

# Our Roots, Our Heritage: Bay Area Maya

- ★ Yucatan Peninsula
- Southeast of Mexico
- Tropical climate
- Limestone
- Cenotes, NO rivers
- Land of the MAYA



# Our Roots, Our Heritage: Bay Area Maya

- ★ There are at least 24 different types of Mayas, living in Southeast Mexico and Central America
- ★ WE ARE MAYAS FROM YUCATAN,  
we are YUCATEC MAYAS





# Our Roots, Our Heritage: Bay Area Maya

## ★ The MAYA

There are **1,494,578** Yucatec Maya living in the Yucatan Peninsula

In Yucatan there are **981,064** Yucatec Maya, which account for **59.2%** of the total state's population



# Our Roots, Our Heritage: Bay Area Maya

- ★ The MAYA
  - Mayan Language
  - Traditions
  - Food
  - Subsistence farmers
  - Shy personality



# Our Roots, Our Heritage: Bay Area Maya

## \* Socioeconomic conditions

### Marginalized

- No health coverage (69.2%)
- Illiteracy (19.9%)
- Poverty
- Discrimination
- Unemployment
- Lack of educational opportunities



# Our Roots, Our Heritage: Bay Area Maya

- ★ The enormous tourist industry in Cancun has failed to provide well paid Jobs and opportunities for development for the local Maya and those immigrating from the state of Yucatan



# Our Roots, Our Heritage: Bay Area Maya

## ★ The Maya in San Francisco

The number of Maya living in San Francisco is still unknown, but is believed that there are between 10,000 to 15,000 Yucatec Maya in San Francisco alone





# Our Roots, Our Heritage: Bay Area Maya

- ★ Remittances to Yucatan amounted 52 million dollars by December 2003
- ★ By 2004 this number dramatically increased to 80 million dollars.
- ★ 15% of consular ID's were issued to Yucatecs
- ★ 85% are males and 15% women
- ★ 90% speaks Mayan and feel more comfortable speaking Maya
- ★ 62% moved to San Francisco less than 5 years ago



# Our Roots, Our Heritage: Bay Area Maya

- ★ We are from:
- ★ Oxcutzcab, Peto, Akil, Tekax, Ticul, Cooperativa, Xul, Xohuayan, Yaaxhom, Santa Elena, Tzucacab, Morelos, Chetumal, Yotolin, Thadziu, Merida, Acankeh, Valladolid, Tixkokob, etc.



# Our Roots, Our Heritage: Bay Area Maya

- ★ Many Yucatec Maya work in the service industry in San Francisco
  - Restaurants
  - Hotels
  - Janitorial services



# Our Roots, Our Heritage: Bay Area Maya

- ★ Many Yucatec Maya attend San Francisco City College to take ESL classes, they are quick learners of English.
- ★ Yucatec Mayas are hard working and extremely devoted to their families and community



# Our Roots, Our Heritage: Bay Area Maya

- ★ The Yucatec Maya community is very unified and hometown connections remain solid.



# Our Roots, Our Heritage: Bay Area Maya

- ★ The challenges in organizing the Yucatec Maya in San Francisco
- The majority are undocumented
- Language barriers
- Wary of outsiders
- Minimum level of education



# Our Roots, Our Heritage: Bay Area Maya

- ★ Recommendation to reach out to the Mayan community
- Workshop trainings in Mayan Language and culture
- Hire a Mayan speaker out reach worker
- Interpretation services in Maya
- Cultural competency in Maya culture







