Community Museum Networks in Oaxaca, Mexico and Latin America

Unión de Museos Comunitarios de Oaxaca, México

November 14, 2015
Unión de Museos Comunitarios de Oaxaca
Network in the State of Oaxaca

- Brings together 19 museum committees elected in community assemblies
- Meetings every 3 months
- Peer exchange, training and reflection, organization
- Creation of collective projects
- Assembly makes decisions and elects representatives
Unión Nacional de Museos Comunitarios y Ecomuseos (1994)
National Union of Community Museums, Mexico

- Brings together community museums from 8 states
- One national meeting, 2 workshops every year
- Peer exchange, training and reflection, organization
- Assembly makes decisions and elects representatives
Red de Museos Comunitarios de América (2000)
Network of Community Museums of America

- International community based network
- Participation of community museums of 11 countries (Colombia, Venezuela, Perú, Bolivia, Chile, México, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panamá)
- Independent, non-governmental, non-profit
- Majority of indigenous communities
General objective

- Through our community museums, to strengthen our identity, our autonomy and our capacity for self-determination, building a path to social transformation based on our ancestral values.
Specific Objectives:

- To consolidate the concept of the community museum, as a vehicle for self-determination of the peoples of América.

- To generate opportunities of exchange between community museums, to learn from each other and disseminate processes of cultural affirmation.
Specific Objectives:

- To strengthen and motivate members of the community museums of the network, providing tools through training and meetings that help consolidate local processes.

- To access sources of support for community initiatives.
Specific Objectives:

- To promote the creation of community museum networks in each participant country.
First Stage: Initial contacts, 1995-2000

- Communities and organizations learn about community museums in Oaxaca, request orientation and support

- Support for the creation of community museums, Venezuela 1997, Guatemala 1998
First Stage: Initial contacts, 1995-2000

- A wide diversity of communities throughout Latin America seek guidance
Second Stage: First Meetings and the Concept of the Community Museum, 2000-2003

- A stage of discovery, mutual recognition, and definition of the focus of the community museum
  Representatives of 10 countries.

“The important thing was the learning, the guidance, the motivation, the hope, the energy to keep moving ahead. The unification of native peoples to make ourselves heard in the continent.”
Workshops for the Creation of Community Museums, 9 countries (2001)

El Salvador, 2001

Bolivia, 2001

Panama, 2001
International Meetings 2002, 2003

Guatemala, 2002

El Salvador, 2003
Third Stage: Meetings and Training of Facilitators, 2004-2010

- Continuity of international meetings and creation of a group of facilitators with conceptual and methodological tools to provide guidance

Nicaragua, 2005

Venezuela, 2008
Third Stage: Meetings and Training of Facilitators, 2004-2010

- Organization of workshops to train facilitators of community museums of America
- Training of 82 facilitators
Fourth Stage: Strengthening Capacities and Building National Networks, 2010-2015

- Strengthening the organization, through agreements and planning, 6° Meeting Costa Rica 2010
  7° Meeting Bolivia 2014
Fourth Stage: 2010-2015
25 National Workshops 2011-2015

Bolivia, 2011

Colombia, 2011

Costa Rica, 2011

Venezuela, 2012
Fourth Stage: Strengthening Capacities and Building National Networks, 2010-2015
The Network of Community Museums of America

- The creation of an international community-based organization, that responds to the needs of local communities in America
- A motor of exchange and learning, that generates greater vision and collective motivation
- An instrument to build capacities, to transform relationships of dependence, to foster grassroots initiatives
- A tool to resist domination and to dignify local communities, strengthening their identity and autonomy