

# *A bridge of love and peace between the Cuban and US peoples*

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Some 400 Cuban culture representatives will perform at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., May 8/June 3, at the Arts of Cuba Festival: from the island to the world.

The gathering is the largest such event with Cuban artists and performers ever held at the prestigious Washington art center and, according to Cuban Vice-Culture Minister Fernando Rojas, it's part of the efforts to maintain relations with the United States.

'Those artists and performers trained in our arts schools are characterized by their artistry', added Rojas. 'The ministry prioritizes this kind of exchanges and the idea of artistic and literary culture being an expression of the peace wishes of all human beings of good will, especially of the peoples of the two countries. Communication actions have been jointly coordinated in an atmosphere of respect and professionalism', concluded the vice minister.

The so called "Diva of the Buena Vista Social Club Project", Omara Portuondo, will open the festival at the center's Eisenhower Theater on May 8<sup>th</sup> and the Cuban National Ballet company, led by dance legend Alicia Alonso, is set to close the art extravaganza at the Opera House with Giselle and Don Quixote.

The festival is scheduled to include a wide range of Cuban art forms, such as music, theater, dance, visual arts, design, movies and cooking. Cuban artists Roberto Fabelo, Esterio Segura, Manuel Mendive, José Parlá, Emilio Pérez and Roberto Diago. Theater ensembles will present some of their works, while movie screenings are also on the festival's agenda.

Arts of Cuba confirms the island's willingness of developing political and cultural relations between the two nations and showing the best of Cuban culture to the world.

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