

The International Friendly Cultures Fair celebrates its first ten years at the Mexico City Historic Center



The celebration of the ten years of the International Friendly Cultures Fair (FICA) 2018 took place from April 14th to 29th, and it had as the main venue the Mexico's City Historic Center, where it received 4 million and 150 thousand visitants along 16 days.

Under the theme 'Design' and within the framework of 'World Design Capital Mexico City 2018', the Fair had four exhibition pavilions distributed in two primary venues: the Mexico City Pavilion 'Creative City, Resilient City', the Design Pavilion and the Diversity Pavilion as elements of an architectonic structure at the Zocalo Square, where also was installed an Artistic Forum; meanwhile, the Gastronomy Pavilion took place at the Santo Domingo Square.

The FICA 2018's architectonic project was designed by TO study, since they won the third open call to choose the conceptual project for the architectonic intervention at the Zocalo Square, carried out with the technical assistance of LIGA, Space for Architecture, DF.

Additionally, the Fair offered 186 artistic, cultural and academic activities, such as art

exhibitions, concerts, dance performances, cinema and theater presentations, conferences, workshops, courses, culinary demonstrations, among others. This program was developed on the Artistic Forum and the Mexico City Pavilion installed at the Zocalo Square, as well as in different alternate venues.

These were the Old College of San Ildefonso, the House of the First Printing Company of America, the Cultural Center of Contemporary Mexico, the Jose Luis Cuevas Museum, the Mexico City Museum, the National Museum of World Cultures, the City Theater - Esperanza Iris, University of the Cloister of Sor Juana, the Seminario Square, the Chapultepec Forest Open Gallery, and the Mexico City System Metro.

The tenth edition of the FICA gathered 86 countries from Africa, America, Pacific Asia, Europe and the Middle East; it had the participation of China as the 'Special Guest Country', through its Embassy in Mexico, and Beijing as the first 'Special Guest City', in collaboration with its Foreign Affairs Office.

FICA 2018 Special Program

China and Beijing

China and Beijing starred the FICA 2018 with events such as the Artistic and Folkloric Performance of the Xizang Autonomous Region (Tibet) at the Artistic Forum, the Exhibition of pictures, traditional garments, immaterial cultural heritage and cultural creations of the Xizang Autonomous Region (Tibet), open to the public since April 15th, and the Exhibition 'Intermedium. The Chinese ink in the contemporary artworks', open since April 25th, both at the National Museum of World Cultures.



Days of Moscow in Mexico City

From April 26th to 28th, the Days of Moscow in Mexico City were celebrated, as a bilateral cooperation initiative of the Government Ministry and the Department of Foreign Economic Relations and International Affairs of Moscow, Russia, in order to strengthen the friendship and cooperation ties between both capitals, in terms of culture, economic development, tourism, and urban development.

In this context, the performance of the group 'Golden Ring' was held at the Artistic Forum, along with dance classes at the Mexico City Pavilion; the opening of the photographic exhibition 'Sports of Moscow', and a chess tournament with the Great Russian Master Ivan Popov at the Seminario Square; a special concert with the Moscow Camera Orchestra at the City Theater; as well as the Bilateral Forum 'The economy, the investment potential and the touristic attractive of the Russian capital' at the Mexico City Museum.



World Design Capital Mexico City 2018

As part of the World Design Capital Mexico City 2018 program in the International Friendly Cultures Fair 2018, the 'Network of Cities Meeting' took place on April 23th, at the Old City Hall, with the participation of representatives from Torino, Helsinki, Cape Town, Taipei, Curitiba, Madrid, the European Metropolis of Lille, Puebla City and Mexico City.

On that occasion, they subscribed a 'Joint Declaration of Cities for Design', in order to create new alliances among cities that recognize this discipline as a growth and development engine. Besides, the exhibition of portraits 'I live and work at Mexico City' was inaugurated at the Chapultepec Forest Open Gallery.



FICA's commemorative activities

Among them are the photographic exhibitions 'Design and Public Space' at the Parque de los Venados subway station, and 'A Dialogue among Cultures' at the Ermita subway station (Line 12), as well as an exhibition the FICA's architectural models in the Zocalo subway station (Line 2). These exhibitions show the evolution of the greatest multicultural celebration in Mexico City in the Historic Center over the last five years.

Besides, a commemorative ticket of the Tenth Anniversary of the International Friendly Cultures Fair was released by the Mexico City Metro System.



FICA 2018 Pavilions



Mexico City Pavilion

It was the FICA 2018 primordial space, titled 'Creative City, Resilient City' on the score of the designation of Mexico City as a member of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network, in the field of Design in 2017.

It offered a permanent museum exhibition with the curatorship of Buró Buró and the following thematic axis: Sustainability and development; Mobility and connectivity; Participation and dialogue; Future and invention; Hospitality and friendship; and Diversity and equity, as well as a multi-purpose area for encounters, conferences, and presentations.



Diversity Pavilion

It was a cultural exhibition space where 84 Diplomatic Representations participated and promoted their traditions, customs, identity, and culture.



Gastronomy Pavilion

A space dedicated to the international culinary art where 69 friendly cultures participated and delighted the assistants with the flavors and traditional dishes of their countries. Alongside this pavilion, moreover, an open area for eating and resting was installed based on a landscape project designed by Ludens.



Design Pavilion

An exhibition space for good practices on 'Socially Responsible Design' which had the participation of 8 Diplomatic Representations: Brazil, Bulgaria, Costa Rica, Hungary, Italy, South Africa, Sweden, and Switzerland.