

Eladio Sobrino Foundation

I. History

The history of the Eladio Sobrino Foundation is intimately linked to the history of Isla Negra, a small coastal town located on the southern edge of the El Quisco commune, Valparaíso Region. We consider that this history began more than 80 years before the Foundation was formally established. In it, Eladio Sobrino and his descendants have had an important and decisive participation.

1. The Beginning: Eladio Sobrino

In 1937, Mr. Eladio Sobrino Segovia, a Spanish sailor settled in Chile since the late 19th century, bought 25 hectares of land in the Las Gaviotas area, now Isla Negra, located on the coastal edge northwest of the Córdova Ravine. Mr. Eladio divided and sold these lands starting in 1939, with the Poet Pablo Neruda settling among them, who renamed it with its current name, Isla Negra. Soon this locality attracted the arrival of several artists and personalities from the cultural world, which continued in subsequent years. Likewise, old families of locals from neighboring sectors, such as the Pérez, Díaz, Espinoza, and Álvarez families, settled in the locality. Others came from further away, like the Llanca family from Pichilemu. The town grew but always maintained a special identity, where the richness and beauty of the local nature coexist harmoniously with artistic, cultural, and intellectual development.

2. Leonor Sobrino Sanz and the Bordadoras de Isla Negra

The descendants of Mr. Eladio also settled in this locality and have been part of its history since 1937. In fact, some of the first stone houses built (including the first part of Pablo Neruda's house) were designed by his daughter **Luz Sobrino Sanz**, one of the first female architects in the country, who settled in Concepción for the city's reconstruction after the 1939 earthquake. In the late 1960s, the eldest of her children, **Leonor Sobrino Sanz**, concerned about the precarious situation of the locals in the winters - particularly women - organized and directed a small group of them to build what became an immense contribution to the art and culture of our country: the “**Bordadoras de Isla Negra**”. In 1969, Nemesio Antúnez organized the first exhibition of the Bordadoras at the Museum of Fine Arts, with resounding success. In 1971, for the organization of UNCTAD III in Santiago, this group was commissioned to create a "Collective Embroidery"

of large dimensions (~ 8m x 2m), which was exhibited in the building specially constructed for that occasion.

Years later, Mrs. Leonor and her children Vera Sobrino, along with some close friends, created a Foundation, based in New York: **Isla Negra Foundation**. This Foundation formed a collection of embroideries made between 1969 and 1990, and promoted and organized successful exhibitions of the “Bordadoras de Isla Negra” between 1980 and 2010 in important cities around the world such as São Paulo, London, Paris, Geneva, Miami, Washington DC, Boston, Tokyo, Kyoto, among others, achieving significant international recognition.

3. Isabel Sobrino Sanz and Córdova Ravine

Córdova Ravine has been there since time immemorial. So ancient that one of its greatest natural riches is the relict forests, especially olivillos, which have existed since before the formation of the Andes Mountain Range, around ten million years ago. The particular shape of the ravine with difficult access and the humid coastal climate allowed its survival even when climatic conditions changed after the birth of the Andes, disappearing that species west of the mountain range.

Shortly before the end of the 20th century, the increased awareness of humanity in environmental preservation and conservation, coupled with the uncontrolled growth of settlement in coastal areas, led biologist Carlos Medina and other residents of the ravine to seek an effective way to achieve the necessary: to obtain the designation of Córdova Ravine as a Nature Sanctuary. **Isabel Sobrino Sanz**, the youngest daughter of Mr. Eladio, and her children Marmentini Sobrino joined that crusade.

4. Creation of the Eladio Sobrino Foundation

The Eladio Sobrino Foundation was created as a non-profit entity whose Legal Personality was granted by Decree N°4278 of August 3, 2010.

The Marmentini Sobrino siblings, children of Isabel Sobrino Sanz, decided to create this Foundation so that, through its management, the objectives for which Mr. Eladio Sobrino and his descendants, together with the Isla Negra community, had worked for more than half a century, could be successfully materialized and deepened.

We can summarize the objectives of the Foundation as expressed in part of Article Second of its statutes:

"The Foundation shall aim to promote and support the broad development of the Isla Negra locality, considering that it encompasses both the development of people, the preservation of the historical, cultural, and environmental heritage of the locality, the strengthening of a local identity, all in a sustainable manner over time, in balance with the environment and nature."

II. Management of the Eladio Sobrino Foundation from 2010 to 2024

Since its formal creation in 2010 until the present day, the Eladio Sobrino Foundation has developed a prolific management with significant achievements. All of them have been worked on both with the community itself and with various organizations and institutions that partially or fully share the objectives with the Foundation.

1. Declaration of Nature Sanctuary Quebrada de Córdoba

Efforts to obtain the Declaration of Nature Sanctuary for Quebrada de Córdoba began before the year 2000, initially yielding no positive results. After the formal creation of the Eladio Sobrino Foundation on August 3, 2010, this Declaration request was directly made by the Eladio Sobrino Foundation. A team led by Biologist Carlos Medina fulfilled all the requirements of the scientific foundation and the complex administrative procedures demanded of us. This Sanctuary has the special and complex characteristic of being located in two municipalities and on public and private lands, with hundreds of different owners. Because of this, a lengthy task was undertaken to garner support on the ground for this designation. Finally, it was achieved: on July 14, 2017, the Declaration of Nature Sanctuary for Quebrada de Córdoba was published in the Official Gazette. Additionally, in the same Decree in Article 4, the Eladio Sobrino Foundation was appointed as the Administrator of the Sanctuary.

The Declaration of Sanctuary and the appointment as **Administrator** of this by the Eladio Sobrino Foundation have allowed real and rapid progress toward the Environmental Heritage Protection objective outlined in the Foundation's statutes. Along with establishing a permanent team of park rangers and making improvements to the infrastructure, a Management Plan for the Sanctuary was developed, a fundamental element for its proper functioning in the short, medium, and long term. The Management Plan proposal was submitted to the authority for study and approval in 2021.

In 2022, the Quebrada de Córdoba Corporation was established, a specialized body with the sole objective of protecting and managing the Quebrada de Córdoba Sanctuary, led by Biologist Carlos Medina, who led the Sanctuary Declaration request for almost 30 years and also directed the team that developed its Management Plan. In March 2024, the Eladio Sobrino Foundation

entered into a Concession Agreement with the Quebrada de Córdova Corporation for it to directly manage the Administration, in accordance with what was determined in its Management Plan.

2. “Bordar el Desborde”: The Bordadoras de Isla Negra Return to the Museum of Fine Arts

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the first exhibition of the “Bordadoras de Isla Negra” held in 1969, the Isla Negra Foundation provided its Embroidery collection to the Eladio Sobrino Foundation to hold the exhibition titled **“Bordar el Desborde, Las Bordadoras de Isla Negra at the MNBA: 1969-2019”** at the Museum of Fine Arts in Santiago in August 2019. The exhibition was managed and directed by Luz Marmentini Sobrino, with curation by the distinguished professionals Alejandra Araya and Andrea Durán. Its design and assembly were carried out by a first-rate professional team, combining the exhibition's quality and beauty with the assembly's flexibility and modularity, allowing for its transfer and exhibition in various venues across the country thereafter. The exhibition at the Museum of Fine Arts was a great success, both critically and publicly, receiving over 11,000 visits.

3. “Bordar el Desborde”: The Bordadoras de Isla Negra Tour Chile

As planned, following the exhibition at the Museum of Fine Arts, "Bordar el Desborde" began a journey through different cities in the country, starting at the El Austral Cultural Center in Valdivia. The pandemic that struck the world in the years 2020 and 2021 forced the suspension of exhibitions in those years, which resumed in 2022, continuing at the Art Pinacoteca of the University of Concepción, the Baburizza Museum in Valparaíso, and the Estrecho de Magallanes Park in Punta Arenas.

4. The Collective Embroidery Returns Home and Goes Out into the World

The Collective Embroidery made by the Bordadoras de Isla Negra in the summer of 1972, to be exhibited at the UNCTAD III, remained in that building until 1973, where it disappeared along with other works of art exhibited there. The Collective Embroidery reappeared at the end of 2019, and subsequently, it was restored and reintegrated into the heritage of the Gabriela Mistral Cultural Center (GAM), located in the same building where this embroidery was originally exhibited in 1972 for the UNCTAD III World Conference. In 2022, it was exhibited again at GAM to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Building.

From early December 2023 to early January 2024, the Eladio Sobrino Foundation, with the support of GAM and the Neruda Foundation, exhibited the Collective Embroidery at the Isla Negra Museum House, with curatorial text by Josefina de la Maza, museography by Trinidad Moreno, and management and direction by Luz Marmentini. The reception from the Isla Negra community was particularly emotional, especially from the authors of this work who are still alive, their fellow embroiderers, their families, and members of the local community.

The "Collective Embroidery" was invited to the 60th Art Biennale in Venice by its curator, Adriano Pedrosa, who even chose it for the cover of the website (<https://www.labiennale.org/en/art/2024>) of this major exhibition that will be held between April 20 and November 24, 2024.

5. Project Museum of the Bordadoras de Isla Negra, in Isla Negra

The **Eladio Sobrino Foundation**, together with the **Isla Negra Foundation**, has as a future project the construction of a Museum of the Bordadoras in the locality. Even though it is in its initial stage, the land has already been secured, which will be donated by a member of the "Sobrino Family".

We believe that this project not only gives a definitive place to the legacy of the “Bordadoras de Isla Negra”, but also constitutes a fundamental contribution to consolidating the Artistic and Cultural Heritage of the locality.

6. Integration into the Community

In addition to the achievements obtained for the protection of the Environmental and the Historical and Cultural Heritage of Isla Negra mentioned above, the Eladio Sobrino Foundation regularly participates, together with other community organizations and the authorities of the El Quisco commune and other institutions, in activities relevant to the community.

A fundamental achievement was the integration into the Safety Working Group for Isla Negra, which developed an action plan that is being implemented and, in turn, is serving as a model for other areas of the El Quisco commune. We consider that this integration into the community, actively participating in issues that are relevant to it in daily life, such as Security, validates our actions in all other areas.

7. Integration with Key Stakeholders in the Locality

In the realm of Strategic Planning to drive the development of Isla Negra, we have established a working group alongside other institutions: Isla Negra Foundation, Neruda Foundation, El Quisco Municipality, Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism (FAU) of the University of Chile, Nobel Project, and Cardoen Foundation.

A significant achievement contributed by this group was the signing in December 2023 of the Agreement between the Municipality of El Quisco and the FAU of the University of Chile. One of the objectives of this agreement is to develop a Master Urban Plan for the locality. It also includes the establishment of regulations for the Heritage Zone, which is currently virtually non-existent.

Enrique Marmentini Sobrino
President
Eladio Sobrino Foundation

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