

CASA GALLINA

CULTURA · COMUNIDAD · MEDIO AMBIENTE

NEWSLETTER MAY - AUGUST 2022



Presentación de la publicación Vida en mi entorno

In the second four-month period of the year, Casa Gallina's programming has maintained varied activities with community and environmental programs through various cultural manifestations. On the one hand, inhabitants of Santa María la Ribera have been invited to participate in a variety of situations in the venue itself and, on the other, networks of alliances have been woven with kindred organizations and agents in other territories. These two programmatic axes have enabled the consolidation of projects that focus on generating circumstances that link their participants and relate them to the wisdom of their territories.

Children have been a fundamental programming axis this period. Through stories, educational programs and varied situations, the voices of girls and boys have been recognised as relevant agents for change and the transformation of daily life and relationships with the environment. Through two recently issued publications for children, *Hacemos nuestro río* (We Make our River) and *Vida en mi entorno* (Life in my Environment), we have consolidated a programming that will enable to nourish medium- and long-term collaborations with a network of diverse allies in Mexico City, the states of Veracruz, Puebla, Yucatán and

Oaxaca, among others.



Presentación de la publicación Vida en mi entorno

The link with primary and middle schools in Santa María la Ribera has allowed us to activate six programs with these communities. Through collaborative processes with artists, reading promoters, scientists, illustrators, teachers and neighbors, creative transdisciplinary strategies have accompanied the learning process of students in subjects such as biology, literature and geography.

The alliances built with agents anchored to other territories have permeated the Casa's programming, in such a way that neighbors from Santa María la Ribera have exchanged experiences and knowledge, becoming sensitized to the biocultural diversity that exists throughout the country.

Below we share greater details on certain activities in recent months.

Environment and Community



Neighbors participating in the **Agro-olympics**

In July Casa Gallina participated in the **Agro-olympics** launched by Contaminantes Anónimus, which for the second year in a row gathered schools, orchards and collectives from different parts of the country around sport, games and cohabiting in harmony with agroecology. For the 2022 edition Casa Gallina accompanied a group of neighbors who designed a competition to bag dried leaves that had accumulated in middle school No. 4 *Moisés Sáenz*



Children's Council visit to chinampa in Xochimilco

Girls and boys who frequent Casa Gallina activities were invited to take part in the **Children's Council**, so as to create a space where youngsters can express themselves and decide on Casa Gallina's programming for children. During the

first session the participants shared what they would like their neighborhood to be like and how they could transform it. For the second session they visited the El Buen Campo “chinampa”, a small business formed by a couple of neighbors from Santa Maria la Ribera dedicated to safeguarding ancestral forms of planting from Xochimilco, through the cultivation and sale of vegetables.

Artistic Projects



Presentation of works carried out by students of the Ana María Berlanga secondary school as a result of the collaboration with the artist Sofía Echeverri

The artist **Sofía Echeverri** completed her process of collaboration with a group of female students from middle school No. 2 *Ana María Berlanga*. The participants became familiar with the flora and fauna native to the basin of the Valley of Mexico and each of them created a character named according to its attributes. At the end of the process the students shared their work with the rest of the school community in an exhibition. This dialogue was the first phase to create a work that will be mounted permanently within the school.

Educational Program



Summer course **Life in my Environment**

A summer course named **Life in my Environment** was held from August 1st to 19th. Through a program linked to the publication of the same name, 47 children developed various activities such as making a collective mural, visiting the Orchard for Girls and Boys, a cooking workshop, exercises on dialogue and listening to their surroundings, intervention on everyday objects, activities with old ladies and conversations with Roxanna Erdman, who wrote the book, and Juana Guerrero, who translated it into Mazatec. Led by the educator Ketzali Arreola, this course sought to foster curiosity and the capacity to discover, observe and explore the environment through play.



Kitchen workshop from the Mezquital Valley in the state of Hidalgo

The program **Flowers, Cactus figs, Maguey cactus, larvae and worms: Otomí food from the Hidalgo desert** invited inhabitants of Santa Maria la Ribera to exchange experiences with cooks and families from the Mezquital Valley in the state of Hidalgo, to understand the complex link between handling and taking advantage of natural resources in the Otomí Hñähñu culture and their cuisine. Participants learned over 4 sessions how to prepare recipes based on cacti, flowers and insects and jointly reflected on the links that exist between the land, its seasons and its biocultural diversity.

Community Services



Education, Play and Creativity workshop

The **Rincón de la Tierra** (Earth Nook) in Casa Gallina remained active. This platform also helped establish collaborative networks with local teachers. A workshop was held in July, **Education, Play and Creativity** wherein Rodrigo Flores shared his educational methodology inspired on Howard Gardner's theory of multiple intelligences with 11 teachers from the Elena Zapata preschool.

Other Alliances



Activación de la publicación Hacemos nuestro río

The author Adolfo Córdova, photographers Dolores Medel and Enero and Abril, the illustrator Cuauhtémoc Wetzka, editor Catalina Pérez and the mediator Cecilia Pompa, creators of the publication ***Hacemos nuestro río*** (*We Make Our River*), carried out activities in the Papaloapan River basin, in the state of Veracruz. Along a route through Veracruz, Tlacojalpan, Cosamaloapan, Chacaltianguis and Tlacotalpan, alliances were established with cultural institutions and local actors such as libraries, community museums, houses of culture, public schools, teachers and reading promoters. They received copies of this publication to activate them soon.



Workshop on environmental education in the Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz Public Library by CCPO promoters

In the first week of July Casa Gallina welcomed 5 promoters from Ocomantla Productive Community Center (CCPO). In that period they led a workshop on environmental education in the Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz Public Library, exchanged experiences with the Casa Gallina orchard community and shared recipes from their region at a dinner for neighbors. They held a sale of their products over the weekend in the **Miscelánea en común** (Communal Shop).



Girl and Boy Caretakers: workshop to create chicken nests

During August Balbina Pérez, neighbor and manager, coordinated the participation of different dairy, meat and poultry producers and family cooperatives in the **Miscelánea en común** (Communal Shop). Alongside selling, every guest proposed an activity to further reflect on ethical and

responsible production of animal products. Nayeli Ortiz held the workshop **Cheese That Tastes of the Countryside: making artisanal Panela cheese**; Adán Caldiño led **Stories of Cheeses, Sheep, Ewes and Goats: animal husbandry in Mexico City**; and Jesús Rojas headed the workshop for children **Girl and Boy Caretakers: workshop to create chicken nests**.

For further details on the program please visit our website: www.casagallina.org.mx

And follow us on social media: [Facebook Casa Gallina](#), [Instagram casa_gallina](#), [Youtube Casa Gallina](#).
