

# CASA GALLINA

CULTURA • COMUNIDAD • MEDIO AMBIENTE

NEWSLETTER JANUARY - MAY 2020



Exhibition *Hummingbirds / huitziltin/ ts'unu'uno'ob* at the Geology Museum

During the first few months of 2020, Casa Gallina was able to keep to its scheduled program focused on the strategic theme **Biocultural Diversity**, a platform that seeks to encourage critical action and reflection on the impact of human behavior on the preexisting balances of natural ecosystems; it is implemented with the Santa María la Ribera community and in other territories where the narratives developed by the Casa Gallina team circulate.

As of March 13, all face-to-face activity at the house was interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic which led the team's work to the design, conceptualization and implementation of the **Community Resilience: Tools and Networks During Physical Distancing** strategy. This platform includes digital programs that strengthen the mutual support networks between neighbors and the circulation of content and tools regarding nutrition, resilience and ecology

during the confinement period.



*Homemade Animal Carnival, Online Mask Making Workshop*

For Casa Gallina and its team, the first quarter of the year meant strengthening alliances with various institutions and local agents in Santa María la Ribera. Focusing on the relationship with public schools in the neighborhood, with whom the **Producing and Recreating School: Models for Strengthening School Knowledge** strategy was designed and implemented. It includes various educational programs on healthy eating, agriculture and environmental empathy. On the other hand, the program of permanent interventions of school premises carried out by artists in collaboration with each school's community was continued.

The start of this year also marked the construction of networks and alliances for Casa Gallina with more than 45 institutions, civil organizations and community agents outside the neighborhood territory of Santa María la Ribera. With this in mind, the book *We Are Maize*, published by Casa Gallina in Spanish, Peninsular Mayan, Isthmus-region Zapotec and Central Náhuatl was distributed. This allowed collaboration to begin with organizations from different parts of the Mexican Republic such as Chiapas, rural areas of Mexico City, the State of Mexico, Michoacán, Oaxaca, Puebla, Tabasco, Tlaxcala and Yucatán.



*We Are Maize*: Book presentation in the Zapotec version at the José F. Gómez library, Juchitán de Zaragoza, Oaxaca

## Program

Casa Gallina's quarterly schedule was set up around the following strategies:

### Community Resilience: Tools and Networks During Physical Distancing

**Abuel@**  
Déjanos cuidarte.  
Quédate en casa.

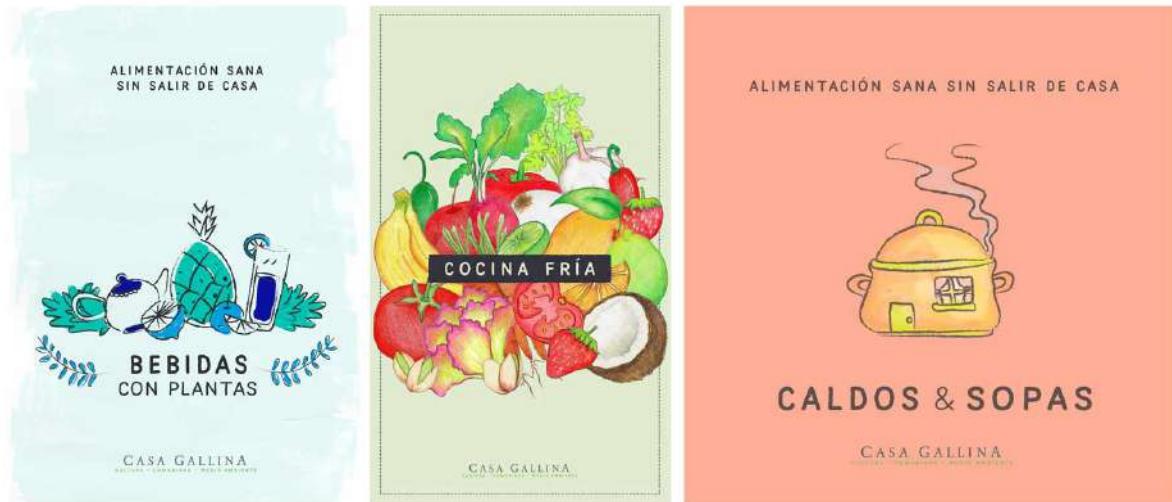
No canceles tus  
domingos en familia,  
véanse por videollamada.

La soledad tiene  
riesgos de salud  
comprobados científicamente.  
Llámale a tu abuel@, ayúdale a  
quedarse en casa sin sentirse sola.

Mutual Support Network Campaign: *Abuel@, It's Our Turn to Take Care of You*

This strategy was developed in the face of the health emergency, it considers two main lines of action: the circulation of content with children's and family activities to develop at home, and promote mutual support networks between neighbors.

Until today, various content on issues of nutrition, resilience and environmental empathy have been distributed on Casa Gallina's digital networks. The series of recipes for **Plant-based beverages**, **Soups and broths**, **Cold cuisine** and **Main courses** is a compilation of healthy, nutritious and economic recipes from workshops previously held at Casa Gallina. While the teaching materials and children's workshops: **Manual of How to Explore of the World Without Leaving Home**, the **Homemade Animal Carnival: Online Mask Making Workshop** and the **Audio Stories: The History of Public Health** developed by neighbors Józé Daniel, Rodrigo Flores and Juan Luis Delgado, respectively, have allowed Casa Gallina to maintain alliances with teachers, organizations, associations and local and non-Santa María la Ribera institutions by being distributed through both the network of neighbors and the network of initiatives and allied agents from other territories.



Healthy Eating Without Leaving Home: Recipe Series

The implementation of two neighborhood support networks has been promoted and coordinated: **Abuel@, It's Our Turn to Take Care of You** and **Stay Home, but Don't Be Alone**. These programs seek to promote support networks in times of crisis, strengthening community ties between different generations through a support network for senior citizens and a network of telephone calls

between neighbors.

## Producing and Recreating School: Models for Strengthening School Knowledge



*El mural de la milpa*, Perla Krauze Mural at the República de Cuba Elementary School

This season culminated the production of *El mural de la milpa* that the artist Perla Krauze developed at the República de Cuba Elementary School in collaboration with one of the fourth-grade groups. The project started in September 2019 and ended with the installation of a permanent 14-square-meter rock, granite and tile mural.

Over these months, the collaborative processes of the artists Vanessa Rivero, Circe Irasema and María José Sesma also began with school groups from the Ezequiel A. Chavez Elementary School, the Moisés Sáenz Junior High School and the Elena Zapata Preschool, respectively. These projects are developed in collaboration with the school communities and will culminate with a permanent intervention in the premises of each school.



Vanessa Rivero with students from Ezequiel A. Chavez Elementary School

Regarding the educational programs for schools, the **Making Preserves and Food Sustainability Workshop for Children** was developed for a school group from the República de Cuba Elementary School, as well as the workshop **The Universe of the Urban Vegetable Garden** in alliance with the Nueva Generación Institute.

## Maize: Biodiversity and Culture in Everyday Consumption



*We Are Maize*: Book presentation in the Mayan version at Xkalakdzonot, Yucatán

The publication *We Are Maize* has been distributed among 47 civil organizations and leaders of indigenous peoples throughout Mexico; speakers of Náhuatl, Isthmus-region Zapotec, Peninsular Mayan and Spanish can now read the book. Based on said dissemination, a network of organizations within different areas of Mexico has been established, considering their common goals such as food sovereignty, the preservation and dignity of native cultures, their knowledge and their link with the Earth.

This quarter we also worked on an itinerant, community version of the *Maize: Biodiversity and Culture in Everyday Consumption* exhibition that is currently awaiting to be mounted at the Tlayúa Mixteco Regional Museum of the UNAM Institute of Geology in Tepexi de Rodríguez, Puebla, once the sanitary emergency ends.

## Biocultural Diversity



School Visit to *Hummingbirds / huitziltin/ ts'unu'uno'ob* exhibition at the Geology Museum.

The *Hummingbirds / huitziltin / ts'unu'uno'ob* exhibition was presented at the Geology Museum, with works commissioned by Mexican artists Vanessa Rivero, Jimena Schlaepfer and Benjamín Torres, and research by biologists Dr. María del Coro Arizmendi Arriaga and the M. in C. Claudia Rodríguez-Flores. The exhibition allowed school groups and neighbors in general to experience educational activities related to the subject. Given the premature closure of the exhibition due to the pandemic, virtual content was generated to visit the show on a [virtual tour](#), create an [origami hummingbird](#) and access [information about bird watching](#) in Mexico City.



Characters from the board game: *I Recreate the City*

Artist Javier García Silva, along with illustrator Jimena Estíbaliz developed the children's board game called **I Recreate the City**, conceived to be distributed in public schools of the neighborhood. The game invites children to embody characters that are half-human, half-living beings endemic to the Valley of Mexico, whose mission is to transform the city into a green space inhabited by both humans and local and diverse flora and fauna.



Casa Gallina new children's library *El nido* (The Nest)

As part of the educational program, an area of Casa Gallina was adapted to host a children's library, called *El nido* (The Nest). This space is available for children to consult and borrow diverse educational materials on the environment. As part of the activations of this program, the **Extraordinary Ecological Stories: The City and Origins and From the Cosmos to the Earth** workshops were implemented.



*Constellations: A Manual for Collective Mapping*

The edition and printing of the book *Constellations: A Manual for Collective Mapping* was completed, and published in Spanish, Wixárika, Purépecha, Ombeayıüts and Tsotsil. This publication provides tools of collective and critical knowledge for learning and analyzing the interactions between the communities and their territories.



Dulce Chacón in San Cristóbal de las Casas

Collaboration began with the Na Bolom civil association in San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas, that received the artist Dulce Chacón for several weeks to carry out research on the biodiversity of local flora, a project that will culminate in an exhibition at the Geology Museum in Mexico City and in Na Bolom, Chiapas.

For more details about the program we invite you to visit the website [www.casagallina.org.mx](http://www.casagallina.org.mx) and become a friend at [Facebook Casa Gallina](#).

---