



Oxlajuj B'atz' a Project of
Asociación Tejedoras Unidas (Komon Ajkem)
& Maya Educational Foundation
Panajachel, Sololá, Guatemala
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Design Volunteer

Oxlajuj B'atz' (Thirteen Threads) is a non-profit indigenous women's empowerment and non-formal education organization working throughout Guatemala since 2004. We provide capacity-building skills training to 20 Maya women's cooperatives throughout rural Guatemala. Our four program areas are: Artisan and Product Development; Democracy and Team Building; Health and Well-Being and Small Business.

In December 2010, we initiated a Maya Women's Center & Fair Trade Store, located in an historical building in downtown Panajachel. The Center houses a cooperative Fair Trade store, resource library, community space for meetings and special events, and provides a departure point for tours to the women's communities.

The **Design Volunteer** will work with groups of Mayan women artisans to develop new designs and design techniques in order to diversify their product offerings.

Preferred Skills, Knowledge, Abilities:

- Bi-cultural experience
- Ability to follow through on designs - from the first concept to final sample
- Ability to communicate designs to artisans
- Knowledge of color tendencies and market trends
- Experience with back strap weaving preferred (for textile design) and/or different craft techniques – crochet, basket-making, clay, candles etc.
- Familiarity with local (Guatemalan) & tourist markets i.e., not just for export markets
- Familiar with Fair Trade principles
- Be able to travel to communities in rural Guatemala and take public transportation when needed
- Spanish fluency
- Knowledge of indigenous Maya culture and women's issues

Both short and long-term volunteers welcome.

To apply for this volunteer position, please send a Cover Letter and current CV to: thirteenthreads@gmail.com.
