

INICIATIVA COLIBRÍ



Estelí-Nicaragua

WHEN WERE WE BORN?

The project's idea was presented in December 2011 to the support group «Sustainability Partners» from England.

Once the economic support was approved, we started our adventure by letting María Centeno (project coordinator) attend the Encuentro Latinoamericano de Teatro del Oprimido (Theatre of the Oppressed Latin-american Meeting) that took place in Guatemala in January 2012.

This a very significant biennial event which aim is to strengthen the network of artists in Latin America, mainly through the Theatre of the Oppressed methodology that seeks the liberation of man from any situation of oppression.


We decided from the beginning that we wanted to work with this methodology because it generates changes, since we start identifying real problems to work with.

WHO ARE WE?

We are an independent initiative with presence in a specific neighborhood of the city of Estelí (Nicaragua).

We do not belong to any organization. We work in a community preschool that has been lent to us in the neighborhood, however, establish coordination with other projects the same work philosophy, which is: “making art reachable without losing quality “.

We have been recognized and accepted by the population of Estelí (our city), because we have projected our work through various art festivals we have organized, presenting plays focused on social themes that have been created collectively by the children and adolescents with who we work.



WHAT DO WE DO?

We work on 4 main activities:

- **Theatre for Children:** We work every Saturday morning with a group of children which age is in between 5 and 8 years old.
- **Theatre for Teens:** We work with this group every Monday and Wednesday afternoon. Their ages, between 9 and 13 years old, allow us to work more thoughtful themes without leaving the fun aside.
- **Theatre for Adults:** We do not permanently work with this group. Instead, we organize every 3 months an intensive week of theatre evenings aimed at people of all ages.
- **Crafts for Teens:** We work with this group every Tuesday and Thursday, and their ages are between 9 and 13 years old.

In 2012 our working method was to create decorative items, handicrafts and small trinkets that we could sell at local fairs, in order to replenish the spent material.

In 2014 we want to incorporate a new idea: promoting the identification of social problems affecting our communities by creating a kind of model or project in group made by our own hands to represent this situation which is wished to be changed.

HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE WE?

We are 3 people working in this project. Since it is a relatively young project, we do not have budget for hiring more people and it is hard to find people who are committed 100% without receiving a full salary.

We three receive a small monthly contribution and we are committed to our work:

1. **The coordinator** does all the work related to management, administration, set different communications, and facilitates theatre classes with teenagers and adults, and is present in all groups activities.
2. **The facilitator of the Children's Theatre group** handles the work needed for the youngest group.
3. **The facilitator Crafts Group** is responsible for these classes. She is very hardworking and always willing to learn new things to share with her students. She is proactive and has patience to share her knowledge with humility.



**WE COUNT ON THE HELP OF VOLUNTARY PEOPLE
IN OUR CULTURAL EVENTS**

OUR METHODOLOGY

We want to do the job of generating changes, therefore we believe that the techniques offered by the Theatre of the Oppressed points us the way to follow:

Theatre of the Oppressed

"Theatre of the Oppressed (TO) is a theater method proposed by the Brazilian playwright, director and teacher Augusto Boal from the 50's to the 70's in the XX century. Within this theatre model, the term "oppressed" refers to individuals or groups, which, for cultural, political, ethnic, racial, sexual or social reasons are in any way deprived of their right to dialogue, or prevented from exercising this right.

The Theatre of the Oppressed offers the aesthetic method to analyze the past, in the context of the present, and to invent the future, without waiting for it. The Theatre of the Oppressed helps human beings to retrieve a language that we already possess - to learn how to live in society playing theatre. Learn how to feel, feeling; how to think, thinking; how to act, act."

(SOURCE: International Organization of Theatre of the Oppressed)

HOW DO WE APPLY THIS METHODOLOGY?

- **Theatre for Children:** In this group we apply games that this methodology offers us allowing us to get to know better ourselves and each other. Due to the young age of the group we introduce different techniques very slowly and gradually. First we want children to love theater, then we will create works that start from the needs of our community.
- **Theatre for Teens:** We have already worked with strong social themes that affect us with this group . In 2012 we set up a play about how youth are exposed to drugs if their family is not aware of them. In 2013 we presented a play on the environmental reality of our city, the direct effect in the Estelí river. We are doing thoughtful work and proposing real changes.
- **Theatre for Adults:** Developing workshops with this group gives us the freedom to implement fully the proposed techniques of the Theatre of the Oppressed. The “Forum-Theatre technique” is one of the best known: it consists of working on a play that starting from a situation of oppression, is presented to an audience who have the opportunity to review, and not just give an opinion, but to demonstrate acting, how that person in that situation can get out of it. So the spectator stops being a spectator to become “spect-actors”.
- **Crafts for Teens:** It seems that this course has nothing to do with the theatre, however, before beginning the crafts lessons we do dynamic preparation and employ techniques that allow us to know better each other and learn more about our environment. With the new previously mentioned idea e will also be performing work that shows our reality.

WHERE WE WANT TO GO?

- We are applying for a grant of a Formative Process within Central America. If our project is approved we will have the opportunity to present our project in 4 countries of Central America: Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, sharing our methodology with other support projects in these countries.
- We will also to participate in October 2014 in a Central American Theatre Festival presenting a play. These events allow us to get to know more people and learn new techniques and ideas to implement in our daily lives, and to strengthen the network.
- We would like to create an physical office where we can store our work material, conduct meetings with facilitators, students, parents... a physical space of reference which will strengthen our project. To be able to this, we need a permanent support contribution, which we are trying to achieve.
- We would like to strongly start working with mothers and fathers, as well as the citizens of our community. For this we will need a person with knowledge, experience and / or willingness to do this kind of work.

- We would like to be able to provide with psychological support for some of our students, since most of them come from difficult situations. To be able to do this we need to establish collaborations with some organizations that can support us in this specific topic.
- We want to shape the project by establishing a day to come together as a team and to share our experiences with groups, our weaknesses, our strengths, our dreams, desires and aspirations both personal and professional.
- We would like to count with the basic economic resources that allow us to cover the facilitation, transportation, materials, office maintenance. For the moment we only have the continued support of the group of England 'Sustainability Partners. Their contribution allows us to cover certain expenses, others cannot be covered, however we receive some sporadically contributions from personal friendships that somehow come to push and support our work.
- We want to strengthen the work with the different groups we work with. We are not as much interested in growing in the number of students served, but in terms of the quality of work performed.

We want to fly higher!

THEATRE FOR CHILDREN





THEATRE FOR TEENS





THEATRE FOR ADULTS





CRAFTS FOR TEENS





OUR NEIGHBORHOOD







**¡MUCHAS
GRACIAS!**

INICIATIVA COLIBRÍ

**THANK YOU
VERY MUCH!**

