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## A Festival for a New Time

Today, the International Cervantes Festival (FIC) is a world-class festival combining imagination, memory and artistic creativity.

The upcoming twenty-ninth International Cervantes Festival's programming reflects new times, times of diversity, encounters and dialogue.

Art and culture are the only road to erasing geographical and spiritual borders, the only way our differences and specificities can be reconciled. Culture knows no borders.

The twenty-ninth festival will distinguish itself for its artistic excellence and its pluralism of currents and genres of universal, world culture. The pur-

pose is to ensure that the FIC is marked by the plural, generous dialogue of different cultures.

One of the roads a society must follow to get to know itself is the road to re-encounters, above all with its longest-lasting works, works of the imagination and art.

For the first time, the International Cervantes Festival has its own internal governing body, composed of federal, state and municipal officials, who share both authority and responsibility. This new form of joint participation has made it possible for the FIC to become a model of working, programming and organization that will guarantee its per-

manence, continuity and positive impact on Mexico's cultural development.

It is also the first time that the FIC has had a consultative council made up of artists from all the disciplines to establish a rigorous dialogue among the arts that will make up the Festival's yearly programming and guarantee its excellence.

The FIC's tradition and deep roots in Guanajuato and Mexico have created powerful links of identity and recognition, links so profound and determinant in the cultural and artistic national memory that they have made it part of Mexico's cultural patrimony. The International Cervantes Festival has



become the world's third most important festival and Latin America's first.

The new times are being forged with the active participation of everyone, men and women, citizens who know the value of their decisions and demand the right to express themselves and be part of what is happening. In that sense, the International Cervantes Festival is a participant in the creation and transformation of habits of participation in cultural life, in order to have a direct impact in the consolidation of a democratic culture.

Fundamental protagonists in the next festival are the street and its people. This is the public space where art is reconciled with life, becoming its mirror and revealing the deepest secrets of Man. Plazas and alleyways will be the main stage where life and art meet, a place for fiestas, where the privileges of enjoyment are reserved for both audience and artist.

The audiences' diversity demands that we have a system of discounts to allow everyone access to this rich, lesson-filled programming. Also of benefit to Guanajuato residents who collaborate with the festival in a myriad of ways will be the creation of the Friend of the FIC card, to be inaugurated this year.

The world will be watching Guanajuato from October 10 to 28 this year, when all the arts, every form of expression—from the strictly classifiable to those that don't even have a classification yet, given their innovative nature—come together.

The guest continent for this festival is Oceania and the country represented, Australia. From Mexico, the guest region is the Southeast and its state guest of honor, Veracruz. In all cases, programming aims to make a profound understanding of cultural processes available to the public and will

include performing arts, visual arts, film, literature and academic encounters.

As of now, the International Cervantes Festival expresses its commitment to broadening audiences' cultural horizons. The objective is to foster audiences capable of participating in artistic processes; this will include students and amateurs joining workshops, practical demonstrations, master classes and lectures in which participating artists take part. Specialized international workshops will be given and co-production, co-participation and exchange mechanisms created to foster the development of Mexican artistic creativity.

The International Cervantes Festival is possible thanks to the joint efforts and economic support of the federal government through its National Council for Culture and the Arts, the government of Guanajuato state and the support of sister countries and the private sector, which, with their dedicated participation have contributed to thinking about culture as one of the driving forces behind our country's development.

A festival for a new time is not possible without public participation. The FIC awaits you in Guanajuato.

