

# 2016 Annual Report

## Culture and Community in Casma, Peru

In 2014, Gustavo Valencia Tello and Elizabeth Cruzado Carranza began to correspond about the small museum and school in Nivín, Peru. Professor Valencia invited Elizabeth to the village for a visit. In August of 2015, Elizabeth and Robert Connolly spent two days at Nivín and the surrounding archaeological sites. They were [thoroughly impressed](#) with the excellent work of the school and museum. In 2016, Elizabeth spent one month in Nivín, followed up by a meeting where Gustavo, Elizabeth, and Robert met to discuss future plans.

In all of their discussions, the starting point was a co-creative perspective where all participants are equal partners and projects are based on the expressed needs of the Nivín community and school. That is, all of the activities contained in this Annual Report flow from the stated needs of the Nivín community and the teachers in the village school.

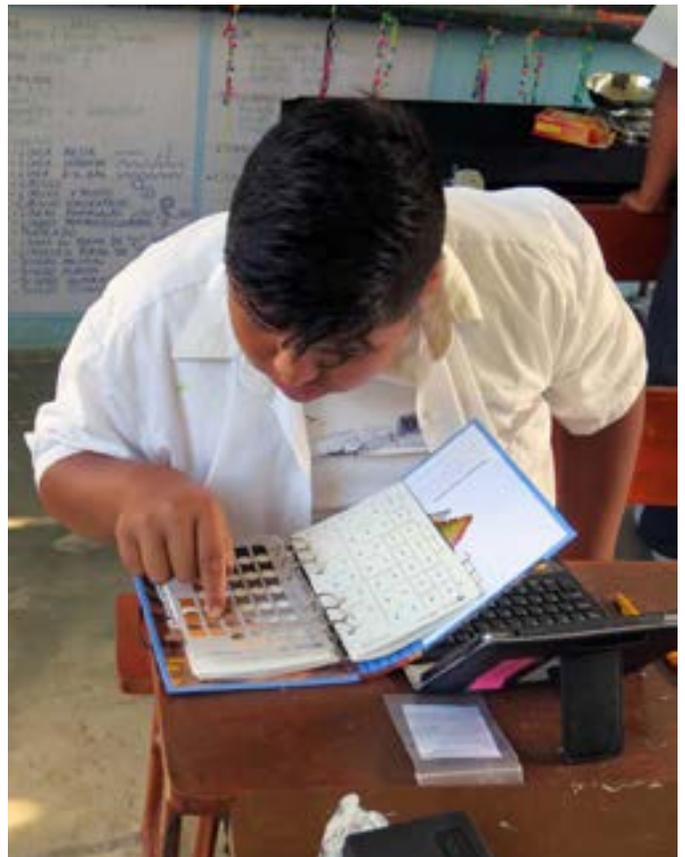
In 2016 we formed Culture and Community in Casma to coordinate the international organization and support for the project. Casma is the municipality and province that includes Nivín. All agreed that in the future, projects will expand beyond the boundaries of a single rural community, hence, the choice of a broader geographic designation.

Below, we report the activities of our organization to date.

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### Equipment and Supplies provided for the Nivín Museum Educational Projects

- Three printed volumes and over 1000 digital pages of museum and collections management best practices in Spanish
- Two digital tablets to create and maintain an accession catalog of artifacts curated at the Nivín Museum.
- A digital microscope, three calipers, three magnifying lens, a Munsell soil color book, and digital scale for artifact analysis.
- Plastic bags, Sharpies, and office supplies for use in curating the museum collections.
- Foam core, printer, and laminator to create exhibit labels.
- Four artifact display cases for the Museum.
- Laptop computer, digital voice recorder, digital camera, LED projector for use in the School and Museum.



**In June and July of 2016, Elizabeth Cruzado spent four weeks in Nivín assisting on a range of projects at both the School and Museum:**

- Professor Gustavo Valencia and Eli met daily to coordinate her activities.
- Eli taught basic classes that introduced the concept of archaeology and the importance of archaeology in the preservation of cultural heritage.
- Eli worked with students in organizing cultural materials for display in the new exhibit cases.
- Eli led the students in creating a digital database for the inventory of the archaeological materials at the Nivín Museum. Students learned how to inventory the artifacts and record basic metrics and descriptions using their new equipment.
- Eli taught art classes once each week based on regional prehistory including icons and items such as the *quipu*.
- Eli used the above lessons to allow students to described and further appreciate the importance of their community's cultural heritage.
- Twenty-one Nivín students participated in projects with Elizabeth over the four-week period.



**During Elizabeth's visit she also:**

- Participated in continued conversations with residents and teachers on the importance and mutual responsibility for co-creative work.
- Along with eight teachers at the Nivín School performed a SWOT analysis to guide the cultural heritage development of the community.
- Along with eight teachers created a three-goal strategic plan for the coming year.
- Participated in regular activities in the School's sustainable agriculture fields and gardens.
- Attended the Anniversary activities of the School.
- Visited the archaeological sites that surround the Nivín community to assess future research possibilities.

## Other recent activities include:

- The Nivín Museum held their first celebration of [International Archaeology Day celebration](#) in conjunction with the [Archaeological Institute of America](#).
- Gustavo and Elizabeth published [an article](#) on the Nivín project in the volume [Positioning Your Museum as a Critical Community Asset](#).
- Students in Robert Connolly's Museum Practices graduate seminar at the University of Memphis created a set of six timeline banners for the School and an omeka.net digital exhibition of artifacts curated at the Nivín Museum.
- Elizabeth and Robert presented their work from Nivín at the meetings of the Society for American Archaeology Annual Meeting and at the meeting of the [Society for Amazonian and Andean Studies](#).
- Launched a [monthly newsletter](#) to inform, educate, and promote the activities of Culture and Community in Casma. ([Click here](#) to subscribe.)

## Our work to date is made possible by:

- [A spring of 2016 gofundme campaign](#) that raised 2305.00 from 25 individuals who each donated from \$10.00 to \$1000.00.
- Rhodes College in Memphis donated a laptop computer.
- Munsell Color provided a soil color book.
- In kind donations of supplies and equipment totaling over 1000.00

All administrative costs were paid for by additional private donations.

## For More Information about Culture and Community in Casma, Peru

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