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MINERO

MAGAZINE

VOLUME XXIV - SPRING 2017

How the other side lives

UNIDAD
atraves
DE *política*

A LOOK AT
everyday
JUÁREZ LIFE

DRINK UP!

Juárez nightlife comes back to life

BORDER
injustice

CÁELE A
LA RODADORA



Arte, ciencia y cultura en un museo





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contents

pg. 6

UN NUEVO COMIENZO

Juárez redescubre su rumbo con Plan Estratégico

Por Grecia Sánchez

pg. 12

THE EXODUS ENDS

Juárez nightlife increases in popularity

By Adrian Broaddus

pg. 18

LAS CALLES DE JUÁREZ

By Michaela Román

pg. 21

UN MUSEO CAMBIANDO UNA COMUNIDAD ENTERA

Por Rene Delgadillo

pg. 27

ABUSE AT THE PORTS OF ENTRY

By Christian Vasquez

"Juárez que viva por siempre
que viva su historia
que le han dado gloria
que viva su gente".

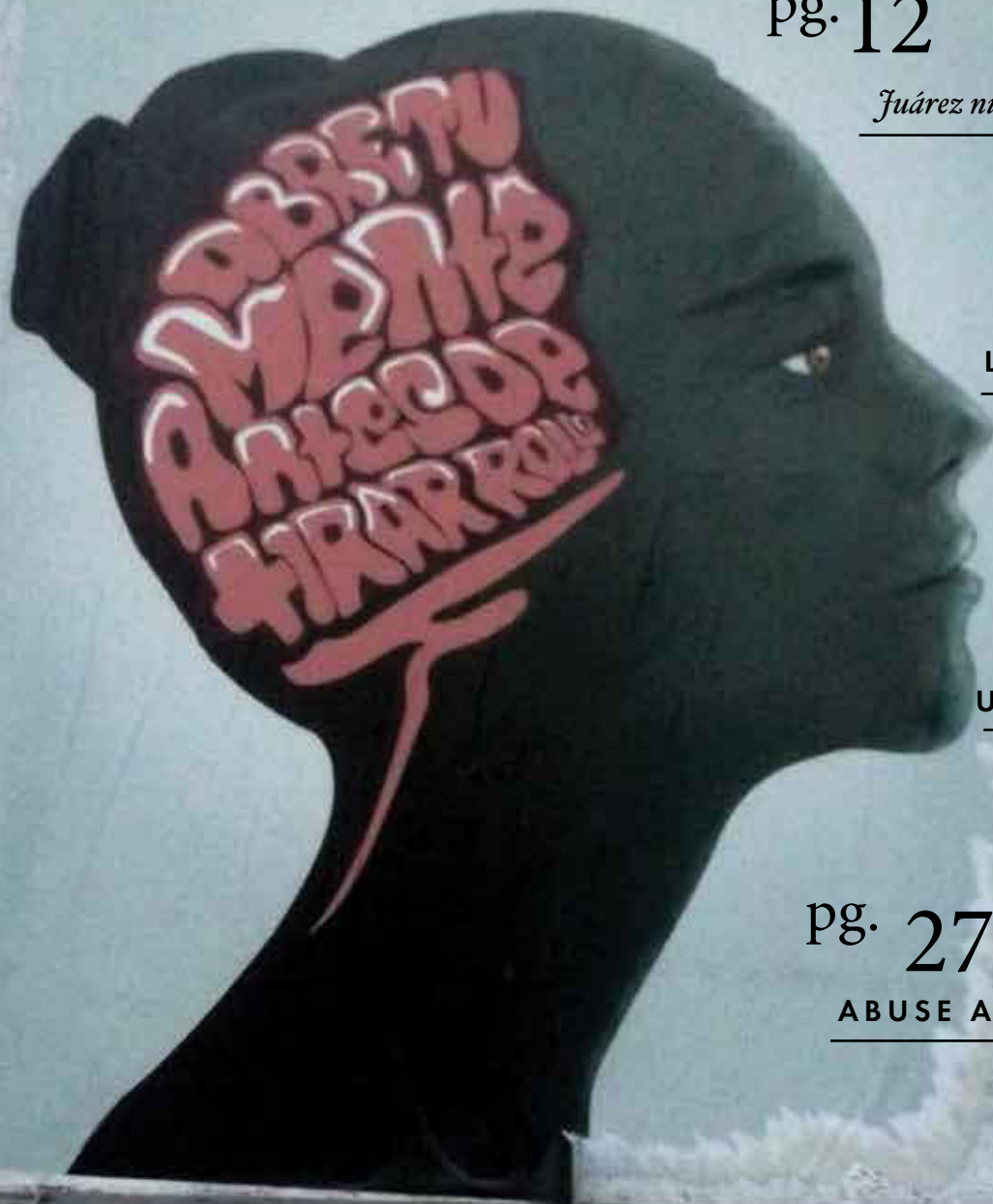
-Juan Gabriel

"When you're lost in the rain in Juárez
when it's Easter time, too
And your gravity fails and
negativity don't pull you through."

-Bob Dylan

"Saliendo de Ciudad Juárez
aún nos duraba la noche más larga
Quizás no fueran bastantes
canciones de madrugada".

-Enrique Bunbury



editor's note

The theme for this issue of *Minero Magazine* began with Adrian Broaddus' idea for a story about the nightlife of Ciudad Juárez, México. Without noticing it, the city of Juárez became our central topic. I'm glad it turned out this way.

Juárez has a special place in the hearts of the UTEP students. Every day, hundreds of them cross the different international bridges in search of an education. Juárez is so close to UTEP that when you stand in front of the library, you are able to see the houses located in the mountains of our sister city.

This issue is about letting others know that Cd. Juárez is more than just cartels and violence. We want to let you know that the city is a place where great efforts are being made.

Violence went down, but unfortunately, it has increased once again in the last few months. I was questioning myself if publishing these stories was the correct thing to do, but I decided that we needed to demonstrate how people are working toward the creation of a better city.

As border students, we understand the truth of Cd. Juárez. We know about the hard-working Juarenses, and this issue is dedicated to them.

To prove this, I wrote a story about one of the biggest interactive museums of México. Through it, children of Juárez are learning about science, culture and history as a way of taking them out of the violence while creating educated citizens.

Our copy editor, Grecia Sánchez, wrote about a non-profit organization that initiates conversations between the citizens and the government, demonstrating that the border region is more than just what mainstream media portrays.

This issue also includes Christian Vasquez' story about a UTEP student from Juárez, who lost his chance of graduating from this university due to problems with border security agents.

I want to offer my deepest thanks to Grecia, who was raised in Cd. Juárez, and who offered an international student perspective throughout the process of this magazine. To my friends Christian and Gaby, thanks for your jokes and help. Without you guys, this semester would have been harder than what it was.

This is my first issue as editor of *Minero*, and it has been a great experience, where I've learned and grown as a person and as a journalist.

To our readers, thank you for reading our magazine. I hope you enjoy it.

Rene Delgadillo

Rene Delgadillo





UN NUEVO COMIENZO: JUÁREZ REDESCUBRE SU RUMBO CON PLAN ESTRATÉGICO

POR GRECIA SÁNCHEZ • DISEÑO POR JACOBO DE LA ROSA • FOTOGRAFÍA POR ANDRES MARTÍNEZ

Son bastantes las personas que perciben a Ciudad Juárez como una ciudad de violencia e impunidad. Plan Estratégico de Ciudad Juárez es la excepción. Esta organización sin fines de lucro se ha propuesto como meta contemplar, percibir y coexistir en un Juárez vivo.

JUÁREZ ANTES DE UN PLAN

Ciudad Juárez cuenta con niveles altos de pobreza y falta de gobernabilidad efectiva, entre otras cosas. Sin embargo, esto no detuvo a Sergio Meza, director de PEJ, en el momento de apostar por un mejor Juárez. “El problema es que la política y los asuntos públicos los hemos dejado en manos de los políticos nada más, y sus decisiones, planes y hasta gastos de su dinero nos afectan. ¡Y hemos dejado que el gobierno lo haga solo!”, Meza menciona.

Meza asegura lo importante no es el cómo construir una ciudad donde la autoridad gobierne sola, sino el cómo construir un gobierno donde se tenga una constante relación con la ciudadanía para co-gobernar. “El gobierno debe de gobernar para el beneficio común, no nada más para beneficiar a los grupos de poder político y económico que les han puesto ahí. Esto es lo que ha sucedido en Juárez”, Meza dice.

Entre las necesidades más extremas en la comunidad juarense, PEJ percibió la desigualdad, viabilidad financiera, falta de recursos,

deuda externa inmensa y extrema pobreza. De acuerdo con Meza, el 40 por ciento de Cd. Juárez se encuentra en esta última.

Meza también recalca que la ciudad tiene problemas graves de desorden urbano. El director comparó la tortura del estiramiento de la era medieval con el dispersamiento de la ciudad señalando ésta ha ido creciendo solamente para beneficiar a dueños de tierras.

La economía centralizada en la industria maquiladora, señala Meza, ha sido tanto fortaleza como debilidad en Juárez. “Tenemos una economía hasta frágil porque depende de la maquinaria en Estados Unidos. Nos ha faltado diversificar la economía de la ciudad”, dice Meza. “Todo los servicios médicos, turismo, recreación, que de hecho tiene El Paso, aquí no lo tenemos”.

Meza enfatiza —“nos ha faltado una visión a largo plazo como ciudad. Una visión compartida que no tenemos actualmente”.

EL NACIMIENTO DE UN CAMBIO

PEJ nació en el 2001 con el propósito de derribar las necesidades antes mencionadas. La organización con más de 15 años comenzó por crear un plan para el Juárez del 2015. Esta visión constaba de cuatro ejes que se refieren a la binacionalidad de Juárez, la calidad de vida de juarenses, mejoras en la educación y cultura de la ciudad y una economía más extensa.

En 2004, se publicó el documento llamado La Propuesta, en el que participaron más de 40,000 personas en la construcción del plan, entre ellos, organizaciones de El Paso como Border Business Leader Forum (Foro de Líderes para Negocios de la Frontera) y Border Environment Cooperation Commission (Comisión de Cooperación Ecológica Fronteriza.) “Eran 80 proyectos agrupados en nuestros cuatro ejes, y empezamos a trabajar en cada uno de estos ejes y elegíamos un proyecto por cada eje”, Meza menciona.

Los problemas para PEJ comenzaron cuando todos los proyectos se topaban con la misma barrera: la falta de gobernabilidad.

“Es necesario que antes de pensar en avanzar en alguno de estos ejes, veamos qué es lo que hace falta, y vimos que era mejorar la gobernabilidad”, Meza explica. “Mientras no haya instituciones públicas fuertes, estado de derecho, o mientras no se cumpla la ley, no va a ser posible avanzar en nada. Esta fue nuestra reflexión en el 2007 y desde ahí, empezamos de nuevo”.

CAMBIANDO ESTRATEGIAS: HABLEMOS DE UNA NUEVA CIUDADANÍA

Meza dice vieron en el camino que no se tenían instituciones fuertes. “El gobierno no se guiaba por las leyes y los reglamentos. Lo hace más bien de una manera muy dis-

"(EN ESTA ORGANIZACIÓN) ME HA HECHO PERMANECER EN EL LUCHAR POR UNA JUVENTUD QUE NO SE INTERRUMPA POR LA CORRUPCIÓN".

ALEXIUS RODALLEGAS

Coordinador de Comunicaciones
Plan Estratégico de Ciudad Juárez

" MI MAYOR DESEO ES QUE NO FUERA NECESARIO EL PLAN ESTRATÉGICO, ESO SIGNIFICARIA QUE LAS COSAS FUNCIONAN BIEN, QUE NO HAY NECESIDAD DE GENERAR LO QUE GENERAMOS NOSOTROS "

SERGIO MEZA

Director
Plan Estratégico de Ciudad Juárez



crecional, de acuerdo a la voluntad del gobernante sin importar si es lo mejor para Juárez o sin importar si está de acuerdo a las leyes y reglamentos", Meza enfatiza.

Los integrantes de PEJ reflexionaron no se puede avanzar en economía, desarrollo social, desarrollo urbano, ni en ninguna otra área si no se generan primero condiciones mínimas de gobernabilidad.

PEJ trabaja por un Juárez en el que todas las necesidades antes mencionadas se disminuyan a su expresión mínima. El equipo planificador modificó su ayuda a las necesidades iniciales, las cuales eran viabilidad financiera, desigualdad, deuda externa inmensa, falta de recursos y extrema pobreza.

Los miembros de PEJ decidieron enfocarse en participación ciudadana, ya que consideran es un pilar primordial a la hora de construir un mejor gobierno (condición básica para mejorar las demás necesidades de la ciudad).

"Nosotros creemos que si un gobierno es abierto y eficiente, mejora mucho la calidad de vida de sus ciudadanos, volvemos a la hipótesis original—a mayor participación ciudadana, mejor gobierno. Y a mejor gobierno, mayor calidad de vida", Meza afirma.

La nueva ciudadanía de la que PEJ se refiere enfasca a una sociedad capacitada, propositiva, informada

de sus derechos, responsabilidades, y funcionalidad del gobierno; con una organización horizontal, y que sea vigilante y exigente. Esto se logra a través de cuatro programas que son Regidor MX, Red de Vecinos de Juárez, Así Estamos Juárez y TvCiudadano. Según el informe de Regidor MX en 2016, este programa se encarga de monitorear y evaluar el trabajo y resultados de los regidores, dando seguimiento al cumplimiento en las reuniones de comisión y la asistencia de los regidores que las integran.

"Regidor MX se refiere a regidores teniendo en mente al público, y no el bien de sus partidos, a la hora de decidir. Que la ciudadanía pueda tomar parte de las decisiones del cabildo también porque en El Paso cualquier persona puede participar, en Juárez no", Meza afirma.

Meza menciona el gran costo de este procedimiento al catalogarlo como discreto, ya que las decisiones se toman y la ciudadanía nunca se entera hasta después de su implementación.

Alexius Rodallegas, coordinador de comunicación en PEJ quien también es conductor principal de TvCiudadano, coincide con esta afirmación explicando las diferencias entre el cabildo de Cd. Juárez y el ayuntamiento de El Paso.

"En el cabildo de Juárez no eres bienvenido. No hay espacios para el público, no se hacen públicos los

temas, las cartas no son respondidas y las que lo llegan a ser, la respuesta es siempre no", Rodallegas dice. "Te das cuenta que no hay libertad de expresión en estas decisiones. En cambio en El Paso, dos días antes, los regidores te muestran el temario, cualquier persona puede entrar y tienes voz en las juntas".

Actualmente, Regidor MX es el modelo que se está replicando y desarrollando en más de 15 municipios de México, ya que es una innovación de la cual PEJ tiene todo el crédito. "Están tomando nuestro modelo. Es una iniciativa que ha sido muy reconocida al grado que ya en otros lugares la han pedido. Son 17 municipios ahorita, están en Guerrero, México, Veracruz, La Paz (Baja California Sur), Hermosillo va a empezar, Puebla, Mérida, en estos estados se ha extendido y estamos trabajando en alianza con toda esta gente", Meza menciona.

COMUNICANDO UNA CONCIENCIA CÍVICA

PEJ define conciencia cívica como el formar parte de una ciudad en la que nos desarrollamos, en la que tenemos que aportar, y tenemos que ver por el bien común.

De acuerdo con Meza, el primer paso para tener una conciencia cívica es informarte y salir de la zona de confort; también atacar el analfabetismo político (dejar de ignorar las funciones del gobierno).

El encargado de informar esta conciencia cívica es Rodallegas a través de TvCiudadano, la manera en la que PEJ hace periodismo en la ciudad. Cada viernes, se analiza a Juárez y se informa de manera objetiva lo que pasa en la ciudad tomando como prioridad la independencia del medio.

El programa está a cargo de la funcionalidad e imagen de la aplicación YoReporto. Según Rodallegas, esta aplicación, disponible en sistemas Android y Apple, es la manera de traer el siglo XXI a las organizaciones democráticas.

El objetivo de YoReporto, que funciona por medio de GPS y cámara, se basa en disminuir el tiempo del proceso de quejas al gobierno de cinco horas en menos de cinco minutos. “El proceso de llamar, esperar a que te contesten, hacer una carta al gobierno explicando la situación, imprimirla, llevarla al gobierno, esperar a la presidencia para que sellen de recibido y que atiendan al problema puede acortarse tomando fotos con YoReporto y automáticamente se llena una queja que va para el gobierno municipal”, Rodallegas explica.

Además de crear un mecanismo eficiente para generaciones jóvenes, Rodallegas asegura la aplicación también servirá para quitar el estigma de una sociedad conformista, eliminando de antemano excusas para no participar en la conciencia cívica que PEJ quiere para Juárez.

Rodallegas menciona un caso de victoria con la ciudadanía juarense al evocar el caso de los semáforos inservibles. Gracias a YoReporto y el interés de la sociedad, se pudo atraer la atención del problema al municipio. Se dio solución y se comprobó que cuando hay espacios de comunicación, los juarenses participan.

Según Rodallegas, lo que diferencia a PEJ es que han sabido inver-

tilar a la comunicación, penetrar redes y manejar marcas; han sabido llevar un discurso sólido gracias al equipo de comunicación.

RUMBO A UN JUÁREZ MÁS INTERVENTIVO

PEJ luce colores de esperanza con la administración nueva. Meza menciona tener confianza en que se le puede avanzar más en estos dos años que en los últimos. Meza afirma no haber avanzado mucho en pasadas administraciones ya que nunca se pudo llegar a la implementación del plan en la ciudad. Esto debido a que PEJ ni siquiera podía entrar a la sala de juntas del cabildo. “Todos los ejes de la propuesta se topaban con la falta de un gobierno efectivo”, Meza menciona.

Cabe mencionar durante la primera reunión de cabildo de la administración de Armando Cabada, nuevo presidente municipal de Cd. Juárez desde agosto del 2016, se reconocieron tres propuestas planteadas por PEJ.

La más importante propuesta reconocida fue que se le dio voz, por primera vez en la historia de Cd. Juárez, a un ciudadano. Cabada personalmente leyó la petición escrita del presidente de PEJ, el ingeniero Miguel Fernández Iturriza, para poder hablar durante un minuto en la sesión de cabildo. Cabada agradeció a Meza y a Iturriza por los esfuerzos hechos durante años pasados con objetivo de llegar a una verdadera participación ciudadana en el gobierno y se cedió la palabra, por decisión unánime, a Iturriza.

La segunda modificación fue el diseño de las mesas en las que se colocarían los regidores. En administraciones pasadas, el acomodo de las mesas se daba en un ciclo cerrado, de manera que cada regidor estaba viendo de frente a otro regidor. Este acomodo resultaba eficiente debido a

que los regidores eran los únicos presentes en las juntas de cabildo, decidiendo en representación del pueblo juarense. Una vez que PEJ planteó sumar al pueblo a estas juntas, el acomodo de las mesas dejó de ser funcional para el propósito de éstas.

En la primera reunión de cabildo, con la administración de Cabada, las mesas fueron redistribuidas. Estas se colocaron de manera frontal hacia el público. Este acomodo demuestra una comunicación no verbal de empatía por los ciudadanos juarenses ya que al verles de frente se les comunica interés por su opinión.

La última modificación fue la transmisión en vivo de la sesión de cabildo en varias redes sociales, característica que permitió a más de cientos de juarenses estar al tanto de los temas que se hablaron durante la sesión.

Meza expresa lo que espera de PEJ. “Mi mayor deseo es que no fuera necesario el Plan Estratégico de Juárez, eso significaría que las cosas funcionan bien, que no hay necesidad de generar lo que generamos nosotros. Que sea un gobierno abierto a la ciudadanía, una sociedad participativa que debe exigir sus derechos”, Meza dice.

Para Rodallegas, la satisfacción personal dentro de PEJ lo ha convencido de no regresar a campañas de marketing. “Encontrar una manera de diálogo con diferentes sectores del ciudadano es lo que me ha hecho permanecer. Cada victoria es una mejora para la ciudad”, Rodallegas reflexiona. “También me ha hecho permanecer el luchar por una juventud que no se interrumpa por la corrupción. Tuve la fortuna de poder divertirme antes que la crisis de violencia arrasara con Juárez; no me gustaría ver que volviera a pasar eso con generaciones más jóvenes”.



IN BRIEF

There is a perception among many people that Ciudad Juárez is a city of violence and impunity. Plan Estratégico (Strategic Plan) of Cd. Juárez is the exception—this is a non-profit organization whose goal is to create a better city to live in.

Cd. Juárez has a high rate of poverty and its government lacks effectiveness, among other problems. Despite these issues, Sergio Meza, director of PEJ, decided to continue the fight for a better city. “The problem is that we leave politics and public issues entirely in the hands of politicians. Their decisions, plans and their financial expenses affect us. We have allowed the government to govern by itself!” Meza says.

The economy of the city is centered on the maquiladoras (factories), Meza says this has been a benefit and a weakness. “We have a weak economy because our maquiladoras depend on the United States. We have lacked diversity in the economy of the city. All the medical, tourism, recreational services that El Paso has, we do not have them here.”

Meza says it is important to build a government that has an on-going relationship with its citizens to

co-govern. “The government has to govern for the benefit of all people, not just to benefit groups in political and economic power positions. This is what has happened in Juárez,” Meza says.

PEJ was created with the goal of getting rid of the injustices and problems of the city. The organization has been active since 2001 and wants to help citizens have a better quality of life, better education, cultural improvements and a better economy.

Members of PEJ decided to focus on citizen participation because they consider it a primary pillar when it comes to constructing a better government. “We believe that if a government is open and efficient, the quality of its citizens improves. More citizen participation means a better government, and with a better government, and a better quality of life,” Meza says.

PEJ wants to create a society where citizens propose laws and are responsible and aware of their rights as citizens. Through four specific programs called Regidor MX (Governor MX), Red de Vecinos de Juárez (Neighbors Network of Juárez), Así Estamos Juárez (This is how we are Juárez) b and TvCiudadano (CitizenTV), PEJ

has been able to make improvements in their city. One of those has been giving citizens a voice during a government meeting for the first time in the city’s history.

PEJ defines civic awareness as being part of a city in which all its citizens develop in a positive way and where everyone participates for the common good of their community. Through TVCiudadano, PEJ’s way of producing journalism, PEJ analyzes the city each Friday and informs the citizens about what is happening around their community.

Meza says the first step to achieving this awareness requires getting out of your comfort zone and erasing political illiteracy through citizen involvement.

“My biggest desire is that Plan Estratégico de Juárez is no longer needed—that would mean everything functions the way it should and there would be no necessity to generate what we do. With an open government and with citizen participation, asking for their rights, we will no longer be needed,” Meza says.



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THE EXODUS ENDS

JUÁREZ NIGHTLIFE INCREASES IN POPULARITY

BY Adrian Broaddus

DESIGN BY Jacobo De la Rosa

PHOTOS BY Andres Martinez & Michaela Román



Pablo, a sophomore student at UTEP, who decided to remain anonymous, slips into his car with a group of his friends seeking a night of adventure, tales and enjoyment. He tells his mom he's simply going over to a friend's house to hang out, but if Pablo's mother truly knew what her son was doing on a Friday night, her stomach would churn.

He and four of his friends find metered parking on the outskirts of downtown El Paso, and as they spill out of their ride, they walk to a new journey into the night and into another country. As they trot up Santa Fe Street, the road curves ahead and a large sign shows "Bienvenidos a Ciudad Juárez."

In retrospect, why would any teenager or young adult want to cross

into the city of Juárez at nighttime? Less than a decade ago, Juárez, México, was known as the murder capital of the world. In 2010, Juárez had more than eight murders each day, cartel violence flooded the streets, and the entire city was faced with much corruption. Juárez, during 2006, had a higher annual death rate than any other country, including Iraq, Afghanistan and other dangerous countries.



"When you can get some drinks, a big plate of tacos and still have money left over, you know you got your money's worth."

JONATHAN VASQUEZ sophomore business major

But, as assured by most border-crossers, the city has changed for the better.

"The thought of it being a risk does go through the back of my mind, but it never stops me from crossing over," Pablo says. "I can see the border from the bar, so it doesn't feel unsafe."

Pablo and his friends walk down the right side of the Santa Fe Street sidewalk and approach the U.S.-México border and the port of entry to México. "Cincuenta centavos (50 cents)," mutters the lady behind the glass window at the entrance.

One step through the revolving gate is one step closer to another country.

Immediately to the left are hoards of cars attempting to cross over to

the U.S.—lines are extremely long and the traffic is unmoving. Beggars and street vendors flood the street, while window cleaners wipe down car windows in an attempt to gain a tip from people passing by.

It's far different from El Paso instantly. "One of the most noticeable things to me is the fact that there is no border security when you pass over there," Pablo says. "You can walk past their border patrol without any worries or troubles. In fact, they don't even look at you."

They walk down the street amazed at what's ahead. Two women begging for passersby to stop and buy one of their packages of gum, children running around the street, and cars driving with no regard to road signs or pedestrians.

Eyes from the locals scan each member of the American posse,

but it doesn't faze the explorers, they are on a mission for liberation and they are not limited by being underage. México's drinking age is 18 years old, so the teenagers who are not allowed to step foot into a bar with the 21-year-age requirement of the U.S., are able to easily and willfully purchase alcohol across the border.

They make their way up to a currency exchange station, where they deposit their money in exchange for pesos. One \$20 bill exchanged for more than 19 pesos per dollar ends up being a big chunk of change for an individual. For Pablo and his crew, they combine their money together to take advantage of the large gap in currencies.

"That's another big reason I go," says Jonathan Vasquez, a sophomore business major who tags along with Pablo. "The drinks





"Mothers can walk around with their children now. It's such a different sight."

CAROL HUNTER American journalist

and food are cheap, so I get my money's worth. When you can get some drinks, a big plate of tacos and still have money left over, you know you got your money's worth."

After they have their change in their pocket, the group trots over to The Kentucky Club right along the main strip. The Kentucky Club has been around since the 1920s and is known to be the birthplace of the Margarita.

It is a small cantina bar, which is located next to the Santa Fe International Bridge. The bar is Americanized—American television and sports games are shown on the television, the menu comes in English, and some of the waiters know how to speak English.

But it still has the Mexican flavor that Juárez offers.

After ordering a round of Margaritas and Modelo beers, Pablo and the bunch order the Kentucky Plate, which is a platter that offers 12 tortillas, hot wings, ground meat to put in their tortillas, chips and beans. The plate, which is the size of most tables, fills the bunch with its unique Mexican-style servings. Then, they pay off their tab and are off back onto the streets.

A ways down the street, the team finds a small taco spot, which smells amazing and sells inexpensive tacos. They end their journey

at a sports bar called the Yankees Bar and then make their way back home.

SCARED STRAIGHT

While some newcomers enjoy their free-spirited mindset on the city and its nightlife, others take major precautions due to the recent happenings in the city. Junior marketing major Bianca Duran is highly conflicted with the thought of going over to Juárez and is against traveling across the border.

"It's just a personal preference, but I do have family that crosses regularly," Bianca says. "I would go often as a kid, but it stopped when the violence began."

It was the same violence that plagued not only the city of Juárez, but also left emptiness in her heart. "When I was a sophomore in high school, I had a friend that was killed due to the violence and I haven't gone back to Juárez since," Bianca says. "My dad has also lost some close friends. I get invited, but I'm very firm in my decision to not go."

In fact, it is a personal decision that now has a deeper impact, which is drawing her to the city. "I would think of going if one of my relatives was in the hospital—that's happening right now and I'm very torn about going or not," Bianca says

about her father's step-uncle.

Her personal preference also comes with wise morals she chooses to live by. Duran also provides advice to those who do choose to cross over. "Think twice (when crossing over) because it's difficult to fully observe your surroundings while sober, much less intoxicated," Bianca says. "Most kids have the mentality that nothing will happen to them until they're personally affected, like me."

AMERICA-JUAREZ FRENZY

One of the most popular nightlife attractions, which is known to bring many tourists to the city, is the famous bar The Kentucky Club. With the violence that was going on in the city about a decade ago, the bar, according to manager Alfredo Torres, was close to shutting down due to lack of business.

"Now there is more tourism and business. We have more people, more Americans and people from other countries and cities in México who come visit," Torres says. "(During the drug war) there would be about 30 people on a normal night. Now it's 50 to 200 people. It's different, better."

Torres also claims that there are tons of El Pasoans, who are normal border-crossers, who come out to the bar time and time again.

"Mothers can walk around with their children now. It's such a different sight," says Carol Hunter, who is an American journalist and a frequent traveler to Juárez from El Paso. "Families would post pictures in honor of their daughter's quinceañera, a significant celebration in Mexican culture, and the girls would be kidnapped for ransom. Now families don't have to



One of the biggest worries going over to Juárez is making sure you have your ID. So you can cross back to the U.S. safely. Everytime we go, either me or one of my friends end up saying, "do you guys have your ID?"

One time, we had just paid our 50 cents to cross over and I checked my pockets just to make sure I had my wallet—turns out I completely forgot it. We had literally just crossed over the gate and I begged the border patrol agent, who was standing there, if I could go get it, but he said no. I didn't know if I would be stuck in Mexico or what, but I was freaking out. I thought to myself, screw it, I'll just go get fucked up and worry about it later. After we went to a bunch of bars, I was lucky and got back over. The Border patrol let me over after just checking my name ~~through~~ through the system.

When I crossed over for the first time, it urged me to continue to go back. I had not been to Juárez since I was a child, so I was way too young to remember any of it. But this experience made me want to go back as often as possible.

The first thing I realized when I crossed over was something. It was so alive at the moment. We walked down the street, and a lot of attention is drawn to you since your skin is very fair, so eyes are always and about.

As soon as we got to the bar, Kentucky, I had to try the Margaritas they had since it was where the Margarita was born. The waiters were very intrigued with the fact that a group of white people were in a bar collectively with such fair skin.

worry about those kinds of things like before."

FOR OLD-TIME'S SAKE

For Franklin High School marketing teacher Chelsea Knapp, the fear of cartel violence was never on her mind when she was crossing over to Juárez. Knapp was 15 years old when she would cross over. "We would cross over without a thought in our mind," Knapp says. "There was no such thing as checking our ID or checking our passports. There was only one stop at the border, where you would pass by and say 'American.'"

There was a sense of unity and respect when they came across. Like those who go over nowadays, Knapp and her posse would hit up bars like The Kentucky Club and Reno's (a bar currently out of business). They even knew the bouncer at the Reno's bar, who would help them translate anything they needed, she was like a "Mexican mother" to her group.

"We had Esther's (the bouncer) cell phone number and we would call her whenever we were on our way to the bar," Knapp says. "Just five years ago, she got shot and it was a big deal. Reno's was the place to go."

In fact, it was Knapp's "Mexican mother" who helped her and her friends out of a police predicament. "My friend had just broken up with his girlfriend and he was mad so he punched a wall—it was nothing serious, did no damage—but he just punched the wall because he was mad," Knapp says. "Then, cops came by and found out my friend was American. They told him that either he gave his watch to them or he would be taken to jail. Esther came out and helped translate and resolved the problem, but my friend still got his watch taken away."

It was because of this instance that Knapp's mom became aware of what her daughter was doing when she was coming home late at night. "I told my mom and at first she was really mad, but the next day she asked me what I was doing over there," she says. "I told my mom we went for dinner, and she asked where, so I told her The Kentucky Club. My mom started laughing and

pulled out a photo box. In it, she pulled out a picture of my mom sitting in the exact spot that I sat in at The Kentucky, holding a drink that I would order that day from the same drink menu. Now, I hear of students going, and I think back to myself and even back to my mom—those places have been around for all our generations."

Although she enjoyed her fun in Juárez, Knapp is convinced times have actually changed and she doesn't believe younger adults should go over, not because of the city, but because they are enabling underage drinkers to make unfit decisions. "The city has its ups and downs, but the target market of the Juárez strip is the age group that doesn't involve the decision-making process for going over," Knapp says. "As soon as I didn't need to go over, I didn't see the reason to go over for anyone. It's not acceptable, and I sound like my mom, but times have changed."



EN BREVE

Hace menos de una década, Ciudad Juárez, México, era conocida como la capital de asesinatos del mundo. En 2010, Cd. Juárez tenía más de ocho asesinatos al día, el cartel y la violencia inundaba las calles, y la ciudad se encontraba bajo mucha corrupción. Cd. Juárez tenía en 2006, el índice más alto de muertes anuales en comparación con otros países, como Iraq, Afganistán, entre otros países peligrosos.

Aun así, la mayoría de los fronterizos aseguran la ciudad ha cambiado en una manera positiva.

Pablo, estudiante de segundo año de UTEP, quien ha decidido permanecer anónimo en esta historia, sube a su carro junto a sus amigos buscando una noche de aventuras. Ellos estacionan el carro en el centro de El Paso y cruzan el puente Santa Fe. Un dólar vale más de 19 pesos

y Pablo y sus amigos terminan combinando su dinero para aprovechar la gran brecha entre ambas monedas. Se dirigen al bar The Kentucky Club el cual ha estado desde los años veintes y es conocido por ser el lugar de origen de la margarita.

Mientras algunos turistas disfrutan de su mentalidad de espíritu libre, Bianca Duran, estudiante de mercadotecnia de tercer año, está en contra de cruzar la frontera.

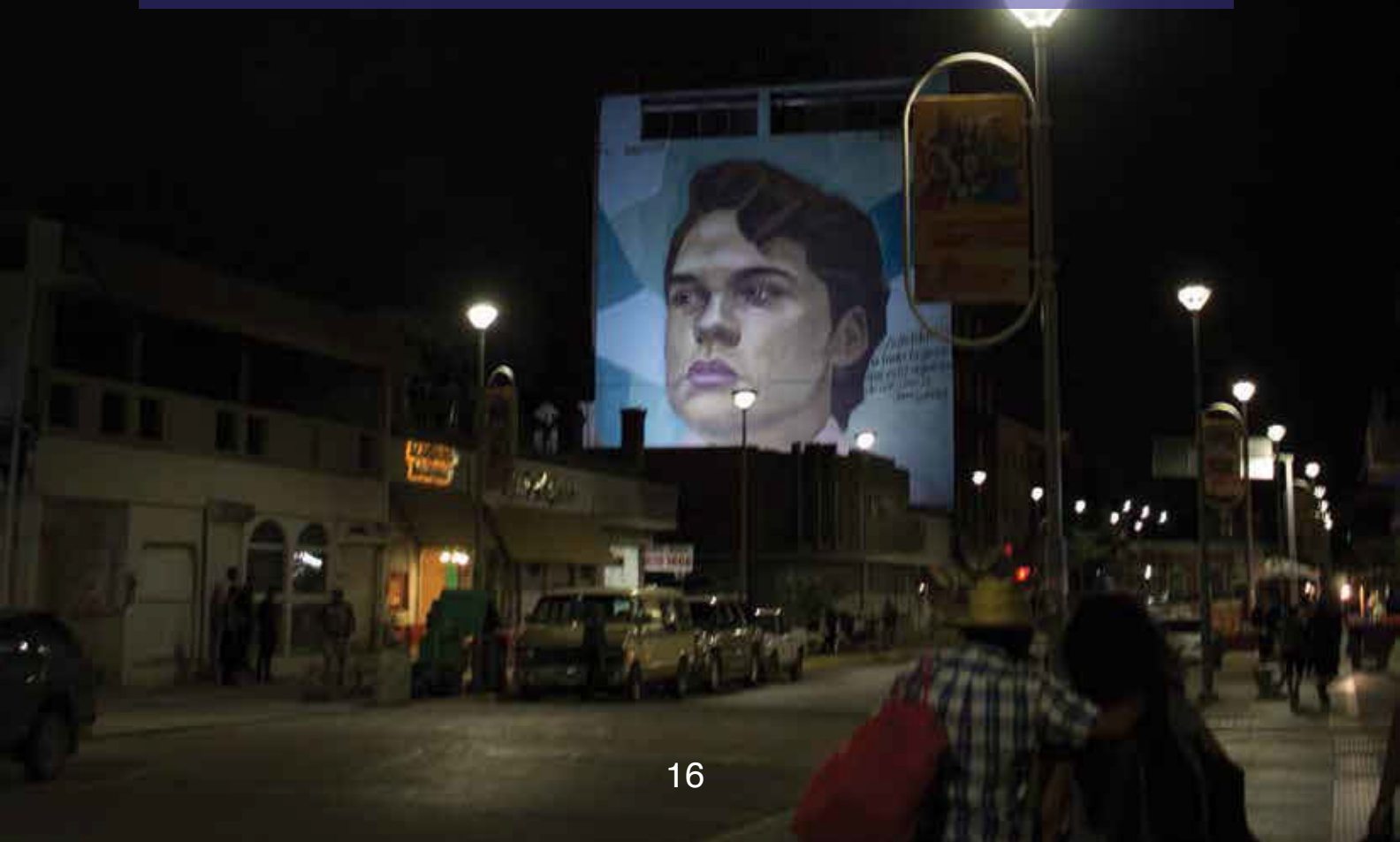
“Cuando estaba en preparatoria, tenía una amiga que la mataron por la violencia y desde entonces, no he regresado a Juárez”, Bianca dice. “Mi padre también ha perdido algunos amigos cercanos. Me invitan, pero estoy firme con mi decisión de no ir”.

Alfredo Torres, gerente del The Kentucky Club, dice tener más gente que visitan al bar. Recuerda

que durante la guerra contra el narcotráfico normalmente había 30 personas en una noche normal, ahora asegura son entre 50 a 200.

Chelsea Knapp, maestra de mercadotecnia de la preparatoria Franklin, solía cruzar por diversión a Juárez cuando tenía 15 años de edad. Gracias a un incidente con la policía mexicana, la madre de Knapp supo de las aventuras de su hija en Juárez. Se dieron cuenta que ambas habían tomado el mismo trago en el mismo asiento del The Kentucky Bar.

Ahora, Knapp está convencida de que los adultos jóvenes no deben cruzar, no por la ciudad, sino por los efectos del alcohol en menores de edad que propicia a decisiones impropias •





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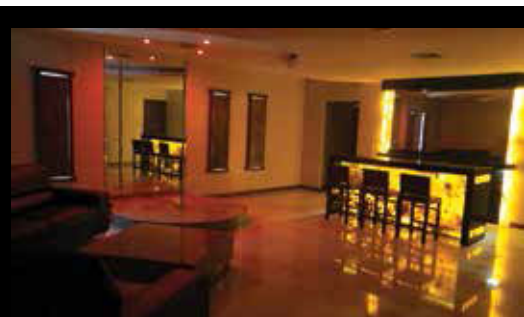


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LAS CALLES DE JUÁREZ



Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, is one of the largest cities in México with an estimated population of 1.5 million. The city once referred to as the “murder capital of the world” has become a safer place to walk the streets. In 2010, the Mexican National Institute of Statistics reported 3,766 homicides. In 2015, that number dropped to 256.

La Plaza Cervantina is a neighborhood with murals that date back to the 1970s. The buildings were once hotels and shelters, but the area was corrupted by drugs and prostitution. A group of local residents, Punta de Lanza, worked to renovate the area in 2012 and are currently advocating to bring the plaza back to life.



Street vendors often travel from the outskirts of Juárez to sell food and knick-knacks on street corners. With 1.5 million residents in Juárez, there is plenty of pedestrian traffic. At downtown Juárez, by the Santa Fe Bridge, vendors sell to those about to cross by foot or by car into or out of the city.

THE STREETS OF JUÁREZ

Street performers dress in traditional “Pachuco” clothing—zoot suits—as they dance in the center of downtown Juárez. The Pachuco Mexican-American subculture began in the decade of the 1930s along the Southwest region of the United States. Pachucas also formed their own style by being rebellious.



Festivities commence in front of La Catedral de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe de Ciudad Juárez (Cathedral of our Lady of Guadalupe) on Sunday, Dec. 12, 2016. Matachines perform in front of the church during the Día de la Virgen de Guadalupe (the day of Virgin of Guadalupe in México) in honor of the saint's birthday.

A man auctions off throw pillows for 20 pesos each. With Christmas quickly approaching and plenty of shoppers downtown, vendors sell clothes, toys and accessories as potential presents.



**PHOTOS, STORY AND DESIGN
BY MICHAELA ROMÁN**

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UN MUSEO CAMBIANDO A UNA COMUNIDAD ENTERA



POR: RENE DELGADILLO • DISEÑO: VANESSA GUEVARA • FOTOGRAFÍA: CLAUDIA HERNÁNDEZ Y GRECIA SÁNCHEZ

Ciudad Juárez no es un sinónimo de violencia y de crimen, esta es la ciudad en donde la gente planea sueños para lograrlos. Esta es la ciudad que desde hace años ha intentado ayudar a la juventud. Sin embargo, las noticias mundiales han hecho ver a la comunidad de esta ciudad fronteriza como una que sólo comete crímenes e injusticias.

Juárez es mucho más que eso, en esta ciudad hay gente que quiere ayudar a los jóvenes. En Juárez existen las ganas de crear una mejor ciudad.

A través del tercer museo más grande e interactivo de México, Juárez está demostrando su empeño por ayudar a toda una región.

Al entrar en el espacio interactivo La Rodadora, el museo se roba la atención de niños, jóvenes y adultos. Por medio de colores, exhibiciones y juegos, los juarenses pueden vivir un sueño hecho realidad.

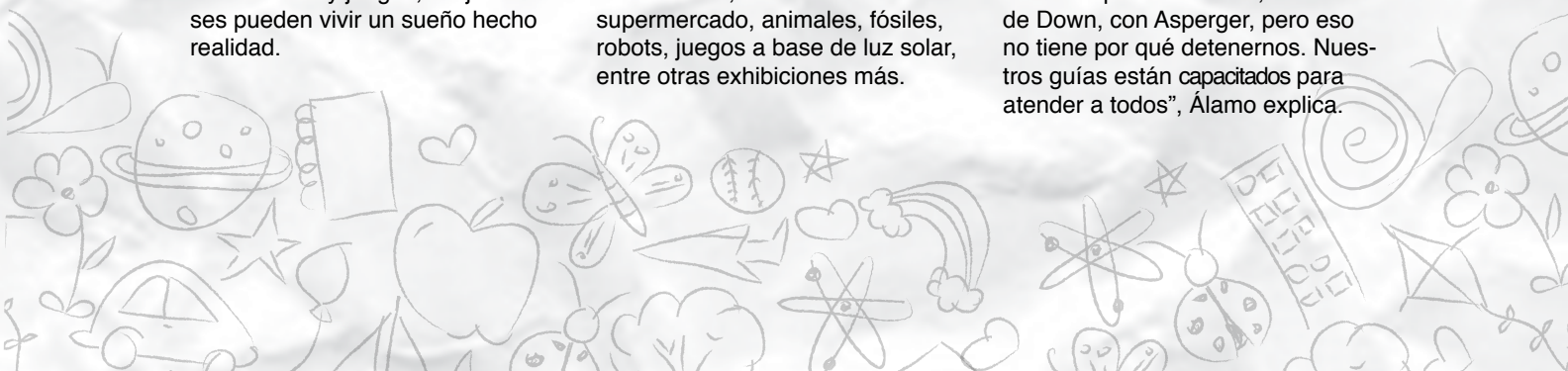
La Rodadora cuenta con más de 120 exhibiciones en donde se ha combinado ciencia, tecnología, arte y cultura. En este museo, los visitantes pueden ser reporteros de noticias, profesionales que estudian y excavan los restos de animales prehistóricos como mamuts y dinosaurios, o simplemente pueden aprender sobre la historia y riqueza de su ciudad.

Karen Álamo, directora general de La Rodadora, dice el museo puede lograr que niños y adultos se diviertan mientras aprenden sobre su ciudad, ya que este museo es diferente a todos los demás. "Nuestra herramienta principal es el juego, es decir, que lo hacemos a través de exhibiciones interactivas en donde los niños juegan y aprenden sobre su región", Álamo comenta.

Este museo cuenta con una biblioteca, pantalla de cine en 3D, sets de televisión, una recreación de un supermercado, animales, fósiles, robots, juegos a base de luz solar, entre otras exhibiciones más.

Uno de sus objetivos es generar apego, identidad, orgullo, y pertenencia por vivir en esta ciudad ya que, a través de un diagnóstico, se encontró que un porcentaje de la ciudad no se sentía orgullosa de vivir en la frontera. "Queremos que conozcan el lugar en donde viven, pero también queremos que aprendan vocaciones a temprana edad y que ellos puedan descubrir sus talentos y que puedan soñar con su futuro, y la herramienta que queremos dejarles es la educación", Álamo comenta. "El museo es una plataforma para que los niños puedan tener contacto real con vocaciones que desconocen, por ejemplo, el cómo desear ser un biólogo si realmente no sabes que es la biología".

Álamo dice el museo atiende a niños y jóvenes con discapacidades, pero gracias a una gran planeación, se ha podido atenderlos de la mejor manera. "Vienen niños con discapacidad motriz, síndrome de Down, con Asperger, pero eso no tiene por qué detenernos. Nuestros guías están capacitados para atender a todos", Álamo explica.



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“Este museo es un espacio de inclusión, por eso es que el museo es de un solo piso, donde ellos pueden convivir con otros niños, para que se den cuenta que ellos no son diferentes”.

Los Rodis y Rodis Junior

Muchos de los niños que visitan el museo vienen de comunidades con altos números de pobreza y crimen. Gracias a sus escuelas, ellos pueden visitar La Rodadora.

Es aquí donde jóvenes de universidad y preparatoria tienen una función importante para que el museo siga creciendo.

Los llamados Rodis (jóvenes uni-

versitarios) y Rodis Junior (adolescentes de preparatoria) son los guías del museo, y su función es hablarle a los niños y padres sobre las diferentes exhibiciones.

Ambos tipos de Rodis reciben una capacitación de 160 horas donde desarrollan habilidades como la expresión verbal y corporal. Además de esto, los jóvenes deben de aprender los diferentes temas sobre las exhibiciones que se presentan. “Al ser parte de otro grupo de jóvenes, el sentido de pertenencia se fortalece, aprenden sobre su comunidad y a como participar en ella. Estos jóvenes (los Rodis) se vuelven modelos de muchos niños y jóvenes”, Álamo explica.

A los Rodis se les prepara para atender a todo tipo de público, incluyendo a cualquier persona con alguna discapacidad. La meta es que cuando los jóvenes salgan, ellos estén preparados para conseguir esa carrera que tanto anhelan. “Ellos hacen sus prácticas profesionales, lo que el museo les brinda es toda la capacitación y una beca para sus gastos y transportación, al mes son como 1,500 pesos. En realidad no es mucho pero para

nosotros si lo es, tenemos 200 y tantos jóvenes, pero lo hacemos para motivarlos y también para poder prepararlos para el futuro”, Álamo dice.

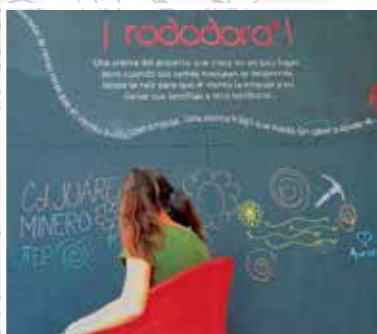
Stephanie Sánchez, quien lleva dos años trabajando en el museo como Rodi, trabaja con niños de comunidades vulnerables. Ella comenta el formar parte de este proyecto es algo que la llena de mucha felicidad ya que los niños aprenden valores como el respeto y amor. “Hay niños que algunas veces tienen que crecer muy rápido en su comunidad pero aquí pueden sacar ese niño interior que tienen”, Sánchez dice. “Los niños me han hecho valorar las pequeñas cosas de la vida y a disfrutar esos pequeños momentos que cualquier actividad te puede regalar”.

Ernesto Tavizon dice el trabajar como Rodi es una experiencia que le ha cambiado la vida y espera poder seguir ayudando. “Siempre estás ocupado e interactúas con niños diferentes, he aprendido que cada niño es diferente y único”, explica Tavizon. “Todo esto va a cambiar mi futuro porque a los 20 años sé como hablar ante un público grande. Creo que esta es una de las mejores maneras de aprender y ayudar a los demás”.

Una Cultura de Amor y Unión

Álamo comenta algunas veces son los mismos padres de familia quienes les roban la oportunidad a los niños de poder explorar en la educación. Ella comenta los padres necesitan cambiar su percepción hacia los museos, ya que es necesario crear ciudadanos más informados. “A veces hay una percepción de que los museos son aburridos y nosotros los adultos les quitamos la oportunidad a los niños de descubrir cosas nuevas”, Álamo explica.

Es por esto que los precios del museo sólo representan el 30,



por ciento de los fondos, para así poder mantener el museo en buenas funciones. Álamo dice la entrada individual más costosa del museo es de sólo 79 pesos, lo que equivale a menos de cinco dólares estadounidenses. “Nos cuesta mucho invertir en educación y en cultura. Entonces subir el costo, representaría que menos gente pudiera venir, y es lo que menos queremos”, Álamo dice.

La Rodadora entendió que una parte de la comunidad no tiene los recursos para poder asistir al museo, por ello crearon un programa llamado Cultivando Sueños, en donde se le ha beneficiado a cerca de 100,000 niños de las zonas vulnerables de la región.

“Vamos por ellos en camión y los traemos al museo para que aprendan y se diviertan. A ellos se les escoge por polígonos de pobreza, violencia, o por altos índices de actos delictivos y muertes”, Álamo dice. “A los niños se les atiende con un programa para hablar del manejo de emociones, tolerancia, respeto, y cultura para la paz, con la intención de disminuir situaciones negativas en la vida de estos niños. Queremos que los niños vivan sin coraje y depresión”.

Juan Uribe, padre de familia, visitó La Rodadora en compañía de la escuela primaria Horizontes, la cual organizó una visita al museo para varios de sus alumnos. Durante su estancia en el museo, él expresó su alegría al poder ver a su hijo jugar y aprender. “Es un ambiente de mucho aprendizaje, tanto para niños como para uno. Necesitamos muchos más espacios como este, ya que esto es sano para ellos”, Uribe comenta. “Si hay violencia, pero en todos lados hay violencia, el asunto es sólo encontrar los lados adecuados para que los niños se diviertan”.

Sin embargo, Uribe dice es imposible poder interactuar con todas las exhibiciones ya que los



niños se divierten tanto que duran bastante tiempo en los juegos, haciendo imposible alcanzar a ver todo lo que el museo ofrece. “El problema es que a veces el tiempo no alcanza para disfrutar todo lo que hay en La Rodadora, uno tiene que venir de dos a tres veces para que los niños puedan alcanzar a ver todos los juegos”, Uribe explica. “Y uno como adulto también quiere volver porque por cuidar a los niños, tampoco disfrutas lo que hay aquí”.

La Rodadora Celebrando la Vida

Cuando la ola de violencia paralizó a todo Juárez, nadie hablaba de la vida. Todos comentaban sobre la muerte y lo fácil que es perder la vida. En Juárez, los niños estaban perdiendo el significado de la palabra “vida”, pero La Rodadora la quiere resurgir.

“Queremos que el tema de la vida se reivindique porque se tomó tan a la ligera el sentido de la vida, no había una esperanza de vida en esta ciudad”, Álamo afirma. “Un día estabas vivo y al siguiente podías estar muerto. Lo que buscamos es que estos niños puedan celebrar el poder vivir en Juárez”.

La planta rodadora es muy especial ya que no es originaria del desierto chihuahuense como la mayoría



los juarenses. La planta llegó al desierto por alguna razón, como muchos de los juarenses, y se quedó en Juárez a echar raíz como las familias de la ciudad.

Cuando la planta madura y se seca, se desprende del tallo. Cuando va girando, se desprende una semilla que da vida. “De esta planta se habla del desierto, de los juarenses y de la vida, y de todo esto habla el museo, porque el museo se trata del poder vivir y celebrar el poder vivir”, Álamo explica. “Lo que buscamos es que haya más embajadores de Juárez para que le cuenten al mundo que aquí hay vida”.

El Futuro del Museo y Retos que lo Acompañan

La Rodadora es un museo que seguirá creciendo e innovando. Álamo afirma los museos interactivos pueden volverse obsoletos. “Necesitamos mantenernos vigen-

tes, tenemos que innovar y traer cosas que a los niños les guste como la robótica. Inclusive estamos trabajando en un programa para desarrollar las vocaciones del futuro ya que no queremos volvernos obsoletos", ella dice.

Más de medio millón de personas han visitado el museo, pero para Álamo esto no es suficiente. "Nosotros queremos que en un

mediano plazo, se puedan encontrar extensiones de La Rodadora en las comunidades para darle seguimiento a todos los niños", Álamo explica. "Queremos que la comunidad de Juárez se vuelva consumidora de museos, nos gustaría expandirnos, pero tenemos que seguir mejorando nuestros esfuerzos y nuestro trabajo para así poder lograrlo".

Al final, Álamo concluye los niños son el motor de cada trabajador del museo y que por ellos se seguirá adelante. "Cuando bajo de la oficina y los veo sonreír, sé que todo esto vale la pena, ellos son los que motivan este proyecto y vamos a hacer lo mejor para poderlos ayudar", Álamo concluye.

IN BRIEF

Ciudad Juárez is not synonymous with violence and crime; it is a city where dreams are accomplished for the good of its people. For years, people have tried to help the children of Cd. Juárez. Unfortunately, world and local news have made this border city appear as one that is steeped in crime and injustices.

Through one of the biggest and most interactive museums in México, La Rodadora is helping children by demonstrating their contributions and assistance toward an entire region. The goal of La Rodadora is to make children proud citizens of Cd. Juárez.

As you enter La Rodadora, the use of colors, interactive exhibitions and games catches the attention of children, teens and adults.

The museum has a library, 3-D

theater, television sets, a recreated supermarket, animals, fossils, robots and games powered by solar energy, among other exhibitions. Through these experiences, all children, including those with disabilities, are able to feel they are a part of an entire community.

At this museum, children can experience the life of a reporter or a paleontologist, who studies the fossils of animals such as dinosaurs and mammoths.

Karen Álamo, general director of La Rodadora, says the museum is capable of creating fun experiences and learning engagement among children and adults. "We want them to learn about the place where they live, but we also want them to learn different vocations at an early age. This way, they are able to find and develop their talents because this will allow them to dream about

their future. The tool that we want to leave them with is education," Álamo says.

La Rodadora has created a program called Cultivando Sueños (Cultivating Dreams). This program has helped close to 100,000 children, who come from vulnerable and violent regions of the city. "The children get a workshop, where they are able to learn about emotion management, respect, culture and peace. This is with the intention of decreasing negative situations in the lives of our kids. We want them to live without hate and depression," Álamo says.

Despite the fact that a half million people have visited the museum, Álamo wants more. "As a midterm goal, we want to be able to have extensions of La Rodadora in all communities so we can provide help to all children," Álamo says.



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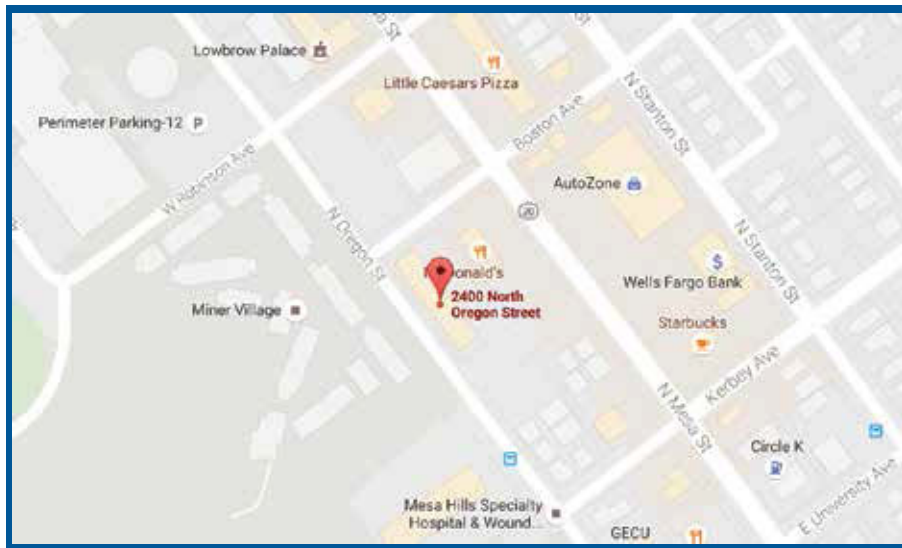
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ABUSE AT THE PORTS OF ENTRY

STORY BY: CHRISTIAN VASQUEZ

DESIGN BY: LAURA CHAIDEZ

PHOTOGRAPHY BY: ANDRES MARTINEZ

For five years, Moisés Esparza crossed the Stanton Street Port of Entry Bridge almost every day. He was six months away from achieving his dream of graduating from UTEP with a double major in financial analysis and international business.

That dream stopped at 7:30 a.m. on Monday, June 27, 2016, as Moisés crossed the bridge with his SENTRI card, the Secure Electronic Network for Travelers Rapid Inspection, a commuter lane that requires rigorous pre-screening.

With a finance test to prepare for, Moisés crossed the bridge in his light-brown Ford Explorer, with his white iPhone in the cup holder with the built-in recorder turned on.

The following conversation is taken from that recording.

"Good morning," says the Customs and Border Patrol Officer Peter Salas.

"Morning sir," Moisés replies.

*"Where are you going?"
"To school."*

"Are you recording?" the officer asks, noticing the iPhone.

This is not the first time Moisés recorded his crossing. He hoped to capture an interaction with a particular Customs and Border Protection agent—Salas in fact.

According to Moisés, Salas didn't like him. He didn't like that Moisés had an F1 visa, which allowed him to work and live in the U.S. Moisés says that Salas would even make comments about his hairstyle and glasses. For two years, Moisés endured Salas' comments.

Moisés wanted to record the interactions to send them to the CBP's internal affairs.

Moisés' experience is not unique. In May 2016, the American Civil Liberties Union of New Mexico Regional Center for Border Rights, the ACLU Foundation of Texas and the Southern Border Communities Co-

alition filed an administrative complaint against Customs and Border Protection on behalf of 15 individuals, including an 11-year-old U.S. citizen, for the "use of excessive force, verbal abuses, humiliating searches and intimidation to coerce individuals into surrendering their legal rights."

A border-wide campaign called "Dignity Crossing" documented abuses by CBP officers and agents from late 2014 to early 2016. They found 150 cases along points of entry in Arizona, New Mexico and Texas.

Around 30 of these cases occurred in El Paso and 10 had individuals willing to go forth with legal action and were severe enough to be included in the ACLU's administrative complaint.

Moisés tells officer Salas, yes, he is recording.

"Can you delete it?" the CBP officer asks.

Moisés replies “Uh no. I was told that I can do this in case, on the border, they treat me unfairly.”

Salas directs Moisés to pull over to the side and again asks him to turn off the recording.

*Moisés replies “No.”
“No?”*

“I want to speak to your supervisor. How you are treating me so far is (unfair).”

To Moisés, this wasn't just about being asked to delete his recording. This was about two years of verbal humiliation by Salas.

The fact that Moisés knew he could ask to speak with a supervisor is not well known. One of the administrative complaints by the ACLU is that CBP officers either discourage people from filing a complaint or do not inform individuals crossing the border about how to do so. It's one thing to know how to file a complaint, but it's another altogether to go through with it.

Cynthia Pompa, the field organizer for the New Mexico's ACLU Regional Center for Border Rights, says one of the issues that border crossers run into when filing a complaint is the fear of retaliation. “This is the reality that is unique to our border, we encounter the same law enforcement daily and that doesn't happen in other parts of the country,” Pompa says. “So the fear of retaliation is very present, especially if you are putting at risk seeing your family, going to work or going to school—or the idea that you're putting that at risk.”

After Moisés requests to speak with a supervisor, the CBP agent says, “No.”

Moisés begins to speak louder, telling the CBP agent that he wants to speak with his supervisor, and explains that he has the right to do so. The agent repeatedly says “No. No.”

This back and forth continues when another agent, Frausto, walks next to the car. After Moisés explains once again that he is being treated unfairly, Frausto replies in Spanish.

“But who was treating you unfairly? I mean, if you started recording without a reason, if you weren't given that unjust treatment yet. I don't see a reason why you were recording,” Frausto says.

If a CBP agent wants to inspect a vehicle, they have every right to do so without filing a warrant.

*“We're not targeting you, everybody—you see this car over here? The same thing that we're doing right here with you is the exact same thing we are going to do with them,” Frausto says.
“Yeah, but what he said is ‘delete the recording’ and that is illegal, that is extortion,” Moisés says.
Frausto laughs, “No it's not.”*

Moisés says the SENTRI lane office never told him that he could record, but at that moment, he was frightened and not thinking clearly. The supervisor, Ylsea Gardea, then comes up to the car. Salas steps back from the driver's door into the back door on the driver's side.

By this time, there are three more officers on the passenger side.

“Go ahead and step out of your car,” Gardea says, walking up to the driver's side. “Turn off—leave your phone inside the vehicle please.”

“No ma'am, I cannot do that,” says Moisés.

“You're not a complainant. I need you to step out, open up your car.”

Gardea got up on the SUV's foot rail and Moisés, afraid that she was going to try to force the door open, puts his hand over the locks on the armrest.

“Ma'am, you cannot do this unless I do it. Ma'am what you are doing?” Moisés says.

Gardea steps back away from the SUV.

*“Don't you touch my hand! Don't touch my—don't,” she says.
Salas steps in and yells, “You are not going to assault my supervisor!”
“I'm not assaulting your supervisor—No, no no-HELP. HELP!” Moisés says.*

Salas grabs Moisés' neck; Gardea rushes in and tries to grab the still-recording iPhone. Moisés, still screaming for help, grabs the phone with his right arm and puts it behind his back, his left hand struggling to get Salas off his neck. The SUV honks repeatedly over the screams for help and shouts of “stop resisting” by a CBP officer named Peña.

They wrestle Moisés out of his car and onto the ground, arresting him facedown with handcuffs behind his back.

“This is the reality that is unique to our border, we encounter the same law enforcement daily and that doesn't happen in other parts of the country.”

-Cynthia Pompa

field organizer with
New Mexico's ACLU Regional Center for Border Rights



Moisés loses his hold on his phone; it's picked up and the recording is stopped by a CBP officer.

Three officers hold Moisés to the ground. One of them, CBP officer Reyes, according to Moisés, stands up and kicks him in the back of the head.

"After that, they started taking out my wallet. Ylsea Gardea took out my wallet and stood in front of me, showing it to me and said, 'Oh, you have money,' then she leaves," Moisés says. "Then Reyes, standing in front of me, squats and says 'Hey, listen to me. You have no rights in here.'"

Moisés is taken into an interrogation room, Peña orders Moisés to take his shirt and shoes off. Reyes, Salas and Peña stand outside the door, taunting Moisés, telling him he is not going to be allowed back into the U.S. for 10 years. Later, an officer named Smith, along with Gardea, enters the room and Moisés explains what happened to Smith.

Moisés says that Smith told him, "If an authority tells you to do it, you must do it because that is when people die." After this statement, Moisés says he felt scared. He is told they weren't planning on doing anything to him and he shouldn't worry.

Smith later asks for the password for his cell phone. In reply, Moisés asks for his lawyer. The request is denied. Later, two officers come in and ask again for access to his cell phone and laptop. Moisés says that he will, after he speaks with a lawyer. He is told that if he doesn't comply, he will face terrorism charges. Fearing those charges, Moisés gives them access to both the laptop and iPhone.

Moisés is taken to the Paso Del Norte CBP office at 6 p.m., and is told he will be charged with assault. He again asks for a lawyer and

is told if he speaks to a lawyer, he will not be able to speak with the agents. Moisés replies he is fine with that. He is not allowed to speak to an attorney until three days later.

He is taken to the downtown El Paso County Detention Facility, where Moisés spends the next two months in jail. To pass the time, he works as a janitor and teaches his fellow inmates English.

Pompa explains that in order to find cases of abuse, organizations have to rely on campaigns because the CBP does not keep records of people they stop and interrogate, just individuals they arrest.

"So, for example, if somebody is driving by frequently through these checkpoints and they get questioned—they get sent to secondary (inspection) for any reason, the border patrol does not record. Was this a Hispanic person, was it a male or female?" Pompa says. "That's why we launch campaigns or do outreach work, so people know that we are here and that they can actually challenge that and they can call us to report it."

The CBP agency also does not provide data on reform actions to address institutional shortcomings, according to Pompa. "I think we have heard commitments to reforming the agency," Pompa says. "I think that a lot of people are talking about how there is a culture of abuse at the agency, unprofessionalism. However, just like specific steps, I don't think we've seen. We don't have a clear sense of whether agents are being held accountable for their actions. There's not a clear complaint process, people don't know how to complain or they are intimidated if they want to do that."

The number of Border Patrol agents grew from 9,200 in 2001 to 21,000 agents by the first term of the Obama administration. The CBP became 21 percent of the

Department of Homeland Security's budget in 2015, and the largest federal agency, as well as police force, in the country. But the rapid expansion did not seamlessly employ, train and place agents in the field. Instead, many agents went out into the field before their background checks were cleared. Stories about CBP officers smuggling drugs, undocumented individuals or even working for the cartels have risen alongside the hiring surge.

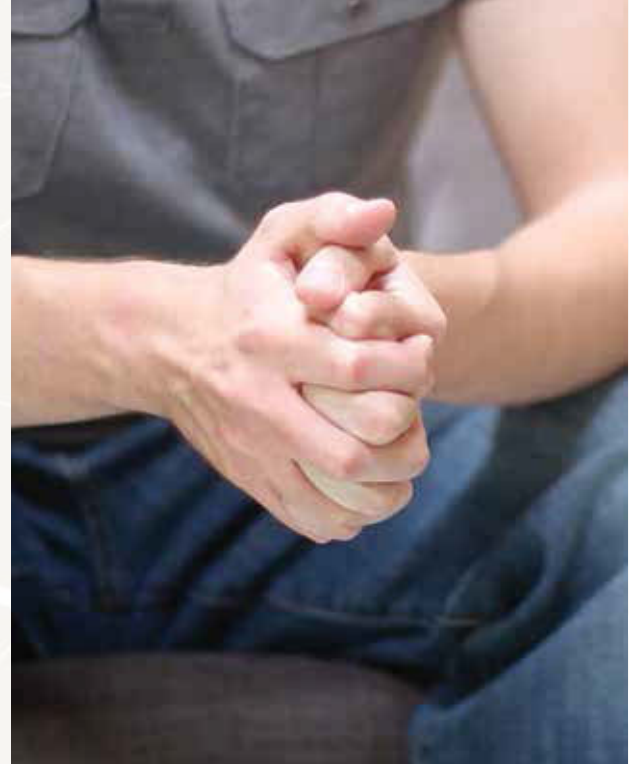
A former head of internal affairs at CBP, James Tomscheck, released a complaint in November 2011 stating that because he would not help cover up abuse and corruption; the agency retaliated against him through his performance review. Tomscheck believes that between 5 to 10 percent of the force was either involved in corrupt activity or was at a certain point. "When President Obama tried to (create guidelines) as a response to everything else that is happening in the country in terms of racial

discrimination and racial tension and he says all law enforcement needs to follow these guidelines, CBP's always excluded from that conversation," says Pompa.

Moisés is told by his lawyer that if he signs some papers, he will be released with only a misdemeanor charge, and he will be allowed to fight for his visa. He signs the papers and is kept in jail for six more days, and is told he cannot go to immigration because he is not from the United States. Moisés is released at the Paso Del Norte Bridge on Aug. 24, 2016, 58 days after his initial crossing.

"They screwed five years of my life that I tried to get my degree," Moisés says. "I was getting two degrees and I cannot do it anymore, and it's because a CBP has been bothering me and my family for two years."

Moisés is currently working at Alt



Mutual Funds, and he plans to go to the Autonomous University of Ciudad Juárez for a degree in finance. His dreams of completing his degrees and traveling the world are on hold for the moment, but he has not forgotten what happened to him and is still talking to civil rights organizations.

EN BREVE

Durante cinco años, Moisés Esparza cruzó el puente internacional de la calle Stanton casi todos los días. Él estaba a seis meses de lograr su sueño de graduarse de la Universidad de Texas en El Paso con una doble carrera en análisis financiero y negocios internacionales.

Ese sueño se detuvo a las 7:30 a.m. el lunes 27 de junio del 2016 cuando Moisés fue detenido en el puente por grabar el audio del momento en el que fue interrogado en la caseta del puerto de entrada usando su tarjeta SENTRI, Red electrónica segura para la inspección rápida de los viajeros.

Moisés capturó la interacción con Peter Salas, agente de la Oficina de Aduanas y Protección Fronter-

iza de los Estados Unidos. Según Moisés, el abuso del oficial Salas se caracterizaba por comentarios acerca de su cabello y lentes. El joven grababa con motivo de llevar pruebas a los asuntos internos de la oficina de aduanas.

"Esta realidad es única para nuestra frontera, nos topamos a los mismos oficiales de inmigración todos los días y eso no pasa en muchas partes del país", dice Cynthia Pompa, organizadora de la Unión Americana de Libertades Civiles del Centro Regional de los Derechos de Frontera de Nuevo México.

Moisés fue insultado, golpeado, interrogado y detenido por dos meses en las facilidades del Centro de Detención del Condado de El

Paso. Durante su estancia, Moisés hizo trabajo de limpieza mientras le enseñaba a los demás detenidos el idioma inglés.

Moisés fue liberado en el Puente Internacional Paso del Norte el 24 de agosto del 2016, 58 días después de su cruce inicial.

Él está actualmente trabajando en Alt Mutual Funds, y planea inscribirse en la Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez en la carrera de finanzas.

"Me echaron a perder cinco años de mi vida en los que intenté obtener mi diploma", Moisés dice. "Yo quería graduarme con dos diplomas y ya no puedo, y todo porque un oficial me molestó a mí y a mi familia por dos años".

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