

## **FUNDACIÓN DEL CENTRO HISTORICO DE LA CIUDAD DE MEXICO, A.C.**

The Mexico City Historical Center Foundation, is a not-for-profit civil institution created in order to promote the revitalization and restoration of the Historical Center (Downtown Area) of Mexico City. In this urban space, declared by UNESCO, World Heritage, we collaborated with the federal and the Mexico City governments, private institutions and social organizations by supporting the initiatives that get more people to work, buy, and entertain in the Historical Center.

### **Programs and Activities**

#### **1. Stop the sinking of the Historical Center caused by the excessive extraction of underground water and improve its availability.**

A group of experts works carrying out strategic studies and technological alternatives to eliminate the overpopulation of the aquifer, reduce the water leaks in the network, achieve higher filtration of rainfall, increase the served treated water to recycle it and to provide more utilization to the treated water.

#### **1. More security and better public services.**

In the last five years the quality of the public services in the Historical Center has improved. The Historical Center Foundation has collaborated in the following activities: We invited private and public companies such as Teléfonos de México and Luz y Fuerza del Centro (Light and Power) to benefit from the modernization effort of the drainage infrastructure and renewal of the sidewalks carried out by the Historical Center Trust and modernize their infrastructure. In addition, special lighting has been installed in some historical buildings. Our role has been to promote the collaboration of the federal and local governments and add efforts from private and public entities.

In order to improve security, with that same collaboration spirit, with the General Attorney's Office of the Republic and the Secretary of Protection and Traffic of the Mexico City Government, a command post, an alarm station, monitoring cameras with 100 associated telephone lines, digital cameras, computers and the new communication systems were installed in the security vehicles and the equipment of the guards units that permanently move through the historical center streets to assist people, were improved.

#### **2. Economic Well Being and Social Well Being**

##### **Health**

For the Historical Center inhabitants to have access to QUALITY HEALTH services, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and the support of the Telmex Foundation, work agreements were signed together with hospitals, asylums and health clinics which get support to improve their equipment and

they are given technical assistance in the operation of the advanced technology specialized equipment. We work as a network of information and channeling of service demands to respond to health problems of the community.

Some of the best surgeons of Mexico have donated highly specialized “off the hospital” surgeries. This activity and the eye examinations and donation of eye glasses has been greatly accepted by the inhabitants of the Historical Center, many of them very elderly persons. We have a Family Integration Center, where seminars are given and medical and psychological consultation is provided.

## **Education**

In close coordination with the Secretary of Public Education, the Fundación del Centro Histórico de la Ciudad de México, A. C., carries out a pilot / relationship model for quality education, in four schools (two primary and two secondary schools), to improve the academic level of the teaching staff. The schools have benefited with this access to the new information technologies. INTELMEX specially designed tools and technological applications for this program that supports teachers so that they may improve their performance. Fundación has promoted the research activities and knowledge of history or the current problems of this urban area. Our main task is to build networks, establish links and contacts amongst the multiple cultural offers and the concrete demands of the Downtown Area inhabitants. The programming of activities has been renewed in many institutions so that students that attend those schools in the historical downtown area, use their free time in education extension activities offered by museums and cultural centers.

The Historical Center Foundation acts as a bridge that links students interested in obtaining SCHOLARSHIPS jointly with the Telmex Foundation for higher education studies, and also scholarships for training workshops in coordination with the General Employment and Training Direction of the Mexico City Government.

## **Micro credits**

To date micro credits have been granted in order to support the generation of family employment. Besides from the credit, advise is offered in three main fields: Technical Assistance: related to the different business areas. Administrative Assistance: related to the administrative, financial and formative sales assistance areas; in collaboration with ASUME, we offer personal development, self-esteem, affectivity and leadership workshops.

## **4. Revitalization**

The return to the Historical Center of commercial and services establishments has given new life to the Downtown Area, and has improved co-living amongst its inhabitants.

The Historical Center Foundation promotes the offer of housing at accessible prices; invites commercial, services and entertainment businesses to settle down in that area and thus benefit from the tax incentives.

During the last five years, new jobs have been generated in the area and also a similar number of indirect jobs. Social development alternatives have been opened to families that have lived there for generations and new horizons have been opened for youngsters.

We have the “Casa Vecina” (Neighbors’ House) which is the cultural space that offers workshops and introduction courses to music, scenic arts, plastic arts and also countless activities such as exhibitions, guided visits, children’s workshops, etc., all of them at the service of the historical center community.

### **Restoration and Conservation of Buildings.**

Invert the use of real properties used as warehouses or offices to houses. The restoration initiatives of real estate supported by the Historical Center Foundation have to be carried out in coordination with INBA and INAH.

The Hotel Virreyes was turned into a Hostal (cheap hotel) for young people and the Hotel Señorial was turned into a students residence.

The Historical Center Foundation supports the restoration of real estate exclusively based on the activity and use that may guarantee its conservation and permanent maintenance.