



# THE AMERICAN FRIENDS *of the* LUDWIG FOUNDATION OF CUBA

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## ABOUT US

The American Friends of the Ludwig Foundation of Cuba (AFLFC), a non-profit, tax-exempt organization chartered in the State of New York, has been building cultural bridges between the U.S. and Cuba through exchange programs in the arts since 2000. Working together with the Ludwig Foundation of Cuba (LFC), a uniquely non-governmental institution in Havana, we continue to play a central role in fostering educational and cultural exchange. Our areas of work include professional development opportunities for artists, art professionals, and students; the annual Havana Film Festival New York; and year-round film programs, visual arts exhibitions, music concerts, dance performances, and educational master classes. We offer specialized cultural travel programs to the island that immerse American travelers in Cuba's vibrant cultural landscape while generating meaningful personal connections.

## ABOUT OUR PARTNER: LUDWIG FOUNDATION OF CUBA

The Ludwig Foundation of Cuba (LFC) is a non-governmental, non-profit institution located in Havana, Cuba, created with the mission of protecting and promoting Cuban artists in Cuba and internationally. They partner with U.S. universities, such as NYU Tisch School of the Arts to create study abroad programs in Cuba with courses that focus on a wide variety of artistic disciplines. LFC continues to evolve, redefining its principles, goals and work focus depending on the needs and challenges faced by Cubans in a rapidly changing world.

“Immersion: Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality” was an exhibition submitted by the Ludwig Foundation of Cuba, in collaboration with the University of Applied Arts in Vienna, for the 13th Havana Biennial – “The Construction of the Possible.” It featured works that expanded perception via multimedia and sensory-motor experiences alongside lectures and workshops that used different media formats and creative strategies to critically analyze and reinterpret terms such as “virtual reality” for artistic research.

## AFLFC WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

**Susan Kessler** is a resident of New York City and a long-time volunteer and supporter of AFLFC. Before retiring to raise her three children, she was a Vice President at Credit Suisse First Boston in international fixed-income sales and trading. She currently works as an art advisor and serves on the Boards of Pitzer College, The Noguchi Museum and the EN Huyck Preserve and Biological Field Station. She and her husband have built a collection of Cuban art through her trips to Cuba with AFLFC. We are excited to collaborate with her to create and foster vibrant cultural exchange between young Cuban and American artists.

**Teresita Zucker** was born in the Philippines and raised in LA. She graduated from NYU with a degree in Economics and worked as a Bank & Asset Management and Brokerage analyst in Equity Research at Morgan Stanley. In 2000 she left Morgan Stanley to become a full-time mother of twins, and in the years since has dedicated much of her time to advancing the missions of charitable organizations. She served on the Board of Latin American Acquisitions Committee for the Tate Modern Museum in London (2015-2018). AFLFC is excited for her to bring her experience and skill to our organization, and we look forward to working together on future projects.



Left: Artist Thomas Hochwallner conducts a workshop on Photogrammetry and 3D Scanning on the terrace of the Ludwig Foundation of Cuba

## CULTURAL EXCHANGE IN CUBA

AFLFC leads unique, curated small group trips to Cuba throughout the year- travel experiences that cannot be found anywhere else. Through our partnership with the Ludwig Foundation of Cuba and relationships with the island's established and emerging artists, we offer unparalleled access to the art and culture that makes Cuba so extraordinary. Intimate, fun, and informative, our trips include visits to world-class museums and galleries, private meetings with influential Cuban artists, and special access to many internationally renowned cultural festivals held in Cuba.

This year, we curated and organized group trips for dozens of American travelers to the island that offered an insider's view of Cuba's thriving arts community and backstage access to the country's most prestigious festivals and events, including the 34th International Jazz Festival, the 13th Havana Biennial, and the 41st International Festival of New Latin American Cinema.

### Some of our Favorite Memories in Havana



AFLFC travelers went behind the scenes of the world of Cuban dance today and attended a private rehearsal of contemporary Cuban dance group MalPaso



Wilfredo Benitez, Executive Director of the Ludwig Foundation of Cuba, begins his walking tour of Old Havana at the docks.



Cuban artist and sculptor Gustavo del Valle gives AFLFC travelers a tour of his workshop and studio



## TRAVEL WITH AFLFC

Every year we offer original and creative travel programs designed to take advantage of this pivotal moment in Cuban history and the boom of artistic production and innovation sweeping the island.

### Sample Program Focuses

**All AFLFC tours experience Havana's rich culture of art (visual and performing) and architecture.**

**Arts and Architecture Tour** Discover how old meets new in Havana's ever-changing city-scape

**Culinary Tour** Experience Cuba through its tropical flavors and unique spin on international cuisine

**Emerging Artists Tour** Meet with up-and-coming artists who are shaping the new wave of Cuban art

**Cuban Botanical and Private Gardens Tour** Learn about Cuba's diverse tropical plant life and its people's biotechnological innovations

## A HAVANA NIGHT BENEFIT GALA



On Thursday, November 7 AFLFC celebrated its annual Havana Night Benefit Gala with a party inspired by the glamour of old Hollywood at the legendary Copacabana Nightclub. Guests dressed the part, and the evening featured an auction filled with exciting opportunities and works of art from Cuban and international artists donated by our friends and supporters.

Our honorees included three people who have been a part of AFLFC's family of supporters for most of its life: centenarian Alex Rosenberg for helping end the U.S. embargo on the importation of Cuban artworks; Diana Vargas for her role in the Havana Film Festival New York becoming an important part of New York City's cultural landscape; and Cuban artist Carlos Quintana for his artistic accomplishments, friendship, and support.

## 20TH HAVANA FILM FESTIVAL NEW YORK

The Havana Film Festival New York turned 20! To celebrate this milestone, we put together a program that was all about the power of storytelling to open minds and start conversations. We hosted over 30 filmmakers who shared their stories behind and in front of the camera through Q&As, roundtable discussions, and special events. Women directed over half of the films competing for the Havana Star Prize, and we recognized their presence at the Festival with a panel exploring their experiences in the film industry. We paid homage to beloved Cuban director Fernando Pérez, and honored Havana's 500th anniversary with a documental retrospective featuring some of Cuba's most iconic filmmakers examining the architectural history of Havana. By partnering with local cultural institutions, such as iD Studio Theater in the Bronx and the New York Institute of Technology in Manhattan, admissions to many of these programs were free and open to the public.

We closed our 20th HFFNY to a full house on April 16 at the DGA Theater with the NY Premiere of *Yuli* (dir. Icíar Bollaín), a spirited biopic of Cuban dancer Carlos Acosta, who overcame poverty and prejudice to become a global ballet legend. Carlos joined us for the evening, to tell his story in person and discuss his philanthropic efforts. The event was presented in joint collaboration with The International Performing Arts Foundation (TIPAF), a foundation with which he works closely.



Professor Michelle Farrell moderates a discussion with Margo Guernsey, Olivia Luengas, Marta Bautís, Blanca Rosa Blanco, Ana Katz and Natalia Cabral in a panel called *By Women for Women: Latinas sparks change behind and in front of the camera.*



HFFNY presented the U.S. book launch of "El pretexto de la memoria" by Ivan Giroud, Director of the International Festival of New Latin American Cinema in Havana. In an event moderated by Professor Jerry Carlson (CUNY), translated by Kika Child.



Audience members at NY Institute of Technology read HFFNY brochure while waiting for the program to start.



HFFNY's committed team of volunteers guides audience during a screening at the Museum of the Moving Image



Carlos Acosta answers audience questions following a sold-out screening of his biopic *Yuli*

### The 2019 Havana Star Prize

#### Best Feature

RETABLO  
Dir. Alvaro Delgado Aparicio  
(Peru, Germany, Norway)

#### Best Documentary

LEJOS DEL SENTIDO  
Dir. Olivia Luengas (Mexico)

#### Best Actor

Sergio Prina for  
EL MOTOARREBATADOR  
(Argentina, Uruguay, France)

#### Best Actress

Marleyda Soto for  
LOS SILENCIOS  
(Brazil, Colombia, France)

#### Best Director

Alejandro Gil for INOCENCIA (Cuba)

#### Best Screenplay

Ana Katz & Daniel Katz for  
SUEÑO FLORIANÓPOLIS  
(Argentina, Brazil)

#### Jury Mention – Narrative Feature

EL VIAJE EXTRAORDINARIO DE  
CELESTE GARCIA  
Dir. Arturo Infante (Cuba)

#### Jury Mention – Documentary

COUNCILWOMAN  
Dir. Margo Guernsey (U.S.A.)  
LAS CRUCES  
Dir. Teresa Arredondo,  
Carlos Vazquez (Chile)

## Remembering 20 Years of HFFNY



2002- Artistic Director Diana Vargas with Brazilian filmmakers Hique Gomez, (left) and Renato Falcao



2008- Estela Bravo, Juan Fisher, Diana Vargas, Carole Rosenberg and Mirta Ibarra at Metropolitan Pavillion.



2016- Kicking off the 17th HFFNY at the Bronx Museum of the Arts



2000- Juan Padrón and wife, Gerardo Chijona, Rigoberto Lopez, Zita Morriña, Kenny Halsband, Ivan Giroud, Ana Rodriguez, Arturo Sotto, Marcia Donalds.

## INTRODUCING “THE AFLFC ARCHIVES”

We are excited to announce our newest initiative: the creation of an archive of the programs, projects, and accomplishments that have put AFLFC at the forefront of U.S.-Cuban artistic exchange for 20 years. We have documentation of every one of our projects— from the fellowships and residencies that have launched careers, to our travel programs that have introduced hundreds to the richness of Cuban culture, to the exhibitions and events that celebrated the vibrant art communities of both the U.S. and Cuba. We have successfully raised the funds to hire a professional archivist to create a historic record of AFLFC’s activities for the public, and ensure that future generations continue to have access to this invaluable resource.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

AFLFC’s model of cooperative programming in the arts aims to foster the professional development of art communities in the U.S. and Cuba. These programs and projects have provided countless opportunities to artists, art professionals, and students interested in further careers and expanding educational horizons.

### AFLFC Kicks Off Its Internship Program with the Museum of the Moving Image

This summer marked the first iteration of our internship program with the Museum of the Moving Image. For two months Alvaro Pérez Abrahantes, head of Audiovisual Projects at the Ludwig Foundation of Cuba, worked with the staff of the Museum developing new programs, giving lectures, and learning invaluable skills to bring back to the Ludwig Foundation of Cuba.

*During my summer fellowship program at MoMI I had the immense pleasure to develop projects primarily with the Education Department of the museum, run by Sara Guerrero. There I was included as if I were a permanent staff member, engaging in the day-to-day tasks of the department. The core of the activities was for me to understand how a large museum operates, especially their outreach strategies towards a very diverse population. I presented a curatorial proposal for a set of educational videos, fictional, documentary and animated short films meant to inspire young generations to follow careers in sciences. In addition to those activities, I prepared a presentation about the Cuban Film Industry through the work of Tomás Gutiérrez Alea. My time at MoMI was a very special and meaningful opportunity and all the knowledge I gathered there will be very useful and extremely valuable, not only for me, but also for my colleagues in Cuba with whom I will share my experience.*

– Alvaro Pérez Abrahantes



### Carlos Quintana at the Venice Biennale

May 11 – July 29, AFLFC was honored to present Carlos Quintana: In Finito at the Palazzo Loredan, Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti as an ancillary program at the 2019 Venice Biennale. The show featured large-scale works that filled the massive Palazzo and inspired New York gallery owner Marc Straus to represent him and put together an exhibition featuring ten of Quintana’s paintings and two of his sculptures at MARC STRAUS Gallery October 24 – December 15, 2019.

Carlos Quintana’s exhibition at the Palazzo Loredan in Venice.

## JOIN THE AFLFC FAMILY!

By donating to AFLFC you ensure our educational, cultural and professional programs continue to transform the lives and advance the careers of students, artists, art professionals, and the general public in the U.S. and Cuba. All contributions, large or small are greatly appreciated and fully tax-deductible. Donations can be made by check (made payable to AFLFC) and be sent by mail to our office at **AFLFC c/o Carole Rosenberg, 4 West 43rd Street, Suite 304, New York, NY 10036**. You can also donate by credit card online via our website at [www.AFLFC.org/support](http://www.AFLFC.org/support) or by calling **212 687 2146**.

Thank you for your continued interest and support. I am so glad that you have been a part of our journey, and look forward to sharing our accomplishments with you in 2020.

Warmest regards,  
Carole Rosenberg, *President*