

# MACHI NEWS

October 2010

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Film and animation are great ways to get kids excited about Maya heritage. In La Pintada, Honduras, Arte Acción Copán Ruinas filmed *Wuqub' K'aqix*, a story from the ancient Popol Vuh creation legend.



Brothers Wilians and Ivis Hernández, dressed as the Maya hero twins Hunuahpu and Xbalenque, star in the film.



Students in La Laguna, Honduras animate the ancient Maya ball game. **Check out the completed films on MACHI's Facebook page!**

## ***Roots, Identity and Maya Cosmovision a Success in Felipe Carillo Puerto, México***

This September, MACHI and Mayaón, A.C. in Quintana Roo, México completed evaluations of the Yukatek radio program *Roots, Identity, and Maya Cosmovision*. Of over fifty households included in the evaluation in the municipality of Felipe Carillo Puerto, 95% possessed a radio; 84% of these households listened to the radio series. Listeners confirmed that this was the first time they had learned about many of the themes presented in the radio program. The least familiar theme? Archaeological sites and their importance! At the completion of the radio series, 96% of listeners believed that places and objects left by the ancient Maya should be protected. Though Felipe Carillo Puerto is only an hour's drive from Tulum, one of the most famous sites of the ancient world, nearly half of the listeners (45%) had never visited an archaeological site. In addition to archaeological heritage, listeners listed traditional medicine, population migrations, and the Jetz'Meek ceremony as among the most interesting themes.

## **MACHI Director Speaks at University of Alaska in Anchorage**

On September 13 and 14, 2010, Dr. Patricia McNany spoke at the University of Alaska in Anchorage. Her second talk, *Indigenous Rights and Cultural Heritage in the Maya Region*, dealt with indigenous rights to heritage in the Maya region in the continuing process of nation-building in México, Honduras, Belize, and Guatemala. McNany's second talk questioned the idea of the Maya collapse, and can be heard by podcast at: <http://greenandgold.uaa.alaska.edu/podcasts/index.php?id=428>.

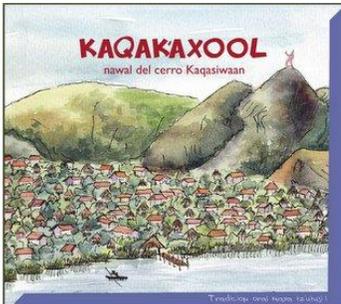
 **MACHI**  
Maya Area Cultural Heritage Initiative

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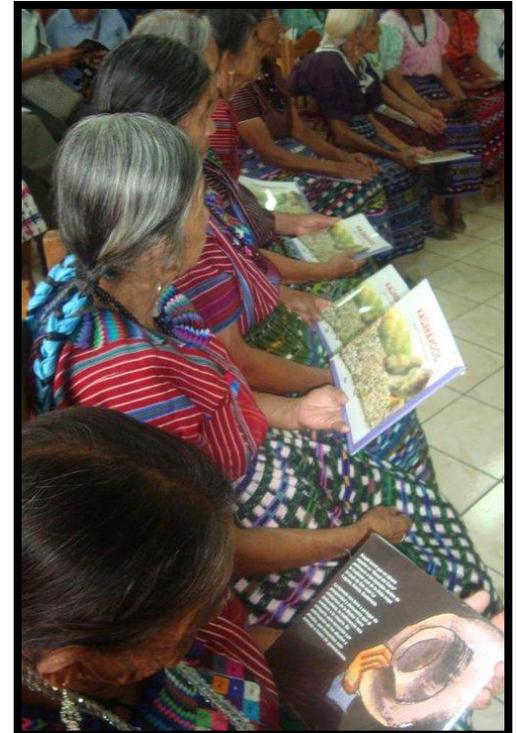


## *Kaqak'axool: The Spirit of the Kaqasiwaan Mountain*

MACHI, along with the Riecken Foundation and the Finnish Consulate of Central America collaborated in the production of *Kaqak'axool: Nawal del*

*Cerro Kaqasiwaan (Spirit of the Kaqasiwaan Mountain).*

*Kaqak'axool* is a local Tz'utujil oral history about the spirit that cares for the mountain which towers over the community of San Juan la Laguna on Lake Atitlan in the Guatemalan highlands. The story, told for generations by the grandparents of San Juan, is written in Spanish and Tz'utujil Mayan and was illustrated by a young local artist, Andrés Mendoza. The completed book was presented to community elders at a ceremony at the Rija'tzuul Na'ooj Community Library in August 2010. It is the first local history to be written in the native language and distributed in San Juan.



Community elders were each presented with their own copy of the illustrated *Kaqak'axool* at San Juan la Laguna's Rija'tzuul Na'ooj Community Library.

## MACHI Launches New Website

This October, MACHI launched a new website featuring up-to-date information on our programs and a life News feed. Take a look at:

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

Don't forget to follow the Maya Area Cultural Heritage Initiative on Twitter and "Like" MACHI on Facebook!



**Help fight the myth of Maya extinction and give Maya people a voice in their own past!**

Visit [www.machiproject.org](http://www.machiproject.org) to learn more or to **DONATE** to a program

All contributions are fully tax deductible.