

From invention to innovation



TCU welcomes visitors in the exhibit Leonardo da Vinci: the nature of invention

The exhibit *Leonardo Da Vinci: the nature of invention* opened on July 21, at the headquarters of the Federal Court of Accounts (TCU), in Brasília, and it was visited by over 26 thousand people. Of this total, nearly 19 thousand were students from the Federal District and its surrounding areas. Students from public and private schools participated in guided tours organized by the educational program of the exhibition, which gathered 40 objects conceived according to the drafts and drawings left by the Italian artist and inventor who lived from 1452-1519. The pieces were produced in 1952, to celebrate the

fifth centenary of birth of Da Vinci. The set of projects and models is part of the *Museo Nazionale della Scienza e della Tecnologia Leonardo Da Vinci*, of Milan, in Italy.

At the exhibition, it was possible to see, for example, reproductions of flying machines (Da Vinci was an aviation pioneer and created pieces based on studies of bird anatomy), a vehicle similar to war tanks, studies on submarines, human anatomy, and set design projects. In addition, the exhibit had reproductions of the equipment designed by the inventor to enable underwater breathing (an ancestor of the wetsuit). Most of

Da Vinci's inventions were never executed. Others were essential for labor during his lifetime, such as the 4.5-meter high and 500 kg crane designed for the construction of the dome of the Santa Maria del Fiori Cathedral (Florence, Italy). It was the crane that made it possible to build the Cathedral's imposing cooper sphere, over one hundred meters high.

The president of TCU, minister Aroldo Cedraz stressed the opportunity of bringing the works to the Court and highlighted the importance of Da Vinci's work for society. Not only as an artist but also as an engineer and scholar. "The innova-

tive spirit of Leonardo Da Vinci inspired the world and has inspired actions in the Federal Court of Accounts. Innovation has been the word of the moment, a real trademark of TCU”, he said at the opening of the exhibition.

The governor of the Federal District, Rodrigo Rollemberg, described the opportunity as unique for students and for the population in general. “The possibility of our students, our youth and children, sharing such works is of great importance to build a culture of access to knowledge.”

Several personalities visited the exhibition, among them minister Gilmar Mendes, from the Federal Supreme Court, the Ambassador of Italy in Brazil, Raffaele Trombetta, and the governor of the State of Goiás, Marconi Perillo. Still within the exhibition program, on September 24, Lúcia Helena Galvão, from the Nova Acrópole organization, gave a lecture “Leonardo da Vinci, a genius in search of life’s secrets.”

The exhibition was brought to Brazil by Industrial Social Service of São Paulo (Sesi-SP), Federation of Industries of the State of São Paulo (Fiesp) and the *Universcience* (a French organization created from the fusion of the *Cité des Sciences et l’Industrie* and the *Palais de la Découverte*, in Paris) and came to Brasília through a partnership between Fiesp and TCU. In TCU, the Cultural Management Service was in charge of producing the exhibition, which has already been in Paris, Munich, and São Paulo. From Brasília, the exhibition will go to London.

Thanks to the exhibition “The Nature of Invention”, visitors had the opportunity to learn more about the creative genius that was Da Vinci, capable, as few, of integrating knowledge in areas as diverse as arts, biology and engineering, to produce scientific studies and inventions much ahead of his time.

Thus, in addition to providing access for the population of the Federal District and its surrounding areas to the works by Leonardo and to TCU, this exhibition allowed employees of the Court to be inspired by Da Vinci’s genial creations and to understand and apply the “nature of innovation” as a tool to continually improve the activities that are the responsibility of the TCU.

