



# FRIENDS OF THE IXCHEL MUSEUM

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## THE IXCHEL WOWS WORLD CLASS LEADERS

By: Raymond Senuk

**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** President Juan Orlando Hernández of Honduras, Vice President Joseph Biden, President Otto Perez Molina of Guatemala, President Salvador Sánchez Cerén of El Salvador.

A back-strap weaving demonstration for the Japanese royal couple, Prince Akishino, the second son of the Emperor, and his wife Princess Kiko.

Irina Bokova head of UNESCO (center) on a private tour of the museum.

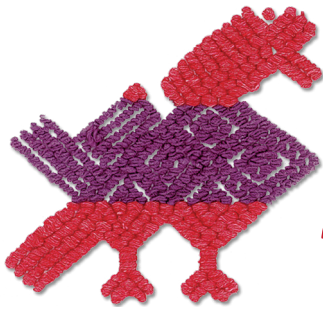
For a number of years the Museo Ixchel has been rated as the must-see museum in Guatemala. We get great press from all the travel guides to Guatemala and private tour operators. In these last few months, we have been receiving guests of extraordinary stature. In and of itself this is interesting, but it demonstrates that the reputation of the Museo Ixchel has reached a new level.

In October of 2014, we were approached by the Japanese ambassador to Guatemala to arrange a visit to the museum for Prince Akishino, the second son of the Emperor, and

his wife Princess Kiko. Given the Japanese love of textile material, this is not surprising. It is an art form shared by both Guatemala and Japan. There are extensive collections of Maya textiles in major Japanese museums and a large number of private collectors. The Museo Ixchel has collaborated on exhibitions in Japan and with Japanese scholars doing research in Guatemala.

In early 2015, we received a request from the US Embassy to arrange a tour of the museum for Vice President Joe Biden, who was attending a meeting of Central American presidents

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# THE MUSEUM

The Museo Ixchel is located on 6a Calle final, zona 10, on the grounds of the Universidad Francisco Marroquín in Guatemala City.

The museum is open from 9 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday, and from 9 am to 1 pm on Saturday. Admission is Q35 for adults, Q15 for students and Q8 for schoolchildren.

For further information on library access and holiday closings and more, please visit [museoixchel.org](http://museoixchel.org) or telephone 502 2331 3622

The Ixchel Museum lecture series featured Dr. Linda Asturias de Barrios who spoke on the significance of the *cofradía huipil*. She focused on the *huipils* worn in the 1980s in Comalapa, Sololá, and Santa María de Jesus. Dr. Asturias de Barrios was technical director and curator of the Ixchel Museum from 1982 to 1992. She earned her PhD in Anthropology from SUNY Albany.

A museum event, "Meet the Artist", featured artists painting throughout the evening. *Prensa Libre* reporter/photographer Edwin Castro was honored for his articles on the museum and Maya weaving.

The Friends of the Ixchel Museum held their annual board meeting in Guatemala in March and voted to fund a significant portion of a new exhibit on *Cofradía* (and an accompanying bilingual catalogue) with a projected opening of November 2015.

We would like to welcome Hellen Ascoli to the staff of the Museo Ixchel as director of the Education Department. At the annual board meeting, she gave an impressive presentation

on how to restructure the department and have more hands-on activities for both children and adults. The education department is relocating to the main floor and will have a permanent space. At the annual *posada* this last year Hellen introduced some of her new hands-on activities for children (of all ages).

Peet's Coffee last year bought Guatemalan textiles at the Museo Ixchel to decorate their flagship café in San Francisco. From Peet's perspective, it has been a success, and they continue to partner with the museum to supply textiles for their cafés. So, coming soon to a Peet's near you – Guatemalan textiles.

In November, Ferran Adrià, the world renowned chef of El Bulli in Spain, came to the Ixchel Museum for a tour and to give a conference on creativity.

The Ixchel Museum Fundraising Gala had as its theme a *zarabanda*, or folk party. Honored at the dinner were Japanese scholar Hideo Kojima, The Daniele Agostino Derossi Foundation, and Friends of the Ixchel Museum, Inc.

LEFT: Linda Asturias explaining the significant features of a Sololá *cofradía* (ceremonial) huipil at symposium held at the Museo Ixchel.

RIGHT: The lobby of the Ixchel museum became a weaving studio for children of all ages. These standing looms will be part of the Education Area.







## FRIENDS OF THE IXCHEL MUSEUM



Two women from Coban by Pat Crocker.

### New Pat Crocker Folio of Prints

Many of you either own or are looking for the two volume set of Frederick (Pat) Crocker prints (six prints in each volume) that were originally published in 1952. They quite accurately portray costume (*traje*) from twelve villages worn pre-1950.

We have good news for collectors of Guatemalan textiles and interested students of the Maya. The Middle American Institute (MARI) located at Tulane University has published the entire portfolio of 34 watercolors (31 villages) as high-resolution giclée prints in the original 17 by 13 inch format. The boxed set includes Crocker's documentation on each village

and costume. The set is limited to 100 editions and sells for \$500. More information is available at [mari.tulane.edu/Crocker.html](http://mari.tulane.edu/Crocker.html) and an order form can be downloaded.

### You Never Know Who Knows You...

Friends of the Ixchel Museum was surprised and delighted to receive a significant bequest from Miki Domoto Stebbing "Mikiko". We were a beneficiary of her revocable trust – and yet, she was not known to us as a donor nor member of Friends! She apparently lived in Guatemala during the 1980's as the spouse of a US State Department economic/commercial officer, David H. Stebbing. Her interest in Guatemala continued during her subsequent 30-year US career in domestic child welfare and international adoption. Thanks to her generosity, we were able to make a larger-than-usual funding commitment for the Museo's upcoming *Cofradías* exhibit.

**If you would like information specific to naming Friends of the Ixchel Museum as a designated non-profit in your estate, please email us at [foiminfo@gmail.com](mailto:foiminfo@gmail.com)**

## WORLD CLASS VISITORS CONTINUED

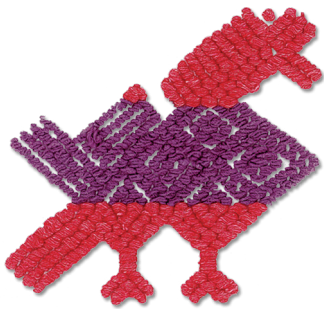
in Guatemala City. After dealing with all the protocols and security, which were extensive, we had a few surprise visitors that accompanied Vice President Biden. Otto Perez Molina, the president of Guatemala, Salvador Sánchez Cerén, the president of El Salvador, and President Juan Orlando Hernández of Honduras all became first time visitors to the museum. Incidentally, in 2012, the then sitting president of Honduras, Porfirio Lobo Sosa attended the opening of the exhibition, *Maya 2014, Lords of Time* at the Penn Museum. Many artifacts from Copan were lent from the people of Honduras for this exhibit. Maya Weekend coincided with the opening and President Lobo Sosa visited the Friends of the Ixchel Museum booth and an exhibition of the FOIM collection of textiles.

Raising the visibility of Maya culture, specifically textile arts, to the leaders of these countries is certainly the mission of the Museo Ixchel.

The head of UNESCO worldwide, Irina Bokova, asked to visit the museum this last January. Given that one of UNESCO's goals is to preserve, recognize, and value the cultural heritage of a country and its people, her visit sends a strong message of the importance of the textile arts of Guatemala.

We should all be proud of the continuing recognition that the museum receives, the quality of its exhibits, and the professionalism of the staff.





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## NEW BOARD MEMBER

Lucy Leonowens is the newest board member of FOIM. Lucy has had a fascinating career as an entrepreneur and business manager in Guatemala and Honduras; an owner of a furniture business; and a flower exporter. Her last and “best job” was as the general manager of Finca Zapote, the Leonowens Petterson quinine estate on Volcan de Fuego. And the idyllic yearly venue for the Museo Ixchel fundraiser!

Currently, Lucy lives in Coronado, California, returning often to visit family and friends in Guatemala.

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Email us at **foiminfo@gmail.com** to be added to our electronic mailing list and receive our newsletters in your inbox! It is easy to donate online at **ixchelfriends.org**



## FRIENDS OF THE IXCHEL MUSEUM

PO Box 30, Princeton, NJ 08542 USA

**Members receive free entrance to exhibitions of FOIM in the U.S. and to the Museo Ixchel in Guatemala City and discounts on purchases in the Museum Shop.**

Benefactor	\$1,000	Contributor	\$100
Patron	\$500	Family	\$50
Sponsor	\$250	Individual	\$25

Friends of the Ixchel Museum is an American 501(c)(3) nonprofit foundation and donations are deductible by the donor for U.S. general income tax purposes.

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