

*NSE Teacher Scholarship*

## The Pulsera Project- Guatemala

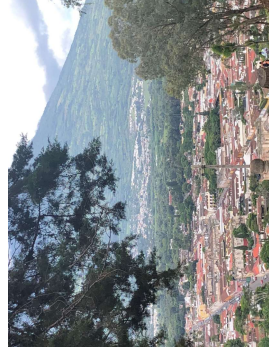
July, 2022 (Colleen Vallin- Mimesota)



*Todos estamos muy emocionados por explorar Antigua, conocer los artistas del proyecto, y compartir ideas y perspectivas. Tuvimos la oportunidad de almorzar con unos de los líderes de la Colectiva Waricha hoy. Aprendimos sobre su organización y sobre su nueva conexión con The Pulsera Project.*

### Día 2: El centro, la cruz, y el café (el 14 de julio)

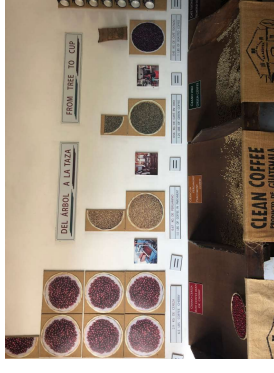
Today we were able to take a walking city tour with [Colectiva Waricha](#) leaders. I loved hearing more about the work they are doing in their community, and getting a locals perspective on the history of the city of Antigua.



*El tour terminó con una caminata hacia La Cruz, un lindo mirador con vistas preciosas de la ciudad y los volcanes.*

After lunch we ventured out of the city for a fair trade coffee tour.

*Aprendimos mucho sobre la historia del café en Guatemala, y sobre la cultivación y producción. Por supuesto probamos unas tazas de café delicioso también.*

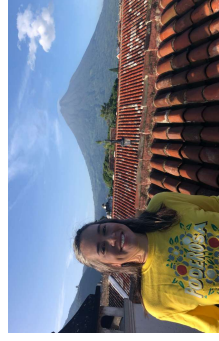


### Antes de viajar

*Estoy super emocionada. I am so grateful to be this year's NSE Teacher Travel recipient. I have been working with the [Pulsera Project](#) for the past four years and I am excited to be able to learn more about the project and meet with the Pulsera Project staff and artisans in person in Guatemala. I know I will return to the classroom this fall full of stories, photos and new connections to share with my students! Gracias al NSE y AATSP por la oportunidad.*

### Día 1: Bienvenidos (el 13 de junio)

After a long day of travel from Minneapolis to Houston, Houston to La Ciudad de Guatemala, and La Ciudad de Guatemala to [Antigua](#) I have finally arrived! My travel group includes 5 of the amazing Pulsera Project team and 3 incredible Spanish teachers from all different regions of the United States. All of the teachers have led several Pulsera Projects sales in the past, but for most of us it is our first visit to Guatemala.



*La vista de la terraza del [Hotel Posada de Don Rodrigo](#).*





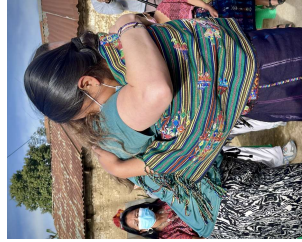
### Día 3: Ruinas, risas y radio Racantacaj (el 15 de julio)

Our day started with a fantastic tour of [Iximche](#) which is a pre-columbian archaeological site in the Guatemalan Highlands. Our amazing tour guide told us about the history of the site and the stories of the four groups/families that ruled there.



*Nuestro guía también compartió con el grupo nuestros Navales. Su padre era historiador y escribió un libro sobre los navales mayas. Aprendimos el significado y las características de todos los navales del grupo. Yo soy toj (tiburón).*

In the afternoon we had the great honor of meeting with the women and girls that make up [Asomujerdi](#) organization. We were welcomed with open arms to the community. We all shared stories about ourselves and how we are each involved in the Pulsera project (teachers, artists, and staff). We were even interviewed as part of their daily radio program! There was lots of dancing, hugs, and laughter. It was a very special day that I will never forget! It made me so proud to be working with a program like the Pulsera Project. I hope to be able to keep this connection going with these inspiring women when I return to my classroom.



*Fue un día lleno de alegría, conocimiento e intercambio.*

### Día 4: El lago Atitlán y el grupo IMAP (el 16 de julio)

I have seen so many new places and met so many new people it is hard to believe we have only been in Guatemala for four days.

Hoy nos quedamos en [Panajachel](#) una ciudad llena de vida, colores y energía a la orilla del Lago Atitlán. Empezamos en una lancha por el lago. Vamos a visitar dos comunidades por el lago.



We started the day visiting the [IMAP](#) (Instituto Mesoamericano de Permacultura). They are a NGO dedicated to the development of self-sustaining permaculture communities that use traditional knowledge and techniques to flourish. We were all amazed at the beauty of the community, and learned so much about sustainable agriculture. I took lots of videos and photos that I am excited to share with my 5th grade Spanish Immersion students in Science class next year.

### Un horno solar.



### Banco de semillas nativas.



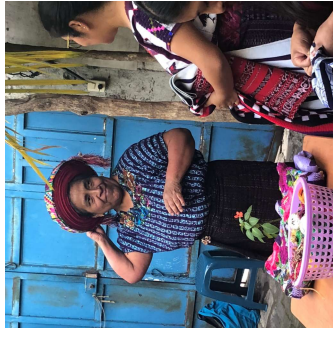
### Sistema de agua.



### El amaranto y otras plantas tradicionales.



In Santiago de Atitlan we were welcomed by the [Cojolva Association of Women Weavers](#). Cojolva is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to the preservation of Mayan backstrap loom weaving. At their workshop they gave us a demonstration of the different styles and techniques for the weaving and embroidery work they do. We were all amazed at the skill and artistry these women bring to their work. I think everyone in our group bought one or more of their beautiful weavings from their store in the city center.



### Día 5: Adiós, Antigua (el 17 de julio)

We returned to Antigua today for our last full day in Guatemala. It was a short but amazing trip. I feel so grateful to have had this opportunity. I have learned so much from the local artists, the Pulsera Project team, and my fellow teachers. This morning we shared ideas and future goals for how we can share what we have learned with our fellow teachers back in the US. I am excited to start creating lessons and materials for my students next year.

*Gracias otra vez al NSE, AATSP y el Proyecto Pulsera por una semana inolvidable.*



After we left IMAP we headed back to the boat and traveled to the pueblo of [Santiago de Atitlan](#). One of my favorite elements of the day was that the leaders of [Asomujerdi](#) and [IMAP](#) traveled with us all day. This provided us time to have great conversations and dialogues about on many topics. It was amazing to see the sharing and learning going on on so many different levels.

*El Lago Atitlán es uno de los lugares más lindos que he visto. Sus tres volcanes son majestuosos, y cada pueblo alrededor tiene su propio ritmo y atmósfera distinta.*

