



NA BOLOM

ASOCIACION CULTURAL

San Cristóbal de Las
Casas, Chiapas.
Mexico

2020

Who we are

- We are a non-profit Civil Association founded in 1950 by Danish researcher Frans Blom and Swiss photographer Gertrude DUBY.
- Our mission is to investigate, promote and rescue the heritage of the indigenous communities of Chiapas to contribute to the respect and promotion of human rights through health, environment, education, culture and community development programs.
- Our vision is to be a benchmark as a research center, trigger for discussions, promoter of heritage, education and critical processes.

Our programs

Lacandon Medical Fund

Permanent support to the Lacandones on health issues. Na Bolom provides them with lodging and food and when needed, finances medicines, clinical tests and transfers. We make agreements with other associations dedicated to the topic of health and with government agencies.

In the Na Bolom facilities we have 3 Lacandon rooms that are offered to members of the community free of charge for 3 days or more depending on the need as long as they attend medical treatments, administrative procedures or sale of handicrafts.

We organize campaigns at the communities to prevent health issues.



Climate Change Program

Since 1972, NA BOLOM has maintained an annual reforestation campaign with the indigenous peoples around San Cristóbal.

In 2019, we launched a community nursery project. Na Bolom supports communities in different regions of Chiapas for the implementation of nurseries, whether timber, fruit or mixed. Nurseries are being built in schools, this year we work with two nurseries in Chanal and one in Zinacantán. Parents provide the materials, teachers supervision and children labor. Na Bolom accompanies giving workshops, teaching the collection and sprouting of seeds. School children from both communities and San Cristóbal de Las Casas are doing seed collection activities accompanied by Na Bolom's staff. The production of each nursery will add 100,000 trees that will constitute the 2020 reforestation.

In Na Bolom we have an educational nursery so kids from the surroundings can learn about the production and care of the forests.



Program. Culture and heritage

Focused on promoting the culture of the communities of the state of Chiapas, mainly the Lacandon, the Program maintains the library, the museum, the photo library, the collections and carries out cultural activities in the communities and in the spaces that NA BOLOM has in Nahá and in San Cristobal. It is linked to international creators through the Artists in Residence program and maintains relationships with academic institutions in Chiapas, Mexico, the United States and Denmark. And it manages the activities of La Enseñanza Casa de la Ciudad.

Na Bolom keeps a Research and Photo Library Department is made up of the sections: Photo Library, Map Library, Archive and correspondence, Audiovisual, Archaeological Warehouse and Library Archive with the pictures from Gertrude Duby, Frans Blom, Marcey Jacobson and John Hanney.



We manage two historical houses from the end of the XIX century:

The **Na Bolom museum** where the collections and archives are located, as well as a botanical garden and nursery.

The house was built in the late 19th century and remained in ruins for around 60 years when Frans Blom and Gertrude Duby bought it to set up a research center. In Na Bolom there are collections of archeology, sacred art, ethnography, documents, photography, folk art, contemporary art, a specialized library and archives. It is one of the most visited places in San Cristóbal de Las Casas.



La Enseñanza

La Enseñanza Casa de la Ciudad: The Casa “La Enseñanza”, built between 1898 and 1910, is a great example of neoclassical architecture style from the 19th century in San Cristobal de Las Casas. Originally, it was home to the renowned San Cristobal architect Carlos Zacarías Flores who with his family turned into a school. It was the first school for teachers in the south of Mexico.

Since Na Bolom bought La Enseñanza to turn it into a cultural center, it has been a witness and home to many artists and cultural events of great impact to the area.

The promotion and passion for maintaining this space for visitors, artists and tourists makes the cultural experience ample, as music, theater, photography, painting and dance workshops are also shared.



Cultural Agenda

In order to promote culture to both local audiences and visitors, the Na Bolom Cultural Association generates different types of events such as exhibitions, concerts, book presentations, plays, and provides spaces for presentations by local artists and workshop owners, galleries, academic institutions and undergraduate students.

We host an average of 60 events a year for all ages showing a variety of cultural expressions.

We provide spaces for young researchers to present their works, to have an area to gather and work.

Our staff is conformed mainly by graduates from local institutions that have in Na Bolom the opportunity to work in their professions.



NAHA



Na Bolom helps the lacandon community in Naha being a facilitator of cultural activities. When possible our staff organizes activities in the cultural house, as exhibits and workshops.



A school from San Cristóbal visited Naha and worked with the kids in a 5 day activity. They stayed at Na Bolom's camp, and with the kids in Naha painted the school.



Na Bolom is also a facilitator helping artists and researchers who have their own project and need to contact the community or to use Na Bolom's camp in Naha, or to show their work in San Cristóbal.



Mayan artisans program

Within the Culture and Heritage program we have a Mayan Artisan subprogram. From the investigation of the Na Bolom textile collection, which has pieces from 1920 to 2010, Na Bolom generates a series of exhibitions that are taken to the communities or presented in the museum. This with the aim of bringing artisans closer to pieces and techniques that have disappeared.

Na Bolom gives workshops to the artisans. Currently, thanks to the work of an artist in residence, Na Bolom supports artists and artisans from 14 communities, adding around 200 families. In 2019 Na Bolom organized the first international Art and Craft fair at its facilities, where project participants were able to market their pieces. Na Bolom has a handicraft store where participants in the Maya Artisan project can sell their pieces.



Services

Na Bolom finances its activities with the sale of services. In the headquarters house we have 16 rooms, two cabins and the dining room / restaurant. The cabins are used to host artists-in-residence and volunteers, as well as artisans who come to San Cristóbal to participate in the workshops. The rooms function as a hotel and are rented to visitors from all over the world. The Teaching, spaces are lent in exchange for donations to artists, book presentations, workshops and other events. Thanks to the services of Na Bolom, the activities of the association are financed.





OUR TEAM

Na Bolom has a team of 37 people, 95% originary from different communities of Chiapas. We hire graduates from local universities giving them the opportunity to develop their professions in an internationally known institution with 70 years of history. At the same time we continue Na Bolom's tradition receiving volunteers from other places in Mexico and around the world creating a unique experience for the staff, hosts, and volunteers. The artist in residency keeps attracting artists from all over the world working on projects with local artists and artisans.