

# THE MEXICAN MUSEUM FACT SHEET

## THE MEXICAN MUSEUM AND LATIN AMERICAN ARTS IN SAN FRANCISCO CELEBRATING A CULTURAL LEGACY

**T**he Mexican Museum and Latin American Arts in San Francisco (TMM) is proud to celebrate its achievements and ongoing impact as a vital cultural institution in the heart of the city. Since its creation, TMM has been committed to preserving, promoting, and celebrating the rich heritage and contributions of Latinos, Mexicans, and Mexican Americans in San Francisco and beyond.

### Some History and Facts

- The Mexican Museum is the oldest museum in the country focusing on Mexican, Mexican American, Chicano and Latin American art.
- Founded in 1975 by Chicano artist Peter Rodriguez in the Mission District in San Francisco and relocated to the Fort Mason Center in 1982.
- Today, TMM has a new permanent home at 706 Mission Street, adjacent to the Contemporary Jewish Museum, across from the Museum of the African Diaspora, and near the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.
- It is a Smithsonian affiliated institution, a member-supported 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation that has been awarded major funding from the California Cultural and Historical Endowment, San Francisco Office of Investment and Infrastructure (OCII), Millennium Partners and other philanthropic supporters.
- Since its inception, TMM has received donations and support from over 300,000 people and hundreds of organizations.
- Through its diverse exhibitions, educational programs and outreach initiatives it has reached thousands of visitors, creating meaningful connections and fostering a deeper understanding of Latino culture.
- During the pandemic, TMM kept its outreach, online exhibits and virtual arts programming, bringing culture and creativity to residents staying at home, especially to children, seniors, and vulnerable populations.

### Where We Are Today

- The shell of The Mexican Museum's new home at 706 Mission Street, SF was turned over on July 2023. The plan is to finish the interior construction of the TMM in 3 phases. We envisioned opening the first phase in 2025.
- In terms of scale, gallery and exhibition space, location and financial commitments, no other institution compares to this venue. It comprises a 60,000 square foot state-of-the-art museum with four levels of programming space and two floors of dedicated gallery space. Educational rooms and areas for lectures and seminars will extend a significant contribution to the San Francisco Bay Area and national cultural legacy.
- The San Francisco's Office of Community Investment and Infrastructure Commission ("OCII") unanimously approved the Museum's request for an 18-month extension of OCII grant funds designed to assist with the build-out. The extension was also approved by San Francisco's Oversight Board and by the CA Office of Finance in June 2024.
- TMM is currently in the process of starting the Capital Campaign to fundraising donations, which combined with the OCII grant funds, will finalize Phase I of construction (the first and second floors) of the Museum.
- The Mexican Museum is also excited to announce that Mission Neighborhood Centers, a highly respected San Francisco non-profit organization, has agreed to serve as the Museum's fiscal agent and to oversee the Museum's fundraising efforts.
- We have secure historic legislation in Mexico that will allow Mexican businesses to make tax deductible donations to TMM.

## Key Achievements and Impact

**The Museum Collection:** over 16,500 artworks; holdings span 2,500 years of history from pre-Hispanic objects to 21st century contemporary pieces. As a major repository, TMM actively acquires artwork and donations in all five of its collection areas:

- **Pre-Hispanic Art:** over 2,000 artifacts offer fine examples of Meso-American and South America collections including Aztec, Mayan and Incan civilizations.
- **Colonial Period:** art from the 18th & 19th centuries comprising 1,500 objects.
- **Popular Art:** represents the largest component of TMM with over 5,000 pieces.
- **Mexican and Latin American Art:** over 2,500 objects including paintings, sculptures and works on paper. Mexican masters such as Diego Rivera, José Clemente Orozco, David Alfaro Siqueiros, Rufino Tamayo, Rosa and Miguel Covarrubias are well represented in the collection. The works on paper collection is historically rich with rare books, and archival material.
- **Mexican American, Chicano and Latino Contemporary Art:** over 1,000 works of acclaimed artists such as Alejandro Colunga, Enrique Chagoya, Rupert Garcia, Carmen Lomas Garza, Ester Hernandez, Patssi Valdez, Gronk and hundreds of other emerging and accomplished artists are represented in The Mexican Museum.

## Celebrating Our Rich Heritage

- **Education:** Our art has been traveling through San Francisco schools and libraries, allowing families to get a close view of TMM, which has developed a robust array of educational programs catering to students. From school field trips to interactive workshops, the museum has welcomed thousands of students and families to learn about Latino history, art, and culture forging an identity with dignity.
- **Exhibitions:** We have presented 130+ exhibits that delve into the rich tapestry of our culture, continually educating and inspiring our visitors, receiving widespread acclaim for their thoughtful curation and exploration of diverse themes. Governor Newsom is displaying 16 art pieces from the Mexican Museum's collection in the office in the State Capitol.
- **Partnerships:** The Mexican Museum is deeply committed to engaging diverse communities. Through partnerships with other art institutions, participating in cultural events, the museum has become a gathering place for reflection and connection.
- **Revitalization:** In a time when it seems corporations and retailers are fleeing the city, the Mexican Museum is working tirelessly to open in 2025 to help breathe new life into the Yerba Buena Art District and its surroundings.

## Looking Ahead

### PHASE-WISE MUSEUM OPENING

#### PHASE 1

Lobby & first floor opening.

#### PHASE 3

Second floor opening.

#### PHASE 3

Third floor opening.

#### PHASE 4

Fourth floor opening.

Plans are underway for exciting new exhibitions, educational programs, and community initiatives to enrich the cultural landscape of the city.

THE MEXICAN MUSEUM

IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

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