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# BYTE Summer Highlights

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Happy Fall, and welcome to BYTE's Summer Recap! We have exciting updates from our summer programs, while looking ahead to Fall. This month we're sharing highlights from our Semilleros Creativos youth photography course, a sneak peak of a major urban art project rolling out this fall, and a brand new Boxing course we've developed for the girls at Casa Hogar Madre Conchita. BYTE is so proud to share that 460 children in Ambos Nogales participated in summer programs. It's amazing that we continue to grow and you can check out our [2022 Summer Evaluation](#) for a deeper look. We're also bidding farewell to VISTA AmeriCorp member Zayra Rivera, while welcoming to 2 new VISTA fellows, Adrian Laudani and Zeena Khazendar.

Thank you for continuing to make our work possible and for supporting kids and communities on the US/Mexico border!

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# Summer

# Programming Recap



## **Don Bosco Summer Collaboration**

Since 2019 BYTE has collaborated with Mexican Secretary of Culture's Semillero Creativo program. In Aug this collaboration was showcased through the Audiovisual production branch of Nogales Sonora, in an activity called *Tiempo de Cosecha* or *Harvest Time*.

This in-person event at our Don Bosco site featured an opportunity for BYTE Photography students to share work in a live exposition. Members of BYTE's Cinenautas film class also had the chance to display videos they had been working on. Be sure to check out these cool pictures from the event!

## Project Sneak Peak

Have you ever noticed how beautiful the murals are in the border region? Well, guess what!? BYTE has launched an Urban Art on the Border initiative, to contribute to the history and beautification of borderlands. Our creative team is partnering with local artists and the American Consulate to design permanent murals for our Anza Park tennis courts in Arizona and an additional Sonoran public space.

We're also designing an Urban Art Directory magazine highlighting Ambos Nogales murals and prominent artists from both sides. We'll be releasing the magazine in the spring, so be sure to keep an eye out for updates on the project.



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# Tennis for America

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On Aug 1st, we said goodbye to our very first VISTA AmeriCorp intern, Zayra Rivera. After almost 2 years with BYTE Zayra accepted position as Senior Associate at [Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors](#). Considering her time with BYTE Zayra shares, "I am really happy to have made so many friends through BYTE. I can honestly say it's been a joy to work with the team and I will miss them so much!" While we're sad to see Zayra go, we're excited to introduce 2 new Vista AmeriCorp fellows, Adrian Laudani and Zeena Khazendar. Zeena and Adrian will spend a year working with BYTE through [Tennis for America](#), an Intercollegiate Tennis Association initiative that places young professionals in non-profit community tennis programs.



Adrian (left) is a Masters student in the [University of San Francisco International Studies](#) program (MAIS). Originally from New York, Adrian graduated from University of Scranton with a Bachelors in Counseling and Human Services. Before starting a Masters and joining BYTE she worked as a refugee resettlement caseworker in Atlanta, as a Program Coordinator in Bologna Italy, and as an Immersions leader in San Francisco. Adrian is excited to support BYTE this year and continue creating welcoming spaces for migrant youth.

Zeena (right) is a Palestinian-American premedical student and varsity [beach volleyball student-athlete](#) at Stanford University. She grew up in Jordan, and with most of her family being double-refugees, developed a strong passion for working with displaced migrants and refugees. Zeena loves being a BYTE team member because she values long-term impact. She is inspired by the positivity in BYTE's youth sports and enrichment programming.

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## Program Highlight: BYTE Boxing

BYTE is excited to announce that boxing has been added to its sports curriculum, in collaboration with Casa Hogar para Niñas la Madre Conchita. Casa Hogar is a permanent residence displaced girls in Nogales Sonora and BYTE has been

partnering with them since it's first tennis classes in 2015. BYTE has loved supporting the girls through the years and watching them grow into strong young women. So when they suggested a boxing exercise program BYTE had to make it happen! Of the many benefits to a sport such as boxing, it promotes agility, discipline, and stress reduction. It improves concentration, promotes confidence, and is just really fun! Check out one of our student-athletes training below, training on the heavy bag.



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Have a great start to the fall and stay tuned for more updates and highlights in the next BYTE Newsletter!

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