

Global Solidarity Retreat

with Sandra Moran, Artesana

September 26-28, 2014; ongoing solidarity into 2015 and beyond

Overview: Sandra Moran and Artesana

Artesana and CoDevelopment Canada are trying something different this year. We want to connect those interested in positive change in the world with Guatemalan activist Sandra Moran. Your connection will begin with a weekend retreat on Gambier Island, where you will get to know each other, learn more about Sandra's work, plan for the following months - and have fun!

CoDevelopment Canada (CoDev) has had a long relationship with Casa Artesana. Along with a Canadian partner (Hawthorne Foundation), CoDev supports Casa Artesana's work with female prisoners in art therapy and rights training. For more information on Sandra and Artesana, see page 2.

Approximate timeline

Sept 26-28	Retreat at Fircom on Gambier Island
Oct 2014 – Feb 2015	Continue to be connected (from Canada)
Feb 2015	Celebration, reflection, and plans for future (from Canada)

We will be staying in Fircom's new Cottage (a self-contained building with six 2-bed rooms, kitchen, dining room and living area). Meals (Saturday breakfast, lunch, snack, dinner; Sunday breakfast and lunch) will be provided. Bring loose, comfortable attire, walking/hiking shoes, and a few of your favourite snacks. Accommodations will be shared; linens and towels are provided. We will book a shared water taxi for Friday evening from Horseshoe Bay, at a time that works for participants. The return water taxi will be Sunday afternoon.

Cost

The experience of connecting with an international leader and finding a way to work in solidarity with that leader is significant. The Global Solidarity Retreat builds the kind of meaningful relationships that are normally built only through international volunteer experiences.

\$350 – retreat cost including room, shared food, facilitated sessions, water taxi
Subsidies available, please enquire.

If you want to make this retreat accessible to others, please consider making an additional contribution to CoDevelopment Canada.

To apply, please fill out the application form (below) and submit to malibain@gmail.com. Participants will be selected after September 15th; after that spaces will be allocated as available.

“If you have come to help me, you are wasting your time. But if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together.”

Lila Watson, an Indigenous Australian

Sandra Morán and Artesana: Background

Sandra Morán is one of Guatemala's most prominent feminists and performance artists. She is Guatemala's representative on the World March of Women, a spokesperson for the Guatemalan Women's Sector (an alliance of 33 Guatemalan women's groups), and a member of the Artesana collective.

As a representative of the Women's Sector, Sandra was the driving force behind the National Women's Forum, a body that generated participation and proposals for women's public policy after the signing of the Peace Accords

She joined the Guatemalan human rights movement at fourteen and during the 1980s became involved with Guatemala's renowned rebel band Kin Lalat.

Sandra's human rights and musical activism made her a target for the death squads and by the late 1980s, she was forced into exile in Nicaragua, Mexico and Vancouver, Canada to escape the violence. During her years in exile, she participated in solidarity work and became involved in the Canadian women's movement. Sandra returned to Guatemala City in the mid-1990s to continue her work for women's rights. Upon her return, she came out as a lesbian, and has also been active in promoting GBLTQ rights in Guatemala.

She continues to perform percussion and poetry, and in 2011 helped form the band "Centro-America Feminista," made up of prominent women singer-songwriters from several Central American countries.

Sandra says she is "committed to understanding systems of oppression from different points of view." She believes that, to create positive social change, activists must confront internalized beliefs of racism, homophobia, and other prejudices while addressing external systems of oppression.

Youtube clips showing different aspects of Sandra Moran's work:

Sandra and her Band "Viento en Contra" (Against the Wind) -
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f59YRhWA1-s>

Sandra speaks (in English) about the work of Artesana:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=huNjSAP3XOc>

A Kin Lalat reunion in 2013 (after many years apart). Sandra on percussion -
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1SNFRV2dWts>

Artesana

The Artesana Collective pressures the State to create and apply public policy in order to prevent crimes against women, support the rights of detained women, and stop social discrimination. The Artesana Collective works to contribute to the recognition, respect and exercise of women's rights through art, sports and other forms of creativity. The Artesana Collective is formed by feminist women, defenders of human rights, artists and professionals.

Artesana Global Solidarity Retreat Application

A Global Solidarity Retreat is an opportunity to:

- Build a relationship with a leader from the Global South
- Connect with others in the Vancouver area interested in global solidarity
- Make plans for how to work together for the subsequent 6 months
- Enjoy Gambier Island, in beautiful Howe Sound

We welcome a diverse group of participants – those familiar with this work and those new and interested. You will benefit most from this retreat if you have one or more of the following:

- Interest in women’s issues and/or activism in Guatemala
- Interest in social justice and/or working in solidarity
- Awareness of own social location (race/gender/class/sexual orientation/ability/etc)
- Experience working in an international and/or Indigenous context
- Experience with women who have experienced violence and/or women in the prison system
- Spanish language skills, written and/or spoken

While the exact nature of the commitment will be determined through the interactions as a group during the retreat, in general terms you will commit to contribute 10 – 30 hrs/month for at least 6 months (in Canada) on initiatives to support Artesana (for eg, awareness-raising, collaborative projects, fundraising, other). Participants will be selected after September 15th; after that spaces will be allocated as available.

Please answer the following questions to the best of your ability.

First Name: _____ Last Name(s): _____
Your phone number: _____ Email address: _____

Emergency Contact: _____ Relationship to you: _____
Phone Number: _____

Food allergies or dietary restrictions: _____

Other allergies: _____

Mobility needs: _____

Spanish language ability: _____

1. What motivates you to apply for the Global Solidarity Retreat?

2. What do you hope to learn from this retreat?

3. What do you hope to learn from an ongoing connection with Sandra Moran / Artesana?

4. What intercultural experiences have you had? What have you learned from these?

5. What special skills or experiences do you bring that relate to Artesana's work (eg arts-based approaches to healing, women against violence against women, advocacy, activism and healing)?

6. Describe relevant work or volunteer experience that you've had:

Role	Dates	Comments

7. What role do you see yourself playing in the group, both during the retreat and in the follow-up? (Do you see yourself leading, supporting, making peace, organizing, challenging...?)

8. Do you have any questions, concerns, or comments?

I understand that a Global Solidarity Retreat is a collaborative team effort and participants are expected to share accommodation. I agree to accept all of the risks existing in this activity. By signing this document, I acknowledge that if anyone is hurt during my participation in this activity, I have waived my right to maintain a lawsuit.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Thank you for your application and interest. Please submit to malibain@gmail.com by September 15th, 2014.