



U.S. - Mexico At a Glance

Culture

February 2009

In 2008, Embassy co-sponsorship is supporting the loan of works by Frida Kahlo, currently on exhibit at the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis and the Philadelphia Museum of Art. In “exchange,” the Walker Art Center and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art will display masterworks from their collections in Mexico City.

In 2008, the Embassy co-sponsored the Dramafest theater festival, which took place in Mexico City and Guadalajara. Funding was provided by the Embassy, the President’s Committee for the Arts and the Humanities, the National Endowment for the Arts and the Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation.

Cultural and exchange programs sponsored by the State Department through the U.S. Embassy and its consulates in Mexico foster greater mutual understanding and reduce misperceptions by sponsoring people-to-people programs and by fostering stronger linkages between Mexican and American cultural institutions.

Through its **U.S. Speakers Program**, the U.S. Embassy regularly brings to Mexico U.S. experts to speak on issues of bilateral concern, including countering drug abuse and trafficking in persons, judicial reform, access to information, economic reform, human rights, and others. The U.S. Speakers Program supports public and academic conferences and seminars throughout Mexico.

The Embassy’s **International Visitor Leadership Program** brings rising Mexican leaders to the U.S. for 3-week professional development programs. An average of 50 Mexicans participate each year. Among the prominent politicians, journalists and professionals who have participated are Mexican President Felipe Calderon in 1992 and First Lady Margarita Zavala in 2001.

The Embassy maintains a strong bi-lateral **Performing and Visual Arts Program** through facilitative assistance and small grant funding. Embassy co-sponsorship helps bring American performers each year to major arts festivals in Mexico, including the Festival Cervantino and the Morelia Film Festival. In 2009, the Embassy is providing a grant and facilitative assistance for “the Art of the Missions of Northern New Spain 1600-1821” to be presented at the Antiguo Colegio de San Ildefonso from April to August.

The Edward S. Curtis Photography Exhibit, a joint collaboration between the Foundation for Photography, the U.S. Embassy in Mexico and the National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH) with support from Coca Cola Foundation, Comex, Televisa Foundation and Cordoba Plaza, will continue its five-year tour in Tijuana, Ciudad Juárez, San Luis Potosí and Zacatecas. In November 2009, the Embassy is providing grants and facilitative assistance to the International Book Fair in Guadalajara. The City of Los Angeles, California was named as the 2009 Guest of Honor and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) has given 1.6 million dollars to the City of Los Angeles for this project – the largest foreign project ever undertaken by the NEA and will be the U.S. government’s single biggest cultural event in Mexico this year.



The **Benjamin Franklin Library** is the oldest public-access library supported by the United States government abroad. With a lending library of 25,000 volumes; a large selection of American periodicals; and state-of-the-art Internet and electronic research facilities, the Benjamin Franklin Library continues to be a major source of information on contemporary American society.

U.S. Embassy Mexico City • 5080-2000
Public Affairs Section (PAS) 5080-2253
mexico.usembassy.gov