

City of Austin's Core Cultural Funding Grant

April 18, 2016

My name is Daniela Libertad, I come from Mexico City, I am a visual artist, and currently the resident artist at the Museum of Human Achievement (MoHA). Thanks to Leslie Moody Castro (independent curator and a very important link between the art scenes of Mexico City and Texas) I received the invitation to participate in this great experience.

My time here in Austin has been fascinating. I did not know how vibrant and interesting the art scene is, how people have been organizing themselves to create and maintain spaces and actions to support the artist community. MoHA is one of those great multidisciplinary spaces that are trying to support artists, while respecting their vision and integrity, creating a community and constantly generating (I am not quite sure how they do it, but they do) that peculiar energy that is required to create.

Since I arrived here, I have been feeling that peculiar energy that I have not felt in previous residencies I have attended. It might have to do with the fact of me staying at this place, living in the space, sleeping at my trailer, showering here, cooking here and immediately going to my studio and work. At MoHA there is always someone working, someone rehearsing, someone doing something, someone making coffee at 1:00 am and going back to the studio to work; for me, that is the peculiar energy that this place generates, a work energy, it is like electricity and I physically feel how it is pushing me all the time.

The other thing that I have never experienced before, is the fact of how MoHA (Zac Traeger and Lauren Klotzman), Leslie Moody Castro and Carlos González Gutiérrez the Consul General of Mexico in Austin worked together to bring me here. I had never had so much support before, neither so many considerations towards my wellness during my stay. I have received an schedule of studio visits with important figures of Austin's art scene, I was able to show my work during the *Fusebox Festival*, I have received all the support to solve technical problems, I have been able to use all MoHA's technical equipment (lightning, tripod, monitors, power tools, etc.), I will go to a radio show to talk about my time here at MoHA, I will have a solo show at the MoHA's gallery by the end of the month.

I have been wondering during my stay: Why do they support me the way they do if they barely know me? I guess it has to do with the fact of supporting a whole idea of trust, of making things differently, of knowing that a life without art is not so interesting and meaningful, of letting grow that peculiar energy among the people who integrate/attend to/collaborate with MoHA.

Coming from Mexico City, I can tell you, we don't have a space like MoHA yet, there are some groups of people trying to create a space where people can meet, where artists can work and

collaborate, where concerts can be held, where theater pieces can be performed with all the infrastructure that is required to host multidisciplinary events. I repeat, we still do not have a place like MoHA, I believe MoHA has to exist for many many years and that peculiar energy has to spread to other latitudes, I am taking one piece of that energy with me already.

With all my gratitude,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Daniela', written in a cursive style.