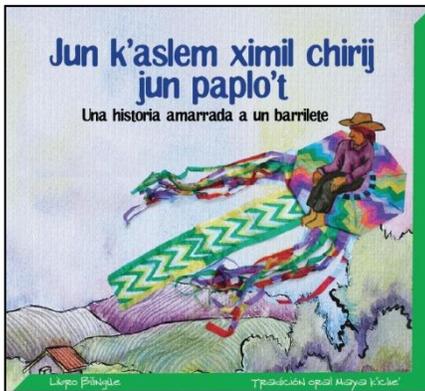


# MACHI NEWS

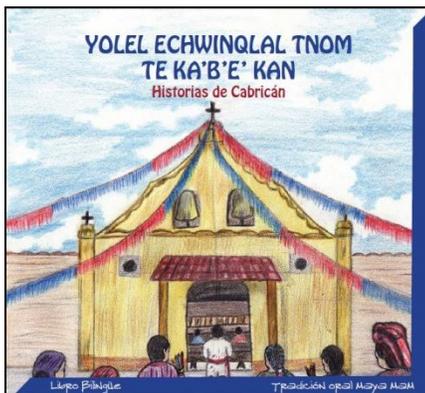
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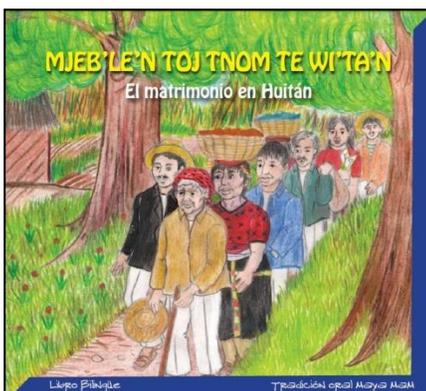
The Riecken Foundation and InHerit have helped to produce three new bilingual histories from the Guatemalan highlands.



A K'iche' Mayan oral history...



...stories from the Mam Mayan community of Cabricán...



...and from the Mam Mayan community of Huitán. The books are due out in June 2011.

## MACHI Makes a Big Change!

For five years, the Maya Area Cultural Heritage Initiative (MACHI) has promoted heritage conservation in the Maya region of southern Mexico and Central America. But at the end of 2010, MACHI directors were offered the opportunity to move out from under the wing of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to become an independent non-profit. Naturally we jumped at the chance and today, six months later, our new organization InHerit is up and running!



InHerit stands for Indigenous Heritage and that remains our focus. Unlike MACHI, InHerit is not restricted to the Maya region. By 2015, we hope to expand our programs to collaborate with indigenous groups around the Americas and beyond!

InHerit empowers indigenous communities through programs that:

- \* Provide educational opportunities that celebrate ancient and modern heritage
- \* Promote dialogue and cross-cultural collaboration
- \* Catalyze conservation strategies
- \* Confront cultural and ethnic discrimination
- \* Support archaeological and cultural studies

Continued on page 3

 **MACHI**  
Maya Area Cultural Heritage Initiative

[www.machiproject.org](http://www.machiproject.org)

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**Facebook: MACHI – Maya Area Cultural Heritage Initiative**

# MACHI NEWS

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## Youth Attend Bi-monthly Archaeology Course in San Rafael, Honduras

MACHI is teaming with the *colegio* (middle-school) of San Rafael in the department of Copán to bring a bi-monthly course in practical archaeology skills to students aged 15 to 17. We are fortunate to have Londin Velasquez, former instructor for MACHI and Arte Acción Copán Ruinas' Maya Program as coordinator. He is working hard to bring local and international scholars to participate as visiting instructors for the inaugural class of 16 students. Since March 2011, students have worked with archaeologists Oscar Cruz and Argi Diez, and epigrapher Alex Tokovinine. Londin has also brought students to the local children's museum (Casa K'inich) and a temporary photography installation at the Municipal building in Copán's center; Via Via, a popular local business, has hosted a makeshift classroom in their open-air restaurant. The Archaeology program will continue through the 2011 school year and is currently in talks with the Institute of Honduran Anthropology and History (IAH) to provide students that complete the course with a special certificate recognizing their work.



Oscar Cruz, former director of the archaeological park of Copán, teaches students about artifact analysis and the history of the site of Copán.



Archaeology students at "Fragile Images," a photography exhibition of Copán from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.

## Community, Culture, and Literature in Motul, Yucatán, Mexico

Each Friday, ADIPES, A.C. brings a cultural and literary workshop to 8-year old children in Motul, located 45 minutes from Mérida, Mexico. The workshop, entitled *U tumben ich yáaxche* in Yucatec Mayan (New fruits of the ceiba tree) combines society and environment with children in order to build knowledge and revalorize Maya culture. Using the knowledge discussed in the workshop, ADIPES will create a collection of cultural games – a memory game with local medicinal plants and animals and a Snakes and Ladders game that contains information on the *cenotes* (underground caves) of Yucatán. Both games will integrate Spanish and Yucatec Mayan words into the final product. Games will be available to a wider audience by 2011.



Participating students will learn local history, Mayan language and customs, and will be introduced to other worlds through books.

# MACHI NEWS

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## Short Documentaries Feature the Need for Heritage Conservation in Quintana Roo, Mexico

Manejo Cultural, the Quintana Roo, Mexico NGO recipient of a 2010 Cultural Heritage Conservation Grant is ready to launch its documentary-short program at the end of May. The five-episode series addresses the importance of ancient Maya places and archaeological knowledge in four to six minute films. Episode themes include *cenotes* (underground caves), terrestrial prehispanic archaeological sites, submerged archaeological heritage, natural areas, and the region's historic *chiclero* (chicle collecting) trade. The documentaries will play between 9 and 11am and 6 and 8pm on TV Morelos. TV Morelos has 20,000 viewers throughout the state of Quintana Roo; documentaries will also be broadcast on the TV Morelos website, <http://www.portaltvmorelos.com> (5000 visitors annually).

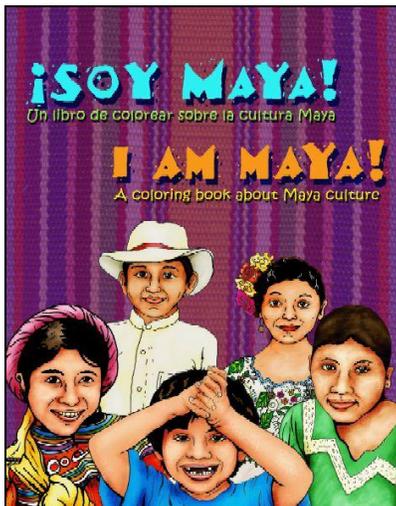


A Quintana Roo cenote, subject of the first documentary-short.

## MACHI Makes a Big Change, cntd.

InHerit is working with superstar media company, Eyes of the World to develop a new professional identity and website. This summer, <http://www.in-herit.org> will be online, along with new Facebook and Twitter pages.

InHerit will be offering children's books, DVDs, and other educational materials for sale on our website and online marketplaces like Amazon.com. All proceeds will go directly to InHerit!



InHerit has already been granted 501(c)(3) status so all donations are tax deductible!! Our new website will include a specialized platform for people who wish to take action or make any level of commitment.

Look for our next newsletter – the first from InHerit – in July 2011.

**Conserve heritage  
places and  
empower  
indigenous people!**

Visit  
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