

It's taking shape

Every human enterprise starts with a purpose and many uncertainties. When we created the Casa Taller El Boga Foundation in July 2019, we were inspired by Mompox, its people, its culture, its cuisine, its trades, its fauna, its landscapes. We knew that we wanted to contribute to the promotion and preservation of this unique heritage. The idea gradually materialised. 2020 was a year of uncertainty and suspense, for everyone, due to the pandemic, but the project got off to a good start in 2021. This year we have welcomed musicians, photographers, poets, designers, jewellers, anthropologists who love cooking and who have come to discover the arts and crafts of Mompox, and to contribute their experience, their talent and their curiosity to the local community. These encounters have resulted in new creative processes, an exchange, something mutually beneficial. We have also organised cultural events, recitals, workshops, conversations open to the public. Many of the residents fell in love with Mompox, created friendships and projects. Some, after finishing their residency, have returned to visit or to continue creating. Cristian Torres and the Colectivo La Ñapa (Nathalie Libos, María Roda and Juliana Rosas) were later awarded grants from the Ministry of Culture. El Boga became the stage for workshops and cultural events, we had a yoga retreat, poetry readings, percussion workshops, singing, drawing, embroidery, dance, we even organised a poetry reading workshop and a Cine Club for children, all events were open to the public, free of charge. In this report we have tried to capture, in text and photographs (taken by resident photographers Cristian Torres and Mirjam Wirz, among others), the journey we have made. The year 2022 looks equally promising. We are launching the call for Artistic Residencies 2022 and our portfolio of cultural activities continues to grow. We thank our allies, the artistic residents, the hotel guests, who with their support contribute to the realisation of this project, and we thank the people of Mompox for their warm welcome. We also thank Jorge Martínez, Cristina Florian, Delvis Pérez and Alán Cheneval for all their support in making Casa Taller El Boga a home.

Mission

El Boga is a non-profit foundation established in Mompox in July 2019 with the mission to develop cultural, academic and artistic activities that foster dialogue and add value to the local community and visitors. We promote cultural exchange, environmental sustainability, and the protection of Mompox's tangible and intangible heritage. We host artistic residents, exchanges, and workshops and guests interested in sustaining Boga's mission.



Arts Residencies

The artistic residency programme promotes interaction between artists and the local community in diverse areas of knowledge such as gastronomy, art, photography, crafts, design, among others. Meetings and workshops with local artisans and experts, representatives of the arts and crafts of Mompox, are promoted.

The programme started informally in 2019 with the artists Sibel Koschinski (Germany) and Gwendy Bibiana Rozo (Universidad Nacional, Colombia). That same year we held a photography workshop, a pigment colour workshop and a biomimicry workshop, design inspired by nature.

In December 2020, we launched our first public call for entries. More than 70 applications were received for artistic residencies. The jury, composed of Catalina Sanint, Geovanny Rojas and Melba Escobar, chose 16 artists. In the following pages we present a selection of our residents.

 Cristian Torres





Gregorio Uribe singer-songwriter, accordionist and big band director, dedicated to fusing Colombian rhythms with other sensibilities in search of his own sound. He has collaborated with Rubén Blades, Carlos Vives and Paquito D’Rivera and has taken his music to Carnegie Hall and Madison Square (New York). During his residency (June-July 2021) he conducted a percussion workshop by signs with participants from the municipality and students from the Escuela Taller de Oficios de Mompox.



Liliana Andrade, architect and museographer, and Bernardo Ortiz, (Cali) artist and writer, carried out a project entitled Institute of Popular Technologies (May-June 2021). The project sought to identify processes and knowledge particular to the material (objects) and immaterial (ways of using them or making things) culture of Mompox. During their stay, the artists visited, mapped and interviewed local actors in Mompox and surrounding villages, compiled technical files of representative artists of the most relevant crafts in the region and held a workshop with artisans.



Mirjam Wirz (Switzerland) researcher, photographer. During her residency, Mirjam continued her more than 10 years of research on Cumbia by interviewing and portraying representatives of the music and knowledge of Mompox and other villages in Bolivar, Cesar and Magdalena. Mirjam launched her book Passages in the presence of music representatives. In the photo the singer Tatiana Guerrero, photographed by Mirjam.



Cristian Torres (Medellín), photographer, audiovisual communicator (2011, Politécnico Colombiano Jaime Isaza Cadavid). He was in residence from May to June 2021. Cristian made photo-bodegones (still lifes) based on an inventory of traditional recipes of the region (collected with a focal population chosen by the locals). Following his residency, Cristian was awarded an incentive grant to carry out a collective and collaborative happening of a bodegon lunch in Mompox at the end of 2021.



Silvana Kovalski (Bogotá) anthropologist, researcher of the culinary heritage of Mompox, resident February-May 2021. She led two talks on the cuisine of Mompox, both broadcast from Mompox online with the participation of more than 30 people. Silvana conducted field research in kitchens in Mompox, El Horno and Peñoncito.



Jenny Contreras (Bogotá) visual artist, photographer and philosopher from the National University of Colombia. During her residency, Jenny listened to and recorded the voices of the inhabitants of Mompox (musicians, vendors, artisans and fishermen) in order to compile and compose sound pieces about their relationship with the Magdalena River and the transformations they have witnessed throughout their lives.



María Fernanda Márquez (Bogotá, of Mompoxi ancestry) Extramural Resident, anthropology student, Universidad Nacional. Her work focused on traditional Mompoxino cuisine and its relationship with tambora music.



María Villegas (Bogotá) July 2021, jewellery maker, photographer. María researched the work and tradition of the ancient technique of filigree, its history and current context. She will launch her new collection Realismo Mágico inspired by her experience in Mompox.



Colectivo La Ñapa (July 2021) The artists' collective investigates the dynamics of market squares from an artistic point of view. During their residency, three members of the collective (Nathalie Libos, Juliana Rosas and María Roda) investigated the dynamics of the market and the traditional cuisine of the region, mainly with women cooks from Mompox, El Horno and Peñoncito, two villages in San Zenón, Magdalena.



Solange Prat (June-July 2021) Argentine singer-songwriter with experience as a jazz, soul and R&B vocalist. In New York she distinguished herself as the voice of the Williamsburg Salsa Orchestra with whom she released two albums. Solange conducted a series of singing and dance workshops.



Laura Fletcher (July-August 2021) Artist, illustrator and graphic designer. Laura developed the project Saberes Ancestrales Momposinos. The project aims to generate a leaflet (still in progress) to promote the art of filigree jewellery as ancestral knowledge and intangible heritage of Santa Cruz de Mompox, and in favour of educational-cultural tourism.

Workshops, conferences, laboratories, exhibitions

In 2021 the Casa Taller El Boga was the epicentre of multiple cultural activities, workshops, conferences, laboratories, exhibitions and performances. Some of these activities were conceived and executed by the residents, others were initiated by allies such as the Escuela Taller de Oficios de Mompox and other cultural leaders in line with our mission. Here are some of the main events:

Launch of the book *PASSAGE* Resident Mirjam Wirz, with the support of the Swiss Embassy in Colombia (through the Swiss Cultural Fund), presented the product of her work, the edited book, *Sobre el Río (PASSAGE)*, in an event attended by approximately 60 people at the facilities of El Boga and attended by several of the artists portrayed in her book (*Don Abundio y sus traviesos*).

Performance The resident Jenny Contreras carried out several body experimentation workshops where yoga and contemporary dance converged. The participants composed a cartographic drawing of the territory describing their relationship with the river.

Conversations Two on-line discussions on Mompox cuisine were held from Mompox, including a live cooking lesson of a (vegetarian) momposino dish called *Cabezadegato* (Cat's Head). The sessions were organised by resident Silvana Kovalski, the cook was Kelly Bermúdez. They also discussed the preservation and transmission of traditional knowledge.



Jean Amaya



Yoga and Poetry Workshop Last July, under the leadership of poet Yirama Castaño and yoga instructors Jean Amaya (Colombian) and Ezgi Gungor (Australian), a hybrid yoga and poetry workshop was held. Participants could follow one or both strands of the workshop. The workshop closed with readings of poems by poets from the region. Recordings were made of poems written by the established poets and the participants of the workshop. The soundtrack can be found on our website :

<https://www.elbogamompox.com/yoga-poesia-sonoteca>



Percussion workshop with Gregorio Uribe During his residency (June-July 2021), Gregorio taught the sign percussion method to a group of musicians from the region. He presented the signs used and offered basic instruction in music theory with a focus on rhythm. The workshop focused on the practice of all types of percussion instruments including traditional drums, instruments made from recyclable materials and other non-melodic percussion. Two key principles were encouraged: the incorporation of native rhythms into the group's repertoire (such as the tambora, the berroche, the chandé and the guacherna) and the research, expansion and integration of rhythms from other parts of the world.



Cristian Torres

Cinema Club for children Mompox does not have a cinema. Using the space of our living room and our video-beamer and sound system, we have been offering regular film sessions for the children of Mompox. Camille Cheneval, a graduate of the National Film and Television School in England (NFTS), has been advising us in the selection of films. The residents are in charge of convening the children (limited to 12 children per pandemic), offering them refreshments, screening the film and hosting the event. Participation is free of charge.

Agenda 2022

In 2022 we will continue to develop academic and artistic activities that foster dialogue and add value to the local community and visitors.





Artistic Residencies From February to December 2022

From February to December 2022 The programme is aimed at Colombians and foreigners seeking to develop their own artistic project that involves community work with the residents of Mompox. The artistic residencies are open to any discipline of art or research (writers, visual artists, designers, musicians, anthropologists, cooks, filmmakers, producers, etc.).

Culinary Retreat 18 to 22 April 2022

18 to 22 April 2022 In alliance with the Colectivo el Mafufo we will organise a week of immersion in the traditional cuisine of Mompox to learn local recipes and preparations, and exchange knowledge with local cooks and farmers of the region.

Interdesign Workshop Mompox22 (subject to funding)

In partnership with Ximena Rozo (Rozo Design), El Boga will offer a three-week co-creation workshop (1st week virtual) with international and national designers and with the participation of artisan communities from Magdalena.

Yoga and Poetry Workshop 25 to 30 July 2022

Second edition of the Yoga & Poetry hybrid workshop with two poetry sessions and two yoga sessions per day. Participants will be able to follow one or both components of the workshop.

National Artists' Salon

The 46th version of the Salón Nacional de Artistas, one of the longest running cultural events in the country (created in 1940), will take place in the Magdalena river basin. Mompox is one of the 25 venues of the Salon. El Boga will offer its infrastructure and experience to receive artists and organise cultural activities, exhibitions and talks.

Cultural & Experience Tourism

Activities to promote cultural tourism around the crafts. El Boga welcomes guests interested in experiential tourism.

Accommodation

El Boga offers short term accommodation to guests interested in the mission of the foundation who contribute to support the non-profit social cause of the foundation. Guests will be able to exchange with the residents and benefit from a space of co-creation.

Sponsorships


At El Boga we are interested in securing sponsorships for our projects. We are able to design and offer various sponsorship opportunities tailored to your interests, areas of development and budget to donate. Our cultural offer is large; artistic residencies, community workshops and cultural events in areas such as music, gastronomy, reading promotion, among others. For all these activities we are looking for resources.


We invite you to write to us at info@elboga.co, we will be happy to discuss your interests and make a proposal to support our foundation.

For more information, we invite you to follow us on Instagram and on our website:

www.elbogamompox.com.



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