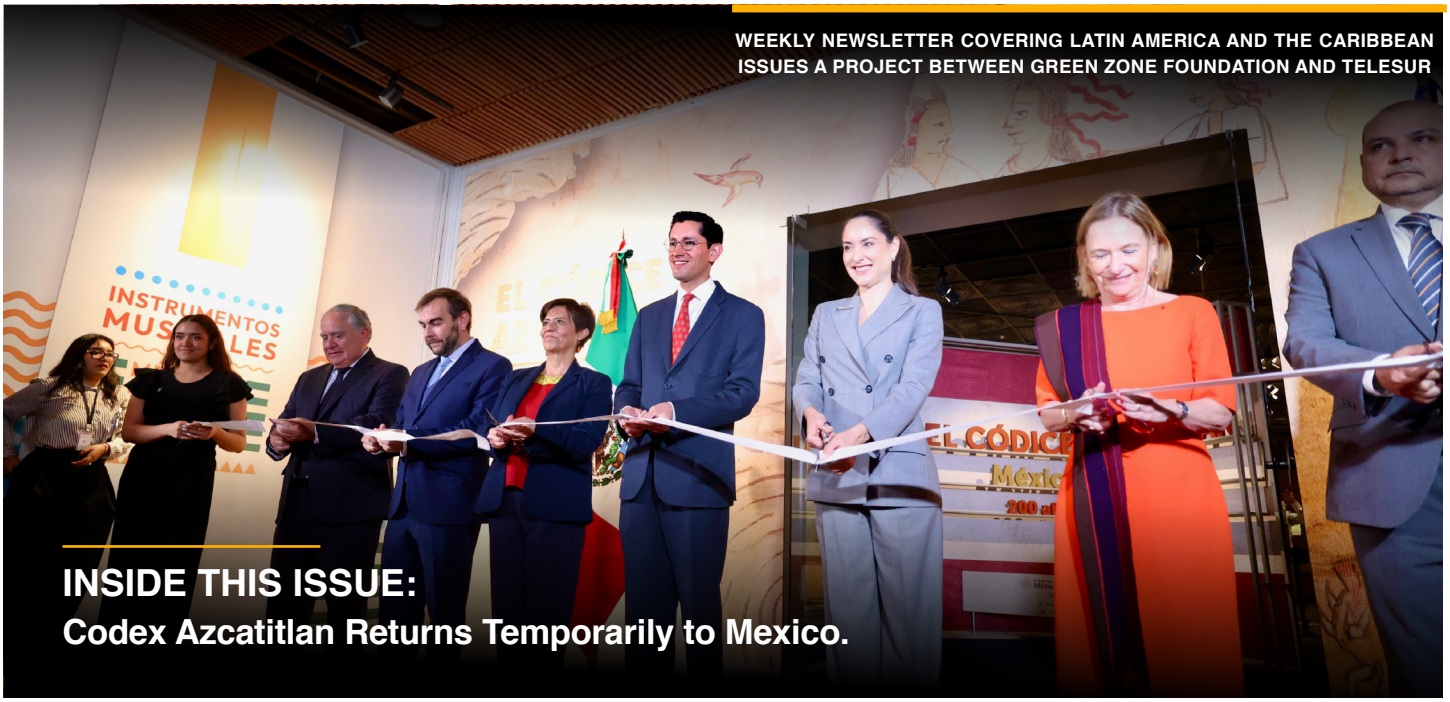
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NEWSLETTER

A VISION OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER COVERING LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
ISSUES A PROJECT BETWEEN GREEN ZONE FOUNDATION AND TELESUR

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:
Codex Azcatitlan Returns Temporarily to Mexico.



Instituto Cervantes Launches Its First Academic Chair in Northern Ireland.

The Instituto Cervantes consolidates its expansion in the United Kingdom with the opening of its first academic chair in Northern Ireland.



International Intellectuals Reflect at the Madrid Festival of Ideas.

The Madrid Festival of Ideas will bring together more than a hundred international intellectuals to analyze the body as a focal point of democracy, violence, and technology.



Santo Domingo Hosts the 12th Ibero-American Museum Meeting.

The 12th Ibero-American Meeting of Museums brings together professionals from the region in Santo Domingo to discuss the social appropriation of heritage and artificial intelligence.



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Codex Azcatitlan Returns Temporarily to Mexico.

The temporary exhibition of the Azcatitlan Codex in Mexico strengthens the exchange of cultural heritage with France and reopens the discussion regarding the recovery of historical Mexican documents.

The Codex Azcatitlan is on temporary display at Mexico's National Museum of Anthropology until December 31, 2026, as part of a cultural exchange with France marking the bicentennial of diplomatic relations between the two nations. The exhibition, titled Codex Azcatitlan: Mexico-France, 200 Years of Friendship, brings back for the Mexican public a manuscript that left the country in 1840 and is currently housed at the National Library of France (BNF).

Baltazar Brito Guadarrama, director of the National Library of Anthropology and History (BNAH), explained that the Codex Azcatitlan consists of 25 folios of European paper and documents approximately 500 years of Mexica history. The manuscript covers the migration from Aztlán—considered the place of origin of the Mexica people—the election of Acamapichtli as the first tlatoani (ruler), and the period of the conquest of Mexico-Tenochtitlan.

"There are likely around 600 codices in the world. Having an original codex come to Mexico and allowing us to reconnect with it is, I believe, very significant," Guadarrama noted. According to the official, France holds more than 100 codices, as well as copies of documents whose originals have been lost. The BNF and the BNAH together hold nearly 35 percent of the world's existing codices.

Through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (SRE) and the Ministry of Culture, the Mexican government is working to recover the Codex Azcatitlan and other documents considered national heritage. Guadarrama indicated that this exchange represents a step in that effort and expressed his hope that the manuscript might eventually return to Mexico permanently through a donation from France.

The temporary loan stems from an agreement between the President of Mexico, Claudia Sheinbaum, and the President of France, Emmanuel



Macron, to organize reciprocal exhibitions marking the bicentennial of diplomatic relations between Mexico and France, which is being commemorated this year. During Macron's visit to Mexico in November 2025, Sheinbaum described the codex as the country's living memory and the deep root of our identity.

The Azcatitlan Codex was created between the mid-16th and late 17th centuries. Its authorship remains unknown, as such manuscripts belonged to the community and were not typically attributed to an individual artist. It is believed that its first owner was Fernando de Alva Ixtlilxóchitl, a descendant of Nezahualcóyotl. Later, the document passed into the hands of Sigüenza y Góngora, who bequeathed his library to the Society of Jesus.

In 1737, the Italian historian Lorenzo Boturini acquired the Jesuit holdings, including manuscripts of indigenous origin. Ninety-three years later, the French researcher Joseph Marius Alexis Aubin obtained the collection and transported it to France. In 1830, Aubin sold the documents to the French-Mexican Eugène Goupil. After his death, his widow donated the archive to the BNF, on the condition that it remain in the custody of that public institution.

As part of the bilateral agreement, the Boturini Codex will also return to Mexican territory on December 31, 2026, following its presentation at the French institution.



Instituto Cervantes Launches Its First Academic Chair in Northern Ireland.

The Instituto Cervantes consolidates its expansion in the United Kingdom with the opening of its first academic chair in Northern Ireland, coinciding with the centenary of the Department of Spanish at Queen's University.

Instituto Cervantes announced on Wednesday that it will establish an academic chair at Queen's University Belfast, marking the Spanish institution's first permanent presence at the leading university in the British province of Northern Ireland. This milestone comes during a landmark year, as the academic institution celebrates the centenary of its Department of Spanish—the oldest in the United Kingdom. This new academic and cultural initiative continues the Cervantes' expansion across the UK, following the establishment of its first chair in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 2023. The project aims to boost the promotion of the Spanish language in the region, where, over the last decade, it has risen from the tenth most spoken language to sixth place.

Instituto Cervantes Director Luis García Montero will participate in several events in Belfast starting Thursday to celebrate the centenary of Queen's Department of Spanish—known as the "Musgrave Chair of Spanish"—and to advance the creation of this new institutional role.

Until now, the Cervantes had not conducted any activities—whether in teaching, language certification, or culture in the Northern Irish capital,despite the city's strong ties to literature and the arts.

Belfast is the birthplace of writer C.S. Lewis and was linked to the career of Irish poet Seamus Heaney, the 1995 Nobel Prize laureate in Literature.

The Cervantes also highlighted Queen's University's status as a member of the Russell Group, a coalition of leading research-intensive British universities. With a century-long history, its Department of Spanish serves as a hub for cultural and intellectual connection between the region and the Spanish-speaking world, engaging in activities such as research and internationalization.

Events scheduled for Thursday include the opening of the exhibition "100 Years of Spanish @Queen's: celebrating the past, shaping the future" at the university's McClay Library. The exhibition will review the cultural, educational, and global impact of Hispanic studies at Queen's over the last century and will address the future of language teaching.

That same day, García Montero will take part in a poetry reading alongside Queen's researcher Isabel Torres. The centenary program will be rounded out by various lectures and meetings with figures linked to Spanish-language culture, including writer and critic Juan Manuel Bonet, writer Elvira Lindo, and Argentine poet Claudia Masin.



International Intellectuals Reflect at the Madrid Festival of Ideas.

The Madrid Festival of Ideas will bring together more than a hundred international intellectuals to analyze the body as a focal point of democracy, violence, and technology.

More than one hundred guests—including writers, philosophers, political scientists, filmmakers, and singers—will participate in the Madrid Festival of Ideas, taking place from September 17 to 20. This annual gathering centered on thought will focus on the body in a broad sense, spanning from individual to social perspectives, to reflect on the health of democracy, borders, and artificial intelligence.

As Marcela Vélez, one of the event's curators, explained to EFE, the festival will address the theme of "the body as that materiality we all possess, which enables life and thought." The scope will extend to the social body, seeking to share ideas, question certainties, and view the world from new perspectives by occupying both outdoor spaces and indoor cultural venues across the city.

The opening event, scheduled for Thursday, will feature Mexican figures Lydia Cacho and Brenda Navarro. On the main stage at Plaza de España, they will discuss "The Wounded Body: Violence, Exile, and the Reconstruction of the Intimate Map. British writer Zadie Smith, author of the novel White Teeth, will be one of the key figures. Her visit coincides with the publication of her essay collection Feel Free. She will meet with students and converse with French writer Édouard Louis about narrating, the social wound. Meanwhile, Spanish philosopher and art curator Paul B. Preciado will lead the closing session with a talk titled "No One Knows What a Body Can Do," framing the body as a site of political resistance.

The program also includes American political scientist Susan Stokes—whose work *The Backsliders* analyzes "leaders who erode their own democracies"—who will speak on the threats and passions defining contemporary societies.Belgian philosopher Mark Coeckelbergh will examine the real-world impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on the human condition and how it reshapes sensory and social experience. The festival will incorporate other disciplines, featuring Spanish filmmaker Rodrigo Sorogoyen and multidisciplinary artists Niño de Elche and Rodrigo Cuevas.

Alongside the talks, the program includes workshops for adults and children, philosophical walks, and discussion points on the streets of central Madrid, where any citizen can have their say. These activities aim to democratize access to knowledge and foster critical thinking in the public sphere.

Santo Domingo Hosts the 12th Ibero-American Museum Meeting.



The 12th Ibero-American Meeting of Museums brings together professionals from the region in Santo Domingo to discuss the social appropriation of heritage, artificial intelligence, and the protection of biocultural territories.

Starting on Monday, the city of Santo Domingo is hosting the 12th Ibero-American Museum Meeting (12th EIM), an event bringing together professionals and sector leaders from across the region through Wednesday, September 16, 2026.

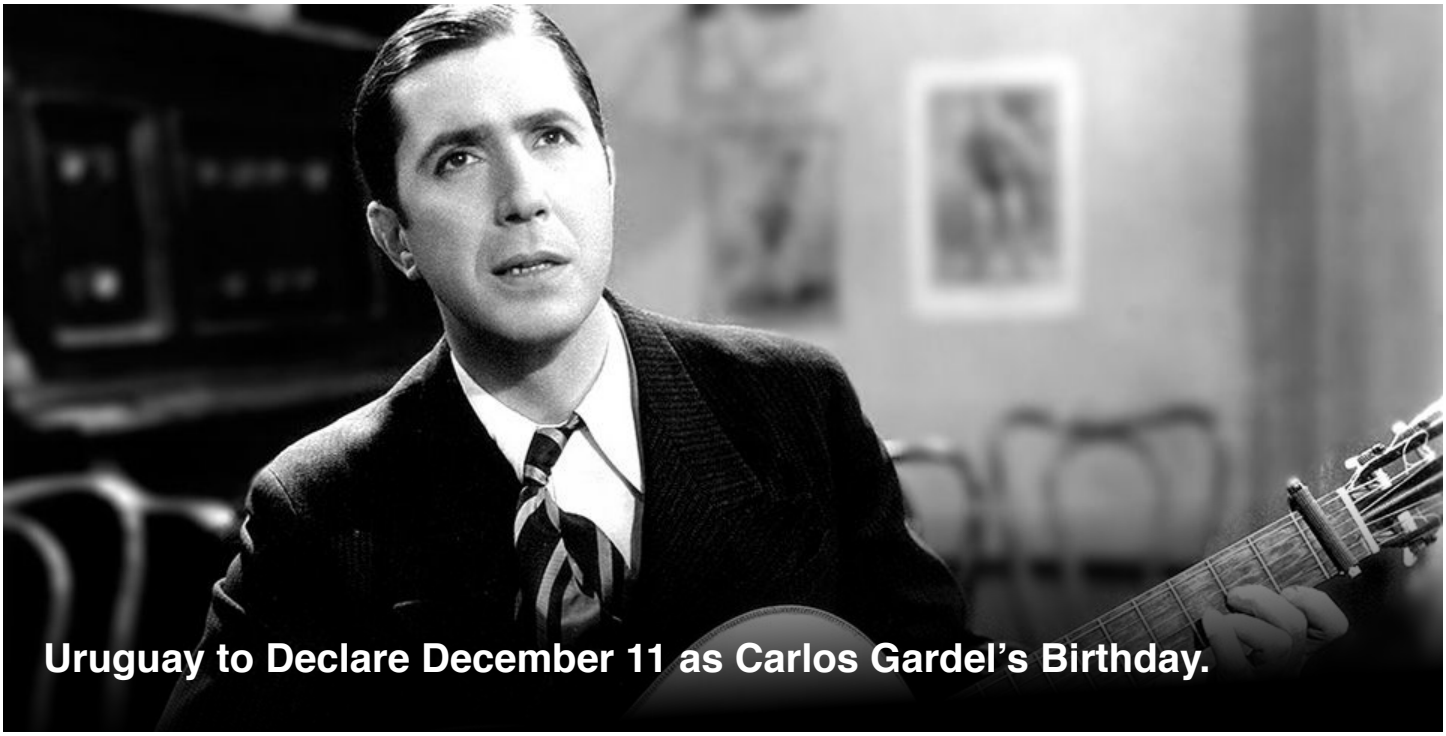
The event's primary objective is to analyze heritage, community participation, and the future challenges facing museums, thereby establishing itself as the region's leading forum for reflection, exchange, and cooperation within the museum sector.

The meeting is being held under the theme "Shared Heritage, Common Futures." This edition aims to foster a collective perspective that links heritage, the present, and the future, recognizing heritage as a living expression of the identities, memories, and cultural practices of Ibero-American societies.

The initiative seeks to promote the exchange of experiences and cooperation among museum institutions, while reinforcing the role of museums as social and cultural agents connected to their local territories and communities.

The event is organized around three fundamental thematic pillars: diversity and the social appropriation of heritage; narrating, interpreting, and co-creating heritage as a contested space; and biocultural territories and a culture of peace. Additionally, the agenda addresses the impact of artificial intelligence on museum narratives and the protection of biocultural territories against climate-related risks.The Ibero-American Museum Meeting is an initiative of the Ibermuseos Program, established in 2007 to foster cooperation, dialogue, and technical exchange among the region's countries. The program works in areas such as public policy development, professional training, and the protection of museum heritage, promoting collaboration among the region's more than 10,000 museum institutions.

This edition is backed by the General Directorate of Museums of the Dominican Republic's Ministry of Culture and supported by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID). The 12th EIM positions itself as a space where memory and the future intersect, promoting a more democratic, participatory, and place-based approach to cultural heritage.



Uruguay to Declare December 11 as Carlos Gardel's Birthday.

The Uruguayan Chamber of Representatives unanimously approved a bill declaring December 11 as Carlos Gardel's Birthday.

On Wednesday, Uruguay's Chamber of Representatives approved a bill seeking to designate December 11 as Carlos Gardel's Birthday; the initiative will now move to the Senate to continue the legislative process.

After being approved by the Lower House's Education and Culture Committee, the bill went to the full chamber, where it received unanimous support from the 82 deputies present.

The initiative consists of two articles: the first establishes December 11 of each year as "Carlos Gardel's Birthday," in recognition of official Uruguayan state documentation recording his birth in the department of Tacuarembó on December 11, 1887.
The second article declares any commemorative activity regarding the singer-songwriter's birthday held within Uruguayan territory to be of cultural interest.

In his statement of purpose, Frente Amplio representative Gustavo Guerrero noted that the bill's fundamental aim is for Parliament to recognize the heritage and identity value that the figure of Carlos Gardel represents for the Río de la Plata region, and particularly for Uruguay. The lawmaker highlighted a document found in Uruguay last year:

"The discovery made on November 28, 2025, by the 'Gardel Rioplatense' Commission of the Fans de la Música Foundation—located in the Historical Diplomatic Archive of Uruguay's Ministry of Foreign Affairs—is definitive."

Guerrero explained that this book—which also lists more than a thousand compatriots who completed the same procedure between January 1915 and mid-1924—contains the record of his declaration stating that he was born in the department of Tacuarembó on December 11, 1887.

The congressman added that this registration, now documented via a notarial deed and entered into the Civil Registry, holds great historical and legal significance, as the previously undocumented Carlos Gardel was officially registered by the Uruguayan State.
For his part, fellow Broad Front (Frente Amplio) representative Pablo Inthamoussu remarked that approving the bill is not an attempt to create a rift with the Argentine people, but quite the opposite. As was rightly noted, it was Carlos Gardel's wish to retain his nationality while—naturally—also embracing Argentine nationality. That Buenos Aires to which he sang so often. A singer who was deeply *Rioplatense*, the legislator emphasized.



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