

# CASA GALLINA

CULTURA · COMUNIDAD · MEDIO AMBIENTE

NEWSLETTER JUNE - AUGUST 2023



Summer Course - We Make Our River

Casa Gallina maintained an intense programming during the second four month period of 2023. Local work in Santa María la Ribera was kept up through encounters, workshops, screenings and community services at the Casa venue, as well as exhibitions, courses and artistic interventions in allied institutions in the neighborhood, such as the Geology Museum and local public schools.

Collaborations with agents and organizations in other territories continued by means of co-designing educational programs based on materials produced by Casa Gallina, such as the books *Hacemos nuestro río* (We Make Our River), *Vida en mi entorno* (Life in My Surroundings) and *Trazar lo común* (Tracing the Common, the Territories that Inhabit Us).

Greater details on certain activities during these months are shared below:

## Environment and Community



Augusto César Sandino Primary School

We collaborated with the collective *Santo Remedio Literatura* in *Augusto César Sandino* primary school from March until June, in a process that included equipping an unused classroom with furniture and didactic aids, as well as advising the teaching staff and sessions with all the groups in the school, carried out by Martha Garay, a promoter of reading, in order to activate the school library's collection.



Seeds exchange

In July we hosted an encounter with the participation of orchard-growing neighbors and representatives from various organizations focused on agriculture: *Somos Semillas*, *Huerto Tlatelolco* and the Ocomantla Communal



Production Center, thus giving rise to a process that will end in a publication containing experiences for care and collective safeguarding of agroecological seeds.



Summer Dance Party

The program **Among Neighbors: Encounters, Dialogue and Exchange** gathered various neighbors in conversational encounters surrounding food. **Blind Dinner with Friends** hosted the local business *El Chiringuito*, while **Stories and Flavors We Inhabit**, facilitated by Miguel Iwadare and neighbor Balbina Pérez, included three breakfasts where participants shared and prepared recipes, fostering a dialogue on the value of food in community integration and the recognition of cultural diversity. A dance was organized to celebrate the arrival of summer, attended by 53 elderly neighbors who dined, interacted and danced to the rhythm of songs selected from the Casa Gallina jukebox.

Regular fortnightly cycles of community cinema were held: *Escuchando las raíces* (Listening to Roots) and *Voces y territorios vivos* (Voices and Live Territories), which presented a series of documentaries and fiction films with the aim to promote collective reflection on agroecology and native languages. This program allowed us to maintain close relations with institutions such as IMCINE, Procine and the *Cineteca Nacional* (National Film Archive and Screening Center). The screening of certain films enabled our participation in festivals such as *Contra el silencio todas las voces* and *Luces de la resistencia*. The sessions provided a constant and enriching platform for dialogue among members of the community, broaching subjects that included agroecology and responsible consumption, cultural and linguistic diversity, as well as their

implications.

## Artistic Projects



*Women of Mystery* in middle school Ana María Berlanga

The installation of the piece ***Señoras del misterio*** (Women of Mystery) was completed in June in middle school # 2, *Ana María Berlanga*. This mural, made from black quarry stone, is the result of a collaborative process between the artist Sofía Echeverri and a group of school students. In it they reflect on the biodiversity of flora and fauna in the basin of the valley of Mexico and the students created characters that represent certain regional species. The mural will be an important part of the educational curriculum during the next school year, in collaboration with the institution's teachers.



Exhibition *We Make Our River* at Geology Museum

The exhibition ***Hacemos nuestro río*** (We Make Our River) is presented from the 8<sup>th</sup> of August to the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September in the Geology Museum. The exhibition is based on the publication of the same name, which depicts and gathers the voices of certain inhabitants around the Papaloapan River. The book recently received the Poetry and Cultural Dialogue Mention in the contest for the best books for children and youths in 2023, organized by *Banco del Libro*, an NGO dedicated to promoting reading since 1960.

The exhibition has been complemented by a mediation program aimed at the neighborhood's inhabitants and local public schools, ranging from preschool to middle school. Its content establishes a link between the two locations: the Papaloapan River and Santa María la Ribera neighborhood, a place that was once also part of a river.

## Educational Program





Summer Course - We Make Our River

The **Summer Course - We Make Our River** was held from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> of August, inspired by the publication of the same name. Through a set of fun activities designed and led by the teacher Cecilia Pompa, they explored various topics, including a territory's memory, the value of water as a vital resource and the transformation of surroundings. In this course, 46 girls and boys had the invaluable chance to interact with the creative talent involved in this book, such as Catalina Pérez, editor, Adolfo Córdova, the poems' author; as well as Enero and Abril, photographers.



Dinner Flavors Shortening Distances.

Furthermore, the course included a visit by professor Jesús Argimir Rangel and his family, who shared the traditions of Cosamaloapan, in the state of Veracruz, with the participants. This ranged from activities such as the creation of *mojigangas* (a festivity where participants wear grotesque masks or costumes)

and how to perform carnival dances specific to that area. They also had the chance to share the region's culinary riches with adult neighbors, by preparing a dinner in the program **Flavors Shortening Distances**.

## Community Services



500 enrolled neighbor of Prestaduría vecinal

During this period, the **Prestaduría vecinal** (Neighbor Lending Service) continued to operate as a community service, managing to gather 500 enrolled users and reaching a total of 2,000 loans of goods. This reinforces its positions as a service the community highly appreciates and values.





*Huerta Gosén from Huamantla visited our **Miscelánea en común** Communal Shop*

Producers, teachers and promoters from different locations visited our **Miscelánea en común Communal Shop**: *Rancho Ecológico El Arco* from Tlalpan, in Mexico City; *Huerta Gosén* from Huamantla, state of Tlaxcala; *Productos Artesanales Oly* from Calpulalpan, Tlaxcala; the *Centro Comunitario Productivo de Ocomantla* from Zihuateutla, state of Puebla; and *El Huerto Tlatelolco* from Mexico City. These guests brought with them an array of products grown and harvested under agroecological principles, as well as a program of workshops and talks focusing on urban agriculture and the kitchen.

## Other Alliances





*Voices and Live Territories.* Encounter between facilitators, teachers and promoters of mother tongues

From the 24<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> of July Casa Gallina welcomed the visit of 12 promoters of native languages who are members of organizations and collectives in the program *Voces y territorios vivos. Encuentro de dinamizadores, educadores y promotores de lenguas maternas* (Voices and Live Territories. Encounter between facilitators, teachers and promoters of mother tongues). The reference point for the program was Casa Gallina's most recent publication on collective mapping: *Trazar lo común, los territorios que nos habitan* (Tracing the Common, the Territories that Inhabit Us). The program was designed in collaboration with linguist Elena Ibáñez and sought to foster working networks to favor the strengthening of languages. The participants in this encounter are active agents committed to the preservation and revitalization of languages such as Nahuatl, Zapotec, Mazatec, Ombeayiüts (Huave), Wixarík, Tzeltal, Zoque and Totonac, they come from a variety of territories in the states of Oaxaca, Chiapas, Puebla and Nayarit. Over the course of the week they delved into learning about and designing collective mapping tools, with the aim to apply them in the field. In addition, a series of encounters and workshops between the group and the Santa María la Ribera community were held, thus enriching the interaction and exchange of knowledge.



The book festival organized by *Roberto project*

The Casa Gallina team took part in the thirteenth edition of the book festival organized by *Roberto project*. This event took place in the community centers in Cuacuila, Zacatlán and Puebla. *Proyecto Roberto* is an organization dedicated to fostering education, sustainability and medical practices in the communities of this region.



Activation of the publication *Vida en mi entorno* (Life in My Surroundings)

Through an alliance with *Alas y Raíces* (Wings and Roots), support sessions were held with 67 promoters and educators in the States of Mexico, Puebla, Veracruz, Oaxaca, Yucatán and Mexico City, to activate the publication *Vida en mi entorno* (Life in My Surroundings) edited by Casa Gallina. On the 4<sup>th</sup> of



June, some of the activities designed by the teachers were activated in the framework of World Earth Day.

The search for new allies, associated funds and platforms with which to develop collaborative projects is fundamental for our actions' growth and impact. We kindly invite you to be part of this by donating on our website, so that we may continue developing our programs.



For greater details on our program, you are kindly invited to visit our website [www.casagallina.org.mx](http://www.casagallina.org.mx) and to follow us on social media: [Facebook Casa Gallina](#), [Instagram casa\\_gallina](#), [Youtube Casa Gallina](#).

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