

ARRANGEMENTS ABROAD CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF CUBA TRAVEL WITH TOUR OF HAVANA BIENNIAL, FOLLOWING HISTORIC ROYAL VISIT

The leading academic travel company offers tour of 13th Havana Biennial April 23-28

March 26, 2019 - This is a banner year for Cuba, with an historic royal visit in March and the 500th anniversary of Havana in November. Arrangements Abroad is celebrating 20 years of leading educational trips to America's closest overseas neighbor with a special trip to the 13th Havana Biennial from **April 23 to 28**. The thematically based Havana Biennial, which is one of the most interesting art festivals in the Western Hemisphere, features the best of Cuban visual artists alongside those from Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, and the Middle East.

Chas Miller, a board member of the Havana Heritage Foundation; **Wilfredo Benátez**, Executive Director of the Ludwig Foundation of Cuba; and **Joel Estevez**, Architecture Fellow of the Havana Heritage Foundation, will lead this five-day trip, which is presented by Arrangements Abroad's Museum Travel Alliance (MTA), where Miller serves as Relationship Manager.

Arrangements Abroad will offer travelers exclusive access to festivities and events at the 13th Havana Biennial, as well as opportunities to connect with artists, collectors, museum curators, and gallery dealers. The previous Biennial was hosted in 2015. Planning for the 2017 event was postponed due to the damage caused by Hurricane Irma, making this year's event even more highly anticipated.

For Arrangements Abroad's president **Jim Friedlander**, Cuba is close to his heart: he is also the founder of the Havana Heritage Foundation, whose mission is to promote, preserve, protect, and restore the rich architectural and cultural heritage of the country's capital.

"I've traveled to Cuba more than 50 times over 20 years," said Friedlander, "And Arrangements Abroad has taken approximately 10,000 Americans to all parts of Cuba since we began offering tours there in 1999. As a company, we are proud to support the work of the Havana Heritage Foundation to preserve and protect this captivating nation and its 500-year-old capital for future generations. As travel leaders who form deep relationships in our destinations to provide the most exclusive access for our guests, it is our duty at Arrangements Abroad to give back to the communities who have given us and our travelers so much."

Arrangements Abroad's Havana tour will follow March's historic official royal visit of **HRH Prince Charles** and **The Duchess of Cornwall** to the country's shores, the



Alain León Pavón, 2019 recipient of the Havana Heritage Foundation's Traveling Grant for Cuban Architects.

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first-ever for the British royal family in Communist-run Cuba. Prince Charles's visit will highlight the arts and heritage restoration, among other themes, and will coincide with the announcement of **Alain León Pavón** as Havana Heritage Foundation's 2019 recipient of its Traveling Grant for Cuban Architects.

The Prince's Foundation is a partner in the grant program, and León as the recipient of the award will receive three weeks at the Prince's Foundation Summer School. The HHF Traveling Grant offers a unique continuing educational opportunity for young Cuban architects to travel to London and the United Kingdom to explore contemporary architectural practices and hone hands-on skills while meeting and working with like-minded colleagues from around the world. This annual award is presented with cooperation from the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), INTBAU Cuba, and the Ludwig Foundation of Cuba.

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ABOUT ARRANGEMENTS ABROAD

A leader in academic travel since 1977, Arrangements Abroad provides an insider's look at a destination, offering programs that provide special access to extraordinary places through its rich resources of museum curators, professors, and diplomats in more than 50 countries. Each itinerary is designed for its sponsoring institutions, which include some of the nation's preeminent museums, cultural organizations and alumni associations. Arrangements Abroad has been leading educational trips to Cuba since 1999, and during those two decades they have introduced some 10,000 Americans to the rich history and culture of this captivating country. Their expertise in creating and operating educational tours to Cuba is unmatched, with deep relationships all across the country. Find out more at www.arrangementsabroad.com.

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ABOUT THE MUSEUM TRAVEL ALLIANCE

A division of Arrangements Abroad, the Museum Travel Alliance (MTA) provides individuals who are members and supporters of more than 60 participating museums with access to unique, high-end cultural travel programs. Travelers join members affiliated with other participating museums from across the country on MTA tours, all led by curators and other experts. Find out more at <https://museumtravelalliance.com/>.

ABOUT THE HAVANA HERITAGE FOUNDATION

The Havana Heritage Foundation is a US based 501 (c)(3) dedicated to protecting and preserving the architecture and culture of Havana. The Foundation has a diverse group of both

US and Cuban professionals, architects, city planners, politicians, academics and others that share an interest in preserving 500 years of Havana's heritage for future generations. Find out more at <https://havanaheritage.org/#home>.

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Havana Biennial, Photo by Chas Miller