



## Three Americas Commission

**President** Rubén Darío Salazar

**Members:** (Presidents or representatives of the centres) : Grober Mauricio Loredó (Bolivia, representation), Mónica Martínez (Argentina), Andreisson Quintela (Brazil), Claudia Andrea Rojas (Chile), Canada - Functions as a Unima Board, Marcelito A-vuelo (Colombia), Kembly Aguilar (Costa Rica), Karen Smith (United States of America), Sarah Guzmán - acting president (Mexico), Zoa Mesa (Centre in the process of reactivation), María Laura Vélez (Peru), Elvira Taveras (Dominican Republic), Raquel Ditchekenian (Uruguay), Alejandro Jara, vice-president in charge of an enlarged Board (Venezuela).

Among the priorities of the work of the 3 Americas commission in 2022, was the consolidation of new national centers in the region, in addition to stimulating the strengthening of existing ones, an issue that can only be achieved by working and uniting wills and commitments in each country.

The global pandemic decreased in 2022, but it did not completely disappear, which limited the results of work in our countries, in regard to face-to-face confrontation, since there has been intense activity virtually.

In November 2022, I had the opportunity to travel to Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, by my own means. There a meeting was held with some members of the new center, whose name is Unima Dominican Republic. The meeting took place at the Fundación Teatro Cúcara Mácara, in the month of November.

To maintain an active dialogue between our centers, we created the WhatsApp group Unima 3 Américas, where, due to language and cultural issues, we have maintained greater contact with Spanish-speaking countries, from Mexico to Argentina. It remains to strengthen contact with the centers in Canada and the United States of America, or rethink the actual operation due to this cultural characteristic of our commission.

Direct communication has been maintained with the presidents of the national centers, where the action has not stopped, since multiple projects have been generated that keep the puppeteer profession vital and developing in this area of the world.

Pending better sanitary conditions, the call to the centers of the region for a work meeting in Cuba was made in May 2021, and it has not been carried out for sanitary and economic reasons. We hope to complete it by the end of 2023.

The questions asked to the centers in the 2021 report have been answered from specific actions generated in each UNIMA center in the region. Stage seasons, colloquiums on puppetry and therapy, specialized publications on puppet art, a census on female theater performers, a congress on puppetry and mediation, festivals, virtual parades, workshops and seminars for teacher training, campaigns in favor of biodiversity with puppets, virtual diploma courses on puppeteering techniques, distance courses and tributes to master puppeteers who died in 2022, held in Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Chile, United States, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Venezuela and Uruguay.

Much more can be done to keep our region's creative landscape active and developing. We are in this capital task and not a little has been done.

Ruben Dario Salazar