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END OF 2021 NEWSLETTER

# CASA GALLINA

CULTURA · COMUNIDAD · MEDIO AMBIENTE



Neighbor participation in the expansion of the orchard of Casa Gallina

Casa Gallina's strategies focussed on two parallel lines throughout 2021: on the one hand, the local community program for neighbors from Santa María la Ribera, and on the other, the plans developed in cooperation with kindred agents and organizations in other territories.

This year we continued with our programs for neighbors through digital platforms; however, we began to test using the venue in a scattered way, where mediators and hosts welcome the community in small groups. Thus, the **Earth Nook** was able to welcome 47 families in educational activities for girls and boys, as well as a community of 47 gardeners and 16 elderly people who received permanent guidance in the use of electronic devices.

This year we devised 68 educational products, such as: exhibitions, books, handbooks, programs, maps, tutorials and recipe books. These materials were

shared with 68 allies in other territories and they fostered 49 activities, through which we reached 20,120 beneficiaries in 18 states around the country.

As 2021 ends, we share a review of events over the year.

## Environment and Community



Book *The Distributed Orchard*

A book entitled ***The Distributed Orchard. Experiences in Joint Urban Agriculture***, a publication that gathers conversations from a WhatsApp group chat on urban agriculture coordinated by Casa Gallina, along with testimonials from neighbors who merged their endeavors and learning into a collective process during 2020 and 2021.

The publication serves as a replicable memory for any orchard community hoping to find alternative ways of organization, hence a programmatic platform is envisaged for 2022, allowing the authors to extend this learning network to other territories.

## Artistic Projects



Still from the video *Devenir* by the artist Tania Ximena

Cooperation with artists continued on projects with a communal scope. Circe Irasema completed a collaborative process with the community in the Public Junior High Moisés Sáenz, creating the piece *Silvestre Sonora* that reflects on fauna in the Valley of Mexico and will culminate with the installation of a metallic mural in one of the school's gardens, in early 2022.

Tania Ximena completed production of the video *Devenir*, a project that records the course of the river Jamapa, in the state of Veracruz, from its source in the glacier of the same name all the way to its mouth in the Gulf of Mexico. This work is currently being shown at the "Sur" Biennial, in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

## Exhibitions



View of the exhibition *Where is our Coat?* with work by the artist Dulce Chacón

The exhibition *Where is our Coat? Biodiversity of Flora in the Chiapas Highlands* was set up in La Enseñanza, Casa de la Ciudad, San Cristóbal de las Casas, in the state of Chiapas. The exhibition includes artworks by Dulce Chacón and research by biologist Fausto Bolom Ton. It reflects on the importance of biodiversity and the daily practices of the Tzotzil and Tzeltal original peoples, as well as their medicinal, ritual and food uses, among others.

## Educational Program



Collective intervention of the mural **Mushrooms, Worms and Other Creatures in Action**

Casa Gallina held 35 activities for neighbors —in-person and via digital formats — focused on nutrition, resilience, environmental empathy and responsible consumption. They included 476 enrolled neighbors and an additional 468 virtual participants and spectators. Seven workshops for children were held for 154 girls and boys. The last trimester of 2021 saw the collective intervention **Mushrooms, Worms and Other Creatures in Action** in which children from Santa María la Ribera helped accomplish two murals designed by neighbor and illustrator Sophie Greenspan on the interconnections that are generated in mycorrhizae and composting. These murals will be the backdrop to post and exhibit some of the materials children create day to day in the **Earth Nook** in 2022.



Animation workshop **Holobiont Neighborhood**

A workshop on animation for children **Holobiont Neighborhood** was held in collaboration with Gabriela Martínez, Diego Suárez and Andrea Fernández, who are members of the association *Cine bajo el cielo A.C.* Participants learned references and general theoretical-technical concepts on different types of animation, while they developed an animated short story whose characters stem from a collective creative process in which participants internalized the notion of neighborhood as a collective being composed of the interaction between its social, environmental, human and non-human elements. The ensuing short animation will be shown to the Santa María la Ribera community in early 2022.



Month of Maize, Calpulli Tecalco A.C. at Casa Gallina

The house also served as a venue to learn cooking skills from territories beyond the neighborhood. In **Knowledge and Flavors of the Maize Field** Angélica Palma, Director of *Calpulli Tecalco A.C.* and other guests shared recipes and reflections on the social dynamics that develop around the maize fields in different villages in Milpa Alta. Meanwhile, the program **The Flavors of the Land** designed by the chef and researcher from Tlaxcala Irad Santacruz, shared regional recipes with ingredients associated with the maize field. Both times Casa Gallina hosted local producers from each region who shared fresh local products from family fields.

## Encounters



**Musical Flavors** with *Ahuejote: música y danzas de la tierra*

This year we reactivated the platform of neighbors' meetings through the program **Musical Flavors**, where inhabitants could share their experiences accompanied by traditional and ethno-musicians. Through music and food, neighbors linked up with rural customs that combine musical and culinary traditions. This year two encounters took place; the first with the duet *Ahuejote: música y danzas de la tierra* that shared ancestral flavors on the riches of the maize field with songs and Nahuatl melodies from the southern part of Mexico City; the second was a collaboration with the duet *La Mar*, that interpreted traditional music and rhythms for the Day of the Dead with instruments from the state of Oaxaca, such as earthenware pots, cajón percussions, Mixtec jarana guitar and the seven-string guitar.



Cooking session for the meeting **From Village to Neighborhood**

The first encounter **From Village to Neighborhood** took place, in which neighbor Santos González, along with Miguel Iwadare, a specialist in Mexican cuisine, rescued recipes originally prepared by Micaela Refugio Morales — Santos' mother— in Santa María Mixquixtlahuaca, Oaxaca, her community of origin, located in the Lower Mixteca. These were shared with eight neighbors who gathered for a Sunday lunch. The way in which these dishes are prepared was recorded as audiovisual material that is available on Casa Gallina's [YouTube](#) channel.

## Community Services



**Prestaduría vecinal** (Tool lending community service)

Casa Gallina kept up the service of loaning electronic equipment and maintained the **Prestaduría vecinal** (tool lending community service) that reached 1,394 loans for the 375 neighbors enrolled, who this year made significant donations of 6 implements —including a bicycle— which enabled us to increase the collection for communal use.



Earth Nook

Since April Casa Gallina has hosted the **Earth Nook** in one of its spaces, a mobile collection of entertaining educational material on the environment for girls and boys, which received 58 children, teachers and parents. We commend public primary school Republic of Cuba for assuming the first replica of **Earth Nook**, to be activated by teacher Ariadna Monroy with her students as of 2022.

## Other Alliances



Collective mapping session carried out by Kolijke in the Community and Productive Center of Ocomantla, Puebla

This year we launched the implementation of two medium-term programs with agents in other latitudes. **Constellations: Training Organizations and Community Agents to Use and Activate Collective Mapping** which enabled the creation of a place to exchange and reflect led by the Argentine collective *Iconoclastas* (Julia Risler and Pablo Ares) in which 10 organizations generated 13 maps of each of their territories to activate them collectively. Meanwhile, the **Training Program on Environmental Education: I Recreate the City** fostered dialogue on how to engage the table game of the same name in classrooms for 64 teachers and 3,268 students in schools in the states of Campeche, Oaxaca, Guerrero and Mexico City.

We carried out the collective funding campaign for **Little Earth Nook** in alliance with *Donadora*. This initiative came from interest in the community to address toddlers in environmental education programs. The funds will be used to design and adapt the contents of **Earth Nook** for preschoolers. This program will be implemented in Casa Gallina itself as well as in three public Kindergartens in Santa María la Ribera.



Casa Gallina 2021 video

For further details on the program, please visit Casa Gallina's website [www.casagallina.org.mx](http://www.casagallina.org.mx) and become friends with Casa Gallina on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

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