

COMMITTEE REPORTS
MARCH 2025

EXCURSIONS COMMITTEE

Budget to Actuals

Out & About: 10 tours (8 were sold out), netting \$70,130 in income, \$10,070 under projected income.

Hoofing It Hikes: 17 hikes (8 were sold out), netting \$50,651 in income, \$2,549 under projected income.

However, given that January Excursion income was over \$20,000 more than the budget projected, we have still exceeded the projected budget for the year to date.

Notes from Out & About:

Working to find new places for tour visits as well as schedule tours in the “off season” months to bring in additional income.

Notes from Hoofing It Hikes:

We held a season review session on Sunday (after a wonderful brunch of waffles at Tanya’s house!). Some important points for now (more info coming in March’s report):

Satisfaction questionnaire: 13% of participants have responded with overall satisfaction levels at over 4.5 out 5.0.

Publicity:

- We will be taking over the Hoofing It page on Travel Advisor so we can add content to general interest.

- In addition **we request the Board’s approval** to develop a separate Instagram and Facebook page for Hoofing It, both of which will stress that it is a program of the OLL. This will give the program (and we believe, the OLL as well) additional visibility. **We suggest that this might serve as a pilot for increasing publicity for selected programs of the OLL, especially those that generate income.** Note that some other organizations in Oaxaca do something similar. For example, the San Pablo Cultural Center has a separate Facebook page for the Fonoteca, which promotes the Center's music offerings.

Budget Hikes:

We are developing a plan to offer budget hikes that use public transportation (bus/taxi/moto), offered in smaller groups at lesser cost (and lesser expense to the OLL). These will be piloted in the next few months to gauge interest, and would likely be used during the off and shoulder seasons.

BOOK COMMITTEE REPORT

Members : David Myler, Shannon Sheppard, Joyce Hinton, Diana Carr, Sara Boscovich, Siobhan Grogan, Peter McCallion, Liz Renn, Lissa Waite, Kate Hart, Gabrielle Larew, Cathy Pekel, Patricia Saull.

Circulation: 1,797 items

Fines collected. 2,292 pesos

Book Sale income: 8,299 pesos

ACTIVITIES:

Participated in OLL Boutique Sale and collected over 1,200 pesos in book sales

Shelved books, magazines and DVDs

Trained volunteers in shelving and other tasks

Gave tours to visitors and new members

Staffed Circulation Desk

Catalogued new and donated books

Trained new cataloger

Managed Wish List and communicated with donors

Accepted evaluated and organized book donations

Provided readers advisory to users

Hosted Book & Author programs

Continued refining the Dewey numbers in Mexican History making searching easier for users

Added policy and form for Book/ Material Challenge to the Collection Development Policy

Mobile Book Display: "All You Need is Love"

Continued to update "Recommended Reading" on OLL website

COMITE DE VINCULACION Y DIVULGACION (OUTREACH)

Report to BOD

March 20, 2025

ACTION ITEMS :

1. JL & JD visit to Secondary School #6

A. Met with Heads of English Department and Director of Curriculum and Director of the School - Positive conversation and agreed to draft and both parties sign an agreement of collaboration

B. Will arrange visits by students and teachers to present the OLL as a resource in English studies

2. Collaboration with the Book Committee to assist in tours and explanation of the Collection and talks and programs available by the BC

John Dumser . Chair
Comite de Vinculacion y Divulgation de la OLL

FACILITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

BOD Meeting Mar 20, 2025

ACTION ITEMS :

2. Terrace : Comply with Municipal Regulations

- a. Documents have been received by Municipality
- b. Inspector/Photographer from Municipal authorities have visited the library to obtain visual evidence of the Terrace and verification of documents submitted.

2. Pending Projects:

- a. Mireya and Coni are doing repair work on ceiling of Northeast reading room and Circulation Desk Area
- b. Terrace W/C and Bodega roof requires repairs due to continued leaks from installed tinaco. Repair man called to assess work needed and provide estimate
- c. Both are required to be completed before the rain season

John Dumser - Chair
Facilities & Design Committee

TECH COMMITTEE

Nothing to share at this time.

**TERRACE TALKS
COMMITTEE REPORT TO THE BOARD
MARCH 2025**

PLEASE READ LINDA FARTHING'S EMAIL BELOW. MUY IMPORTANTE.

Ament, Ringold, Myler, Farthing
New member: Maya de la Torre

Maya will help with Social Media.

At our talks we could have sign-ups for prospective volunteers.

Monthly/quarterly talks to TT attendees? Do we have this data base?

We will schedule no talks when OLL is closed.

Can we work with Outreach to organize a talk by NGOs?

We considered the Strategic Plan and what we need to do.

We didn't meet in March.

Submitted by Gail Ament

Linda Farthing on digital nomads:

Notes from Linda Farthing's informal meeting with Lauren Biehl, BJ Van koot, Osa, and Maya de la Torres February 24, 2025 *(please feel free to share these with whoever you think appropriate)*

Everyone (except me!) is between 30 and 50; all white, middle-class females. Two from the US, one from Canada and one bicultural US/Mexico. With the exception of Osa who comes for several months a year, all live here year-round. Lauren works on the gringo water committee (Friends of Oaxaca water), BJ is a Terrace Talks Committee event manager and Maya has just joined the TTC. Osa doesn't have any relationship with either the library or other groups

Goal of the conversation: Brainstorm how to engage the under-65 crowd throughout the year at OLL and particularly during the snowbird off-season.

Challenges:

The biggest take away is that everyone thinks the library programming is terrific and interesting to them and their friends, but program timing isn't accessible to folk who work M-F daytimes. There is very little available evenings and weekends.

Ideas: promote one big evening or weekend talk/event per month (time frame 6:30-8:30 pm). Strong suggestion to make a flyer and post it to advertise events.

Some suggestions for other types of events (which of course have all been discussed before) were

- Film nights (particularly Mexican cinema)

- Book club
- Social events for younger people such as music nights or themed socials
- Hands on workshops on weekends (such as crafts, dance etc)
- Yoga, dance
- Explore having the library designate times to be a coworking space. Promote it as a coworking space with free wifi, 20 pesos water; Serve yourself coffee (and charge for it??)
- Game Nights
- Craft night

Some more brainstorming ideas:

Hold a weekend Welcome to Oaxaca- how to take busses & other practical info, how Oaxaca works, health food stores, hard to find things in Oaxaca, etc

Mexico Indie Film Screenings & Discussion afterwards; Partner with Cinema Cuervo; Cineyekuk Danzon talk and dance instruction; Cooking Classes; Culture of Oaxaca and Mexico; History; Politics; Municipalities; Infrastructure; How it's different than other countries in Latin America;

Promotion: WhatsApp groups; Oaxaca Women; Oaxaca Diversion Instagram; Coffee Shops; Coworking;

List of Volunteer opportunities could be provided with new library memberships; questions on library membership form for what types of volunteering you'd like to get involved in.

Fyi: Some of the places the younger expat crowd currently hangs out:

Convivio; Sala Toro on Humbolt; Selina Hostel (5 De Mayo y Morelos); Wombat (younger, bilingual; karaoke; dancing; hosts events; movies); coffee shops; Brujala coffee shop; Casa Seiba; Matamoros 404; Casa Seiba; Casa Bestia queer events on the other side of Conzatti park; Filamon porfirio diaz y near fandango.

Conclusion:

There was some interest/willingness to help get activities directed to the younger set off the ground. So, the discussion was less "the library should" and more "what can we do to make the library more useful and used by our age group" which was terrific.

This is a preliminary discussion and I await to hear comments and suggestions for followup if you agree we should try to move on it in some way.

Linda Farthing