



U.S. - Mexico At a Glance

Culture

June 2009

In March 2009, the Embassy sponsored its fourth Border Academic Tour, in which 12 Mexican experts on migration issues visited the Arizona-Sonora frontier to witness and understand firsthand the border crossing experience from both U.S. and Mexican perspectives.

■

For Black History Month 2009, the Embassy invited three U.S. Speakers on the Freedom Riders of the 1960's to discuss methods of conflict resolution and alternatives to violence with at-risk youth groups in underserved communities of Mexico City.

The Cultural Affairs Office of the Public Affairs Section offers a broad range of cultural, exchange, and academic programs that expand and deepen mutual understanding and foster closer ties between the U.S. and Mexico on issues of common interest.

The **U.S. Speakers Program** brings over 100 U.S. experts per year from a variety of fields to Mexico to share their U.S. experiences with Mexican audiences and promote an exchange of viewpoints on subjects of mutual interest, including countering drug abuse and trafficking in persons, judicial reform, access to information, economic reform, human rights, and other issues. Programs include conferences, roundtables, lectures and other public events often organized in cooperation with Mexican academic, cultural, and professional institutions. Speaker events are held throughout Mexico.

The Embassy's **International Visitor Leadership Program** 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. Among Mexico's prominent participants are Mexican President Felipe Calderon and First Lady Margarita Zavala. Through the **Voluntary Visitor Program**, the U.S. State Department funds domestic travel for Mexican professionals to visit the U.S. on specific topics of bilateral interest.

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, 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.

In June 2009, the **Association of Mexican Alumni** was formed to reach out to the nearly 7,000 Mexican former participants in U.S. Government-sponsored programs. Members are invited to join State Alumni, the global online community by and for alumni.

The Embassy maintains a strong bi-lateral **Performing and Visual Arts Program** through facilitative assistance and small grant funding. Embassy co-sponsorship helps bring American performers each year to major arts festivals in Mexico, including the Festival Cervantino and the Morelia Film Festival. In November 2009, the Embassy will support the International Book Fair in Guadalajara, where the City of Los Angeles will be the Guest of Honor.



The **Benjamin Franklin Library** is the oldest public-access library supported by the United States government abroad. With a lending library of 25,000 volumes; a large selection of American periodicals; and state-of-the-art Internet and electronic research facilities, the Benjamin Franklin Library continues to be a major source of information on contemporary American society.

U.S. Embassy Mexico City • 5080-2000
Public Affairs Section (PAS) 5080-2253
mexico.usembassy.gov