

***Cultural Detective* 10th Anniversary Ethnographic Projects**

Please form teams of 2-3 people. Ideally, do not join your partner's/spouse's team—work with people you don't know as well. I also recommend that each team have at least one member who speaks some Spanish (so, Spanish speakers, sorry, but please separate).

Project Objectives

1. Get you out of the tourist comfort zone, interacting with local people, and learning a bit about our local cultural dynamics and realities.
2. Learn what clues the *Cultural Detective Mexico* Values Lens can provide for learning about and learning how to interact in a new place.

Project Instructions

Choose a local subject: something that stands out for you as culturally interesting, different than what you might find at home, something you'd like to learn a bit more about. As a team, investigate. Use your *Cultural Detective* skills: observe, sense, interact, interview. Be sure to take at least one, and ideally several, photographs of your subject, and get permission so these photos can be shared on social media. Summarize what you've learned about your subject in writing—minimum three paragraphs.

Sample Subjects (you are free to choose your own; these are just some ideas)

Doctors at pharmacies, *playeros* or beach workers, mobile or street-side newspaper vendor, kinds of taxis in MZT, oyster divers, shrimp ladies, pharmacy downtown with “man in chair,” shoe repair, artist studio, shoeshine men in *Plaza República*, strolling musicians, street side food cart, *Carnavál* float preparations, ice cream/*nieve/paleta* maker, butcher, or artisan stall in the *mercado*

Sample Questions to Answer

1. What values and beliefs do you see underlying what behaviors? Tell us! Help us gain a glimpse into your subject's psyche and motivations!
2. Describe the space—how does it illustrate values and beliefs? How is it used? How is it similar to or different from what you might expect? What does this tell you about yourself and your cultural filters? How does it feel? Smell? Sound?
3. Who is this person? How old? What motivates him/her? What does the work mean to him/her? How much does s/he earn? How is that calculated/on what factors does that pay depend? What kind of lifestyle does it provide?
4. Can you diagram any processes involved? Or explain them? How does it all work? Why did you choose this subject? What did you enjoy about the subject? Did anything trouble you? What would you like to learn next?
5. What have you learned about being a *Cultural Detective* through this project? About learning about yourself and others? About the process of learning to be effective in new and unknown situations? Have you learned anything about the *Cultural Detective* process itself—the Worksheet or Values Lens approaches?

Submit your photo(s) and article to __ by __. We will show them to each other on __. Remember that readers of your article will want to feel as you felt, smell what you smelled, and see what you saw.