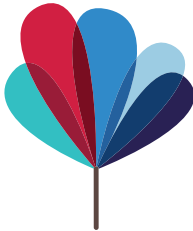
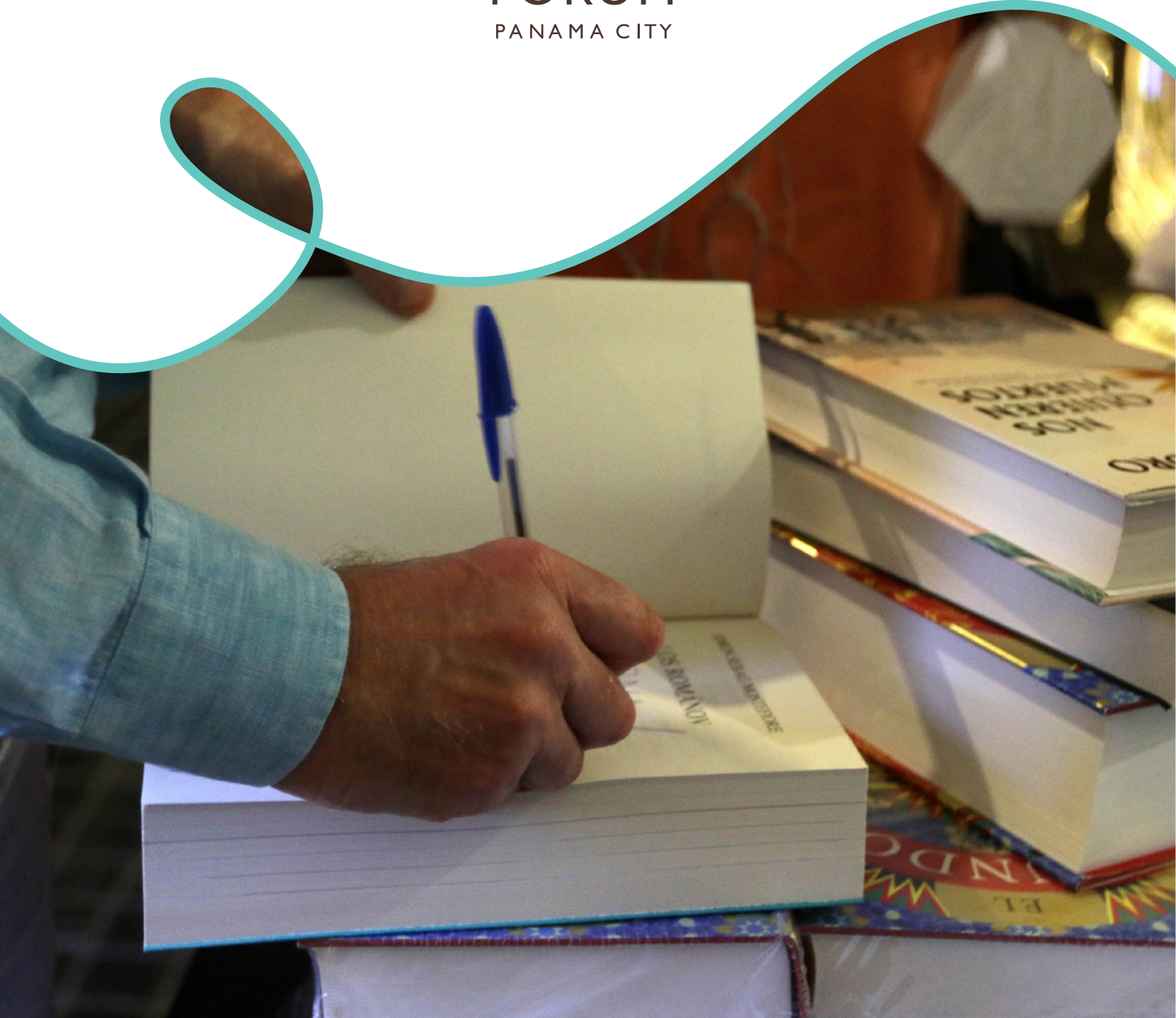


REPORT 2024



HAY
FORUM
PANAMA CITY





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HAY FORUM

PANAMA CITY 2024

On 23 and 24 January the Hay Forum Panama City became a space for talking about culture, peace, identity, families, books, human rights, ecology and democracy.

Its excellent results came about through a combination of support from sponsors and allies, the response from the public, local and international participants, and the varied range of subjects covered at the **15 activities** that took place from morning till night. The festival attendance was over **1,500 people** who came to hear the **32 participants**, who travelled from **8 countries**.

The public became involved in each and every one of the activities of this first event, demonstrating the intellectual curiosity in Panama and the audiences' support for cultural initiatives like this first Hay Forum in Panama City.

Each venue had its own bookstalls, and readers did not miss the chance to buy the guests' publications.

The audiences participated in dialogues about **cultural rights**, the power of **literature**, the **family** as the main engine of a society, the value of **native peoples**, the importance of protecting a deteriorating **environment**, **respect** for otherness, the strengthening of **democratic processes** along with equity and equality, as well as the urgent need to **fight against ignorance, racism, sexism** and all kinds of **discrimination**.

The events took place in the cultural venues of **La Manzana**, the **Panama Canal Museum** and the **Anita Villalaz Theatre**, allowing simple access from the San Felipe and Santa Ana areas and creating a well-connected route of knowledge among the three venues.

This vicinity to the two neighbourhoods offered those attending the perfect chance to come into contact with the opinions of brilliant minds from Panama, Colombia, Mexico, Argentina, United States, Canada, Germany and the United Kingdom.

From overseas came figures such as **Andrea Wulf, Juan Gabriel Vásquez, Velia Vidal, Cristina Fuentes La Roche, Jon Lee Anderson, Josefa Sánchez Contreras, Wade Davis, Simon Sebag Montefiore, Héctor Abad Faciolince, Indhira Serrano, Elisa Guerra** and **Javier Moro**.

Panamá was represented by personalities including **Juan David Morgan, Orit Btsh, Emma Gómez, Alina Torrero, Olga de Obaldía, Amalia Aguilar, Jorge Eduardo Ritter, Guillermina De Gracia, Jorge Eduardo Ritter, Ricaurte Vásquez, Miroslava Herrera, Humberto Vélez, Keyes Hardin, Durien Wagua, Carlos Wynter Melo, Sergio Dahbar** and **Ligia Castro**.



Alina Torrero, Josefa Sánchez Contreras, Indhira Serrano and Miroslava Herrera

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Hay Forum Panama City 2024

PARTICIPANTS' VOICES

For the Colombian actress, **Indhira Serrano**, it was an honour to be invited to the festival. "This was a global conversation to raise awareness in favour of equity, respect for human rights and protecting the planet, especially at such difficult times when it seems it is easier to lose hope and take refuge in one's individuality."

The Hay Forum Panama City was, for the Panama journalist **Amalia Aguilar**, a highly enriching event. "The participants came with a diversity of proposals, which look at our societies in a unique and particular way, and they invite us to reflect on our role in the global world in which we live. Very well organised."

For the Panama lawyer, **Olga de Obaldía**, "it is not so common to have a space where we can ask what fiction is, why we write and read literature, and to think about the very goal of art as an indispensable tool for understanding our place in the world and its meaning."

Joining the group of guests at this festival was, for the Mexican social researcher **Josefa Sánchez Contreras**, the chance to enter into a dialogue in which she could "share analysis, reflection and writings with indigenous and non-indigenous people, with the aim of imagining possible worlds without racism, without colonialisms, without pillage or violence, where we can live with dignity."

The Colombian writer **Velia Vidal** gives the opinion that this festival was a space for conversation about pressing matters, and about events from the past that allow us to rethink the future. “A society cannot grow in economic terms without thinking about its cultural dimension. The Hay Forum lends a hand in this process of growth and of giving autonomy to Panama, so that culture does not get left behind in this new construction of paradigms.”

The Panama novelist **Juan David Morgan** pointed out that the Hay Forum “has been a success thanks to the excellent organization and the quality of the guests who have participated. Events such as this are what Panama needs to believe in ourselves to be a true cultural centre. The arrival of the Hay Festival to the country offers panameños the chance to show that we are a place that loves and welcomes culture, and to promote our geographical position above and beyond the service that we, through the canal, offer to global commerce.”

For the Panama teacher, **Emma Gómez Guerra**, it has been a venue that allowed “critical ideas to flow, and gave rise to a harmonious atmosphere, investigation, high-quality literature, open laughter. It was a chance to meet each other, a privilege.”

The US journalist **Jon Lee Anderson** felt that the Hay Forum was “an innovative, diverse and wonderful cultural celebration. It is something that one expects from Hay with its festivals, but experiencing it in the beautiful old quarter of Panama City for the first time has been a great pleasure. I have good memories of the fascinating events, of the human warmth and the enthusiastic audiences. Good luck for the future of the Hay Forum.”

Adiel Bonilla, a journalist with La Estrella de Panamá, talked about the event before it began, considering the Hay Forum Panama 2024 “to be an interesting urban festival and a place to talk about important matters related to literature, history, the environment and cultural management.”



Sergio Dahbar and Andrea Wulf
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Dui ren Wagua
© Daniel Mordzinski

Lina Vega, Wade Davis, Ricaurte Vásquez,
Jon Lee Anderson and Ligia Castro

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Velia Vidal

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Héctor Abad Faciolince, Emma Gómez Guerra
and Juan David Morgan

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The Forum IN NUMBERS

32 PARTICIPANTS
from **8 countries**

15 ACTIVITIES

1,500 attended in person

131 press publications

R.O.I. de 59,000 US dollars
including **radio stations, newspapers** and
magazines

THE 5 BESTSELLING BOOKS:

- *Nos quieren muertos*, by Javier Moro
- *Salvo mi corazón, todo está bien*, by Héctor Abad Faciolince
- *El mundo, una historia de familias*, by Simon Sebag Montefiore
- *Rosa la crespita*, by Indhira Serrano
- *La traducción del mundo*, by Juan Gabriel Vásquez

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



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THANKS TO



Marta Aguilar and Jon Lee Anderson

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