



September 18th, 2015.

Ricardo Salinas Scholarship Comitee

PRESENT

To Ricardo Salinas:

Hereby I want to express my gratitude for the scholarship given to participate in the Artisan Alliance: The New Startup Economy Forum at the State Department in Washington DC from the 9th to the 11th of September of 2015.

What I learned from participating in this event is the power of connectedness. I was amazed by the incredible awareness of the craft industry. Our understanding is growing in each of the participants including artisans, donors, investors, and government of United States. As Honorable John Kerry mention in his participation during the forum: "... Knowledge is empowerment, and with empowerment, progress is inevitable". I think that this event was all about empowering the sector from within. We shared and gathered valuable information like learning that crafts industry produces 32 billion dollars a year. Tha is an astonishing number.

I was impacted very positively through the exposure to other projects and trhorugh communicating the work that we do at Innovando la Tradicion in Oaxaca, Mexico for the benefit of 80 pottery villages that make ceramics with traditional processes to supply the global chain from Mexico to USA and Europe.

My future plans for utilizing the information gained or connections made are to add all the people I met to my network of contacts and find possible partners to set strategies to reduce shipping costs, and find funding opportunities. The key to success is patience and long term vision, but to achieve it, we have to be peristant and we have to be connected.

It was a beautiful event, a small big world within those four walls, all coming together to create more jobs, proud of what we do because we are succesfully tackling poverty.

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