

THE INTERNATIONAL MAYAN CULTURE FESTIVAL

THE INTERNATIONAL MAYAN CULTURE FESTIVAL was conceived with the goal of it being a trajectory not just a date on the calendar, it contemplates the implementation and development of permanent actions that propitiate the study, diffusion and expression of beings still alive in our culture through diverse manifestations: visual and scenic arts, literature, music, gastronomy, science, among others.

THE INTERNATIONAL MAYAN CULTURE FESTIVAL is an opportunity to continue building spaces of contact between Mayan Yucatecan people of today with those who visit, this is in everyone's best interest to strengthen their knowledge, especially of our mutual interaction with the environmental.

THE INTERNATIONAL MAYAN CULTURE FESTIVAL will recognize the greatness of this civilization and its conception of the world; it will establish a compromise with contemporary generations to grant THE COSMOGONY the essential place it rightfully deserves in our planet.

This Festival that began its activities and its presence in the field of culture, tourism, academia and economy in the world, was launched on the 21 of December of 2012, a year in which a cycle ended and a new one began in the Cosmogony, in Astronomy, in Mathematics, and in the Mayan solar cycle.

This Festival took place in this first year with the theme: **"Time"** and in the subsequent years they were each developed with the following concepts: in 2013 **"Time in the Landscape."**

In 2014: **"Time and Landscape in Mayan Architecture"**.

In 2015: **"Landscape, Time and Architecture in the Mayan Science"**

And in 2016: **"From Language to Imagination in Time, Landscape, Architecture and Science among the Mayans"**.

In these last five years, THE INTERNATIONAL MAYAN CULTURE FESTIVAL has carried out more than two thousand events, and has had an attendance of approximately one million spectators.

The Government of the Republic, through the Secretary of Culture and the Secretary of Tourism in coordination with the Government of Yucatan, have made this trajectory towards the INTERNATIONAL MAYAN CULTURE FESTIVAL a gamble of cultural tourism and humanist reflection.

In this year, the Festival will take place from the 19 of October until the 5th of November.

Within the framework of this calendar and at the centre of the Festival, a great event has been organised named: WORLD CONFERENCE OF THE COSMOGONY AND MILLENNARY MYTHOLOGIES FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE PLANET.

This great encounter that is celebrated within the framework of the International Festival will take place in EL GRAN MUSEO DEL MUNDO MAYA DE MÉRIDA, central site of the Festival between the 24th and 26th of October 2017.

In this world conference, the FICMAYA (THE INTERNATIONAL MAYAN CULTURE FESTIVAL) establishes that:

- From the origin of man and the formation of the framework of the most ancient civilisations, there has existed the human need to imagine and explain the beginning of life. This is followed by the birth of the cosmogonies as representations of the universe and its evolutions, with differences and coincidences rooted in the human psyche, cultures of the world have elaborated tales and myths regarding the dimension of man on the cosmic scale.
- Since ancient times, in the land inhabited from the Asian planes between the Tigris and the Euphrates, people constructed advanced civilisations creating fundamental myths that range from the observation of the celestial bodies, the movement of the planets, and the measurement of time. There exist coincidences in the millenary cultures regarding the origin of the world, preceded the majority of time by the existence of chaos. In some cultures, such as India, there exists the cyclical regeneration and destruction of the universe that appears in diverse cosmological models. The relation of the basic components of their beliefs associated with nature, are symbolically represented in cultures like China, and it occurs on a fundamental level in the Mesoamerican cultures, especially in the Mayan Civilisation.
- Among the Mayan's great reflections, beliefs and inherited words of their millenary wisdom, they left us other words that continue to be heard through the thirteen skies and their sacred ceiba, and when the sun sets in the underworld.
- ***“They talked together then. They thought and they pondered. They reached an accord, bringing together their words and their thoughts”***
- ***“This is a record of the things which they did. After it had all passed, they told of it in their <own> words, but its meaning is not plain. Still the course of events was as it is written. “***

- ***“He set up the planets, Saturn, Jupiter, Mars, Venus, which he said were held in the grasp of the god in heaven when he created them.”***
- ***“Those who know come from our great lineage, the Mayans. They will know the significance of what there is, when they read it. And then they will see and will account for.”***

These recordings of ancient words will shape part of our humanist call that will be made from the Mayan city of UXMAL; to contribute to the reflection and the international movement that allows us to take conscience of the inalienable values to preserve the planet that are carried within itself, a pronouncement to strengthen the cultural identities of the distinct regions in which the human conglomerate moves.

This World Conference of what we inherited from Cosmogony and Millenary Mythologies recognises that the ancestral cultures and the evidences that we inherited are of a “vast world” where we can comprehend and learn from their capacities to extract natural resources, build impressive constructions – due to their size and meaning – as well as how to also find less tangible values that are equally important such as social interactions and working conducts, rituals, practices, and of course mysticism and magic from their religious beliefs and their admiral relation to the cosmos.

In this order of cosmological ideas, it is imperative to reacquaint ourselves with the “ancestral humanism” that we are forgetting, provoking Biblical Babels that range from family cores to the macro sites of coexistence. ***“It was there that the languages of the nations were changed. Their languages came to be different... thus they split apart”***

We need more than a glance towards the teachings and wisdom inherited from the millenary cultures, with the aim and reflection of this World Conference that on sits on the stage of a dialogue of cultural experiences; that we may find coincidences to maintain our personal equilibrium, that of the environment and that of our own regional communities in this planetary crossing, and as the Popol Vuh states, to find ourselves at the exact point: ***“they who are compassionate and wise in all things— all that exists in the sky and on the earth, in the lakes and in the sea.”*** These words force us to look at the cosmic greatness of our planet and its marvellous potential that has allowed this nature which we form part of to remain in this space-time during centuries upon centuries.

It seems that men and women will not lose this sense for humanity despite being born in this condition; however experience has demonstrated that many of our acts are devoid of “humanity” and of “humanism”. We attempt in this manner with all the species, starting with people, that panorama is not promising.

In this sense, there is no group, politics or law that can make a real change, if one does not part from individuality and generate a conscience of what is happening in the “here and now”.

Space time as central point of the Mayas allowed them this transcendency and actual presence, in that way as long as we do not comprehend the simplicity of how human we are, and that we are only a small point in the universe; returning to the observation of that which surrounds us to something natural – for its care and preservation – just as much as artificial – for its adequate use and exploitation and that we feel responsible that each personal action has a universal link with all; we cannot assure our permanence as humanity and we will be forgotten and overcome by other life forms in the cosmos.

Certainly we are not alien to anything, everything connects us to everything and we are part of this incessant change that transforms us and transforms the world even though at times we are indifferent to this situation. We need to take conscience that each act modifies our environment and influences the reality of the cosmos, not because of the magnitude of our actions but due to the gear of which the marvellous universe is made of, which we form an essential part of philosophical, theological, astronomical, and existentially, before the sun even existed. These and other reflections that are product of the wisdom of the participants of this **WORLD CONFERENCE OF THE COSMOGONY AND MILLENNARY MYTHOLOGIES FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE PLANET** will consolidate the intellectual and humanist substance of our **MANIFESTO**.

Pronouncing this humanist **MANIFESTO** is to bet on life itself, and on human values, revisiting on known roads and new ones, where we will continue transiting on the equilibrium that generate **respect, tolerance, solidarity and hope**.

- *“At that time there was the riddle for the rulers. The planted timber was set up. Perishable things are assembled at that time”.*
- *“Every Moon, every year, every day, every wind walks and passes by. Blood, too reaches the place of stillness, it reaches its power and its throne”.*

The Mayan civilisation and culture has left us a millenary tradition that is expressed on the cosmogony and in myth. Both have had primordial importance in the Mayan culture and society of the past and the present. The cosmogony and myth emerge when cultures master the first systems of writing and are expressed in oral tradition and in its sacred books, the conception of the gods, the divine adventures, the creation of the universe, of the earth and man. It is through them that thought and the Mayan cosmovision manifested and where we can perceive diverse aspects of their culture.

The cosmovision and mythology have great richness of cultural, intellectual, ideological, cosmogonic and artistic manifestations which have been the object of study of the Maya scholars. It is due to that that we gather those who study this culture to participate in this academic encounter, and to address the central thematic of this **WORLD CONFERENCE**.

In this manner, within the framework of the 6th edition of the INTERNATIONAL MAYAN CULTURE FESTIVAL 2017, we summon to revisit the universal declarations of the UNESCO on respect towards cultural diversity and to speak of in favour of the principles and compromises of the XXII Conference on Climate Change, known as the Paris Agreement 2016, and which have become the essential basis to work on the Preservation of the Planet. All this, under the safeguard of the UNITED NATIONS through UNESCO.

This World Conference will take into consideration the Agreement for Sustainability of our Peninsula subscribed in the V GLOBAL SUMMIT ON BIODIVERSITY celebrated in Benito Juárez , Quintana Roo, in 2016. In reference to this agreement, we reproduce in this document a text related to Yucatán, that is the seat of this world conference... **“We will protect the natural richness that identifies us, that was the layer for Mayan Culture, whose roots and traditions we have inherited, and at the same time, we set down the bases for future generations to have the available conditions to develop further in this planet.”** **“Protegeremos la riqueza natural que nos identifica, que fue sustrato de la Cultura Maya, de la que heredamos nuestras raíces y tradiciones, y al mismo tiempo, sentamos las bases para que las generaciones futuras puedan tener las condiciones necesarias para desarrollarse humana y plenamente en este planeta.”** The texts, records, reflections and previous pronouncements were subscribed by the UNESCO within the framework of the UNITED NATIONS.

- ***“Then may it be sown; then may dawn the sky and the earth. There can be no worship, no reverence given by what we have framed and what we have shaped, until humanity has been created, until people have been made,” they said”.***

So they said the sacred books, the **CHILAM BALAM** and **POPOL VUH**, the magicians, the priests, the astronomers, the mathematicians, and the wise Mayans. In this way it was said by great kings and great warriors. In this way it was shaped by the immortal artists of the Mayan culture.

This meaning founded in the aesthetic of a culture that continues being mysterious even in our days, calls for us: the present and the globalized world, not only to reflect but also to rethink which were the teachings of this and of the other millenary cultures. Which were the predictions and premonitions of its cosmogony and its mythology facing the challenges of the 21th century?

The WORLD CONFERENCE OF COSMOGONY AND MILLENARY MYTHOLOGIES IN THE PRESERVATION OF THE PLANET proposes the previous reflections to bring together a humanist dialogue of the cultures and civilisations. A dialogue that will lead us to comprehend the changing nature that surrounds humans and our planet.

At the end of this conference we will elaborate a MANIFESTO that will be read at the foot of the ADIVINO PYRAMID in the archaeological area of the millenary Mayan city of UXMAL, WORLD HERITAGE by the UNESCO.

The Conference will take place on the 24th, 25th, and 26th October in the GRAN MUSEO DEL MUNDO MAYA DE MÉRIDA, in Yucatán, México.