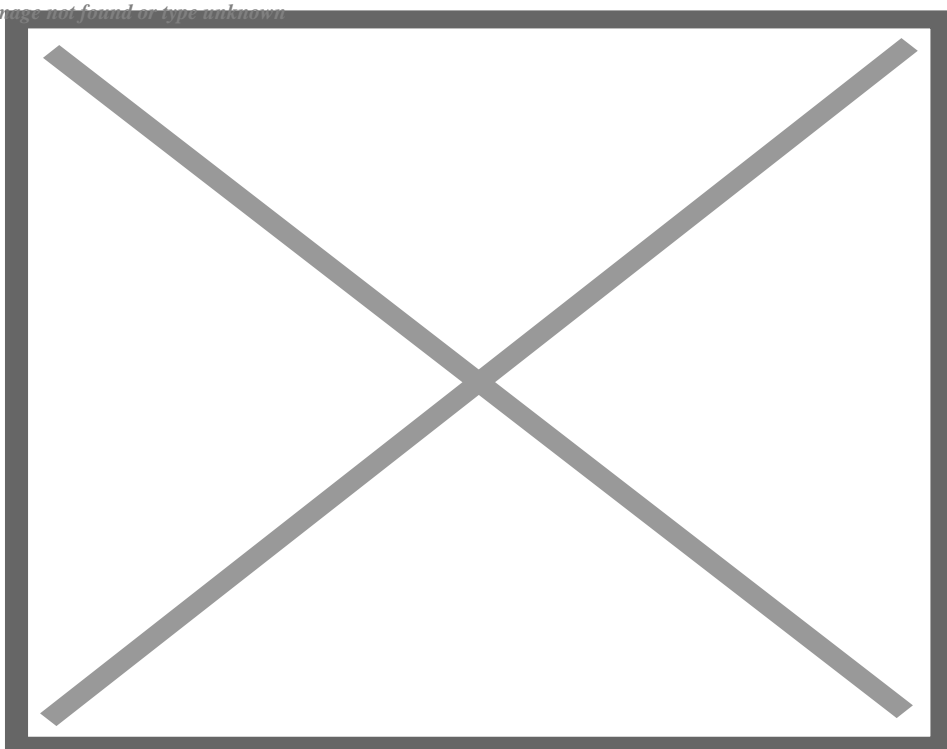


No blockade will break cultural bridge between Cuba and the United States

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Havana, October 25 (RHC) --The president of the Cuban Institute of Music (ICM), Indira Fajardo, on a visit to Washington, affirmed that no blockade can destroy the cultural bridge that links Cuba and the United States.

The deputy to the National Assembly (Parliament) told Prensa Latina that the American people should have the full right to enjoy all that we have to offer in this area.

Fajardo also defended that Cuban artists can interact in the northern country, because "from the artistic manifestations there has always been a need to meet again" both cultures.

It is important, she said, that "our artists have much greater visibility, a higher level of promotion, that our artistic education system be strengthened at the same time," but the effect of the unilateral siege imposed

on the island more than 60 years ago is real.

The president of the ICM reiterated that Cuba is the victim of a fierce economic, commercial and financial blockade by successive U.S. governments and that has limited the ability to obtain "materials for our students to be trained"; however, she praised the results of the Cuban school even in the midst of so much hardship.

He added that "that very policy has caused cultural institutions not to obtain visas in time for presentations of our artistic units in the United States".

"We have also been limited so that a good number of our artists can be more systematically in this country," said Fajardo, insisting that this denotes that "without a blockade we always think that it could be better.

The young congresswoman commented that during the trip, which concluded in Tampa, Florida, "they had important exchanges with several cultural institutions and the media".

She considered that "our expectation to be able to position Cuban culture here" has also been strengthened, since genres such as jazz and the performing arts have a very fertile ground in these parts.

"However, she reiterated, this union offered by culture is an element that cannot be broken with asphyxiating policies".

Indira Fajardo was part of a delegation of cultural promoters that toured the United States for several days.

In addition to Washington DC, the group visited the cities of Mobile (Alabama), San Francisco (California), New York and Tampa (Florida) (Source: Prensa Latina). (Source: Prensa Latina)

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