



Post Fellowship Reporting - Project Summary

Report Title: Mariachi Performance in Los Angeles **Name:** Jose Torres
Other Team Members:
Program: Greater Houston Area Program
Trip Dates: 06/30/2011 - 08/07/2011 **Location Visited:** Los Angeles, United States
Post Fellowship Reporting Template: PFR Template 0

Project Summary: This summer I traveled to Los Angeles to study mariachi music by working as a musician in the professional world and collaborating with different artists, teachers, and directors. My principal focus was with the Grammy award winning mariachi "Los Camperos de Natí Cano" who are directed by Jesús "Chuy" Guzmán. I sat in on rehearsals and spent time observing how Mr. Guzmán teaches, directs and writes music for Los Camperos.

I also worked with various local area mariachi groups learning the characteristics of local performance, economy, social structure and business practices. I interviewed leading mariachi practitioners and researchers in the field such as Laura Sobrino, Jeff Nevin, Russell Rodriguez, Juan Manuel Cortez, and José L. Hernández. Mr. Hernández allowed me the opportunity to observe rehearsals for his grammy winning Mariachi Sol De Mexico and female Mariachi Reyna de Los Angeles.

I took the opportunity to visit many different restaurant venues to see performances by local mariachi groups from Sol de Mexico, Reyes de Mexico, and Mariachi Las Divas.

I also spent visiting the campus of UCLA and USC which have top departments of music and ethnomusicology. I visited their music libraries and archive collections on commercial and Latin American Music.

I also visited local tailors who make mariachi uniforms and accessories to learn more about the uniforms of the mariachi.

Career Impact: * Improved mastery and knowledge of content area

- * Renewed motivation for teaching and promoting music and cultural awareness
- * New classroom teaching techniques for interpretation and mastery of the mariachi art form
- * Ideas for creating new knowledge in the area of mariachi education
- * Opportunities to network with professional artists in the field as well as teachers and researchers
- * Personal opportunities to further my musical skills to help me become a better teacher of music performance

Classroom/Community Impact:* Students have gained access to a broader field of knowledge

- * School Community has an awareness of the Fund for Teachers and its benefits for teaching and students
- * Students are have gained an appreciation for broadening knowledge through travel and exploration
- * Opinion towards field work and research has improved among school community
- * Students are applying field work techniques in their own classroom practices

Open Response: * Two master class workshops with teachers and professional artists contacted through this trip

- * A curriculum guide emphasizing performance practices and cultural knowledge acquired through this trip
- * A proposed workshop for mariachi teachers in Houston ISD to share information and knowledge acquired on this trip

* A proposed workshop for mariachi students in Houston ISD to share information and knowledge acquired on this trip

Quote: The Fund for Teachers grant allowed me an opportunity to rejuvenate my commitment to teaching through a self-designed journey that enhanced my personal and professional goals.

Photos:



Myself & Mariachi Los Salazar at a gig in Seal Beach, CA



Myself and my kids at a Giants game in San Francisco.



Mariachi Reyes de Mexico at La Fonda in Los Angeles



Grammy Award winner José L. Hernández rehearsing Reyna de Los Angeles



Women's Mariachi Reyna de Los Angeles



The Mariachi Plaza in East LA



My kids at the LA Natural history Museum



Grammy Award Winning Mariachi Sol de Mexico in Cielito Lindo Restaurant