

friendsofambosnogales-oct2010

Dear GV/Sahuarita Friends of Ambos Nogales:

Here we are again—with issue #2 of our newsletter for those of you who attended presentations about the Santa Cruz Community Foundation (SCCF) and its sister foundation in Sonora (FESAC). There is a lot happening that we thought you'd want to keep up with from Ambos Nogales.

Bob Phillips and Alma Yanez de Cota, Executive Directors of the two foundations, and their staff and board members send greetings and their great thanks for your continued interest and support. Bob's new staff member, Elga Manjarrez came on board this summer and is happy to help you in any way.

Beyond Borders Exhibit at TCA in Tubac

The Beyond Borders exhibit at the Tubac Center of the Arts runs October 15 - November 14, with a reception from 4-6pm Saturday Nov. 6th, including student performing groups from Nogales, Sonora.

The exhibit features a series of etchings by internationally recognized Hermosillo-based painter, printmaker, and instructor, Eva Laura Moraga. Another highlight of the TCA exhibit is the debut of a large triptych based on the Garden of Hearts border installation, originally created by the late artist Alberto Morackis and his partner Guadalupe Serrano. The monumental three-dimensional border installation, a metaphor for the heart-rending aspects of street peddling, was destroyed during an urban renewal project. Guadalupe Serrano kept the drawings of the original piece and he and Diego Taddei have recreated the mural on three acrylic on canvas panels featured in the front gallery at Tubac Center of the Arts.

Agency Profile

In this issue we want to introduce you to the new arts programs in Nogales, Sonora.

Instituto Municipal de Formento a la Cultura y las Artes (IMFOCULTA) is a project of the Nogales Municipal government. Also supported by FESAC, IMFOCULTA is focused on promoting cultural and artistic activities – primarily in community centers located in marginal and very low-income neighborhoods. (Many of you have visited one of these community centers.) These activities serve as an important crime prevention program due to the fact that many kids wander the streets after school while their parents are working. These programs give them a place to go, be safe and develop their skills for their futures. Children of all ages are involved. In addition, the programs are bringing culture and education to the local residents.

The main location of IMFOCULTA is located in downtown Nogales, Sonora and is divided into the following workshops: music, painting, folk dancing, sculpting, acting, video classes, and stargazing. In addition IMFOCULTA organizes public events like plays, concerts and folk dance performances.

Kathy Babcock of Green Valley visited the Center while on a site visit co-sponsored by SCCF and FESAC last spring.

What was impressive was the number of young students who were actively engaged. They were on stilts; they were in the musical instrument area; they were just completing a wall mural. The teens were so friendly – and so proud of their work. Especially after what we have heard about the situation for kids in Nogales, it was heartening to see that they have access to the arts center and can express their creative side.

Other centers are now underway, including one called DEIJUVEN, which also houses a day care center (that many of you visited and that we also profiled in our first issue). DEIJUVEN, which serves 1,200 children and youth is a non-profit and funded by FESAC(as compared to IMFOLCUTA that is government funded). DEIJUVEN is working hard to start the first youth orchestra! The auditorium is ready in the Flores Magon neighborhood. Guitar classes are one of the most popular activities at DEIJUVEN.

And You??

There are some unique opportunities for us to support these art/culture and crime prevention programs in Sonora. First, instruments of all kinds for DEIJUVEN are needed, including: cellos, guitars, pianos, violins, drums, trumpets, flutes, tambourines, etc. Also, if you are interested in teaching music or art, your talent and time is also welcome.

If you want to volunteer or donate in some way with friendsofambosnogales, please contact us or SCCF directly.

As a reminder, tax-deductible donations can be made to help fund the operations of the Santa Cruz Community Foundation or to Sonoran development projects, through the SCCF (825 N. Grand Ave., Suite 104B, Nogales, AZ, 85621, 520.761.4531, www.sccfaz.org). Rather than “charity,” donations are investments in lasting social change in our Border communities.

Cross Border Site Visits

Site visits are starting up again this fall. Call Elga at the SCCF office at 761-4531 for more information. Visits are intended to educate us in order that we may donate and volunteer most effectively to assist our neighbors in Sonora as they work hard to achieve their own goals.

Speaking Opportunities?

Bob and Alma will be speaking at the GV Forum on January 19th at the East Center at 10:00 – and they hope you will attend.

Let us know if you belong to a social, civic or religious organization that would like a presentation on the cross-border work of the Foundations. Educating our neighbors in the US can go a long way to improve cross-border understanding. We can set up the program. If you would like to host an informational gathering in your home, let us know. A group of folks in Tubac are doing that right now!

We hope you enjoy the attached photos of some border art and activities at the arts centers supported by FESAC and the SCCF. Please feel free to share this newsletter with friends, and simply e-mail pamduchaine@gmail.com to be added or deleted from our distribution list.

Abrazos,

Diane Meyer and Pam Duchaine