

IAF SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)
Interactive Presentations - IAF SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (IP)

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ON THE ROAD! SPACE ROCK TOUR WITH A METEORITE HUNTER BY CINTIA DURÁN

Abstract

Since 2016 I conduct a research on the subject: how from unconventional methodologies we can make science popular, in a formal and meaningful way. I developed Love Letter to a Space Rock, as an artistic approach to the scientific development of meteoritic in Mexico. From a series of artistic pieces focused on the Allende meteorite, we conducted an educational program, an art exhibition and a series of lectures and exercises for the community of Mexico City. It is from here that we begin the journey, a hunt for meteorites around the country.

After a year of work using unusual methods, and working together with Mr. Eduardo Gómez, expert and meteoritic enthusiast, we built together a platform, an educational program and outreach, designed for astronomical institutions whom might be interested in the subject and with great access to non specialist audiences. Taking advantage of the experience and collaboration of Mr. Eduardo Gómez and some people within the Mexican Space Agency I started a project where we visited various institutions around Mexico, offering workshops, lectures, but also creating a formal visual documentation on each meteorite collection from every place we visited.

The first part of this project was held at the Museum of Paleontology of Guadalajara in 2017, where a workshop on "how to differentiate a terrestrial rock from a space one" was given, it was held a talk and proceeded to catalog and classify the collection of meteorites that counts the museum. The importance of this classification in photographic and video documentation is required for Mexican science, we are also achieving a connection between each institution visited, and began the development of the first current archive on the collections of meteorites in Mexico.

The project, On the road! space rock tour with a meteorite hunter, proposes a tour around the country, visiting museums, planetariums or research centers that have a collection of meteorites that can be cataloged and documented. The tour includes a visits from all over Mexico, starting with the planetary of Cancun, and through different states such as Chiapas, Puebla, Sinaloa, Sonora and ofcourse Chihuahua, with the aim of sharing information on investigations of meteoritic in Mexico with general -non specialized public, as well as creating a photographic archive from the collections of meteorites of each institution.