sirme.sre.gob.mx/>

Canadian nationals and permanent residents of Canada do not require a visa to enter Mexico, with the exception of Canadian citizens carrying diplomatic or official passports. For more information please visit:

<https://consulmex.sre.gob.mx/toronto/index.php/en/servicesforeigners/visas>



SIRME



The Consulate General of Mexico in Toronto is open to the public by appointment.

For Mexican passports, birth certificates and powers of attorney, appointments must be requested through MEXITEL at: https://citas.sre.gob.mx/mexitel_web/ (1-877-639 4835)

For any other service, please request an appointment

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USEFUL LINKS

- Presidency of Mexico:
presidencia.gob.mx
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs:
sre.gob.mx
- Mexican Embassy in Canada
embamex.sre.gob.mx/canada/
- Ministry of Culture:
cultura.gob.mx
- Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Mexico: cancham.mx
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- Visas and consular services:
consulmex.com
- Mexican restaurants in Toronto & GTA
https://www.blogto.com/eat_drink/2015/11/the_top_25_mexican_restaurants_in_toronto_by_neighbourhood/
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