

## Rotary District 5160

Report on the Uniendo America Project Fair, 2020

January 23 - 25, Antigua, Guatemala

**FOR DETAILS OF THE PROJECTS [Click Here](#)**

### General Information

This year, one club in the district, Lamorinda Sunrise, was awarded a Project Fair Attendance Grant. The Rotarians who attended were:

Skip McCowan, [jackbmccowan@gmail.com](mailto:jackbmccowan@gmail.com)

Fred Steingraf, [fredrotaryLSR@gmail.com](mailto:fredrotaryLSR@gmail.com)

Both Skip and Fred are happy to answer any questions district club members would like answered.

The Uniendo America Project Fair took place in Antigua, Guatemala at the Hotel Casa Santo Domingo.

### What is a Rotary Project Fair?

Project fairs have taken place in Central America, Africa and South America. The first project fair was held in Central America in 1994. Since then, Districts 4250 and 4250 have alternated hosting the annual event in one of the countries of two districts. The primary purposes of the fairs are to encourage international friendship and collaboration among Rotarians in North and Central America, and to encourage the participation of North

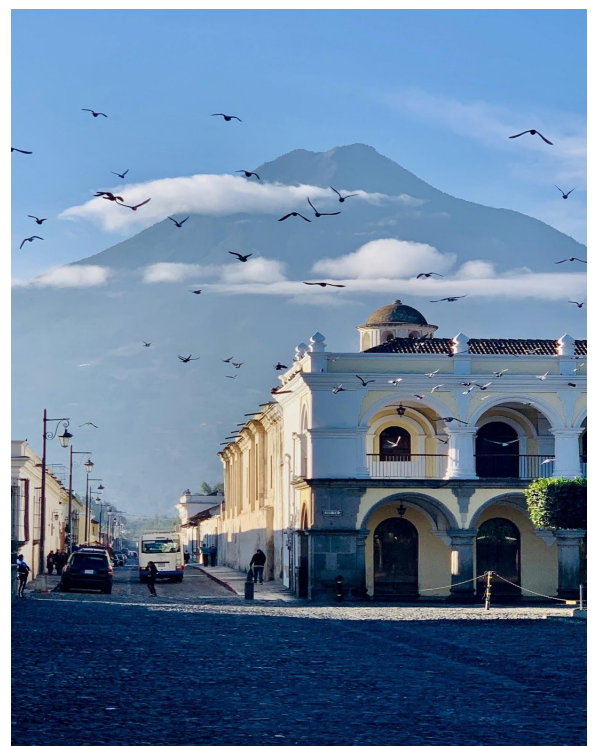
American Rotary Clubs in the projects of any of the clubs in the seven Central American countries.

Each project fair has its own characteristics, but they are typically two to three days in length and they provide a forum for Rotary Clubs of the hosting districts to showcase their projects to attendees from the United States and Canada. They also provide the opportunity for Rotarians from many different countries to form personal relationships to further strengthen the international bonds that are fundamental to the spirit of Rotary.



### This Year's Project Fair Was in Antigua, Guatemala

Almost 400 Rotarians, Rotoractors, friends of Rotary, and presenters from many NGOs, met in Antigua, Guatemala at the Hotel Casa Santo Domingo to present, and to learn about, more than 100 projects promoted by Rotary Clubs from Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica, Belize, El Savlador, Panama and Nicaragua. Rotarians from these Central American countries were joined by Rotarians from the United States, representing more than thirteen states, and



Canada, who have an interest in partnering on these exciting and life-changing projects.

The fair began with a reception and cultural show for all attendees at the hotel on Thursday evening. On Friday, exhibits were open all day which allowed for plenty of time for Rotarians to mingle, to renew old friendships and to make new friends. Before lunch there were speeches by the past District Governor of District 4250 and by the Regional Grants Officer of the Rotary Foundation. On Saturday the exhibits were open until mid-day. Following a closing protocol, hosted by the current District Governor of District 4250, the attendees were treated to a delicious lunch and live music.



Many Rotarians either came early, or stayed after the project fair, to visit local Rotarian friends, to travel to the site of a project their club is supporting, or simply to take time to see the beauty that Guatemala has to offer. Following the fair a number of Rotarians left Antigua and traveled to Cali,

Colombia to attend the project fair hosted by Districts 6080, 4271 and 4281, from January 29 to February 3.



## The Projects Presented Were Amazing

For details on 87 of the projects presented at the fair, including contact information to obtain more information on the projects,

The number and variety of projects presented by both Rotary Clubs and NGOs was extraordinary. Many of the projects are ones in which Rotary clubs from Central America are partnering with a particular NGO that has experience and expertise in a particular kind of project that makes for a valuable partnership.

Some projects are the beneficiaries of global grants in which North American and Central American Rotary clubs are working closely together. The kinds of projects covered most of the areas of interest of Rotary, including fighting disease, providing clean water, supporting



education, saving mothers and children and growing the local economies.

The quality of the projects was inspiring, and the opportunities exist for North and Central American Rotarians to make a difference in the lives of so many people in Central America.

