



Seeds exhibition at the Geology Museum

Between May and August, Casa Gallina continued weaving links between art, environment, and community through a variety of activities centered on seeds, food and shared ways of life. During these months, we received agroecological projects from different regions, inaugurated the exhibition **Seeds** at the Geology Museum, supported educational processes with children and young people in the neighborhood, and held meetings that strengthened neighborhood coexistence. This newsletter brings together a look at those collective experiences that remind us of the importance of cultivating both the land and our daily relationships.

Below we share the details of these initiatives that seek to strengthen our community and celebrate our alliances.

Environment and Community



PAN-Fleto at the **Miscelánea en común**

The **Miscelánea en común** (a community initiative offering local agroecological projects) received four projects: Huerta Gosén (Huamantla, Tlaxcala), Fábrica de Huertos (Atlampa, CDMX), PAN-Fleto (Xalapa, Veracruz) and Tlalli-Tierra Fértil (Panotla, Tlaxcala). These initiatives implement agroecology-based food production and transformation models that strengthen the food security of their communities. Through slow transformation processes and educational actions, they convey knowledge about ways of life and culture linked to their territories.

As part of the creation of a point of sale in Santa María la Ribera, they brought a wide variety of products to the neighbors: vegetables, bio-inputs, herbs, fruits, ferments, seeds and mushrooms, among others. In addition, they held eight workshops that shared knowledge to prepare regional dishes, produce herbal products and preserves, bake bread, or start homegrown vegetable, herb, and mushroom gardens.

Art Projects



Seeds exhibition at the Geology Museum

The exhibition *Seeds* is on view from July 29 to October 26 at the Geology Museum. The exhibition integrates 16 watercolors by the artist Emily C-D, who is part of the Somos Semilla Library in San Miguel de Allende, as well as a botanical display of herbalised specimens of Casa Gallina and physical seeds that allow a sensory experience. In addition, infographics based on the research of Dr. Isela Rodríguez Arévalo introduce visitors to the challenges of seed conservation and its importance for food sovereignty.

The exhibition is accompanied by the book of the same name, **Seeds**, which brings together the testimonies of activists, educators, environmental promoters and neighbors of Santa María la Ribera of different ages, whose experiences show how seeds teach patience, resilience and care. Their ability to adapt and transform resonates with today's ecosocial challenges and invites us to rethink our relationship with the environment from the small, the everyday and the collective. Both the exhibition and the publication were possible thanks to the alliance with the Citibanamex Art and Culture Development Call.

Educational Program



Summer course **Seed Guardians**

From July 28 to August 15, the summer course **Seed Guardians** took place with 42 children from the Santa María la Ribera neighborhood. Throughout the sessions, the participants explored the world of seeds through playful activities linked to food, germination and creativity, which included a visit to the *Seeds* exhibition and the collective intervention of the book *Seeds*. This educational and community experience was made possible through the partnership with the Citibanamex Art and Culture Development Call.



Germination session for the **Salsa Challenge**

As part of the annual practices in the garden, the neighbors take advantage of the sowing and harvesting calendar to pose germination challenges that expand the variety of species in the seed bank.

In June and July, the **Salsa Challenge** was launched, in which different varieties of tomatoes and chili peppers were planted. In the end, and participants shared their own sauce recipes. Orchard products not only serve as a learning tool around urban agriculture, but also as a pretext for cooking together and exchanging knowledge among neighbors.



Session **We Make Our River: We Are a Body of Water** at Ana María Berlanga Secondary School

As part of the neighborhood school engagement actions, **We Make Our River: We Are Bodies of Water** was a series of work sessions with students from the Middle School No. 2 Ana María Berlanga. The proposal explored the relationship between the biodiversity of water bodies and the analogy with the rivers of Mexico City as invisible but present entities.

During the activities, the students learned about these rivers and how they can be understood from the body itself, using the metaphor of the veins of the body and the water that circulates through the rivers. At the end, they made use of the exhibition material of the publication **We Make Our River** and created a temporary exhibition at the school that integrated their own intervention works together with the contents of the publication.

Community Services



Musical Flavors with La Mar

During May and June, the neighbor meetings allowed the neighborhood to coexist in two moments of great joy. First, we were able to receive the La Mar ensemble, with a session especially designed to share women's music traditions. Among peteneras, malagueñas, the xochipitzahua dancing with her canary and more; neighbors were able to talk about several Mexican music, their instruments and celebration contexts. And the following month, we held the **Summer Ball** for the community of 60-year-old and older adults, during which the neighbors used Casa Gallina's jukebox, danced, dined and received as a gift in a raffle, baskets with harvest of our allies from the Fábrica de Huertos (Orchard Factory).



Screening of *A Plastic Ocean*

In July, the documentary short film *Sikuelachi Escuela en la Tarahumara* was projected, by photographer Ernesto Lehn. We were joined by teachers from Middle School No. 46 “José Vasconcelos” of the neighborhood, who showed great interest and need to reflect on the forms of childhood education in relation to their territories. In the company of the director of the film we talked about the great effort it can take to go to school: in the case of the Tarahumara, the story includes having built it from scratch in the middle of the mountains.

In August we screened *A Plastic Ocean*, thanks to the support of the Hong Kong A Plastic Ocean Foundation. Neighbors of different ages joined us, and they were moved and deeply affected by a reality that might seem distant from our urban everyday life. In this way, our shared film screenings continue to invite us into the moving experience of collective reflection that enriches the processes that connect us.

Other alliances



Open-Air Archive vol. 1 at the Museo del Niño Minero, Vetagrande, Zacatecas

From July 11 to September 7, the exhibition Open Air Archive vol. 1 was presented in a second venue at the Museo del niño minero, Vetagrande, Zacatecas. The exhibition includes a critical and poetic look at mining in Zacatecas and its impact on community life in that town, through the work of the artist Enrique Méndez de Hoyos (a video with testimonies of inhabitants of Vetagrande and cartographic serigraphs) in dialogue with the research of the sociologist Darcy Tetreault.



In June, the authors of the book **Stories and Flavors We Inhabit** held a day of presentations and activities in different spaces, in collaboration with several organizations and projects. As an initial action, they donated their book to the collection of the Museo Galería Nuestra Cocina Duque de Herdez, one of the largest bibliographic compendiums focused on gastronomy in the country. In this space they also presented the publication in front of the specialized press.

They also presented the book as part of the Mexican Cuisine Festival, held at the Anahuacalli Museum. The day continued with the Meeting of Food Communities, where they served as hosts to receive residents of the Popotla neighborhood, who had gathered around the Café Arafura project to reflect, in a similar way, on the value of food in the experience of urban communities. During this meeting, the groups shared their work and addressed the experiences, principles and ideas behind it.

For more details about the programs, please visit our website: www.casagallina.org.mx and follow us on social networks: [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook Casa Gallina](#), [Instagram casa_gallina](#), [Youtube Casa Gallina](#).

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