
United States Cultural Mission to Cuba 2016



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Welcome Remarks from Havana, Cuba Delivered to Cuban Hosts and Members of the United States Cultural Mission to Cuba 2016 April 18, 2016

By Chairman Jane Chu

It is such an honor to be here. Last month, in March, President Obama's visit marked the beginning of a new era for Cuba and the United States. Together, our national leaders began a new political and economic conversation and this will allow our two countries to become reacquainted on the international stage.

Today, we are here to build our relationship on a deep and meaningful level, through the arts. We are here to embrace the creativity of Cuba, its spirit, its culture, and its energy. This is what the arts capture – the heartbeat of a country. The values, and some of our deepest forms of expression are exchanged through the arts.

During our visit, we are invigorated by the movements of the wonderful dance forms of Cuba. We view your architecture that honors both the traditions of the past, and the ideas of the future. And we hear and feel the rhythms of your music.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to get to know each other once again, as people, and as friends.

Thank you for welcoming us to Cuba.