

CASA GALLINA

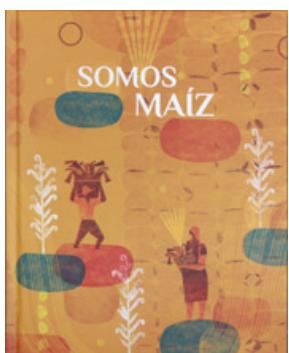
CULTURA • COMUNIDAD • MEDIO AMBIENTE

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The exhibition *Maize, Biodiversity and Culture. An Approach from its Daily Consumption* at Cabañas Museum in Guadalajara.

The end of summer 2019 at Casa Gallina gave continuity to the work of the first few months of the year and the organizing of various forms of critical reflection on the theme of maize and its consumption. Within this framework, we implemented educational and knowledge-exchange programs concerning the natural environment, nutrition, and resilience, that brought the population of Santa María la Ribera closer to a critical view of the production and consumption of this vital seed.



Forming part of the core material on this theme, the children's book *We Are Maize*, with texts by Roxanna Erdman and illustrations by Adriana Campos, was published. The Spanish version was translated into Maya, Náhuatl and Zapoteco in order to be, in collaboration with allied institutions, among the communities where those languages are spoken.

We are glad to announce the alliance we established with the Cabañas Museum in Guadalajara, which is currently hosting the exhibition *Maize, Biodiversity and Culture. An Approach from its Daily Consumption* including works by Demián Flores and research by maize expert Rafael Mier.

During this period the Casa Gallina team finished work on the new Website: www.casagallina.org.mx, now available for users to consult the house's strategies and agenda. Communicating the project's daily activities is done through our [Facebook Casa Gallina](#) profile, a platform that is open to all those who are interested, whereas the neighborhood open calls are reserved for a recently created closed group.



Wall for neighbors to share their experiences in Casa Gallina's workshops.

Program

Casa Gallina's quarterly program had maize as its central theme and was articulated around the following strategies:

Maize: Biodiversity and Culture in Everyday Consumption



School visit to the exhibition *Maize, Biodiversity and Culture. An Approach from its Daily Consumption* at Geology Museum.

The last of the teaching activities were undertaken during the summer months before the closure of the exhibition ***Maize, Biodiversity and Culture. An Approach from its Daily Consumption*** at the Geology Museum. 8,400 people visited the exhibition during regular opening hours at the museum and more than 600 neighbors and local school groups participated in collective activities of critical thinking on the theme.



Kids from the summer course *Holidays in the Cornfield. Workshop for Children on Traditional Mexican Agriculture*, visiting a corn mill in the neighborhood to learn about the process of *nixtamalización*.

During the summer vacations, the **Holidays in the Cornfield. Workshop for Children on Traditional Mexican Agriculture** was organized. More than 60 schoolchildren from local public schools took part in activities, experiments, games and exercises about maize and its biodiversity in Mexico. The workshop included a visit to the exhibition at the Geology Museum and to a traditional maize mill, where the kids were introduced to the process of nixtamalización-the ancestral technique for preparing maize to be made into tortillas. As a teaching aid, a workbook featuring texts by Roxanna Erdman and illustrations by the artist Demián Flores was published.



Activities in Salón Huev@ dedicated to discuss about maize.

From the month of June onwards, the Salón Huev@ at Casa Gallina was adapted and programmed to induce critical thinking on the theme of maize and the maize field. It was home for a number of diverse activities, such as the **Cycle of Films on Agricultural Life**; the **Cornfield Neighborhood: Growing at Different Rhythms, Doing Different Things** children's workshop; and the projection of a series of animated shorts, **68 Voices**, spoken in indigenous languages. Participants in these activities were made aware of the problems of living an agricultural lifestyle and its relationship with everyday life in the city.

Nutrition and Resilience: Responsible Consumption and Environmental Empathy



The *Discovering Flavors* cooking workshop with our neighbor Chef Lizbeth Maximino.

The cooking platform benefited from a collaboration with Angélica Palma from the Calpulli Tecalco civil association, who gave the **The Maize Grains of Milpa Alta** workshop. She introduced the traditional ways of terraced farming as well as recipes from the rural region known as the Cuenca del Valle de México.

The **Discovering Flavors** cooking workshop also took place, Conducted by chef and Casa Gallina neighbor Lizbeth Maximino, the participants learnt to cook recipes with healthy ingredients for children and teenagers.

The Casa Gallina vegetable garden was kept working as a teaching platform for those neighbors interested in processes of growing and harvesting, as well as being the base for the urban farming advisory sessions and the **Kitchen Gardens for the Entire Family** workshop. These were both focused on adapting ecological farming methods to urban contexts. As a result of these workshops the participants organized themselves to work together at later dates in order to install vegetable gardens in each of their homes, leading to the creation 5 family and community vegetable gardens.

Producing and Recreating School: Models for Strengthening School Knowledge

Working with the local public schools, the **Nutrition Based on Mexican Ingredients Workshop** was organized. Through a variety of sensory exercises, children from the República de Cuba school got to know local and seasonal ingredients in order to prepare nutritious recipes.

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The *Nutrition Based on Mexican Ingredients Workshop* for students of the República de Cuba Primary School

Between Neighbors: Meetings, Dialogues and Exchange



Summer Dance for seniors.

This quarter, the monthly program of dinner parties, **Blind Dinner with Friends**, and the bi-monthly **From 5 to 7** gatherings, were upheld. This season saw the participation of biodiversity activist Miguel Ángel García, from the Chimalapas jungle in Oaxaca; and of Ana Paula Ojeda, the coordinator of Kolijke, a community ecological regeneration project in the Sierra Norte in the state of Puebla.

The **Summer Dance** took place in July. 80 elderly neighbors of over sixty years of age took part in a social gathering that saw them share food, drink, and dancing. The music played during this gathering was compiled by local baker Christian Rojas Zepeda, who invited neighbors and local businesses to create their own playlists., invited to do so.

For more detailed information about the program of events, please visit our Website at www.casagallina.org.mx and become our friend at [Facebook Casa Gallina](#).

