

MAQUILÁPOLIS

[city of factories]

WE ARE PLEASED TO TELL YOU ABOUT THE MAQUILÁPOLIS VIDEO EDITING WORKSHOP:

Thanks to a generous grant from the Potrero Nuevo Fund, we were recently able to offer a Community Video Editing Workshop for some of the factory worker/activists who collaborated in creating the documentary *MAQUILÁPOLIS*.

In August 2007, five of the *promotoras* (community activists) participated in the workshop. They received training in computer basics and digital video

editing, and they created short videos about their lives. Participant Lupita Castañeda noted that the editing workshop “has allowed us to reflect upon

ourselves and to give ourselves the role of protagonists, as creative women.”



Promotora Carmen Durán at work during the MAQUILÁPOLIS Video Editing Workshop. She used video diaries shot between 2001-2007 to create a short piece about her neighborhood kindergarten.



Workshop teacher Carla Pataky showing editing techniques to the promotoras. Pataky is a member of Tijuana's Bulbo Collective and a teacher at the UABC (Autonomous University of Baja California).

Why an editing workshop? We began the *MAQUILÁPOLIS* project in 2001 by teaching video production skills and providing cameras to the *promotoras*, and we had always hoped to follow up this training with an editing workshop. During the film's creation, the participating *promotoras* shot many hours of intimate, dynamic footage, of which only a small portion could be used in the film itself. The editing workshop has brought that material back into service for the *promotoras*, along with an opportunity to learn another set of skills.



Promotoras Lourdes Luján and Yesenia Palomares used the workshop to edit a video about the continuing clean-up of the Metales y Derivados toxic waste site.

Over the course of the 6-session workshop, each participant edited a 3-5 minute video, on wide-ranging topics such as: sexual harassment in the factories; illegal pregnancy tests required by the factories before they will hire new workers; and the continued clean-up of Metales y Derivados, the toxic waste site featured in *MAQUILÁPOLIS*. These shorts will soon be available for viewing on our website: <http://www.maquilapolis.com>.

The workshop was a collaboration across institutions: the *MAQUILÁPOLIS* producers organized the workshop; Carla Pataky of Tijuana's media collective *bulbo* planned the curriculum and co-taught the workshop, with assistance from *MAQUILÁPOLIS* co-director Sergio De La Torre and *bulbo* member Sebastian Díaz; and the Autonomous University of Baja California (UABC) offered classroom space and lab computers. We are deeply grateful to Bulbo and to UABC for their part in making this workshop happen.

The participants' new skills will continue to flourish in the future, with editing equipment purchased for the *promotoras* by the Potrero Nuevo Fund grant. The equipment is now housed in the offices of *MAQUILÁPOLIS* Partner Organization, the Chilpancingo Collective for Environmental Justice, for long-term use by the *promotoras* and by the various Tijuana organizations with which they are affiliated. The camera gear provided for the *promotoras* early in the project, with a grant from the Creative Work Fund, is also housed at the Chilpancingo Collective, so the *promotoras* can now produce a video from start to finish. As *promotora* Lupita Castañeda says, "Our part does not end with the editing workshop, we are going to continue helping other women who want to do camera and sound." Tere Loyola adds, "We have to continue working and practicing. And for the women who collaborated on the documentary and in the editing workshop, may we continue united, sharing this beautiful knowledge."

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Funders of our Community Outreach Campaign include: Paul Robeson Fund for Independent Media, Threshold Foundation, Sunflower Fund, LEF Foundation, Potrero Nuevo Fund, and Betty Carr Muse. For a complete list, please visit our website: <http://www.maquilapolis.com/>.

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