U.S. - Mexico At a Glance
Culture

Youth Councils in Mexico

Mission Mexico, including the Embassy and several consulates, have established Youth Councils in eight regions of Mexico.

The Youth Councils are composed of young Mexicans, from 16 to 30 years of age, who are interested in working with the US government to develop their leadership voices and find new ways to work with their local communities toward positive change.

The Embassy maintains a **Cultural and Arts Program**. Embassy co-sponsorship helps bring American artists each year to engage with Mexican audiences. Cultural programming ranges from jazz or zydeco music groups to museum exchanges programs, or participation in major arts festivals in Mexico. Through the **Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation** the Embassy has contributed to the preservation or restoration of several Mexican cultural heritage sites, including the Padre Tembleque Aqueduct, the Garita de Metales in Ciudad Juarez, the Church of the Virgin of the Candelaria in Valladolid and the Zapotec Archaeological Collections and Sites in Oaxaca.

The Embassy's **International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP)** sends an average of 50 current or potential leaders in government, politics, education, and other fields from Mexico to the U.S. each year to meet and confer with their counterparts and to experience the U.S. firsthand. Participants come from all walks of Mexican life. One alumna participated in a program focused on human trafficking, which allowed her to network and consult with her American counterparts when opening the first women's shelter in Puebla, and the first shelter to follow federal government regulations. Another IVLP alumnus directed the design of a new central library in the Autonomous University of Puebla, adopting innovative techniques which he discovered during his participation in the program. Through the IVLP On Demand Program, the U.S. State Department funds domestic travel for Mexican professionals to visit the U.S. on specific topics of bilateral interest.

The **Strategic U.S. Speakers Program** brings U.S. experts from a variety of fields to Mexico to share their expertise with Mexican audiences and counterparts and promote an exchange of viewpoints on subjects of mutual interest, including gender equality, LGBT rights, trafficking in persons, freedom of the press and access to information, entrepreneurship, and STEM education (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), among other issues. Programs include workshops, conferences, roundtables, lectures and other public events always organized in cooperation with Mexican civil society, academic, cultural, government and professional institutions.

The Embassy offers an extensive range of **Academic Programs** that foster bi-national ties to Mexico's educational and youth communities throughout Mexico. Through the Study of U.S. Institutes, National Youth Science Camp, Youth in Action – Jóvenes en Acción and other programs, the Embassy gives diverse youth groups the opportunity to learn about the U.S. and bring lessons in leadership and cross-cultural awareness back to their communities.

The Embassy also uses **Sports Diplomacy** as a way to build bridges and enhance people-to-people ties. Sports are a fun and effective way to reach strategic audiences such as at-risk youth and teach values including leadership, teamwork, nonviolence and community engagement. Activities include bringing U.S. sports experts to Mexico, planning programs with visiting U.S. athletes, and organizing game-watching events.

There are over 10,000 **Mexican alumni**, former participants in U.S. Government-sponsored programs, in Mexico. There are two independent alumni associations in Mexico: the Mexican Alumni Association (AMEB) and the Mexican Fulbright Association. Alumni are invited to join the International Exchange Alumni, a worldwide online community for current and emerging leaders who have participated in U.S. government-sponsored exchange programs. The website features valuable resources to support personal and professional development, including: Access to over 33 billion USD in grants; an eLibrary of more than 20,000 free publications; jobs, volunteer and networking opportunities, and more. .

The **Benjamin Franklin Library** is the oldest public-access library supported by the United States government abroad. It includes a lending library of 25,000 volumes; a large selection of American periodicals; state- of-the-art internet and electronic research resources; and regularly hosts cultural events, English conversation clubs, and a variety of other programs. The Benjamin Franklin Library is a major source of information on contemporary American society.

U.S Embassy Mexico City • 5080-2000
Public Affairs Section (PAS) 5080-2828
mexico.usembassy.gov