

MACHI NEWS

December 2010

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Eighty children of all ages joined in the Maya Festival at La Pintada, Honduras on December 10, 2010.



Kids were split in to five groups and sent on a Maya themed “treasure” hunt where they had to show their knowledge of the ancient Maya at Copán. Before the hunt began, kids made Maya crowns in their team’s color.



At the day’s end, the groups showed their spirit with team cheers then broke for snacks and the premiere of movies made by Maya Program participants earlier this year. Photo by Kristin Landau.

MACHI Selects Winners of the 2010 Cultural Heritage Conservation Award

In years past, MACHI has generated the original ideas for its educational programs throughout the region then joined with interested local collaborators to execute them.

Although we have had great success with this model, we are eager to give Maya communities and organizations the support to develop and implement their own programs. In 2010 we launched the Cultural Heritage Conservation Program and opened it to non-profit organizations in Yucatán, Quintana Roo, and Campeche, Mexico. In October we received a dozen applications for projects ranging from music and dance to the collection of oral histories and the production of books. From these, we selected three winners, whose programs will begin this month:

Manejo Cultural, A.C. in Puerto Morelos, Quintana Roo for the production of a regular television program and short documentaries on archaeological and cultural heritage;

ADIPES, A.C. in Motul, Yucatán for the production of two children’s games – Memory and Snakes and Ladders – illustrating medicinal plants and local cenotes, natural sinkholes considered sacred places;

Parque Aak (Kookay, A.C.) in Xcunya, Yucatán for the development of three guided tours in the sustainable learning park for school groups that focus on archaeological and cultural heritage.

MACHI warmly congratulates its winners and will share their progress in upcoming newsletters.

 **MACHI**
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MACHI Says Goodbye to Arte Acción Copán Ruinas and Carin Steen

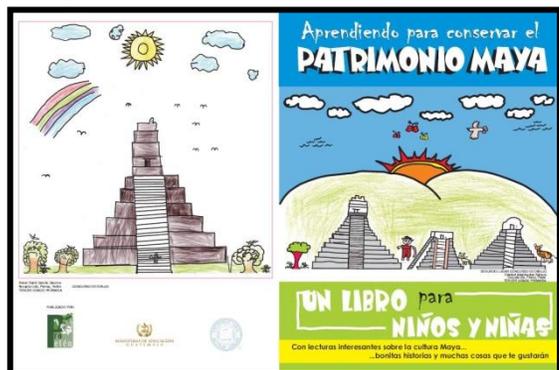
When we first discovered Arte Acción Copán Ruinas in 2006, we couldn't believe our good fortune. This well established non-profit organization was making real changes in and around Copán, exposing children to art and movement, and presenting social issues in a fun, kid friendly way. Since 2007, we have worked with Arte Acción on the Maya Program – a children's workshop presenting knowledge about the ancient Maya and Ch'orti' culture for 4th-6th graders in 23 communities in the region. Arte Acción's dynamic leader, Carin Steen, has become a trusted colleague and friend – producing beautiful illustrated books for the Maya Program and for other Maya communities where MACHI works in Guatemala, Belize, and Mexico. We have also had the great pleasure of watching three young adults, Londin Velásquez, Moises Mancia, and Elsa Morales, blossom into gifted teachers. But Carin has decided to close the doors of Arte Acción to move on to new projects. We celebrated a decade of the organization's success at the Maya Festival held in La Pintada earlier this month. MACHI will continue the Maya Program in 2011 under the leadership of Elsa Morales, and former Arte Acción administrator, Marlen Vasquez.



Carin Steen (l) was presented with a thank-you gift by Shoshaunna Parks (m) and Patricia McAnany (r) at the Maya Festival this December. Photo by Kristin Landau.

Collaborators Fundación ProPetén Win Ford Motor Grant for MACHI Collaborative Program

We extend our congratulations to Fundación ProPetén who were one of eight 2010 finalists for the Cultural Heritage Conservation and Education Category of the Ford Motor Company's Grant Program. The award will provide support for a MACHI-ProPetén



collaboration developing cultural heritage education for primary school students in El Petén, Guatemala. The original program, tested this year in two schools, will become part of 3rd and 4th grade curriculum in the 2011 school year.

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