

# THE FOUNDATION FOR A CIVIL SOCIETY

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## CUBA CULTURAL DIPLOMACY TRIPS

The Foundation for a Civil Society, a 501 © 3 nonprofit headed by Wendy Luers sponsors the New Cuba Arts Connection (NCAC) Diplomacy through Culture program. The **objectives** of this program are to open and keep open lines of communication and contact with the Cuban people through their culture by 1) Bringing major American artists to the island to celebrate their culture; 2) An extensive photography initiative on the island with our partner FotoFest and 3) Bringing Cuban arts professionals to the US arts institutions to intern and visit and bring expertise, experience and return invitations back to their institutions and colleagues.

Ambassador William Luers negotiated the opening of the US and Cuban Interest Sections in 1977 starting our long connection with Cuba. We hosted a trip in 2000 with Arthur Miller, Inge Morath, Rose and Bill Styron, Patty Cisneros and Mort and Linda Janklow and met Gabriel (Gabo) Garcia Marquez and Mercedes there. As a result of this friendship, we spent 4 days seeing Fidel Castro several times. The historic trip was organized by Amb. Bruno Rodriguez and his wife Olguita. Bruno Rodriguez is currently the Foreign Minister in Cuba which is helpful in these complicated times. The Cultural Door is the one that remains open.

We have taken Frank Stella, Joel Shapiro and Carrie Mae Weems in 2016/17 and will take Jeff Koons on November 27-December 1, 2018. And planned is a Frank Stella show at the Museo de Bellas Artes Jan. 17-March 18, 2019: the first major retrospective of a major American artist since the Revolution. JetBlue is the official airline.

Wendy and Bill Luers travel to Cuba with a People to People license provided by Alberto Magnan, of MagnanMetz Gallery in Chelsea, NY. This license provides for legal travel under US Treasury OFAC regulations.

Each trip is with a prominent American artist and spouse and Ambassador William Luers and Wendy plus 8-10 (at most) friends. There are studio visits, lecture at the Museo de Bellas Artes, visit to ISA, the uniquely designed graduate art school, briefing by a prominent Cuban architect and planner and visits to locations depending

#### Affiliate Organizations:

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on the interests of the group plus delicious meals at paladares and unique experiences customized to the interest of the small group.

There are direct JetBlue flights from JFK – Havana daily. 3 ½ hours. And multiple flights from Ft. Lauderdale.

We ask each guest/friend for a \$5000 tax deductible contribution to FCS for our two art/photography programs.

## ESTIMATED COSTS FOR TRIP TO CUBA WITH THE FOUNDATION FOR A CIVIL SOCIETY

### COSTS:

Tax deductible donation to the Foundation for a Civil Society for the Cuba Program	\$5000 per person
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Consulting Fee for Alberto Magnan (with us 24/7) (\$1500 for an individual).	\$2000 per couple
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License	\$200 per person
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Air conditioned 16 person van with 2 drivers for entire visit 5 days including pickup and delivery to Havana Airport (These costs will be billed separately)	\$1250 per couple
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### NOT INCLUDED:

Airfare ( we recommend direct JetBlue direct to Havana From JFK. (3 ½ hours) approx. \$350 RT

Hotel Saratoga. Book on Expedia which can be cancelled up to a week before arrival. We recommend you book a “Junior suite” rather than a regular room. (\$565-590 per night).

Meals (lunch and dinner) – Dutch treat.

Everything is cash in Cuba, no credit cards accepted so we recommend bringing \$1000-1500 cash per person which you won't spend entirely unless you buy something. Any art purchases can be arranged through Alberto Magnan.

Please contact Wendy with any questions; 917-797-5288: [wluers@fcsny.org](mailto:wluers@fcsny.org)