

Indigenous heritage

Passed to Present



Newsletter

December 2011

Vol. 1, Issue 3

3rd and 4th grade students in El Petén complete InHerit's Cultural Heritage Curriculum

This November marked the completion of the first year of InHerit's Cultural Heritage Curriculum installed in 20 primary schools throughout the department of El Petén, Guatemala. The program came out of several years of collaboration with local nonprofit organization, Fundación ProPetén in the production of 40 episodes of a heritage-focused radio soap opera. The soap opera, *At the Crossroads*, was broadcast in two languages – Q'eqchi' Mayan and Spanish – between 2007 and 2009. In 2010, we signed an agreement with the region's Ministry of Education to transform the radio programs into a school curriculum that addressed all required subjects through themes of heritage and archaeology.

In January and February of 2011, third and fourth grade teachers from 20 local schools attended workshops to learn about the curriculum and how to use it in the classroom. Over 1100 students successfully completed the heritage curriculum during this 2011 school year!

The Cultural Heritage Curriculum will remain part of third and fourth grade education in all twenty schools in 2012.



Teachers attend curriculum workshops in Jan & Feb 2011.



Students learn about local heritage and archaeology in class.



Support indigenous heritage this holiday season!

We need your help to continue to conserve ancient and sacred places, indigenous language and culture! Consider adding InHerit to your end-of-year giving plans. InHerit is a registered 501(c)(3) and all contributions are fully tax-deductible.

You can donate **NOW** via PayPal.

New in 2012, InHerit is launching a tailored giving program in which you can choose exactly which programs to support. Visit our [Bazaar](#) in January!

InHerit wishes you a Happy New Year in
this auspicious year of 2012!

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Proyecto Maya completes another successful year in Copán, Honduras

Bi-Directional Knowledge Exchange and Community Heritage Conservation Grant competitions to be announced in February 2012

In 2011 InHerit launched two new grant programs to support indigenous communities and researchers in the Maya region. From the Bi-Directional Knowledge Exchange Grant and the Community Heritage Conservation Grant, five community-based projects advanced the conservation of archaeological sites and built the capacity of local people to celebrate their cultural heritage in Mexico and Guatemala. InHerit will run both grant competitions again. Look for announcements of each grant competition in February 2012!



2011 BKE project, Yucatán, Mexico



Elsa Morales reads from an illustrated book of Maya stories.



Students thank the Proyecto Maya instructors for a great year!

When Arte Acción closed at the end of 2010, instructors Elsa Morales and Marlen Vasquez stepped up to take over InHerit's children's workshops in Copán. Their enthusiasm and professionalism made for another wonderful year (our fifth!) of workshops on local heritage and the Maya.

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Six years later, a fond farewell to InHerit

Six years ago I was offered the incredible opportunity to work on a research project addressing the loss of Mayan cultural heritage in southern Mexico and Central America. Over the years, this little project progressed from research to outreach to an independent 501(c)(3) organization.

As a graduate student of Dr. Patricia A. McAnany's at Boston University, the project not only helped me to build my problem-solving skills, but supported me through the completion of my Ph.D. For the last three years I have served as Co-director of and I am so proud of what we, our partners and our grantees have achieved.

Though I will be moving on to new things as of January 1, the mission of InHerit will remain ever important in my life. Thank you to all of our allies, friends and colleagues for your support over the years.

With best wishes for the New Year,
Shoshaunna Parks

Program Director position opening at InHerit this January

InHerit is looking for a new Program Director! The ideal candidate must be fluent in oral/written Spanish, have an M.A. or Ph.D. in the social sciences, and be able to live in/near the Research Triangle in North Carolina.

Duties of the Program Director are exciting and wide-ranging. They include developing and improving existing programs; grant writing and networking; helping to build an Advisory Board; developing volunteer & intern programs; onsite monitoring and evaluation of InHerit programs; heritage-focused research; and report-writing. For more information on salary and benefits and to apply for the position, visit [UNC careers](#).

Support InHerit this holiday season!

Visit www.in-herit.org or InHerit on Facebook to learn more or to **DONATE** to a program.

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