



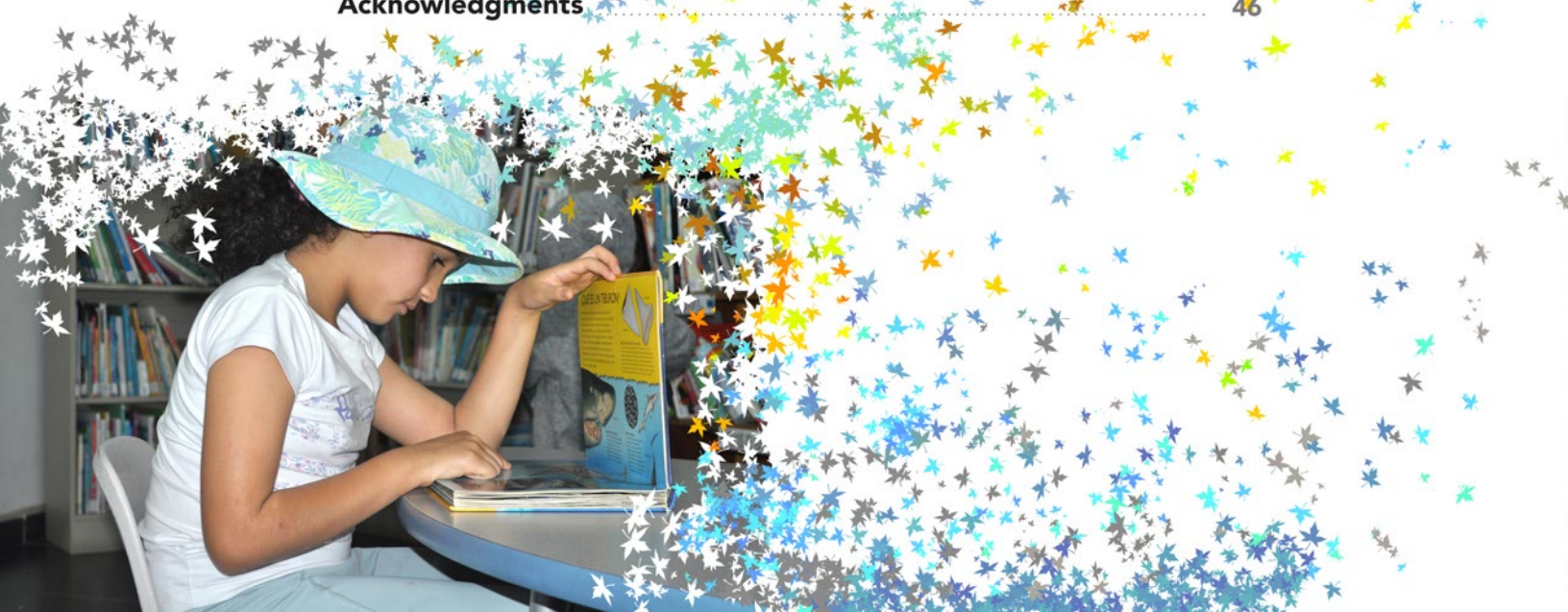
FUNDACIÓN
BIBLIOTECA DE BOQUETE



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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***A library is not a luxury but
one of the necessities of life."***

—Henry Ward Beecher

Over the passing years, we have engaged in a variety of activities to promote "culture" within our community. Each action undertaken has been a source of learning and adjusting, allowing us to seize every opportunity for the collective well-being of those around us.

Every year unfolds like an open book, its chapters filled with happiness, hope, sadness, and diverse emotions that complement each other. In the end, these experiences culminate in numerous lessons that inspire us to persevere each day. Our ongoing quest involves exploring options for the development and well-being of our community.

In educational endeavors, with the support of the "Sus Buenos Vecinos" foundation from Banco General, we successfully implemented the environmental education program titled "**Explorando Mi Parque Biblioteca Boquete.**" This initiative reached over 700 children from schools in our community, surpassing expectations and actively involving the school community, along with numerous families.

The enthusiasm of the youth enables us to successfully organize, for the second consecutive year, literary encounters focused on themes from Panamanian authors as part of the "**Juventud y Lectura**" program.

The children's choir group "**Niños Cantores de Boquete**" successfully completed their second year, demonstrating musical discipline on each occasion as a complement to their education. This has yielded incredibly positive results in the lives of everyone involved.

The progress achieved in the "**Parque Biblioteca Boquete**" project is remarkable, with cobblestone pathways, lush greenery, a bridge, and every other element designed to create a precious and enduring unique space for the users.

In harmony with music, the library presents concerts featuring both local and international artists, of a high caliber. A variety of talented artists and musicians contribute virtuoso performances that consistently exceed our expectations. Additionally, we enhance this cultural tapestry with our permanent gallery highlighting the works of painters, photographers, artists and artisans. Each month, these diverse artistic expressions adorn the walls of our institution, adding beauty and vibrancy to the space.

We take great satisfaction in contributing to the improvement of the educational and cultural levels within our community and its surroundings. It has been a tremendous honor to address some of the educational needs specific to our region. In the following pages, we will provide you with a summary of the year 2023.



LITERATURE



“When I look back, I am so impressed again with the life-giving power of literature. If I were a young person today, trying to gain a sense of myself in the world, I would do that again by reading, just as I did when I was young.”

—Maya Angelou

■ POETRY

RECITAL WITH HÉCTOR COLLADO

Organizes: “Movimiento Furtivos”
Collaboration of: Fundación Biblioteca
de Boquete

*“That spot that stirs,
and crowns Ancon Hill
carries in each written star,
a sacred song.”*

'Para darle cuerda al sol', de Héctor Collado.



Letters unveil the beginning of literary activities in 2023 with a recital gracing the lands of Boquete. Professor Héctor Collado, renowned for his exceptional talent in both oral and written expression, presented one of his most beloved performances, uplifting Panamanian poetry with his daily dedication to the art of words.

The live performance and intervention brought joy to poetry enthusiasts, who, in the month of love and friendship, experienced a delightful shower of verses from the source of their creation.



BOOK PRESENTATIONS

FUGITIVOS DEL PAISAJE (FUGITIVES OF THE LANDSCAPE)

Author: Juan David Morgan

"As the evening of the second day fell, they finally reached the entrance to Boquete. From the summit, they descended into a deep valley, more like an enormous crevice carved into the mountains, God knows how many thousands of years ago when the volcano had erupted. In the midst of that hollow, like a small nest intersected by the silver ribbon of a river, lay the town of Boquete. The climate was colder than that of Cali. However, the landscape boasted an incomparable beauty. That initial view of Boquete would remain etched forever in Clara's memories."

Extract from 'Fugitivos del paisaje',
Jorge Thomas.

The renowned Panamanian author, Juan David Morgan, presented "Fugitivos del Paisaje," a literary gem whose gripping narrative takes us through the twists of fate that befall a family residing in rural Chiriquí over three generations.

During this engaging session with Dr. Juan David Morgan and his two interlocutors, Thatiana Pretelt and María del Carmen Deola, the journey was condensed for those familiar with the intricacies and anecdotes behind the scenes of this work. Undoubtedly, it was a literary rendezvous that left a lasting impact on the audience, firmly placing "Fugitivos del Paisaje" among their cherished collection of books.



SER VIRTUD EN TIEMPOS DE CARENCIAS RESILIENCIA ANTE LA ADVERSIDAD (BEING VIRTUOUS IN TIMES OF SCARCITY, RESILIENCE IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY)

Author: María Teresa Quintero Ríos

"Luna, with the help of Luke, learned to make a fire in the low kitchen, to put wood in to maintain a good temperature in the apartment. It marked a new stage for her family in a completely different place, even though Luke was born there, practically his entire life had been lived outside..."

Extract from "Ser virtud en los tiempos de Carencias",
María T. Quintero R.

The literary showcase of March featured an emotional presentation of a novel with an autobiographical tone, narrated by its author and protagonist, María Teresa Quintero Ríos. Between anecdotes, she led a warm evening that allowed the audience to paint a mental portrait of the author's life. It highlighted how, in times of sorrow or happiness, she has adeptly portrayed Panamanian traditions beyond its borders.



HABLEMOS DE OMAR (LET'S TALK ABOUT OMAR)

Author: Gerardo Camargo

"And Omar explained to me: I want you to accompany me because I want a country not only for the rich but also for the poor, where we all have the same opportunities, especially for people coming from below."

Extract from "Hablemos de Omar" Gerardo Camargo

An evening that underscores the role of literature as a historical source, featuring its author, the journalist and writer Gerardo Camargo. He guided the audience through a journey in his book "Hablemos de Omar," which, far removed from politics, captures a period integral to Panamanian history prompting reflection. This comprehensive work is based on testimonies from individuals who knew the protagonist, General Omar Torrijos.



RUBY VISITA EL MUSEO AFROANTILLANO DE PANAMÁ (RUBY VISITS THE AFRO-ANTILLEAN MUSEUM OF PANAMA)

Authors: Juan A. Ríos Vega y Melva Lowe de Goodin

"Ruby felt so proud of her Caribbean roots that, once at home, she told her mom about the outing, and together, they began to make yo-yo circles, just as her grandmother, great-grandmother, the great-grandmother's mother, and many other women undoubtedly had done before."

Extract from 'Ruby visita el museo afroantillano de Panamá', Juan A. Ríos V. & Melva L. de Goodin

In commemoration of Black Ethnic Month, we celebrate this occasion with the presentation of the book "Ruby visita el museo Afroantillano de Panamá." The protagonist conveys, page by page, the pride that overwhelms her as she learns about the contributions her ancestors made to the development and growth of Panama.



Under the direction of Professor Juan Ríos, with the participation of students from the Bachelor's Program in English at Universidad Autonoma de Chiriquí, with the support of the Boquete's Library, groups of children from Volcancito, Alto Quiel, and Bajo Boquete schools fully enjoyed the storytelling and the engaging intervention of charming puppets.



LA RANITA ENCUTARRÁ

Author: Yolieth Guerra Sousa

"In the heart of the universe called Panama, the golden frogs hide from pollution. Only those individuals with a truly pure and honest soul can find them. So, if the sun blesses you, you will have, right before your eyes, a special little frog. She will choose you to become her guardian..."

Extract from "La Ranita Encutarrá" Yosileth Guerra Sousa



"La Ranita Encutarrá" is a children's literature book that features various stories with little frogs as the main protagonists. Prior organization, in the storytelling session, boys and girls had the opportunity to enjoy the charming narration of the book's author, Yolieth Guerra Sousa. She shared the significance of the Little Golden Frogs and other amphibians with them during this engaging session.

LITERARY ENCOUNTER "JUVENTUD Y LECTURA"

"Every time a book changes hands, every time someone runs his eyes down its pages, its spirit grows and strengthens."

Extract from *The Shadow of The Wind*, Carlos Ruiz Zafón

Promotion of reading takes a significant stride at Boquete's Library through its program "Juventud y Lectura," a platform where high school students from various campuses across Chiriquí province take center stage. With Panamanian literature as their flagship, they elevate not only their high school experience but also leave a lasting impact on their classmates.

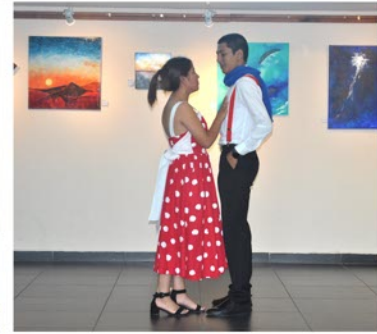
In the second year, participants continue to engage in the process of dissecting a work of Panamanian authorship under the guidance of their Spanish teacher. They are tasked with preparing both their arguments and the dynamics for the scheduled event. A detailed graphic of the presentations will follow.



JULY

CENTRO EDUCATIVO BÁSICO GENERAL CAISÁN FUERTES CAMINOS

- BOOK: The mark of The Vampire
- AUTHOR: Florentino Hidalgo



CENTRO EDUCATIVO CERRO IGLESIA

- BOOK: A Scream From the Silence: The Dark Abyss of Bullying
- AUTHO: Rose Marie Tapia

COLEGIO FÉLIX OLIVARES CONTRERAS

- BOOK: Gamboa Road Gang
- AUTHOR: Joaquín Beleño



AUGUST

INSTITUTO DAVID

- BOOK: You Alone in my Life
- AUTHOR: Julio B. Sossa



BENIGNO TOMÁS ARGOTE

- BOOK: Horses Sneeze in the Rain
- AUTHOR: Dimas Lidio Pitty

COLEGIO SECUNDARIO DE RENACIMIENTO

- **BOOK:**
"La Pirula" Chiriqui Legends
- **AUTHOR:**
César Samudio



SEPTEMBER

ESCUELA SECUNDARIA DE PUERTO ARMUELLES

- **BOOK:**
Who killed Rafael?
Based on: The Drowned
- **AUTHOR:** Tristán Solarte



THE OXFORD SCHOOL

- **BOOK:**
Death has two Faces
- **AUTHOR:**
Rosa María Britton

IPT ARNULFO ARIAS

- **BOOK:**
Who invented Mambo?
- **AUTHOR:**
Rosa María Britton



For the accomplishment and execution of this significant project, we wish to express our gratitude to the Spanish Professors and Educational Institutions that embrace this challenge. Their consent and hours of dedication make this endeavor possible. "To every presenter, a standout student: A standing ovation!"

STORYTELLING

“Today's special moments are tomorrow's memories.”

—Aladdin



Reading + Love, a formula that opens up a world of knowledge for the little ones. Storytelling has been an integral part of Boquete's Library since its inception, constituting a weekly interlude where, through the narration of stories and playful activities, we impart valuable lessons to the minds and hearts of our children.

Between the titles presented in 2023 we have: Vacations around the World, Lola and the library, The Flying "Nagua", The Zoo of a poet, from A to Z, Miss. Polleras: A Feather in the Air, Murcielita, Bella & Chantey: Mom wants a blue mushroom, among others.

Storytelling contributes to the growth of children by offering numerous benefits. Through the narration of stories, children see, listen, and touch books, fostering the development of attention and interaction. It also strengthens the bond with their families. Furthermore, the experience activates their imagination, and the physical or manual activities included in the session help tune their motor abilities.

Free of charge, the storytelling event is offered every Saturday at the library facilities.



CULTURE



"It's the possibility of having a dream come true that makes life interesting."

Paulo Coelho, The Alchemist

■ "NIÑOS CANTORES DE BOQUETE"

Director: Roger Santamaría

The choir group "Niños Cantores de Boquete" is a project that emphasizes the advantages of incorporating musical education consistently into one's learning journey. Carrying the desire to learn, the aspiration to improve, and the intention to make a positive impact on a whole group of people who rely on them, they develop character, foster commitment, and accumulate a range of skills and attitudes that open up a world of opportunities.

In 2023, our "Niños Cantores de Boquete" have flourished in talent, stage mastery, and recognition, as evidenced by the numerous invitations they have received. They have been entrusted with special events, which they have successfully enlivened, and these now form a significant part of their artistic portfolio.



National Festivities: Three kings day (January 6th)





Private Parties: Presentation in two weddings.



Community activities "36th Wine and Bread Dinner" (Diocesis de David), First kids choir encounter of Veraguas: "Hijos de Urracá"



Concert: Heaven Voices Recital





Annual Christmas Concert with the participation of Anima E Cuore

Since their creation in 2021, we have been privileged to share moments with members full of energy and dreams. We have witnessed them transform into artists in every sense of the word, all thanks to the guidance of Professor Roger Santamaría Troya.



EDUCATION RESOURCES

INTERMEDIATE ENGLISH CLASSES AND BASIC SPANISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Instructor: Guillermo González
Period: March to May 2023

“Everything is possible. The impossible just takes longer.”

Dan Brown, Digital Fortress

For successful integration into society, language plays a crucial role in the daily lives of individuals. In a multicultural population residing in an area with significant tourist demands, proficiency in the two dominant languages of the region (Spanish and English) becomes essential.

Through dynamic and interactive sessions led by Lic. Guillermo González over a three-month period, students made progress in enhancing their linguistic competence in both languages.

Each session, Boquete's Library takes pride in providing educational alternatives that prove beneficial for the lives of all community members.



SEASONAL WORKSHOPS

*“Of what a strange nature is knowledge!
It clings to a mind when it has once
seized on it like a lichen on a rock.”*

Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*

ART FOR ADULTS

Art is at the core of our institution, and we take pride in offering not only the opportunity to enjoy it but also to learn how to create it. Additionally, participants can replicate their creations and leverage them in entrepreneurial pursuits.



PAINTING PORCELAIN

Instructor: Lorena Aguilar

In June 2023, the inaugural session dedicated to this topic delved into the technique of painting porcelain or ceramic under the expert guidance of Miss Lorena Aguilar.

In the end, the participants proudly showcased a collection featuring commendable designs on dinnerware such as plates, mugs, and glasses.



"FRIDITA EMPOLLERADA"

Instructor: Alejandra Álvarez Loría

"Fridita Empollerada" takes its place as the second workshop of the season, where participants, in the art of teaching, and a desire to learn, were able to acquire or expand their knowledge in sketching, color selection, and the application of acrylic paints on canvas.

In the end, they successfully curated a selective exhibition where each "Fridita Empollerada" in its own style, fulfilling the facilitator's recommendation. At every step, the facilitator encouraged them to never discard their imagination and unique touch.



BASIC BRUSHSTROKES

Instructor: Lorena Aguilar
Period: August to October 2023

A workshop extended by the requests of its participants, who, guided by Miss Lorena Aguilar, refine their dexterity in executing brushstrokes with assignments developed conscientiously and with precision, both within the library and in the comfort of their own homes. Throughout each session, they craft leaves, petals, stems, and entire flowers. Undoubtedly, a few months of great benefit, with an excellent guide and a wonderful study group, wherein we applaud the effort made by individuals coming from different and distant points of Chiriquí's geography.



TAI CHI

Instructor: Gilberto Barría
Place: "Parque Biblioteca Boquete"

Tai Chi is a highly regarded discipline, and the complimentary sessions that commenced on Saturdays in July were held at "Parque Biblioteca Boquete." These sessions received a warm reception from the public. Under the expert guidance of Master Gilberto Barría, participants had the opportunity to relax, connect with themselves, and rejuvenate their energy, achieving a harmonious balance of body and soul.



SUMMER WORKSHOPS

CHESS

Instructor: Pedro Jiménez Academy in David

One of the most sought-after disciplines each summer in the array of vocational workshops is chess. For both kids and teenagers, the process of teaching and learning this strategic game poses a challenge that they eagerly embrace. Participants always discover something new to share, comprehend, and contribute.

Due to the high demand in 2023, three age-specific groups were formed: 5 to 9 years old, 10 to 13 years old, and 14 to 17 years old. In this instance, these groups benefit from the guidance of a talented team of adults hailing from the Pedro Jiménez Academy in David. This team successfully meets the expectations of all participants, offering diverse perspectives on this competitive and gratifying game.



ALGEBRA

Instructor: Cristian De Gracia

During the school vacation, children and teenagers enjoy more free time, and some choose to utilize this period to strengthen their understanding of various mathematical topics.

This summer, under the guidance of Professor Cristian De Gracia, two distinct age groups were catered to: one ranging from 9 to 11 years old and the second from 12 to 14 years old.

As is customary at the beginning of each year, this season fills us with hope, witnessing the keen interest of numerous young individuals in preparing themselves. It is an honor to collaborate with other professionals who are willing to go the extra mile in contributing to the intellectual growth of future generations.

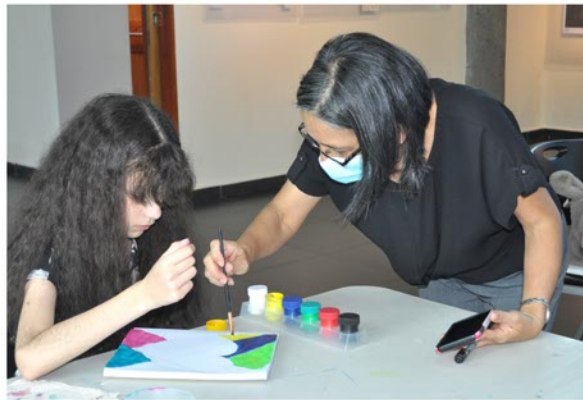


DRAWING AND PAINTING

Instructor: Lorena Aguilar

Every summer, one of our successful choices is to include Drawing and Painting in the workshop offerings, especially when led by our esteemed tutor, Lorena Aguilar. Under her guidance, children and teenagers acquire new insights into drawing, its techniques, tricks, and sources of inspiration. The sessions are both didactic and enjoyable, creating a comfortable learning environment for our students.

As you appreciate the gallery of moments we share with you, you'll witness the dynamics of the classes and the artistic creations of our young talents. The students are divided into two groups, ages 9 to 11 and 12 to 14, allowing for a tailored and enriching experience for each age range.



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Instructor: Maribel Salazar

Environmental Awareness is now part of the educational workshops offered by Boquete's Library. In 2023, a group of girls and boys had the opportunity to benefit from and acquire innovative information about various topics, such as the importance of water and the 5 ecological Rs (reduce, recycle, reuse, repair, and recuperate). Under the guidance of Engineer Maribel Salazar, they expanded their knowledge through theoretical, practical, and innovative approaches.

Set against an ideal backdrop, "Parque Biblioteca Boquete" opens its spaces for the realization of educational workshops, adding to the list of initiatives aimed at the conservation of the natural environment.



ART/GALLERIES

"All art forms are in the service of the greatest of all arts: the art of living."

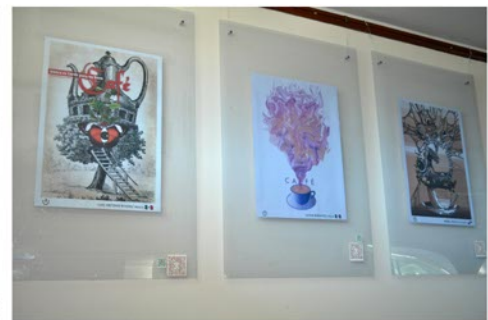
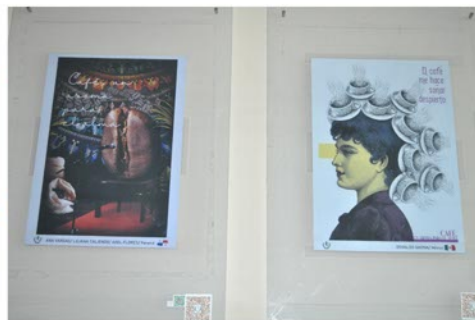
Bertolt Brecht

The following is a retrospective view through our 2023 art showcases.

JANUARY-FEBRUARY/ COFFEE AN AROMA FOR THE SOUL

Organizes: Panama Poster Group

Art makes a grand entrance in 2023 with a theme that transports us to "Tierras Altas" through the exhibition titled "Coffee: An Aroma for the Soul." This international showcase features artistic posters about coffee, curated by Mr. Ivo Baldovinos. During the event, Mr. Baldovinos illuminated the evening by sharing intriguing details about the showcased artworks.



MARCH/ COLOR FRAGMENTS

Exhibitor: Álvaro Miranda

Like a canvas, the gallery walls of our event room were adorned with beautiful natural scenes created by Álvaro Miranda, a talented artist from Boquete. Painting after painting, he captivated one's gaze with the vibrant energy and warmth of colors.



APRIL/ COMMEMORATION OF THE WORLD ART DAY

Organizes: "Arte Espacio Chiriquí"

In honor of the birth of Leonardo Da Vinci, a collective of artists paid tribute to World Art Day through striking artworks that encompassed various topics, techniques, and perspectives. With welcoming words from Mr. Antonio Singh and entertainment from Marcos Santander, this exclusive gallery event opened its doors.



MAYO/ CONVERGENCE

Exhibitors: Marianela S. Motta,
Iván Delgado y Nelson Iván Delgado

An exquisite gallery recreated captivating landscapes, featuring images that eloquently speak of the sweetness of daily life, the enchantment of the countryside, and the enhancement of independent scenes that allow one to perceive intricate details.



JUNE/ PLASTIC POLLUTION

Exhibitor: Yarelis Mendoza

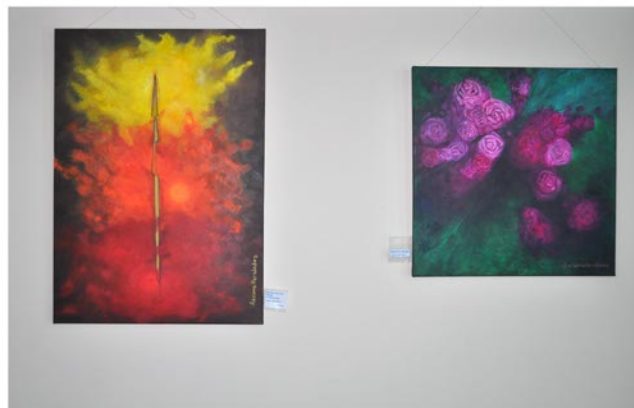
Plastic Pollution, a strand of environmental awareness, utilizes art to transform different types of waste into sublime and majestic works of art.



JULY/ EVOLUTION

Exhibitor: Adriana Hernández

Evolution, a staging that brought us the beauty of abstracts in multiple paintings, and among others, unusual landscapes. It was the sort of presentation charged with forms, undertones, vivid tones or chiaroscuro, that awakens significant ideas and/or feelings in every viewer.

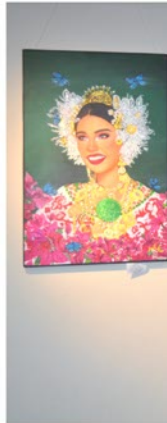
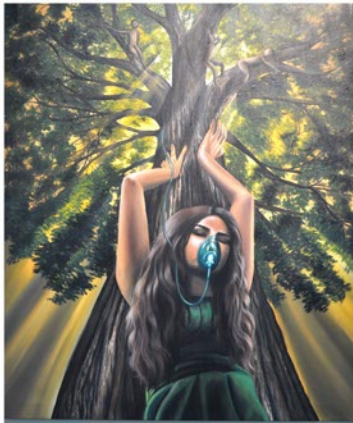




AUGUST/ VISUAL ARTIST DAY

Organizes:
"Arte Espacio Chiriquí"

A collective of artists, united in paying homage to great Chiricano masters and artists, proudly displayed diverse visual proposals encompassing topics, color palettes, and techniques. All for the delight of the public.

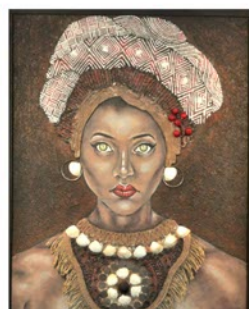


SEPTEMBER/ FIRST ART AUCTION

Organizes: "Arte Espacio Chiriquí"

Across the Panamanian geography, dozens of participants engaged. In September, the inaugural art auction aimed at raising funds for the activities and projects of Boquete's Library proved to be a tremendous success, owing to the public's contributions and the high quality and variety of artworks featured in the catalog.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Antonio Singh for his unwavering support and perseverance as a cultural manager, advocating for the work of hundreds of artists throughout the national territory.



MUSIC/CONCERTS

*“Music is only love
looking for words.”*

Lawrence Durrell

Next, a journey through the musical notes that set the rhythm in this 2023:

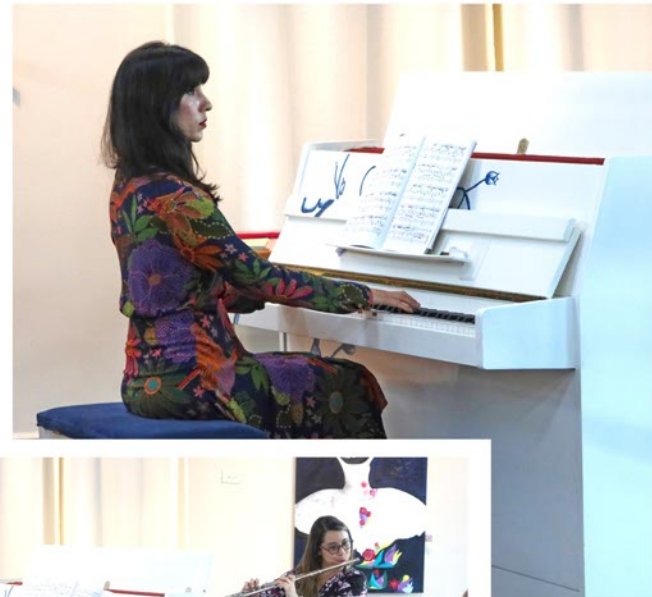
FEBRUARY/ A JOURNEY OF LOVE WITH R. ZÚÑIGA QUARTET

The R. Zúñiga Quartet presented itself at Boquete's Library during the month of love and friendship, delivering a masterful performance with their violins, viola, and cello. Through heartfelt musical notes, they filled the atmosphere with emotions, evoking memories of immortal melodies.



APRIL/ PROJECT TAN-YA (DAFNE GUEVARA AND TANYA APARICIO)

The project "Tan-Ya," formed by Dafne Guevara, a doctor in transverse flute, and Tanya Aparicio, a graduate in music with a specialization in piano, paid tribute to the memory of great artists such as J.S. Bach, Samuel Zyman, Otar Taktakishvili, Paul Taffanel, and Sigfrid Karg-Elert. These artists will always be remembered by music enthusiasts.



JUNE/ HELTON-THOMAS DUO, RECITAL OF CELLO AND SAXOPHONE

The Helton-Thomas Duo, internationally renowned artists, joined us courtesy of the International Festival of Academic Music (Alfredo Saint Malo) organized by the "Fundación Sinfonía Concertante de Panamá" (FUNSINCOPA). On this memorable evening, they delivered unforgettable sounds, interpreting pieces like Mark Engebretson's (b. 1964) "Four Short Songs: A Certain Sadness" (1991) with the rhythmic interplay of saxophone and cello.



JULY/ RECITAL VIOLIN AND VIOLA: ANNA MAJCHERCZYK & LUIS CASAL

Violin and Viola Recital: Anna Majcherczyk and Luis Casal graced the Boquete district with their performance featuring compositions by Alessandro Rolla, Luis Enrique Casal R., H. Villa-Lobos, York Bowen, and Bohuslav Martinů. Throughout the recital, their interpretations moved the audience to applaud each piece enthusiastically.



SEPTEMBER/ BACH TO THE MOVIES

Guided by the melodies of a violin and a piano, Susana Salas and Aura Marina Ríos Vielma brought forth interpretations of various musical pieces, including Partita No. 3 (Johann Sebastian Bach, 1720), Concerto "The Winter" (Antonio Vivaldi, 1721), Sicilienne Op. 78 (Gabriel Fauré, 1893), "Tango Por una Cabeza" (Carlos Gardel, 1935), and other musical compositions, thoroughly satisfying the audience.



OCTOBER/ VOICES FOR THE HEAVEN RECITAL

United by music, the choir groups "Niños Cantores de Boquete" and "Niñas Cantoras de San Miguelito" harmonized their voices for a captivating performance that garnered enthusiastic applause after each interpretation. Among the pieces enjoyed were three selections from the works of Leo Delibes – Kyrie, Sanctus, and O Salutaris (performed by the Boquete Choir) – and "Te quiero" by Mario Benedetti, "Con te partirò," and "Lord Bless You and Help You" by John Rutter (performed by the San Miguelito Choir). The directors were Roger Santamaría and Jorge Eduardo Vílchez.



OCTOBER/ PIANO RECITAL WITH DAVID GARCÍA

For the second time in his home province, David García performed an idyllic concert at Boquete's Library. In front of a discerning audience passionate about piano and classical music, he captivated them with interpretations of popular pieces by J.S. Bach, Ludwig van Beethoven, Frederic Chopin, and Alberto Ginastera.

The professionalism and dedication of this young artist were spoken of through his magnificent performance and an impeccable stage presence that resonated with the audience.



NOVEMBER/ MUSICAL PROMISES OF BOQUETE

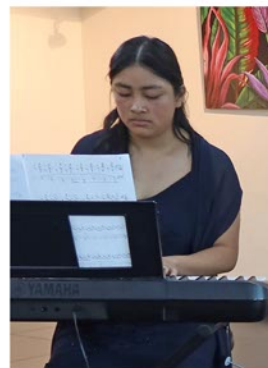
A piano recital that resonates with the hearts of the audience, bringing joy to families, friends, and music enthusiasts as marvelous pieces are performed.

Throughout the evening, the concert hall was filled with compositions from great masters. Here are some of the pieces and their talented interpreters: "Canon of Pachelbel," performed with grace by Aimara Montero and Ana Guerra; the delightful "Little Stars" played by Maximiliano Kramer; the soulful "Prelude, Op. 28, No. 20" skillfully interpreted by Sophie Liang; Mozart's "Second Movement Concerto No. 21," beautifully delivered by Lucas Montenegro; Ana Guerra's elegant performance of Chopin's "Waltz in A Minor"; Sophia Floek's emotive rendition of Chopin's "Nocturne Op. 9, No. 2"; a captivating adaptation of Beethoven's "Turkish March" presented by Nicole Mellana; and Aimara



Montero's precise execution of Clementi's "Sonatina."

Undoubtedly, the presentation showcased the growth of the students and the dedication of their teacher, Carmen Alvarado, who, with skillful guidance, nurtures our future stars.



DECEMBER/ CHRISTMAS CONCERT, NIÑOS CANTORES DE BOQUETE AND ANIMA E CUORE



With chants and overwhelming talent, these two groups brought life to our highly anticipated Christmas concert: Niños Cantores de Boquete and Anima e Cuore, both under the guidance of Maestro Roger Santamaría. They presented a gift wrapped in musical notes as, around the San Juan Bautista Church, immortal melodies resonated throughout the December season.

Through the excellent presentation of our "Niños Cantores de Boquete," the audience enjoyed performances of Kyrie/Sanctus, "Un Introito de Navidad," "A la Nanita Nana" (with Coventry Carol), "Cascabel," and Christmas songs of praise. Following that, under the musical influence of Anima e Cuore, the audience listened to "Carol of the Bells," "Venite Adoremus-Gesú Bambino," and both groups joined together to sing "Adornemos Nuestras Casas."

During these special dates, these memorable interpretations created unforgettable memories.



ENVIRONMENT

"Your thoughts are seeds, and the harvest you reap will depend on the seeds you plant."

Rhonda Byrne, *The Secret*

PARQUE BIBLIOTECA BOQUETE

(Resolution N°. IA-021 of March 25th, 2021)

Parks and natural spaces provide communities with social and environmental benefits such as increased biodiversity, enhanced landscape, temperature reduction (thanks to trees), increased social interaction, and promotion of physical activity, ultimately improving the overall quality of life for people. Considering these advantages, a thought took shape and resulted in the creation of our space, "Parque Biblioteca Boquete" (Boquete's Library Park) – a green space for everyone.

Every day, we make arrangements and carry out new projects to ensure a more enjoyable experience and lasting memories for visitors. Below, we will elaborate on the achievements in this regard in 2023.



Placement of Paving Stones and Grass Planting.



Construction of the "Grande" Bridge (Made of Cement).





A Solar Radiation Meter:
 This cutting-edge technology measures the intensity of solar rays, ensuring a better understanding of sun exposure levels.
 Donation: "Club Activo 20-30," supported by Dr. Natalye Reyes, dermatologist.



Two Public Bathrooms:
 Generously donated by the Decentralization Department, Boquete Municipality.

"Parque Biblioteca Boquete" exemplifies how the facilities provided to the community impact social ecology, creating a new reality at both the personal and environmental levels. Including the integration of new habits into personal and family routines and a multitude of activities taking place within the park, involving

individuals and institutions, both public and private.

Naturally proud of the warm reception and success of this remarkable project, we remind everyone to respect the usage norms. This ensures that all can continue to enjoy the beauty of this place.



EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM: "EXPLORANDO MI PARQUE BIBLIOTECA BOQUETE" (EXPLORING MY BOQUETE LIBRARY PARK)

Period: April 10th to October 20th
Attended Population: 745 students from 3rd to 6th grade
Ages: 7 to 12 years



This program was financed by the foundation "Sus Buenos Vecinos" from Banco General and developed by Fundación Biblioteca de Boquete with the objective of promoting environmental conservation among primary education students in Boquete's district. This was achieved through interactive sessions with natural resources and the facilities of Parque Biblioteca Boquete.

Throughout the program, student groups participated in two sessions, each focusing on a primary topic and a complementary topic related to environmental care and natural resources. The application method for each session began with an introduction to the functioning of Boquete's Library, followed by a presentation and video projection, book consultations, and some field guides based on the

topic. Subsequently, the students embarked on a small trip within the park, engaging in craft or illustrative activities, question rounds, and concluding discussions.

The Environmental Education program "Explorando Mi Parque Biblioteca Boquete" represents a positive and significant impact on participating children. They demonstrated great receptivity to the topics and activities, integrating their previous knowledge and applying their creativity and teamwork. For some students, this program provided their first experience with both the library and the park.



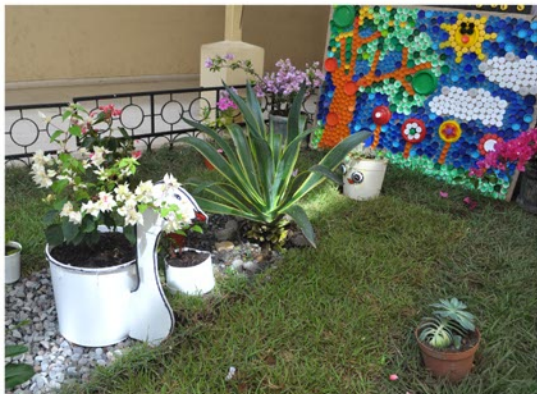
Attended Schools: A total of 37 groups from 12 different public educational institutions had the opportunity to participate. These included:

• C.B.G. Josefa Montero de Vásquez	• Palmira Centro School
• Palo Alto School	• Jaramillo Abajo School
• Octavio López Pascal School	• Alto Jaramillo School
• Volcancito School	• Jaramillo Arriba School
• Alto Boquete School	• Volcancito School
• Alto Quiel School	• Palmira Abajo School

Topics Developed: Throughout the program, we successfully covered 12 main topics and 11 supplementary topics. The structure generally involved defining the encompassing topic, highlighting its ecological and human significance, and outlining actions to contribute to its protection or improvement. Here are some of the topics included:



PRINCIPAL TOPIC (FIRST SESSION)	COMPLEMENTARY TOPIC (SECOND SESSION)
The soil	Soil erosion
Waste and residue	Organic Residue
Trees	Arborization
Water	Hydric Footprint
Fungus	Lichens
Insects	Butterflies
Responsible Consuming	The 5Rs for a better world: reject, reduce, reutilize, repair, restart



School projects: In the final phase of the program, students undertook various environmental conservation projects within their educational institutions. The evaluation of these projects considered seven criteria: Environmental Impact, Sustainability, Teamwork, Oral Presentation, Teacher Support, and Parental Involvement. The results revealed that the decorative mural at Alto Quiel School, the restoration of a green space as an Ecological Garden at C.E.B.G. Josefa Montero de Vasquez, and the Hydroponic Lettuce project at Volcancito School received the highest scores. Below are details of each project developed by the students.



PROJECT NAME	EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION / GROUPS INVOLVED
Restauration of a green space as an Ecological Garden	C.E.B.G. Josefa Montero de Vásquez / From 3rd to 6th grade
Pots with recycled materials	Alto Boquete School / 4th Grade
Plastic caps Mural	Alto Boquete School / 6th Grade
Urban Garden with Medicinal Plants	Palo Alto School / From 4th to 6th Grade.
Hydroponic Lettuce	Volcancito School / 3th and 4th Grade.
Friendly Urban Garden	Volcancito School / 5th Grade.
El Rincón de lo Nuestro	Volcancito School / 6th Grade.
Ecological Accordion	Palmira Abajo School / From 1st to 6th Grade.
Education Games and Crafts with Recycled materials	Alto Quiel School / From pre-kinder to 6th Grade.
Decorative Mural	Alto Quiel School / From 3rd to 6th Grade.



Volcancito



Alto Boquete



Alto Quiel

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES MISCELLANEOUS

“How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.”

Anne Frank, *Anne Frank's Tales from the Secret Annex: A Collection of Her Short Stories, Fables, and Lesser-Known Writings*

BCP GROUP CHATS

Frequency: Weekly

BCP Community Chats is a group formed by Boquete residents who conduct discussions (in English) every Thursday throughout the year. These talks cover diverse topics of interest and take place in the multiuse room of Boquete's Library.



BOQUETE CLUB FOTOGRAFIA MEETINGS

Frequency: Biweekly

Boquete Club PhotoGrafia is composed of individuals who share a common passion for the art. Whether beginners or seasoned photographers, the group aims to foster the sharing and deepening of knowledge related to this beloved form of artistic expression. As such, each of their presentations and activities revolves around the captivating world of photography.



PERSONAL GROWTH FOR WOMEN, WORKSHOP / MAXWELL LEADERSHIP

Directed by: Zunny Soto

Formed by a Group of Distinguished Women. This workshop on personal growth for women was led by coach Zunny Soto and comprised a group of distinguished ladies. Throughout the sessions, participants were guided to reflect on their dreams, goals, fears, weaknesses, and strengths, with a particular emphasis on nurturing the latter. We observed and acknowledged the deep connection and mutual support among the participants during all the sessions.



MATH CARNIVAL IN CHIRIQUI

Organized and directed by FUNDAPROMAT

In utilizing their facilities, Fundación Biblioteca de Boquete collaborates with FUNDAPROMAT in the realization of the event: Math Carnival. During this event, students from primary and secondary schools, representing various educational centers in the Boquete district, enjoy a lively morning reconnecting with the discipline of mathematics. The Math Carnival employs fun and innovative strategies designed to relax minds and promote a complete understanding and application of mathematical concepts.



CONFERENCE: GENERAL ASPECTS OF COPYRIGHT AND WORK REGISTRATION

Organizes: Regional Direction of the Ministry of Culture in Chiriquí

The Regional Directorate of the Ministry of Culture in Chiriquí and the National Directorate of Copyright collaborated in presenting updated and relevant information in the conference titled "Aspects of Copyright and Work Registration." This informative session, led by Lic. Eric Velasco at Boquete's Library, provided a platform for addressing numerous questions and clarifying doubts with the guidance of experts.

Concluding the meeting, the cultural enrichment segment was curated by poet Abelardo González. He captivated the audience by reciting verses of his own creation, leaving a lasting impression on those in attendance.



WORKSHOP: CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION

Organized and Directed by: FUN (Fundación Unidos por la Niñez)

Members of the "United for Childhood" Foundation conducted an awareness session for young ages through a child abuse prevention workshop. Students from Alto Quiel School had the opportunity to receive valuable information tailored to their age, along with engaging and educational activities. Affirming their support, the Boquete Library Foundation encourages initiatives of this nature, which contribute to the well-being of our children, to have a platform for dissemination.

To the team of "United for Childhood" Foundation and Alto Quiel School, thank you for joining and raising your voices. Step by step, a difference is made!



EXTINCTION: AN ITINERANT EXHIBITION

Organized by: BIOMUSEO and SENACYT

Extinction is the demise of all members of a species. Today, more than 35,000 species are at risk of extinction, with an estimated 150 species becoming extinct every day.

As part of their commitment to promoting educational spaces, staff from BIOMUSEO brought their itinerant showcase, "Extinction," to Boquete's Library. Through this exhibition, people of all ages gained relevant and updated information about the ongoing natural crisis caused by the loss of biodiversity in Panama and around the world.



COLLABORATIONS MOZAIC

“... wanderer, there is no road, the road is made by walking...”

Antonio Machado

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AMBASSADOR VISITS BOQUETE'S LIBRARY

As part of the 2023 agenda, Mari Carmen Aponte, the Ambassador of the United States of America, scheduled a visit to the facilities of Boquete's Library. This visit was organized through an appointment facilitated by BCP Community Chat, addressing compelling topics relevant to every fellow citizen.



EASTER EGG HUNT

Endorsement/Sponsorship: Community Charity Association of Boquete

April began with one of the most special events: Easter. We celebrated this occasion with the community at Parque Biblioteca Boquete, offering a variety of activities for children, including an egg hunt, entertaining story readings, candy distribution, face painting, and bubble blowing. The event turned out to be a very successful and enjoyable initiative.



We extend our most sincere gratitude to the team of volunteers who accompanied us, acknowledging their hard work. A special recognition goes to the Community Charity Association of Boquete (CCAB), led by Mrs. Linda Hart. Their collaboration with the Fundación Biblioteca de Boquete in organizing, coordinating, and contributing to this beautiful story was truly invaluable.

CINEMA FORUM: HUMAN RIGHTS AND AN EXPERIENCE IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE WITH THE FILM "THE IMITATION GAME"

Directed by: "FUNDACIÓN PUNTO INICIAL PLATAFORMA CULTURAL"/ Arnulfo Icaza

Fundación Biblioteca de Boquete, in collaboration with "Fundación Punto Inicial Plataforma Cultural", presented a Cinema Forum featuring the film "The Imitation Game." The event included discussions about key segments of the movie, focusing on the mathematician who played a pivotal role in saving the Second World War and laying the groundwork for computation. Attendees also delved into the mathematician's legacy and the origins of human rights. The session concluded with an interactive exploration of Artificial Intelligence.



INFORMATIVE CHAT: CULTURAL DEPARTMENT OF THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY IN PANAMA

During their recent visit to Chiriquí, the United States Embassy in Panama, through their Cultural Department, shared valuable information about various programs and scholarship opportunities available for pursuing studies at American universities.



FINANCE

BOQUETE'S LIBRARY FOUNDATION

Comparative Balance Sheets

For twelve months ended December 31, 2023, with comparatives figures for 2022

(Values in Balboas)

ACTIVES	2023	2022
Current Assets		
Cash on Hand	150	150
Bank Deposits	1,233,245	1,273,136
Total Current Assets:	B/. 1,233,395	B/. 1,273,286
Investments	914,972	612,167
Properties, Furniture, and Equipment		
Lands	2,501,001	2,501,001
Main Building	1,023,979	1,023,979
Book Acquisition	112,669	110,239
Furniture	64,643	64,643
Computer Equipment	21,636	20,997
Workforce Equipment	7,721	7,721
Solar Panels	32,099	32,099
Accumulated Depreciation	(818,956)	(758,540)
Total Fixed Assets:	B/. 2,944,792	B/. 3,002,139
Parque Biblioteca Boquete Project	595,842	521,031
Other Assets:	2,548	2,543
Total Assets:	B/. 5,691,549	B/. 5,411,166
LIABILITIES AND OPERATING SURPLUS		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	1,172	1,511
Unpaid Labor Reserves	6,848	6,368
Total Liabilities:	B/. 8,020	B/. 7,879
Operating Surplus		
Donated Social Capital	5,403,287	4,232,396
Surplus for the period	280,242	1,170,891
Surplus from accumulated operations	B/. 5,683,529	B/. 5,403,287
Total liabilities and Operating Surplus:	B/. 5,691,549	B/. 5,411,166

BOQUETE'S LIBRARY FOUNDATION

Statement of Surpluses

For twelve months ended December 31, 2023, with comparatives figures for 2022
(Values in Balboas)

DONATIONS RECEIVED	2023	2022
Cash Donations	243,362	1,539,013
Service Donations	14,798	14,974
Other Incomes	256,900	2,744
In-Kind Donations	11,469	15,719
Total Donations Received:	B/. 526,529	B/. 1,572,450

BOQUETE'S LIBRARY FOUNDATION

Statement of Surpluses

For twelve months ended December 31, 2023, with comparatives figures for 2022
(Values in Balboas)

EXPENSES PAID	2023	2022
Salaries and Benefits	43,173	43,045
Maintenance Expenses	36,986	7,376
Phone, Internet and Insurance Policies	2,615	2,896
Educational Programs	16,144	19,184
Various Events	7,147	16,017
Other Miscellaneous Expenses	12,346	14,280
Salaries and Benefits for the Park	-	26,097
Maintenance Expenses for the Park	67,459	51,014
Total Expenses:	B/. 185,870	B/. 179,909
Surplus before other expenses	340,659	1,392,541
(Less) Depreciation Expenses	60,417	62,557
(Less) Extraordinary Loss Expenses	-	159,093
Net Surplus:	B/. 280,242	B/. 1,170,891

BOQUETE'S LIBRARY FOUNDATION

Relevant statistics

PROGRAM NAME	BENEFICIARIES	
	2023	2022
Family Storytelling	952	1,196
Spanish Classes for Foreigners	27	0
English Classes	35	70
Summer Workshops	175	85
Chess Workshops	0	20
Art Workshop for Adults	75	95
Children's Choir Program "Niños Cantores"	25	32
Enviromental Education Program	745	309
Program: Literary Encounter "Juventud y Lectura"	209	150
Steam Program	0	144
	2,243	2,101

SERVICES OFFERED	BENEFICIARIES	
	2023	2022
Use of Wi-Fi	2,254	2,112
Use of Public Computers	502	400
Use of Reading Rooms	1,092	658
Use of Work Rooms (various purposes)	539	379
Room Usage (meeting, events, others)	2,416	2,295
Newspaper Reading	10	70
Visits form Educational Centers	400	225
Various Visits	3,466	3,278
Art Exhibitions	306	225
Musical Concerts	577	648
Book Presentations	153	208
Events at Parque Biblioteca Boquete	250	125
Other Events	125	0
Event - Book's Fair	0	1,637
	12,090	12,260

LITERARY COLLECTION	2023	2022
Books Collection	28,559	27,662
New Books in the Collection	897	477
Books Borrowed for home use	5,197	5,862
New Users	225	213
Total registered users	6,139	5,927





2023 DONORS



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de Virzi**

**Donantes varios
en nombre de
Peter Sterling**

(Fund created to secure the future operations of the Fundación Biblioteca de Boquete.)





APPRECIATION



SOME OF OUR VOLUNTEERS

"We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop."

Madre Teresa de Calcuta

Many thanks to everyone!





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