

AN INVENTORY OF BELIZE'S CULTURAL CELEBRATIONS



November 2013 - April 2014

A Community-based Inventorying Pilot Project

The National Institute of Culture and History (NICH) through its Institute for Social and Cultural Research (ISCR) with support from UNESCO through the Government of Japan, conducted an inventorying pilot project to document several of Belize's Cultural Celebrations from November 2013 - April 2014. The project was conceived upon the development of the Banqitas Action Plan for Intangible Cultural Heritage of Belize at the conclusion of a Community-based Inventorying Workshop.

From the workshop a committee of 20 persons actively participated in the pilot project which included the retrieval of information such as history, associated cultural forms (food, oral traditions, music and dance etc.) by interviewing key persons involved in these celebrations. At the conclusion of the pilot project, 7 Cultural Celebrations in 12 communities were inventoried.

From the information inventoried several outputs have been produced including an exhibit, poster brochure and documentary videos featuring the celebrations. ISCR and Belize's ICH Network has continued to document other cultural celebrations as part of the development of a national inventory of intangible cultural heritage.

The cultural celebrations inventoried during this Pilot Project are:

1. *Los Finados*, November 1 - 2
2. *Yurumein*, November 19
3. *Las Posadas*, December 15 - 24
4. *Ox'lajun Ba'aktun Ceremony*, December 21 - 22
5. *Christmas Bram*, December 25 & 26
6. *Carnaval*, 3 days preceding Ash Wednesday
7. *La Semana Santa*, April 13 - 19

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