

**70** BIBLIOTECA  
AÑOS PÚBLICA  
AC.

**ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2023**



[www.laibliotecapublica.org](http://www.laibliotecapublica.org)

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>President's Report</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Mission and Vision</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Our Programs</b>	<b>6</b>
Reading Promotion	7
Classes and Workshops	16
Scholarships to Students	23
Artistic and Cultural Events	28
<b>Financial Report</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Institutional Collaboration</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Our Team</b>	<b>36</b>
Staff	36
Board of Directors and Asociados	38
Volunteers	39
<b>Contact</b>	<b>41</b>

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT



**D**ear Friends and Supporters,

a warm welcome to each of you who have used and supported La Biblioteca during the past year.

I am happy to share with you our annual report for 2023 because it so clearly demonstrates how the staff is leaning into the mission of La Biblioteca, providing educational and cultural enrichment to a diverse community.

We are a library that shares knowledge with the community of San Miguel through books, literacy programs, lectures, music, art, cultural events and scholarships for young adults and teens.

We have done this with the help of many partners and in collaboration with many other non-profit organizations such as the *Mid-Day Rotary Club*, *Tikkun Eco Center*, *Amistad Canada*, *the Broadcom Foundation*, *the Toller Cranston Estate*, *the Brothers of San Miguel*, *UNAM University*, *the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona*, to name a few, along with all of YOU. **Working together we are stronger.**

Some of our most successful program initiatives are highlighted in this report and we celebrate some of our users who have benefited from these programs.

We are proud of the fact that La Biblioteca's financial position is healthy heading into 2024. La Biblioteca is not an arm of any local, state or federal government. So we do not receive any regular funding from the government. We rely upon the generosity of our donors and grants received from foundations and governmental project programs.

**In 2024, we are celebrating the 70th year of the founding of La Biblioteca.** For over seven decades, there have been many incredible local leaders, teachers and volunteers who have insured the success and longevity of this formidable organization. There will be opportunity to celebrate this milestone throughout this year and we hope you will join in one or more of the celebrations.

Lastly, think about what talents you have to offer and whether you would like to become more deeply involved with our mission. **I can personally attest to the fact that my involvement serving La Biblioteca is one of the most enriching experiences of my life.** Because of this service, I meet people from all walks of life every week who teach me something new.

Keep reading, stay involved and above all keep learning,

**DEBRA BROUSSARD**  
President, Board of Directors  
Biblioteca Pública A.C.



General Assembly 2023



Daily life in La Biblioteca



## **MISSION**

La Biblioteca Pública de San Miguel de Allende, A.C. provides educational and cultural activities to foster a harmonious community.

## **VISION**

La Biblioteca is a multi-disciplinary and inclusive cultural center that provides literacy programs and scholarships, cultivates knowledge with various classes, and offers cultural and artistic performances for our diverse communities within San Miguel.

# OUR PROGRAMS

**BIBLO  
TECA  
PUBLICA  
AC.**

**READING  
PROMOTION**

**CLASSES  
AND  
WORKSHOPS**

**SCHOLARSHIPS  
TO STUDENTS**

**ARTISTIC  
AND CULTURAL  
EVENTS**



Painting Class in 1st Feria de La Biblioteca

# READING PROMOTION

**A**t La Biblioteca, we have **reading rooms divided by language and age.**

They are several spaces with free and open access to consult documents for reading, study or research.

Our reading rooms, as well as the Patio Principal, have free Wi-Fi access.

**In 2023 we lent 13,824 books.**

## Reading Rooms Biblioteca

- Spanish
- English
- Children
- Youth



Leer para Aprender Club

# FEATURED ACTIVITIES

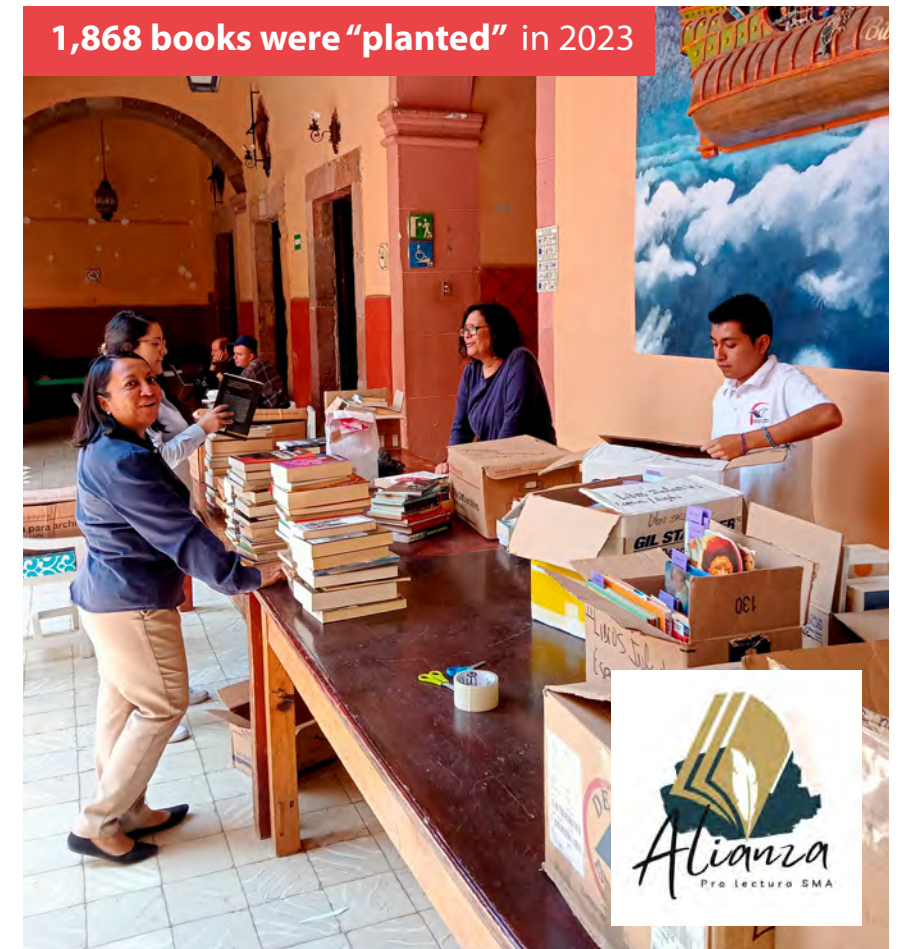


Planting books in San Miguel

## SIEMBRA DE LIBROS

Our fifth celebration of World Book Day was on April 23, carried out in collaboration with *Alianza Pro Lectura*, an activity in which we have participated since its first edition.

This event consists of “planting” (leaving) a book in a public space (square, market, public transport, cinema, museum, among others) in order for someone to find it and take it to read it.





# BOOK ACQUISITION



The new titles were selected based on the recommendations of the librarians' committee, including recent publications that represent the diversity and interests of our readers.

We are committed to our readers to keep our collections up to date with the latest books.

In 2023, we acquired new books in the Children's section and in the collection of literature in English.



## READ WITH YOUR BABY

Thanks to the support of the *Shaaron Kent Fund* administered by the *Community Foundation for Southern Arizona*, in 2023 we gave attention to younger readers.

**To promote the love of reading from early childhood**, babies from 0 to 5 years old accompanied by their parents participate in our Read with Your Baby Program.



Reading in Primera Feria de la Biblioteca



Reading

A selection of quality literature adapted to this age group is read aloud once a week in a space appropriate to their needs.

# SCHOOL VISITS

Throughout 2023, we visited **26 primary schools** in San Miguel de Allende and its communities reaching a total of **536 students** to teach them what a library can offer them.

Also, in a collaboration with *Libros para Todos A.C.*, we conducted a pilot program called “A Day at the Library”. We received children from the rural community La Cuadrilla, who visited La Biblioteca for the first time.



La Cuadrilla children painting



La Cuadrilla kids enjoying the Children's Reading Room



Primary students exploring the Bookstore

They discovered that it is a fun and friendly place where they can feel welcome. Days after their tour, they received their membership cards so they can read as many books as they want.

# BOOK CLUBS

Ana Mateos (left) with the Workshop students



Mia reading her tale *Por las Calles de San Miguel*

In July in Teatro Santa Ana of La Biblioteca, a special event called “Ven, Te Cuento” was held. Students of the **Literary Creation Workshop** presented for the first time and shared their readings with us.

A large attendance was entertained with stories of mystery, love and drama from students of teacher Ana Mateos.

“Ven Te Cuento” attendees



## BOOK LAUNCHES

Our bookstore takes the initiative to promote reading through the presentation of books in both English and Spanish with talks from authors about their work and personal book signings.

## Some books presented in 2023

- **Pandexicon**  
Wayne Grady
- **Teachers The Ones I Can't Forget**  
Martin Fletcher
- **La Figura del Mundo**  
Juan Villoro

Presentación *Pandexicon*



Carmen Rioja y Juan Villoro



# 1<sup>st</sup> FERIA BIBLIOTECA

Bookstore stand in 1st Feria Biblioteca



With the aim of **educating the public about activities available in La Biblioteca**, we organized the 1st Feria de La Biblioteca on September 9th.

For an entire day, La Biblioteca moved to the Plaza Cívica de San Miguel with free classes, art exhibitions, and presentations by our students. We provided visitors with reading areas, teaching materials and story-reading sessions.

Information was provided about all our programs and services to the community, such as the Scholarship Program,

cultural events, class offerings, and House & Garden Tour – one of the main fundraising activities for the financing of our programs.

Guitar students presentation



We received more than **400 visitors** on this day

## VISIT FIL 2023

Our staff in charge of the promotion of reading visited **Guadalajara International Book Fair**, the most important book fair in Latin America, during its professional conferences.

During this visit, we consolidate knowledge with readers, attended conferences and exchanges with other contributors in the book sector.

Looking for new books for the Children's Reading Room



FIL 2023



International Booksellers Forum



# CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Our mission is to advance **free expression, creativity, and competencies** in our community.



Chat with friends



Painting for kids



In 2023, we taught approximately **2,880 total hours of classes with the collaboration of 22 permanent professors.**

About **13,500 users** took advantage of these activities.

## **Classes in Biblioteca**

---

- Guitar
- Choir
- Yoga
- Chess
- English-Spanish chat with friends
- French-Spanish chat with friends
- English as a Second Language Classes
- Read with your baby
- Literary creation
- Reading Club
- Painting
- Ceramics
- Drawing
- Computer Literacy
- Computer Coding



Basic Computer Literacy

# FEATURED ACTIVITIES



Choir in 1st Feria Biblioteca

## CHOIR

The Biblioteca's Choir, under the direction of Professor Granados, teaches **singing to children and youth between the ages of 8 to 18 years old**. During 2023, the ensemble presented publicly in different venues with varied repertoires, performing both group and solo recitals.

## Performances

- **Religious songs during Holy Week**  
Templo de la Tercera Orden
- **In benefit for the children in Ukraine**  
Casa Europa
- **In benefit of the H.H.H. Fire Department of San Miguel de Allende**  
La Casona
- **Choral and Soloist shows in Primera Feria de la Biblioteca**  
Plaza de la Soledad
- **Mexican Music**  
Teatro Santa Ana de La Biblioteca
- **Presentation**  
Casa El Nigromante
- **Christmas Carols**  
Templo de la Tercera Orden
- **Christmas Concert**  
Plaza La Luciérnaga



Choir Rehearsal

# SUMMER CAMP



2023 Group

The mission of La Biblioteca's Summer Camp is to **offer the children and youth of San Miguel programs of enriching and quality at a moderate cost**, accessible to all families in our community.

For 4 weeks in August, **children and teenagers from 6 to 15 years** old participated in summer camp that included art, crafts, yoga, theater, and much more.

**A total of 46 attendees participated in 2023.**

Among the activities of the varied summer program of La Biblioteca was the visit to the Tikkun Eco-center in the rural community of San José de Gracia where environmental education activities were carried out.



Tikkun Eco-center Visit

# ART EXPO

Every semester students are provided an opportunity to showcase and sell the products they created in the various art classes (ceramics, painting and drawing).

This enables them to demonstrate their acquired skills to the community, as well as opens the door for their own entrepreneurship as a means to support the expenses incurred pursuing their creative interests.



# TRADITIONS IN LA BIBLIOTECA

During the year, two important festivals were held with the aim of **preserving our traditions**.

## Día de Muertos



Papel Picado Workshop

Prior to the celebration of the Día de Muertos, we held **workshops on the use and arrangement of marigolds, papel picado, and sugar skulls** so that the attendees could learn about the relevance of the traditional elements of the offerings.

The Festival culminated with the **traditional ofrenda**, a musical performance by students of the guitar class, a tour of the legends of San Miguel and the reading of literary calaveritas by the students of the Children's Reading and Literary Creation Club.



Día de Muertos Festival

# Christmas Week



Posada

We held a series of workshops where participants learned how to use **decorative felt**, create **Christmas ornaments**, and make the traditional **piñata**.

We ended our Christmas Week with a Posada. **Music was provided by students from the Guitar Class and students of the English Class** interpreted Christmas carols.

The families joined in the traditional Posada singing followed by the children breaking the piñata and everyone enjoying the traditional Christmas punch.



Christmas Ornaments Workshop

**250 attendees enjoyed this event, including children, young people, and adults**



# SCHOLARSHIPS TO STUDENTS

**L**a Biblioteca Scholarship Program has offered support for more than 20 years to San Miguel de Allende students at high school and university levels with the aim of having young people in academic centers without economic pressures.



Esmeralda Hernández, scholarship recipient, graduated from CBTis 60



**Ilse Morales, Chemical Laboratory Technician  
Graduated from Technical Baccalaureate, CBTis**

Ilse aspires to continue her university studies in Medicine at the University of Guanajuato, to which she has applied.

She is very happy and grateful to have had the opportunity to receive this scholarship that helped her finish her studies.



**Ayair Aboytes**

**Graduated from CECyTE Guanajuato**

Ayair is the first high school graduate in his family. For him, having La Biblioteca Scholarship was the motivation to achieve his goal.

He now hopes to continue his studies at the university level and learn English to boost his professional development.

## 2023 SCHOLARSHIPS

### 29 of our university scholars

Completed their studies in 2023

### 18 scholarship recipients

Went from the baccalaureate level to a higher level

### 23 high school

Renewals

### 80% of our beneficiaries are females

from the surrounding rural communities

### 11% of our beneficiaries

are from the municipality of Comonfort

**In August 2023, a 15% increase in the financial amount awarded annually was approved**, thanks to the generous contributions of our donors through **“The Gift of the Year”** scholarship campaign.



# SCHOOL PROMOTION CAMPAIGN

## School Visits

Under the slogan “Somos más que libros” (“We are more than Books”), a **campaign was conducted to attract new students** to our Scholarship Program, young people in the third grade of secondary school along with their teachers.

During this campaign, we visited two public secondary schools with the largest number of students, located in different vulnerable areas of San Miguel de Allende, Telesecundaria 317 in Colonia Mexiquito and Escuela General Secundaria “Fuego Nuevo” in Colonia Allende.

We were able to share with many students and teachers what La Biblioteca offers to them with scholarships, borrowing books, as well as our various classes and activities.

Secundaria Fuego Nuevo Visit



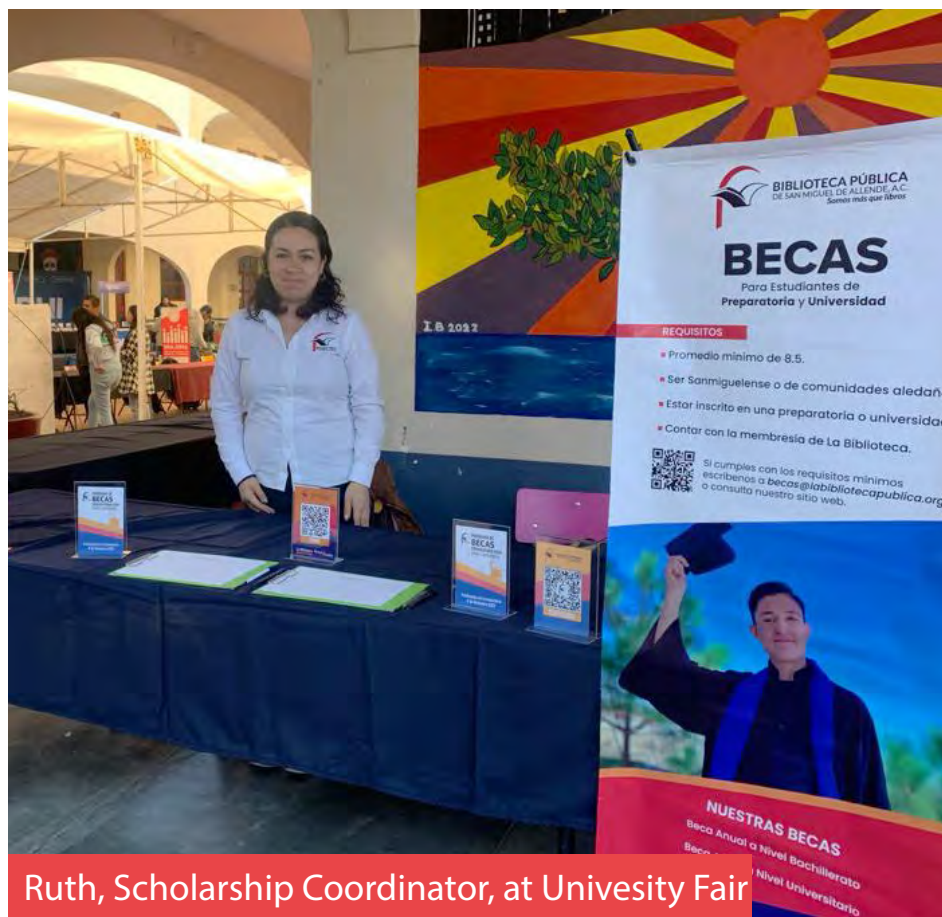
Visiting Telesecundaria

# University Fair

In November 2023, we participated in the **15va. Feria de Universidades**, held at the Instituto Sanmiguelense (ITSES) in conjunction with the Instituto Municipal de Atención a la Juventud de San Miguel de Allende (IMAJ SMA).

Approximately 90% of the city's high school students participated.

We provided information about the application process for our Scholarship Program, library memberships and activities we offer.



Ruth, Scholarship Coordinator, at University Fair



# DEVELOPMENT CLASSES



*Employment benefits lecture*

To increase our Scholarship Program, the “Development Classes” project was implemented in October 2023 which provides support to young people who are or have been part of this program, including high school and university students, recent graduates, professionals and the general public of San Miguel de Allende.

The purpose of this project has been to **provide guidance in the labor and professional fields through conferences, talks and workshops**, achieving an average attendance of 15 young people per session.

## Topics taught in 2023

---

- **Which career to choose?**  
October
- **What you need to know about employment benefits**  
November
- **Create your Curriculum Vitae**  
December

# ARTISTIC AND CULTURAL EVENTS

**O**ur **cultural center** offers a program of cultural and artistic events that embody the cultural life of San Miguel de Allende.

**Our programming includes the full variety of artistic production on stage:** dance, music, theatre, puppetry, etc.

We also offer an extensive film program, thanks to our collaboration with the organization *Cine Club En Cartelera*.

A variety of lectures are also offered in English and Spanish on topics of general interest.



## EVENTS 2023

- **130** screenings, films, and documentaries
- **65** theatrical performances
- **64** musical concerts
- **15** dance performances
- **12** book launches
- **28** lectures, presentations and workshops
- **8,733 SPECTATORS**

# OUR VENUES

Radio Blues Concert



## TEATRO SANTA ANA

deal for stage performances and equipped with state-of-the-art lighting and sound capability, this theatre has a capacity for **91 spectators**.

**Two hundred (200) events** from various disciplines were held throughout 2023.

Identidrag



Puppet Show



# SALA QUETZAL

Equipped with a grand piano and audiovisual projection, this salon has a capacity for **50 attendees** and is ideal for conferences, workshops and intimate concerts.

**35 events** were held during 2023.



Jazz Duet



Meaning of Dead in Prehispanic Mexico Lecture



Socorro Venegas Book Launch *Ceniza Roja*

# PATIO

A cozy space to host outdoor events, the patio can be equipped with a stage and sound system and adapted to accommodate up to **120 spectators**.

In 2023, **6 events** were held including concerts, conferences, festivals, ceremonies, and receptions.

Medical Panel January 2023



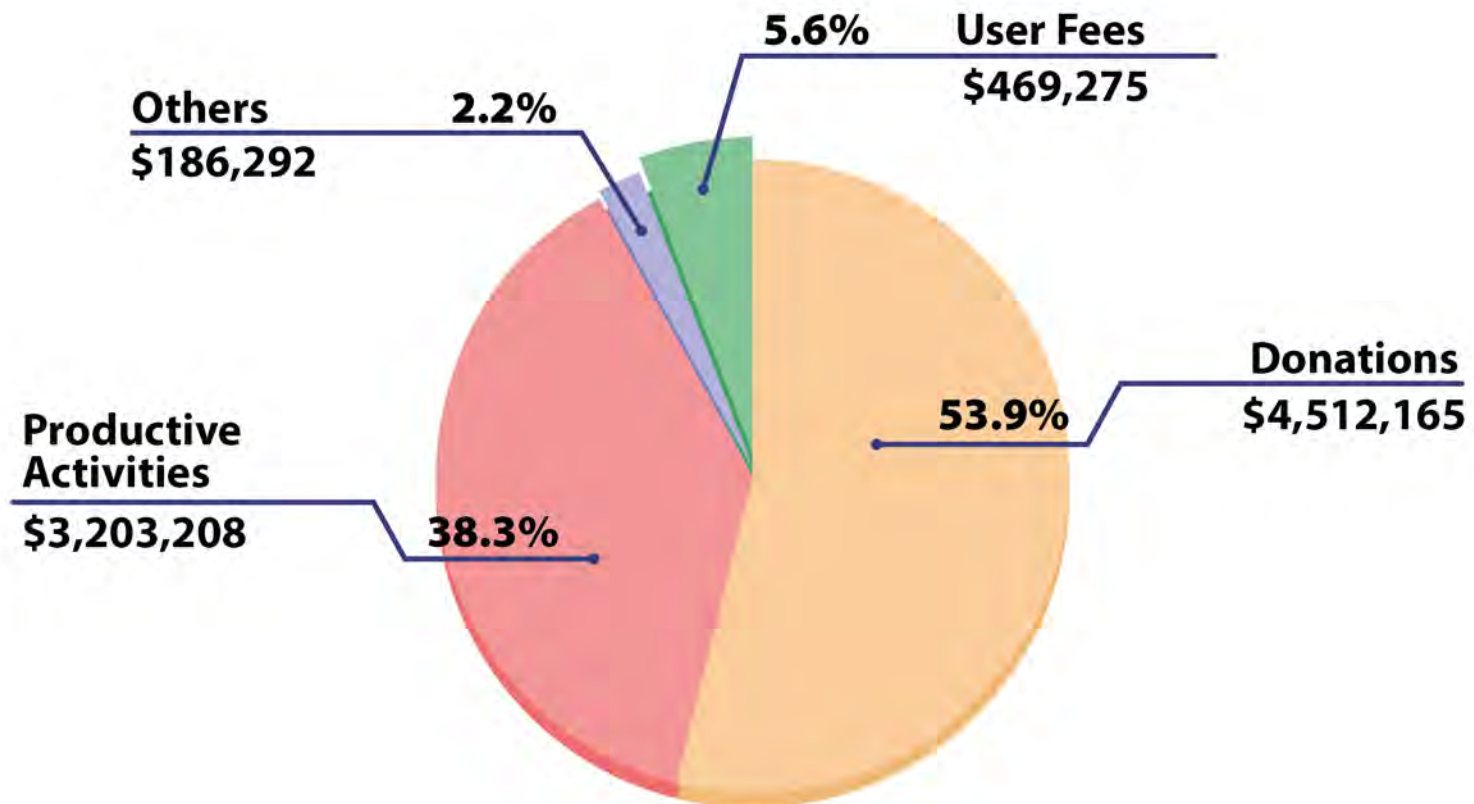
Children's Day in La Biblioteca



Medical Panel January 2023

# FINANCIAL REPORT

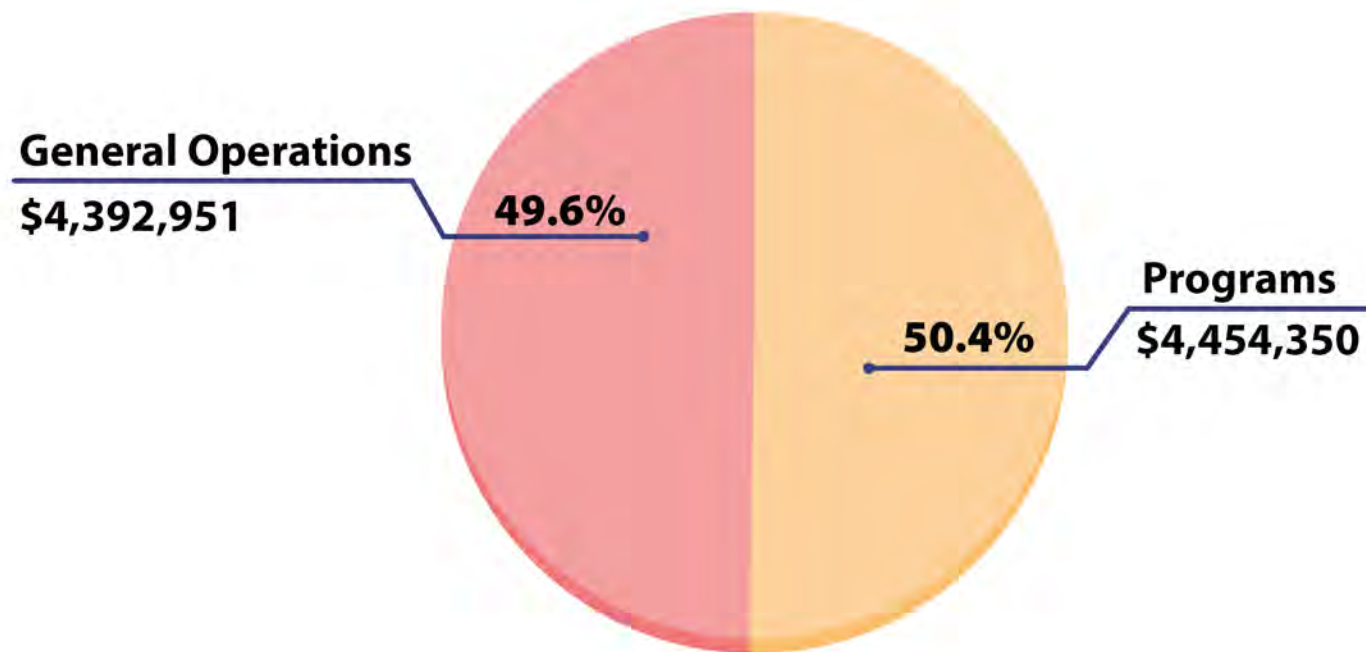
Income 2023 = \$8,370,940 mexican pesos





# FINANCIAL REPORT

Expenses 2023 = \$8,847,302 mexican pesos



# INSTITUTIONAL COLLABORATION

## Amistad Canada



### AMISTAD CANADA

Amistad Canada supports the **“Canadian Education Project at La Biblioteca”**.

Thanks to the generous donations of Canadians, La Biblioteca is able to **purchase new books and maintain its collections, pay for teachers and organize educational activities, while also maintaining computers dedicated to our computer classes.**

## Broadcom Foundation



In collaboration with the Broadcom Foundation, La Biblioteca Pública implements the **“Programming Club” program for children from 9 to 15 years old.**

By learning and developing basic programming and computing techniques with playful tools, children develop skills that improve their logic and problem-solving abilities.



## Shaaron Kent Fund administered by the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona



Thanks to the Sharon Kent Fund, La Biblioteca continues to run and strengthen our **“Read with your Baby”** Program.

The project **promotes the pleasure and benefits of reading from early childhood.** It consists of making available to our readers an extensive selection of books for early childhood.

The project offers a comfortable space to invite babies and adults to read in our reading rooms. In addition, the project organizes group reading sessions for babies and their parents.

## FIDESSEG, Gestionado con Fe Guanajuato

Thanks to the support of FIDESSEG, and in order to ensure equitable access to the opportunities offered by new technologies, La Biblioteca implemented a program called **“Digital Inclusion to strengthen the community and reduce inequality”**.

This project offers technological and pedagogical solutions by increasing access to technologies and promotes the social development of our community.

# OUR TEAM

## STAFF

**Marie Moébius**, Executive Director

**Mauricio Alanis**, Subdirector

**Ángel Soria**, Administrative Assistant

**Irineo Muñoz**, Maintenance Manager

**Juana Manzano**, Maintenance

**Narciso Cabrera**, Maintenance

**Azahar Hernández**, Bookstore Manager

**Leticia Rodríguez**, Human Resources Manager

**Daniel Herrera**, ICTs Manager

**Sandra Torres**, Communication Manager

**Ariadna Salazar**, Graphic Design

**Brenda Hernández**, Theater Manager

**Miriam Barrios**, Theater Manager Assistant

**Cecilia Rodríguez**, Librarian

**Alondra Vázquez**, Children's Room Manager

**Martín Díaz**, Spanish Room Manager

**Joel Ramírez**, English Room Manager

**Anael Olvera**, Reception

**Ruth Olvera**, Scholarship Program Manager

**Mauricio Becerra**, Tours Manager

Biblioteca Team and Scholarship Team





Biblioteca Pública Staff

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Debra Broussard**

President

**Maribel Arciniega**

Assitant Treasurer

**Carmen Rioja**

Vice Presidente

**JoAnn Canales**

Member at Large

**Jennifer Posner**

Secretary

**Federico Vidargas**

Member at Large

**Carlos Arce**

Treasurer

## **ASOCIADOS**

**Jean Paul Peretz**

**Cornelia Ulrich**

**Susan Christine Oneal**

**Ali Zerriffi**

**Robert Arthur Remak**

**Melissa Hirsch**

**Laura Rodriguez Torres**

**Jessica Patterson**

**Gerardo Espinoza Yañez**

**Wendy Hsu**

**Larizza Osorio Estrada**

**Alicia Rodríguez**

**Graciela Cruz López**

**Ben Zion Ptashnik**

**William Pierson Graham**

# VOLUNTEERS

Alexsandra  
Amy Butler  
Ana Paula Faisal  
Andy Hickes  
Ann Barden  
Anne McCoher  
Avis Quinlan  
Avis Quinlan  
Barbara Leight  
Barbara Millstein  
Barbara Millstein  
Barbara Salazar Cruz  
Barbara Zook  
Becki Carney  
Bill Graham  
Bobbie Gordon  
Bonita Kolb  
Brigitte Fowler  
Carlos Arce  
Carmen Rioja  
Carole & Mike Edwards  
Catherine Bari  
Cherie Marra  
Chris Durboraw  
Clare Howell  
Clarence Carter  
Claudia Saldana

Craig Melvin  
Daisy Migdalia Diaz  
Dalia Gon  
Damon Morris  
Dan Guenther  
David & Carol Halperin  
Deborah McConnell  
Debra Ann Chiles  
Debra Broussard  
Denis Bergeron  
Diana Cervantes  
Diana Winer  
Diane Funston  
Don Ron Walters  
Donald Williams  
Elaine MacDonald  
Erika Lynn  
Eva Echenberg  
Evangalina Romero  
Federico Vidargas  
Fernande Beland  
Flavia Juarez Rangel  
Frank Branham  
Frank Monk  
Gabriel Rodriguez  
Gabriela Nava  
Gail Perry

Gilbert Chaine  
Gloria Pardo  
Harvey King  
Harvey Palmer  
Jack Paulus  
James Foster  
Jan Gunn  
Jane Aptaker  
Jane Kendall  
Jane Medina  
Janet  
Janet Rouss  
Jeff Marks  
Jeffrey Schwartzberg  
Jennifer Posner  
Jill Bennett  
JoAnn Canales  
John Auld  
John Chapman  
Julie Tibbs  
Kate Mckorkle  
Kathleen Ellsworth  
Kathryn Graham  
Kathy Snodgrass  
Katia Dallalpour  
Kenia Selene Rivera  
Laura Garza Garcia

Leobardo Aboytes  
Leonora Reyes  
Leslie Lum  
Lilly Eineder  
Linda Rostern  
Lourdes Carlin  
Lucia Rodriguez Rangel  
Lyne Daroff  
Manon Mays  
Marcos Guz  
Maria Alicia Guerrero  
María Magdalena Sanchez  
Maria Piedad Hernandez  
Maribel Arciniega  
Marlys Hann  
Melanie Harper  
Michael Lewis  
Miguel Ángel Morales  
Mike Stoltz  
Mireille Lafrance  
Nancy Anchors  
Nancy Laughton  
Nathalie Clease  
Neal and Sandy Davis  
Otis Lee  
Pat Frey  
Pat Macleod

# VOLUNTEERS

Pat McMackin  
 Patricia Sabolsky  
 Paul Morgante  
 Penny Delaney  
 Rebecca King  
 Rocio Puig  
 Rosemary McDowel  
 Sammie Walter  
 Sandra Bird  
 Sara Parker  
 Serge Declama  
 Shaannon Shaffer  
 Shannon Asseiro  
 Stephanie Medlock  
 Stephen Russell  
 Susan O'Neal  
 Susan Schara  
 Susana Speidel

Susanne Carter  
 Suzette Carter  
 Tedi Dickinson  
 Tim Brockington  
 Tobin Malone  
 Tom Connor  
 Tom Fowler  
 Tom Hammer  
 Tony Asseiro  
 Tracy Twensing  
 Troy Sterner  
 Vanessa Eve Mekarski  
 Vanessa Mekarski  
 Wendy Hsu  
 Wendy King  
 Wendy Wilson  
 William Suggs

If you are one of our volunteers, and your name doesn't appear on this list, it might be because you are not registered with our Human Resources coordinator. Please contact: [recursoshumanos@labibliotecapublica.org](mailto:recursoshumanos@labibliotecapublica.org)



Kathleen, Judith, Pat



Rocío



Evangelina



# CONTACT

**BIBLO  
TECA  
PUBLICA  
AC.**

## **Biblioteca Pública de San Miguel de Allende AC**

Insurgentes #25, Colonia Centro, C.P. 37700,  
Guanajuato, México  
+52 415 152 0293

## **United States Adress**

220 N. Zapata Hwy. #11  
PMB410B  
Laredo, Texas  
78043-4464

**[www.labibliotecapublica.org](http://www.labibliotecapublica.org)**

**[info@labibliotecapublica.org](mailto:info@labibliotecapublica.org)**

## **Donate**

**<https://labibliotecapublica.org/en/donate/>**