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Traveling Guatemalan Bead Art Exhibit on Display at Convivio Café

Guatemalan-owned bilingual cafe displays original artwork created by low-income Indigenous Maya artisan women in Guatemala.

DENVER, COLO.: Convivio Café, the first Guatemalan-inspired, women-and-immigrant owned café in Denver, has teamed up with the Lakewood nonprofit, Friendship Bridge, to display its <u>Beading Wonders collection</u> of original beaded artwork, handmade by artisan women in Guatemala. The exhibit is made up of five handmade beaded designs that represent the worldview of the Indigenous Maya, and focus on the concept of *nahuales*—a deeply spiritual energy believed to protect and guide individuals.

"Nahuales influence one's personality and destiny, and are assigned to each person according to the day of their birth and determined by the Mayan calendar," explained Sussan Hrozek, manager of Handmade by Friendship Bridge®, the artisan division of the nonprofit. "They are highly personal, but also represent the essence of the Mayan people and their culture collectively."

The artisans who made the pieces also designed jewelry inspired by *nahuales*, available for purchase on <u>Handmade by Friendship Bridge®'s website</u>. "Designing this artwork on a larger scale allowed them to stretch their abilities as creators and problem solvers," Hrozek said. "We commissioned these pieces to them as a way to explain more about Indigenous Mayan culture, while also allowing them to have additional income-earning opportunities that support their families."

Learn more about Beading Wonders, *nahuales*, and their Guatemalan artisan creators at an event on November 13, 5:30–6:30 p.m. at Convivio Café. The exhibit can also be viewed during Convivio Café's business hours, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., at 4935 West 38th Ave., Denver, from now until January 10, 2026.

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About Convivio Café:

A women and immigrant-owned, Guatemalan-inspired, bilingual café in Denver, Convivio Café serves coffee both grown and roasted by Guatemalan farmers, while collaborating with like-minded artisans, farmers, chefs, and organizations. Co-owners Vivi Lemus and Kristin Lacy value sharing Latin American culture with the café's diverse North Denver community. Learn more: www.conviviocafe.com

About Friendship Bridge®:

Friendship Bridge® is a Lakewood-based nonprofit social enterprise that supports low-income women in Guatemala through small businesses loans, education, and health services, so they can thrive in their home country. To support Friendship Bridge's artisan clients' work, visit www.friendshipbridge.org and click "Shop."