



AMERICAN FRIENDS of the LUDWIG FOUNDATION OF CUBA

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A NEW ERA: DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS RESTORED BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND CUBA

In light of the political changes enacted in 2015, our mission at AFLFC has become more relevant than ever. We responded to the opening of diplomatic relations between the two countries by offering new and amazing ways to ensure U.S.-Cuban cultural exchange, while strengthening and expanding our projects already in existence.



Flag raising ceremony at opening of Cuban embassy in Washington DC, July 20, after more than half a century.



AFLFC board member, Ann Marie Stock, in Old Havana with NBC reporter David Culver. Dr. Stock assisted with his coverage on re-opening of U.S. Embassy in Aug. 2015.

WHO WE ARE

The American Friends of the Ludwig Foundation of Cuba (AFLFC) is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit, tax exempt organization chartered in the state of New York. Since our inception in 2000, we have been working with our partner the Ludwig Foundation of Cuba (LFC), a non-governmental, autonomous, non-profit institution in Havana founded in 1995. Together we have been building cultural bridges between the U.S. and Cuba through exchange programs in the arts. Our areas of work include educational exchange opportunities for artists, art professionals and students, and professional development in both countries; the annual Havana Film Festival NY and year-round film programs, visual arts exhibitions and lectures, music concerts, bi-national dance works, as well as unique cultural travel programs to the island that expose American travelers to Cuba's cultural riches while generating meaningful personal connections.



Tisch School of the Arts, NYU students in a Study Abroad program at the Ludwig Foundation of Cuba.

20 YEARS: LUDWIG FOUNDATION OF CUBA

In January, the Ludwig Foundation of Cuba (LFC), our partner organization, turned 20. AFLFC led a group from New York to join them in Havana and celebrate. Festivities included private gallery tours, special dinners and receptions attended by members of Havana's cultural community and Cuba's most treasured artists.



Helmo Hernandez, President of LFC, addressing audience at foundation's 20th anniversary celebration, January 22, 2015. Left to right: Julián González Toledo, Minister of Culture; Jorge Angel Toirac, artist; Helmo Hernandez; Carole Rosenberg, President of AFLFC; Miguel Barnet, writer; President of UNEAC; Isabel Pfeiffer-Poensgen, Board President of Peter and Irene Ludwig Foundation; Sophie Richter, translator.



Helmo Hernandez, President of LFC (far right) introducing U.S. Ambassador Jeffrey DeLaurentis, Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Havana to Cuban artists, Adrian Fernandez, Ariamna Contino and Alex Hernandez at a reception for artists at the Ludwig Foundation of Cuba.



Malpaso Dance Company, the young Cuban group that made its acclaimed U.S. debut last spring, returns to The Joyce Theater to premiere the outstanding new work by artistic director Osniel Delgado.

CUBAN CULTURE FESTIVAL NEW YORK

American Friends of the Ludwig Foundation of Cuba (AFLFC) celebrated 15 years of building cultural bridges between the U.S. and Cuba with Cuban Culture Festival New York, an exceptional, multidisciplinary initiative offering New Yorkers the latest in Cuban film, dance, music and visual arts in collaboration with the Afro Latin Jazz Alliance (ALJA) at Symphony Space, Americas Society, Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM), The Bronx Museum of the Arts, The Joyce Theater, The National Arts Club, and Jack Shainman Galleries. To celebrate Cuban culture, Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) in collaboration with our Havana Film Festival NY presented a very special program—Cuba: Golden 60s—which showcased selected works produced by filmmakers in the wake of the Cuban Revolution in 1959. During this period, with the help of the Cuban Film Institute (ICAIC), filmmakers unleashed a stream of formally radical works crossing New Wave-inspired stylistic experimentation with politically charged subject matter that reflected the country's massive social upheaval.



GRAMMY winner Arturo O'Farrill, in partnership with Afro-Latin Jazz Alliance presents the North American premiere of his latest album Cuba, the Conversation Continued to a lively audience at Symphony Space.



BAMcafé Live presents one of two electrifying evenings with rapper and poet Telmary, a shining star of the Cuban underground music movement.



Cuban pianist Willanny Darias performs a variety of classical works ranging from Albeniz to Schumann to a full house at the Americas Society.



The National Arts Club (NAC) launches the ArtOnCuba magazine April 28 in New York City at opening of Carlos Quintana's solo show. Left to right: Alex Rosenberg, NAC Fine Arts Committee Director Dianne B. Bernhard, Carole Rosenberg, Carlos Quintana, and Editorial Director Hugo Cancio.



Immanence, a sculpture made with hinges in Yoan Capote's solo exhibition, *Collective Unconscious*, at Jack Shainman Galleries, NYC.

HFFNY TURNS 16

Our flagship program and the longest-running Latino film festival in NYC, the Havana Film Festival NY turned 16! We celebrated our sweet sixteen in style April 9-17 by featuring 50+ outstanding Cuban and Latin American films and hosting 28 filmmakers from 13 different countries. These talented film professionals interacted with our 15,500+ audience during informative Q&A sessions at film screenings, exceptional panels and special events.



The 2015 Havana Star Prizes:

Best Feature:

Diego Lerman for
Refugiado (Argentina)

Best Director:

Arturo Sotto for
Bocaccerías Habaneras (Cuba)

Best Screenplay:

Arturo Sotto for
Bocaccerías Habaneras (Cuba)

Best Documentary:

Heidi Hassan for
Otra isla (Cuba-Switzerland)

Best Actor:

Hector Noguera and
Nestor Guzzini for their roles in
Mr. Kaplan (Uruguay)

Best Actress:

Isabel Santos for her role in
Vestido de novia (Cuba)

Literature and Music through Film

This year's festival featured a collection of incredibly successful and well-received programs, such as *Nosotros, la música* which celebrated the 50th anniversary of the premiere of Rogelio París' outstanding documentary. Curated by film critic and Director of the Cinemateca de Cuba, Luciano Castillo, this special showcase presented 11 films about musicians, dance styles, and rhythms. In the accompanying sidebar, Castillo provided a brief panoramic view of Cuban music depictions in the country's documentary cinema through a few of its landmark titles.

HFFNY 2015 also included a very special event series entitled *Gabriel García Márquez: The Cinephile*, a tribute to the Colombian author as screenwriter and director. The program screened four rarely seen films and an exceptional panel featuring the late photographer Nereo López.



PANEL: New Opportunities and Incentives to Shoot your Indie Movie in Latin America and NY State (Left to right: Louis Perego, Founder and Executive Producer of Prime Latino Media; Adelfa Martinez, Head of Film Office at the Colombian Ministry of Culture; Connie McFeeley, Director of Film Tax Credit Program of the Governor's Office of Motion Pictures and Television Development for New York State; Enrique (Kiki) Alvarez, Cuban director; Ivan Giroud, Cuban producer and Director of International Festival of New Latin American Cinema)

Film critic Alan McLane and Artistic Director Diana Vargas catch up with the late Colombian photographer Nereo López and Director of the Cinemateca de Cuba Luciano Castillo before their panel on HFFNY's special series, "Gabriel García Márquez: The Cinephile," a tribute to the Colombian author as screenwriter and director.



Opening night at the Directors Guild Theater, NYC for *Bocaccerías Habaneras*, directed by Arturo Sotto winner of HFFNY's Havana Star Prize for Best Director and Best Screenplay



SECOND EDITION TASACIÓN DE OBRAS DE ARTE NOW AVAILABLE

After a successful sell-out of the first edition, published in Spanish, Alex Rosenberg's informative book on appraising art, *Tasación de Obras de Arte*, is now available for sale in its second edition through American Friends of the Ludwig Foundation of Cuba in softcover @ \$40 + shipping. Contact info@AFLFC.org

A HAVANA NIGHT BENEFIT GALA

On October 29, AFLFC celebrated its 15th anniversary at the Copacabana Nightclub. We honored 4 people who have helped make a difference. Harry Belafonte, for his history of friendship and solidarity with the Cuban people and his contributions to Cuba as a social and cultural activist; AFLFC Board Member James Durkin, Senior Vice President of Tishman Construction Corp. for understanding the importance of collaboration and his commitment to growing the circle of AFLFC's friends and supporters; Danny Glover, humanitarian, actor, and producer for his history of friendship and solidarity with the Cuban people and his commitment to justice and freedom for the Cuban Five; Michael Krinsky, Senior Partner at the law firm of Rabinowitz Boudin Standard Krinsky & Lieberman, P.C. for being a loyal friend and advisor to AFLFC and his brilliant vision and leadership representing the government of Cuba as its only U.S. counsel.

The Copa prepared a feast. Thanks to the artists and donors, our auction was a bit hit and many lucky bidders went home with a variety of treasures and incredible art to add to their collections. The highlight of the evening was a special concert with Dominican singer José Alberto "El Canario." Cuban musicians Fernando Dewars and Alden González from Septeto Santiaguero de Cuba traveled to New York for this special occasion. The three performing hits from their album, Tributo a los Compadres No Quiero Llanto— winner of the 2015 Latin Grammy. The performance was received by a packed house who danced the night away.



Artistic Director and lead choreographer of the Windows Project Pedro Ruiz demonstrates proper form to Endedans dancers.



Carlos Quintana poses in front of his works Man Walking On The Ocean (2015) and El Libro De Todas Las Cosas (2014) at The National Arts Club.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

AFLFC's programs and projects have given artists, art professionals, and students from Cuba and the U.S. opportunities for personal growth and professional development. We have partnered with leading institutions in both countries, including the Lincoln Center Director's Lab, The Lee Strasberg Theatre & Film Institute, Modern Art Foundry, MoMA, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Cuban Institute of Cinematographic Art and Industry (ICAIC), Instituto Superior de Arte (ISA), Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, NYU Tisch School of the Arts and other colleges and universities. Some highlights from this year include, Artistic Director Pedro Ruiz of the Windows Project was named Associate Artistic Director of Ballet Contemporáneo Endedans de Camagüey provided a Master Class in Form and Technique. Cuban artist Carlos Quintana was named Artist-in-Residence at The National Arts Club and had his first New York solo exhibition in May. A Breaking Bad producer and staff members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts participated in and led workshops and panels at the International Festival of New Latin American Cinema in Havana. Paul Meleschnig went back to Havana to continue working on his photographic series on daily life in the streets around and in front of the great and eclectic cinemas in Havana. He presented his work at LFC and had interactive discussions with the audience. We encourage research projects in both countries and internships that develop professional skills. Our experience has been that such projects have resulted in professional networking and expanding opportunities.

Peter Docter (far left), 2015 Golden Globe winner for an animated feature and currently two Oscar nominations; Michael Giacchino (2nd from left) composer, winner of Emmy, multiple Grammys, a Golden Globe and an Oscar; lead a master class Speaking through Images and Music moderated by Luciano Castillo (right), Director, Cinemateca de Cuba (Cuban film archives) and long-time AFLFC friend.



Help Us Now!

For the past fifteen years AFLFC has been cultivating cultural diplomacy between the U.S. and Cuba by building bridges through cultural and educational exchange programs in the arts, flourishing despite a political climate that until recently has been less than favorable. Together with our partner the Ludwig Foundation of Cuba (LFC), the only non-governmental, autonomous, non-profit foundation in Cuba, 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 extend beyond our initiatives, proving as solid and long-lasting as the artwork itself. And with the recent change in diplomatic relations, we have even more opportunities to connect the two countries.

We need your support! We rely on your tax-deductible contributions to keep our programs going strong. 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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