

# IRGF Final Report

## Lamoureux-St-Hilaire - #103622

### The Dolores Slow Archaeology Project

#### 1.1 Project Summary

For generations, Latin American heritage communities have provided labor for field projects led by Global North academic archaeologists. This labor force, composed of grassroots archaeologists working seasonally, remains instrumental to our field. Yet, these professionals are excluded from initial research design and later, synthesis and dissemination phases—profoundly limiting their contribution to the production of archaeological knowledge. The Dolores Slow Archaeology Program (DSAP) challenges this postcolonial situation by developing a sustainable archaeological program in concert with a Guatemalan heritage community.

#### 1.2 Project Outcomes and Impacts

Our three principal objectives are to: 1) Document the instrumental role of Doloreños in advancing Maya archaeology; 2) Illuminate the state of Maya archaeological practice based on the perceptions of grassroots archaeologists to critically define more inclusive – and decolonial – research methods; 3) Identify a local site of interest and collaboratively design an archaeological research program to fully involve Doloreños in the creation and dissemination of knowledge. This year's 16 interviews contributed seriously to our knowledge in those 3 research themes. In particular, we now understand much better why archaeology became such an important source of income for Doloreños and why they love this kind of work more than their limited local opportunities. We also learned that this is why they have generally great relationships with researchers; although we also see avenues of improvement. Finally, it now appears that Doloreños wish to develop a local project at the ancient Maya site of Ixtonton. The community is very appreciative of our presence and our reputation is growing every year. People there are very eager for us to continue coming and too to launch an archaeological program. We presented our results at the New Orleans Society of American Archaeology (SAA) Meeting. This presentation provided tremendously positive feedback from colleague, and it appears our project could become influential. We have a current in-press article with the Canadian Journal of Archaeology and more publications plans. Our interview recording quality is awesome. I applied for an Arts Undergraduate Student Assistance Fund to pay for 3 MRU RA's to help begin transcribing these interviews. Training three students to do this could greatly help in the long run and be an amazing learning opportunity for them. We plan on returning for one last ethnographic field season before launching into the archaeological phase of the project.

#### 2.1 Use of Awards Funds

2,507.74 CAD were spent on a dissemination trip to the New Orleans SAA meeting. These funds went towards paying for my airfare, a portion of an AirBnB, per diems, and one taxi. 1,603.58 CAD were spent to pay for my airfare to Guatemala. 2,890.00 CAD were spent on the research in Guatemala. The funds went towards paying for hotels, per diems, local transport (shuttles and taxis), and for paying a token amount to each interviewee.'

## 2.2 Additional Outcomes/Research Issues

N/A

## 2.3 Dissemination of Project

Planned for Summer 2025: - Community reception and presentation of our results, including the distribution of maps tracking the contribution of each Dolores family to the field of Maya Research. - Give a presentation at the Guatemalan Symposium of Archaeology in July. Peer-Reviewed Article Forthcoming: Lamoureux-St-Hilaire, Maxime and Rubén Morales Forte 2025 Slowing Down the Archaeological Process in Dolores, Petén, Guatemala. Canadian Journal of Archaeology. In Press. Invited Lecture Forthcoming: Lamoureux-St-Hilaire, Maxime and Ruben Morales Forte 2024 Slowing down the Archaeological Process in Dolores, Guatemala. Invited lecture for Calgary Centre, Archaeological Society of Alberta. Submitted Conference Presentation/Posters Forthcoming: Lamoureux-St-Hilaire, Maxime and Ruben Morales Forte 2025 The Cultural Heritage of Dolores (Petén, Guatemala) from the Perspective of its Grassroots Archaeological Community. 90th SAA, Denver, CO. Past: Lamoureux-St-Hilaire, Maxime and Ruben Morales Forte 2024 The Dolores Slow Archaeology Program: Results of the first season. 89th SAA, New Orleans, LA. Lamoureux-St-Hilaire, Maxime and Ruben Morales Forte 2023 Slow Archaeology and Collaborative Knowledge Production in the Maya World. 122nd AAA. Toronto, ON. Morales Forte, Ruben and Maxime Lamoureux-St-Hilaire 2023 Slow Archaeology, Community Engagement, and Collaborative Knowledge Production in the Maya World. 88th SAA, Portland, OR.

## 2.4 Future Research Plans

We have lots of interviews to transcribe, analyze, and report. Hopefully, 3 MRU RAs will soon start helping with this. A final and third season is planned for the summer of 2025. I've applied to a National Geographic grant for this and will reapply for a SSHRC IDG. The future archaeological phase of the project should hopefully begin in 2026 or 2027.