

## *Se Habla Español:* Strategy and Implementation for Bilingual Resources at Museums

### – Preparing Spanish Text Tip Sheet –

If your museum has decided to offer or expand Spanish-language resources, there are a number of important decisions regarding the necessary translations which should be made internally. The following resources will help you strategize and implement translations at your institution.

#### 1. Understanding your audience:

These resources provide a more in-depth discussion about topics raised in the webinar, including code switching, sociolinguistic integration, and translation strategy, with a specific focus on how these affect museum practice.

- Acuff, Joni Boyd and Evans, Laura. *Multiculturalism in Art Museums Today*, 2014.
- Garibay, Cecilia, et al. "Redefining Multiculturalism in Museums: A Case for Broadening our Thinking", 2015. *Museums & Social Issues, A Journal of Reflective Discourse*  
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1179/1559689314Z.00000000028>  
[The entire volume of this publication may be useful for some museums.]
- \*Plaza, Carlos, *In Other Words: Developing Bilingual Exhibitions* [Blog post], 2009  
<https://www.astc.org/astc-dimensions/in-other-words-developing-bilingual-exhibitions/>  
[Highly recommended resource for those considering translating exhibition materials.]

#### 2. Researching your audience:

The websites below host data that may help you better understand the Spanish-speaking community your museum could potentially serve. Note that data gathering is not a replacement for direct engagement with the community—involve them in conversations early and often.

- National Center for Education Statistics: <https://nces.ed.gov/programs/edge/Demographic/ACS>
- Pew Research Center, Hispanic Trends: <https://www.pewresearch.org/hispanic/>
- Department of Education, Civil Rights Data Collection: <https://ocrdata.ed.gov/Home>

#### 3. Finding a translator and editor:

Like other museum text, Spanish translations and scripts should be reviewed by at least two different people, a translator and copyeditor. Fees for translation and editing vary wildly depending on turnover time, reading level of the original text, translator's experience, and professionalization. You can expect to pay a translator's fee based on the word count of the original document, while some editors may request a flat fee based on number of pages, or some other metric. To get a better sense of what fees jobs are going for, browse through the Freelancer website: <https://www.freelancer.com/jobs/translation/>, but take these rates with a grain of salt. Quality of translation varies wildly when using Internet resources.

The PhD program in Literature and Linguistics at the University of Houston's Department of Hispanic Studies is the only program offered entirely in Spanish in the US. It attracts a variety of noted Spanish-speaking journalists, editors, and translators to the Houston area. Below is a listing of a number of graduate students and staff at UH who can serve as editors and translators for your projects, many who work in arts publishing and literary editing. This list is a starting ground for you to find a trusted translator and copyeditor, but make sure to broaden that search to your local community as well.

When reaching out to a potential editor or translator, make sure to request work samples, rates, turnover periods, or a CV. Meet with them or share a call, and discuss their approach to translation. Ask for their suggestions on translation decisions for your museum, including questions about Spanish varieties, gender endings, second person conjugations, and credit lines. Take the time to find someone who feels right for your institution, who cares for visitors and their needs. Finally, designate a dictionary (available online or not) and style guide to serve as references to all parties.

4. Translators and editors working out of the Houston area (can work remotely):

- Ana Emilia Felker, [felkeriana@gmail.com](mailto:felkeriana@gmail.com) – Translator and copyeditor
- Julio Molinete, [jagomolinete@gmail.com](mailto:jagomolinete@gmail.com) – Copyeditor
- Leonardo Gonzalez, [leonardoilovik@gmail.com](mailto:leonardoilovik@gmail.com) – Translator and copyeditor
- Paola Arboleda-Ríos, [parboeda@Central.UH.EDU](mailto:parboeda@Central.UH.EDU) – Translator
- Saúl Hernández-Vargas, [edicionespatiito@gmail.com](mailto:edicionespatiito@gmail.com) – Copyeditor
- Sendy Monárrez-Rhone, [sendymonarrez@gmail.com](mailto:sendymonarrez@gmail.com) – Translator
- Valentina Jager, [ykjager@gmail.com](mailto:ykjager@gmail.com) – Translator and copyeditor
- Verónica Romero, [bvromerop@gmail.com](mailto:bvromerop@gmail.com) – Copyeditor

5. Dictionaries, style guides, and other resources:

- Diccionario del español de México: <https://dem.colmex.mx/>
- Diccionario de la lengua española: <https://dle.rae.es/?w=diccionario>
- Style guide, El País: <https://www.parlament.cat/document/nom/manual-de-estilo-de-el-pais.pdf>
- Fundéu BBV, Buscador urgente de dudas: <https://www.fundeu.es/>
- Digital.gov Bilingual Resources listing: <https://digital.gov/resources/bilingual-glossaries-dictionaries-style-guides/>

6. Other resources:

- Antena: <https://antenaantena.org>, to learn more about issues of interpretation and language justice in the United States.
- Literal Magazine: <http://literalmagazine.com/>. Their writers and contributing editors may be open to working as copyeditors for art museum text. Use their contact page.

*If you have recommendations about resources to add to this listing, please contact María del Carmen ("Maricarmen") Barrios-Giordano, [mcbgbarrios@gmail.com](mailto:mcbgbarrios@gmail.com)*