



AMERICAN FRIENDS *of the* LUDWIG FOUNDATION OF CUBA

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The American Friends of the Ludwig Foundation of Cuba (AFLFC) has been building cultural bridges between the U.S. and Cuba through exchange programs in the arts since 2000. Working together with our partner the Ludwig Foundation of Cuba (LFC), a non-governmental institution in Havana, we continue playing a central role in fostering bi-national cultural exchange between both countries. Our areas of work include professional development and educational exchange opportunities for artists, art professionals and students in both the U.S. and Cuba, the annual Havana Film Festival NY and year-round film programs, visual arts exhibitions and lectures, music concerts, bi-national dance works by the Windows Project, the new Malpasos Dance Company, as well as unique cultural travel programs to the island that expose American travelers to Cuba's cultural riches while generating meaningful personal connections.

15 Years

AFLFC celebrates its 15th anniversary in 2015 and this milestone couldn't arrive at a more hopeful, exciting time for bi-national relations. The end of January will find us in Havana leading a group that will attend the celebrations for the 20 years of the Ludwig Foundation of Cuba. Festivities will include an evening honoring our close friend BAM President Karen Hopkins and the Havana premiere of Malpasos' new dance work. We will be back in Cuba in May-June to bring travelers to the exciting 12th Havana Biennial. In New York, we will celebrate our organizations' long, successful partnership forging cultural exchange between the U.S. and Cuba with the launch of the Cuban Cultural Festival New York. Throughout the Spring, this unique multidisciplinary initiative will showcase the latest in Cuban film, dance, music, and visual arts citywide in collaboration with Afro Latin Jazz Alliance (ALJA), Americas Society, BAM (Brooklyn Academy of Music), Jack Shainman Gallery, The Joyce Theater, and The National Arts Club. We look forward to sharing all these exceptional programs with you and very much appreciate your continuous support.

Cuba's Cultural Riches and Havana's Vibrant Art Scene

AFLFC's cultural travel programs provide an exceptional opportunity to experience Cuba's cultural riches and Havana's vibrant art scene, and meet a range of Cuban artists. Highlights of this year's trips include:

- Walking tour of Old Havana with architecture experts
- Lectures and receptions at the Ludwig Foundation of Cuba
- Visits to artist studios and exhibition spaces
- Guided walk-through of Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Instituto Superior de Arte and Galería Habana
- Visit to the home of a Santería priest and rituals to learn about Afro-Cuban religions and dance
- Rehearsals and performances by Endedans and Malpasos dance companies
- Private jam sessions at local musicians' homes
- Recording sessions at famed Abdala Music Studios
- Classical music concerts at the beautifully restored Teatro Martí
- Havana's International Festival of New Latin American Cinema and International Jazz Festival
- Lecture and demonstration by Cuban musicologists Alberto Faya and María de los Ángeles Córdova
- Dinners with gallery and museum directors, visual and performing artists, and filmmakers
- Visit to Finca La Vigía, Hemingway home and museum
- Trip to Matanzas to visit Ediciones Vigía, a publishing collective that produces handmade books by artists; and explore the lovely town with its Pharmacy Museum, Art Gallery and Sculpture Workshop.



Top: Travelers visiting the Ludwig Foundation of Cuba listen to its executive director Wilfredo Benitez
Left: Artist Yoan Capote shows travelers his work during a studio visit in Havana

A HAVANA NIGHT BENEFIT GALA

On March 6, AFLFC honored the founders of HFFNY in celebration of its 15th anniversary at the Copacabana Nightclub. Honorees included Ivan Giroud, Director of the International Festival of New Latin American Cinema in Havana; Kenneth Halsband, President of Physical and Post-Production at Relativity Media; our own Carole Rosenberg, President of AFLFC; and the late Marcia Donalds, Film professor at Tisch School of the Arts in New York University.

A HAVANA NIGHT BENEFIT PARTY

November marked our first-ever Fall Fundraiser, which honored Arturo O'Farrill, the famed composer, educator, musician, GRAMMY-Award winning pianist and bandleader, founder of the Afro Latin Jazz Alliance (ALJA), and son of Afro-Cuban jazz legend Chico O'Farrill. The smashing evening at the Copacabana Nightclub featured special live performances by The O'Farrill Family Band and the Afro Latin Jazz Cats as well as our special auction showcasing outstanding Cuban art works, rum and cigars, amongst other wonders.



Honoree Ivan Giroud and HFFNY's artistic director Diana Vargas.



The Copacabana was packed with excitement



Carole Rosenberg presents AFLFC's award to Arturo O'Farrill



L to R: Diana Vargas, honoree Arturo O'Farrill, and AFLFC's executive director Ines Aslan

HAVANA FILM FESTIVAL NEW YORK TURNED 15!

Our longest-running cultural exchange program, the annual Havana Film Festival NY turned 15! And we celebrated in style April 3-11 by featuring 45 outstanding Latin American films presented by a record 26 guest filmmakers from 12 Latin American countries—18 of them Cuban! These talented film professionals interacted with our 12,500 local audience members during informative Q&A sessions at film screenings, exceptional panels and special events.

Tribute to Cuban Cinema

HFFNY celebrated Cuba's remarkable film history with *New Cuban Cinema: 55 Years of a Shared Dream*, a program featuring 14 works spanning over five decades of production by the renown ICAIC (Cuba's National Film Institute). Curated by film critic and director of Cinemateca de Cuba Luciano Castillo, this special sidebar presented a wide panorama of film production in the island through emblematic works little known in the U.S., some of which were subtitled and restored to near mint-condition especially for this occasion.



De cierta manera /
One Way or Another
Sara Gómez, Cuba, 1974



Esther en ninguna parte /
Esther Somewhere
Gerardo Chijona, Cuba, 2013

Havana Star Prizes 2014



- **Best Feature:**
Ernesto Daranas for *Conducta* (Cuba)
- **Best Director:**
Diego Quemada-Diez for *La jaula de Oro* (Mexico-Guatemala)
- **Best Screenplay:**
Carlos Lechuga for *Melaza* (Cuba)
- **Best Documentary:**
Teresa Arredondo for *Of Kites and Borders* (Mexico-U.S.-Spain)
- **Best Actor:**
Reynaldo Miravalles for his role in *Esther en alguna parte* (Cuba)
- **Best Actress:**
Alina Rodriguez for her role in *Conducta* (Cuba)



Travelers participate in studio recording with Arturo O'Farrill during our latest cultural exchange trip to Havana

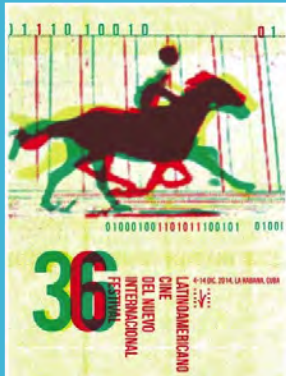
COLLABORATION WITH ALJA

A Havana Night Benefit Party kicked-off a multiplatform cultural exchange collaboration between AFLFC and the Afro Latin Jazz Alliance (ALJA), O'Farrill's non-profit organization that continued with a group trip to Cuba in mid-December. This unforgettable experience including Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra's performances at the Havana International Jazz Festival and recording sessions for O'Farrill's upcoming project at the famed Abdala studios in Havana, fortuitously took place the week of the announcement of the reestablishment of diplomatic relations between the U.S. and Cuba. What a great way to wrap up the year!

DANCE

Last January, our NY-based dance initiative The Windows Project produced a new bi-national dance commission by Cuban-American choreographer Pedro Ruiz, *Moments in the Wind*, with lighting design by Kyle Rosenberg. The acclaimed Camagüey-based company Endedans premiered the piece as the kick-off event of the yearlong cultural programming celebrating the 500th anniversary of this beautiful colonial city in Central Cuba. As part of this unique cultural exchange and educational initiative, Ruiz also offered master classes to local dance students and professionals. Endedans then premiered *Moments in the Wind* in Havana in mid-July at the beautifully renovated Teatro Marti.

Malpaso, the riveting Havana-based modern dance company recently founded by Ludwig Foundation of Cuba's performing arts director Fernando Sáez, had its U.S. debut at New York's Joyce Theater in May. The one-week outstanding run was accompanied by live music performed by Arturo O'Farrill and his Afro Latin Jazz Ensemble and received smashing reviews. The Joyce was so thrilled with the run that they invited the company to premiere their new work this Spring.



FILM PROFESSIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM

In December, AFLFC facilitated a professional exchange program for American film professionals to attend the Festival of New Latin American Cinema in Havana including luminaries such as Benicio del Toro and Matt Dillon, producer Daniel Halstead (*Garden State*, *Virgin Suicides*), producers-screen writers producers Maria and Andre Jacquemetton (*Mad Man*), distributor Alexander Garcia (FiGa Films), talent agent Jack Whigham (CAA), and Columbia University Professor and former New York Film Festival Program Director Richard Peña.



Endedans performs *Moments in the Wind* in Camaguey, Cuba



Malpaso's New York debut at The Joyce Theater in New York

OUR LATEST BOOK

Alex Rosenberg's latest book, *An Approach to Advanced Problems in Appraising Art with a Special Focus on Cuba* is available for purchase. Produced by AFLFC with the support of the Ford Foundation, hardcover (\$70) and softcover (\$40) versions are available by contacting info@AFLFC.org. Reserve your copy! A Spanish language edition will be ready soon.





L to R: young pianists Wenqiao Jiang and Willany Arias perform Cuban classical music at Americas Society

MUSIC

In February, we launched our brand-new music program in New York City with an exceptional evening of Cuban music highlighting two milestone works rarely performed in the Big Apple: *Danzas Cubanas* by Cuban master Ignacio Cervantes (1847-1905) and *Danzas* by Cuban composer Ernesto Lecuona (1895-1963). Presented in collaboration with Americas Society as part of its Music of the Americas Concert Series, this rare performance showcased the talented young Chinese pianist Wenqiao Jiang and Cuban pianist Willany Darias, both students of legendary Cuban piano pedagogue and dear friend Solomon Mikowsky.

VISUAL ARTS

Last summer AFLFC ventured upstate to present a collection of ten visionary works rarely seen in the U.S. by internationally renowned Cuban artist Belkis Ayón at FRG Objects & Design / Art in Hudson, NY. AFLFC's Board Vice-President, Professor Edward Sullivan brought to life the stunning collographic prints Ayón created 1991-1996 during a wonderful lecture about her work. We also produced an unprecedented exhibition of 95 prints by Salvador Dalí at the National Museum of Fine Arts (International Collection) in Havana, curated by our Advisory Board member Alex Rosenberg. Both exhibits ran through the fall.



Dalí exhibition at National Museum of Fine Arts, Havana



Belkis Ayón lecture by Prof. Edward Sullivan in Hudson, NY



Yohan Capote sculpture at Modern Foundry in Queens

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In the spring, as part of our professional development program, Cuban conceptual artist Yohan Capote created a new sculpture at Modern Foundry in Queens, working alongside other artists who create sculpture for major American artists and learned new techniques. Cuban theater director Antonia

Fernandez attended the exclusive Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab during the month of July, perfecting her already remarkable professional skills. Her stay was so successful, she's been invited to return next winter to attend the Lee Strasberg Theater & Film Institute.

HELP US NOW!

For the past fifteen years AFLFC has been cultivating cultural diplomacy between the U.S. and Cuba by building bridges through programs in the arts, flourishing despite adverse political climates. Together with our partner the Ludwig Foundation of Cuba (LFC), we consistently generate programs and projects that deeply touch and transform the lives of artists, art students and professionals, and the general public in both countries. The connections we create lay above all temporal barriers and are as solid and long lasting as the most beautiful works of art. And with the recent change in diplomatic relations, we have lots of work to do!

Help us now! We rely on your tax-deductible contributions to be able to continue offering our programs. Please be as generous as possible; every donation, large or small, allows us to continue changing people's lives through the gift of art and culture. We are deeply thankful—and simply, could not do it without your help!

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LUDWIG FOUNDATION OF CUBA

*Building cultural bridges between the United States and Cuba
through exchange programs in the Arts*

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