

THE DEATH IS A DREAM FESTIVAL



AGENDA 2030 - SDGs

8 DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES



CULTURE 21 ACTIONS - COMMITMENTS

- 2. HERITAGE, DIVERSITY, AND CREATIVITY
- 6. CULTURE, EQUALITY, AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, TRADITION, PARTICIPATION, CREATIVITY,
ARTS, CULTURE, HERITAGE, SUPPORT, INSTITUTIONAL,
PROMOTION, DEVELOPMENT, GROWTH

1. Context

The city of Puebla is located in the centre of the country and is a World Heritage Site. It has a large population of Indigenous peoples and is a tourist destination for its gastronomy and craftsmanship work.

The Day of the Dead was inscribed in the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity on November 7th, 2003. Coexistence with death is part of the Mexican collective experience, and an Indigenous tradition that is deeply rooted throughout the country.

2. Puebla and culture

The 2018-2021 Municipal Development Plan works alongside the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by contributing significantly to inclusion and participation. This allows the *Death is a Dream* project to continue because it can be connected with the First Pillar of an "Inclusive city focused on people and culture" and Program 4 "Puebla: An Inclusive City of Culture". The following are its lines of action:

- Strengthen the arts and culture activities by the municipality.
- Promote local cultural practices and traditions to strengthen the population's economic, cultural, and artistic development.
- Promote gender-free art education for girls, boys, and adolescents through cultural activities.
- Use cultural activities to promote arts education that is free of gender stereotypes for seniors.
- Promote the city as a destination for cultural tourism by spreading awareness of the richness of its heritage, culture, architecture, and traditions.
- Commemorate national and international days dedicated to arts and culture.

THE AIM OF THE "DEATH IS A DREAM" FESTIVAL IS TO PRESERVE AND HONOUR THE COUNTRY'S OLDEST TRADITIONS BY PRESENTING PUEBLA AS AN IMPORTANT DESTINATION.

There is a significant connection between the festival's core principle and Agenda 21 for culture, which relates to the recognition of human development as being effective through the use memory, creativity, diversity, and knowledge. The celebration has established a synergy by demonstrating a high level of artistic participation, thereby promoting creation and re-establishing the community's values, beliefs, arts, and customs.

It also relates to the following lines of action: "Cultural Rights" and "Heritage, Diversity, and Creativity", emphasizing the residents' participation in implementing cultural policies.

The *Death is a Dream Festival* also addresses some of the targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Some notable examples include:

- Target 4.7. Appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to local growth with an important tourism sector, as well as its auxiliary boards, which both make it possible to attract new attendees.
- Target 8.3 Promoting the creativity and innovation of local and national artists, without losing sight of their intimate relationship with a national tradition, in spite of widespread international recognition.
- Target 8.9 and 8.B Promoting tourism in a city affected by its colonial past and recent modernization.
- Target 11.4 Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the cultural heritage of the Day of the Dead.



3. Project goals and implementation

3.1. Main and specific objectives

The main objective is to preserve and honour the country's oldest traditions throughout the city. Its main principle is to bring together citizens and empower them to become protagonists of development through their participation in the great Parade of Skulls, in addition to showcasing a significant level of cultural diversity through the presence of arts and culture proposals.

Specific Objectives

- To contribute to the preservation, appreciation, and promotion of Mexican traditions and folklore
- To offer alternate options for entertainment, healthy recreation, and high-quality promotion, dissemination, and revival of the country's different artistic and cultural expressions
- To offer actions, events, and/or arts shows that highlight where Mexican traditions converge with avant-garde arts and culture activities, as well as new technological platforms.
- To promote cultural development through the use, revival, and embrace of public spaces, while also strengthening healthy coexistence
- To support the economy of national creators and regional suppliers, as well as small businesses.

3.2. Project development

Beneficiary population

The festival brings together diverse audiences including those from 5 to 65 years old, various gender identities, and differing economic status. In this way it promotes inclusion and diversity through a wide range of multidisciplinary events.

Main actions developed

In its last four years, the festival has seen the participation of more than one million attendees. Its cultural events have brought together about 140 artistic groups including music, cinema, fine arts, photography, folk dance, theatre, circus, pre-Columbian dances, conferences, workshops, and exhibitions.

Phases

ACTIONS
Planning and budgeting
Schedule development
Scouting for venues and technical requirements
Scheduling
Administrative procedures
Spreading awareness of the festival
Hosting the event
Planeación y Presupuesto
Evaluation and results

IN ITS LAST FOUR YEARS, THE FESTIVAL HAS SEEN THE PARTICIPATION OF MORE THAN ONE MILLION ATTENDEES. ITS CULTURAL EVENTS HAVE BROUGHT TOGETHER ABOUT 140 ARTISTIC GROUPS INCLUDING MUSIC, CINEMA, FINE ARTS, PHOTOGRAPHY, FOLK DANCE, THEATRE, CIRCUS, PRE-COLUMBIAN DANCES, CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, AND EXHIBITIONS.

Partners

The festivals arts events have made it possible to organize activities with schools at various academic levels, as well as to collaborate with other festivals.

The scheduling process relied on the Auxiliary Boards for the Puebla Municipality, as well as other municipal institutions in charge of public spaces like the Artist Quarter or the Municipal Pantheon of Puebla, the Meritorious Autonomous University of Puebla, and other private universities.

Other partner governments

In its last two years, the festival received federal funding through the "Cultural and Artistic Festival Support" program (PROFEST) by the Federal Department of Culture.

Obstacles

One obstacle that sometimes limits attendance at the festival is its wide array of cultural events by other organizations. As a result, one approach being considered is to establish alliances with these other bodies to allow open integration.

Results

TARGET	QUANTITY
Arts presentations	25
Beneficiary population	220.000
Beneficiary municipalities	1
Venues to be used	22
Participating artists	250
Art groups	30
Academic activities	3

It is important to note that the festival considers attendees of activities as direct beneficiaries. It also has an impact on the economy of the local artistic community.

EACH YEAR THE FESTIVAL FOSTERS MORE PARTICIPATION BY THE RESIDENTS OF PUEBLA, WHILE ALSO PROMOTING NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL TOURISM. IT ALSO PROVIDES A PLATFORM FOR SHOWCASING, APPRECIATING, AND BRINGING TOGETHER LOCAL AND NATIONAL CREATORS TO PRESENT ARTS AND CULTURE PROJECTS.

4. Impact

4.1. Direct impact

The festival has created new spaces for interaction for the Municipal Institute of Art and Culture of Puebla, and established a more participatory relationship with its citizens.

Public recognition has allowed the project to continue and to diversify its venues, which has made the Auxiliary Boards essential in the processes of decentralization and inclusion.

Each year the festival fosters more participation by the residents of Puebla. It also promotes national and international tourism by providing a platform for showcasing, appreciating, and bringing together local and national creators to present arts and culture projects.

The festival has seen a growing influx of visitors and economic revenue.

4.2. Evaluation

General attendance reports were made, while photographic and audiovisual evidence was used in a final report on the festival statistics. In addition, a review was carried out of the participation programs for arts and performance disciplines. This looked at attendance, age, and gender.

Furthermore, there were clear indicators used in the area of tourism that corroborated visitor turnout and the economic benefits of the Day of the Dead festivities, which include the celebration examined herein.



4.3. Key factors

The festival has continued for over a decade, primarily because of the fact that it reflects the idiosyncrasies of the city's social life. It has successfully seen the participation of different social sectors, while fostering the revival, preservation, and promoted of cultural practices, and subsequently contributing to the development of the city's creative industries.

4.4. Continuity

The event has been sustained throughout different municipal administrations, following its inscription in the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Since then, the festival has focused on citizen participation through the parade, which allows collaboration with different schools and associations. In addition, actors in local cultural industries enjoy the economic benefits of collaborating on the various activities and events.

5. Further information

Puebla was a candidate for the fourth UCLG Mexico City – Culture 21 International Award (November 2019 – May 2020). The jury for the award drew up its final report in June of 2020, and requested that the UCLG Committee on Culture promote this project as one of the good practices implemented under Agenda 21 for culture.

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