



## Highlights of the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities Role in Expanding International Cultural Relations

### 2009

- AFI Project: 20/20 began its international tour with a visit to UNESCO headquarters in Paris. The U.S. Embassy in France sponsored workshops taught by two 20/20 filmmakers for emerging filmmakers, complementing their film screenings and discussions with UNESCO staff and ambassadors
- PCAH Chairman of Subcommittee on Youth Arts and Humanities Learning, Jim Farmer, represented PCAH on historical "National King Family Tour" of India with the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz (February 12-20).



Members of the *An Da Union* performing troupe with traditional instruments. This unique musical style has roots in Central Asia, where herdsman learned to mimic the sounds of nature by shaping their throats, lips and mouths in a way that produced several tones at once.

Photo by Tiffany Rodgers. Courtesy of Arts Midwest

- President's Committee continued its [partnership with Arts Midwest](#) for the second tour of *An Da Union*, the musical ensemble from Inner Mongolia. Along with public performances, the group visits local schools, museums, and libraries for workshops and other interactive opportunities in communities in the Midwest, and for the first time this year, 2 communities on the East Coast, D.C. and Philadelphia. The Embassy of the People's Republic of China hosted a welcome reception in honor of *An Da Union's* visit to Washington, D.C.

### 2008

- PCAH hosted visit of Minister Sun Jiazheng, the [Minister of Culture](#) of the People's Republic of China in January 2008, including visits to the White House for the 2007 *Coming Up Taller* Ceremony; a tour, program and luncheon in his honor co-hosted by Dr. James Billington, at the Library of Congress; and programs in Texas, hosted by PCAH Member Alice Carrington Foltz and Chairman Adair Margo.
- The 2007 *Coming Up Taller* awards program was hosted at the White House by First Lady Laura Bush, and included two Mexican program awardees (the sixth year of Mexican awards) and the first People's Republic of China awardee.



The First Lady presents a *Coming Up Taller* award to Children's Marimba Workshops of Oaxaca, Mexico at the White House ceremony. 2008 marked the sixth year in which a program from Mexico has been awarded.

Photo by Steve Purcell

- All 2007 *Coming Up Taller* awardees, their parents and teachers were hosted in a special reception by the Mexican Cultural Institute, which included musical performances by the Mexican awardees and traditional art from Mexico.
- PCAH supported first U.S. Tour of [An Da Union](#), in collaboration with Arts Midwest. This ensemble from Western China performed the folk music of Central Asia to sold-out crowds on stages across the Midwestern United States.
- PCAH supported an exhibition of black and white photographs by Rich Nahmias at the Mexican Cultural Institute entitled "The Migrant Project," an in-depth photo-documentary with bilingual text addressing the day-to-day realities of migrant workers in California.
- The American Film Institute (AFI) Project: 20/20 continued, with screenings at AFI Fests in Dallas, Texas; Vilnius, Lithuania; and Lima, Peru, among other cities.
- PCAH supported two reciprocal NEH scholarly conferences in Washington, DC, and in Florence, Italy, on the subject of the uses of technology in the humanities and notions of cultural identities, from Italian and U.S. perspectives.
- PCAH, with cooperation of the Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation and U.S. Embassy in Mexico, supported:
  - [Flauta Sin Fronteras](#) (Flute without Borders), a tour on both sides of the U.S. Mexican border by premiere flutist Elena Duran, from Matamoros, Mexico-Brownsville, Texas; through Nuevo Laredo-Laredo; to Ciudad Juarez-El Paso, and
  - *DramaFest*, a bi-national theater in residence experience with Mexican and American theater professionals in Mexico City and Guadalajara.
- PCAH helped to support the annual meeting of the U.S. National Commission for UNESCO in Washington, DC (April 18-20)
- Chairman Adair Margo participated in the introduction of [Picturing America](#) in Mexico City, along with Dr. Bruce Cole, Chairman, National Endowment for the Humanities and the signing of a Memoranda of Understanding for scholarly exchange and cooperation.
- Chairman Adair Margo was an invited speaker at the Aspen Institute in Colorado on the topic of international exchange and strengthening U.S. arts activities.
- PCAH Executive Director and AFI Fest Director travel to Lagos, Nigeria to explore West African film community with Ford Foundation and Communicating For Change, an on-the-ground media-developmental non-profit (July 18-27).
- Chairman Adair Margo attends annual UNESCO board meeting in Paris and participates in US Ambassador's American Heritage and Culture Week featuring NEH's Picturing America, AFI Project: 20/20 and U.S. World Heritage Sites (October 1-7).

- AFI Project 20/20 Year 3 launches at AFI Fest in Los Angeles (November 1-9).
- PCAH hosted visit of the new Minister of Culture of the People's Republic of China in November, including visits to the White House for the *Coming Up Taller* Ceremony, and his first formal address to an American audience at the President's Committee meeting at the Library of Congress on November 14 and 16.
- The 2008 *Coming Up Taller* awards program was hosted at the White House by the First Lady, and included two Mexican program awardees (the seventh year of Mexican awards), the second People's Republic of China awardee, and for the first time an awardee from Egypt, on November 14.
- All 2008 *Coming Up Taller* awardees, their parents and teachers were hosted in a special reception by the Mexican Cultural Institute, which included musical performances by the Mexican awardees and traditional art from Mexico (November 15).
- The President's Committee D.C. fall meeting on November 16 held the signings of three historical agreements:
  - China's Ministry of Culture signed memorandum of understanding with National Endowment for the Humanities for collaboration on two scholarly conferences, one in Beijing and one in D.C., between the China National Academy of Arts and the NEH.
  - China's National Library Society and the University of Illinois-Urbane signed agreement on joint-participation in the Institute of Museum and Library Services' 21<sup>st</sup> Century Librarians Project.
  - China's Ministry of Culture and the Institute of Museum and Library Services' signed memorandum of understanding for future exchange and collaboration.
- People's Republic of China's Minister of Culture, Cai Wu, and the U.S. Librarian of Congress, James H. Billington, also signed a formal agreement on China's participation in the Library's World Digital Library Project on the occasion of the President's Committee meeting in D.C. on November 16.
- PCAH members Jim Farmer and Margaret Robson, as well as PCAH Executive Director Henry Moran participate in China's National Academy of Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities conference on Scholarly Research and the Preservation of Cultural Heritage in Beijing (December 9-10).
- PCAH members Jim Farmer and Margaret Robson, and PCAH Executive Director Henry Moran attend second cultural delegation in southwestern China, hosted by the Ministry of Culture (December 9-12).

2007



PCAH Chairman Adair Margo (second from the left) signs a Sister Cultural Park agreement between World Heritage sites—Mesa Verde (US), Monte Alban (Mexico) and Paquime (Mexico).

- Chairman Adair Margo received the Aztec Eagle Award (Orden del Aguila Azteca): President's Committee Chairman Adair Margo received the highest decoration awarded by

- The American Film Institute (AFI) Project: 20/20 cultural exchange program, which is supported by PCAH, Department of State and the NEA, NEH and IMLS, closed out its first year with a three-city visit to China in late November. More than 4,000 people attended screenings in Beijing alone with another 900 participating in Hong Kong and several hundred in Shantou. During 2007, the program sent U.S. and foreign filmmakers to South Africa, Israel, Kuwait, Malaysia, Indonesia, China and Kazakhstan, as well as St. Louis, Chicago, San Francisco, Tucson, Salt Lake City, Seattle, Washington, DC and Miami, Ohio.
- President's Committee Chairman Adair Margo led the first U.S. delegation of federal cultural officials to the People's Republic of China in early June. The delegation included the cultural agency leaders from the NEA, NEH, and IMLS, as well as Dr. James Billington, the Librarian of Congress and Marc Pachter, Director, Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery. Through a series of high-level and content-rich presentations in Shanghai, Xi'an, and Beijing, the delegation focused on expanding cultural relations between the U.S. and China. Head of China's Ministry of Culture Sun Jiazheng hosted working sessions for the U.S. dignitaries, who also met with State Councilor Chen Zhili. The culmination of these efforts was a new Implementing Accord for Cultural Cooperation, 2007-09 between the two governments, which will help spur plans for cooperation on cultural projects between these two countries.



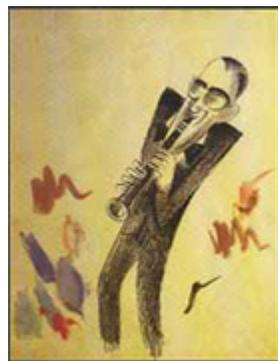
Chairman Adair Margo, left, is greeted by Fan Di'an, the Director of the National Gallery of Art in Beijing.

- The Sister Cultural Parks meeting convened by the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities (PCAH) brought together three World Heritage sites from the U.S. and Mexico, and representatives from culture, tourism, philanthropy, preservation and business to explore how to enhance cultural connections between these sites. The first Sister Cultural Park agreement was signed here between Mesa Verde National Park (U.S.), Paquime (Mexico) and Monte Alban (Mexico) and is the first result of the El Paso Cultural Communiqué.
- The El Paso meeting of the President's Committee convened leaders from Mexico and Belize to focus on expanding cultural relations. The culmination of this meeting were two Cultural Communiqués, one with Mexico and another with Belize. Each of these documents provides a framework for leadership and cooperation to support new art, education, and preservation efforts across borders.

- Two Mexican youth at-risk programs were honored by Mrs. Laura Bush at the *Coming Up Taller* program at the White House. Committee guests at the White House ceremony included Mr. Sergio Vela, the new President of Mexico's Consejo Nacional para la Cultura y las Artes (CONACULTA). Mexican Ambassador Carlos de Icaza hosts a celebratory lunch for the *Coming Up Taller* winners at the Cultural Institute of Mexico.

## 2006

- American Film Institute (AFI) Project: 20/20 announced as component of State Department's Global Cultural Initiative. Project: 20/20 is an international cultural exchange designed to enhance mutual understanding by engaging U.S. and foreign audiences through filmmakers and their films. The program is an outgrowth of PCAH's Los Angeles Popular Culture Symposium and partners together PCAH, NEH, NEA, IMLS, WESTAF, and the Department of State with AFI.



Miguel  
**COVARRUBIAS**  
Mexican Center in the United States  
Cultural Institute of Mexico • 15th St. • 1st Fl. • D.C.

An exhibition of Mexican artist Miguel Covarrubias at Washington's Mexican Cultural Institute was supported by PCAH.

- With the U.S. Mexican Embassy, PCAH supports expanded tour by the Jose Limon Dance Company to Mazatlan, Mexico, Limon's birthplace.
- PCAH supports expanded tour by the Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company, an American modern dance company with traditional Chinese roots. The company will tour Mexico for the first time, with stops including Tampico, Mante, Mier, and Rio Bravo.
- The People's Republic of China extends a formal letter of invitation to PCAH to organize and lead the first U.S. Government cultural delegation to China in 2007.
- PCAH's [Symposium on Film, Television, Digital Media and Popular Culture](#) focused on international collaboration and exchange, featuring U.S. Ambassador to UNESCO Louise Oliver and representatives from the American Film Institute, U.S. Department of State, University of Southern California – School of Film and Television, among others.
- Two Mexican youth at-risk programs honored at [Coming Up Taller](#) program at the White House. Mexican Ambassador Carlos de Icaza hosts a celebration for the *Coming Up Taller* winners at his residence.
- PCAH supports special international viewing and reception for [Divine and Human: Women in Ancient Mexico and Peru](#), an exhibit at the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, D.C.

- PCAH participates in launch of [Connecting Lines/Lineas Conectadas](#), an NEA initiated two-volume bilingual anthology of contemporary poetry at Mexican Cultural Institute, Washington, DC, resulting from the PCAH 2003 Santa Fe meeting and discussions between U.S. and Mexican arts and humanities leaders.
- PCAH supports exhibition opening of Mexican Genius in the United States: Miguel Covarrubias at the Mexican Cultural Institute, Washington, DC.
- Chairman Margo and Anne-Imelda M. Radice, Director, Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), participate in the opening of Mexico's new public library, Biblioteca Vasconcelos, in Mexico City.
- PCAH serves as co-host for U.S. National Commission for UNESCO at American Architectural Foundation's Octagon House in Washington, D.C.

## 2005



The PCAH has supported many performances by the Youth Orchestra of the Americas in Mexico, U.S. and elsewhere.

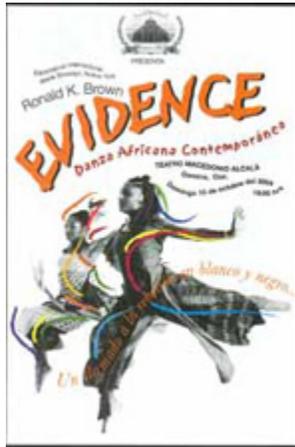
- With U.S. Mexican Embassy, PCAH supports tour of Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane dance company, including a performance and master classes at San Luis Potosi's Art Festival.
- PCAH sponsors an exhibition and tour to regions beyond Mexico City of American photographer Edward C. Curtis.
- The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and PCAH host Afghanistan President Ahmed Karzai at the Smithsonian's Freer Gallery of Art, during his visit focusing on Afghan culture and art.
- The PCAH coordinates meeting among representatives of the Ministry of Culture, People's Republic of China and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), National Endowment for the Humanities, and Institute of Museum and Library Services to enhance cultural exchange.
- PCAH and the National Park Service convene a planning meeting on World Heritage sites to encourage exchange of expertise and ideas between parks in U.S., Belize and Mexico.
- Cultural Institute of Mexico's major exhibition, Inverted Mirrors: Contemporary Mexican Art in the U.S. supported by PCAH.
- Youth Orchestra of the Americas performances and workshops along the U.S./Mexico border region made possible with PCAH funds.
- PCAH joins with National Endowment for the Arts, National Endowment for the Humanities, and Institute of Museum and Library Services in supporting on-going U.S.

Government's membership to International Federation of Arts Councils and Culture Agencies (IFACCA).

- PCAH sponsored Mexican and Chinese observers to attend National Summit on Cultural and Heritage Tourism, a PCAH partnership with the U.S. Department of Commerce.
- Chairman Adair Margo, member of U.S. Delegation, attends the General Session of UNESCO, Paris.

## 2004

- U.S. Mexican Ambassador Antonio O. Garza, Sari Bermudez, head of the Mexican Council for Culture and the Arts, and PCAH Chairman Margo reach agreement on PCAH's support for expanding U.S. Embassy supported cultural projects and tours.



The President's Committee worked closely with the US. Embassy in Mexico to expand opportunities for U.S. arts groups to perform in Mexico.

- Under this new agreement, Ron Brown/Evidence, dance company tour is extended to state of Oaxaca.
- Huellas, a film on the Hispanic cultural influences on the U.S. and Mexico, a by product of the Santa Fe Joint Communiqué for Cultural Cooperation between the U.S. and Mexico, supported by PCAH.
- Chairman Adair Margo joins IMLS Director Robert Martin and NEH Chairman Bruce Cole at the Organization of American States Cultural Ministers' meeting in Mexico City.
- Chairman Margo invited by the U.S. Ambassador to Uruguay to foster cultural relations and understanding between the U.S. and Uruguay.
- A Joint Communiqué for Cultural Cooperation is signed.
- Chairman Margo is appointed Member of the new U.S. National Commission for UNESCO.
- Youth Orchestra of the Americas performances supported by PCAH.
- National Gallery of Art exhibition, Courtly Art of the Ancient Maya supported in part by the PCAH., a by product of the Santa Fe Joint Communiqué for Cultural Cooperation between the U.S. and Mexico.
- PCAH Committee member James Farmer attends the third annual International Day of Philosophy, UNESCO, in Paris with the Thelonius Monk Institute.
- *Coming Up Taller* awards presented by Mrs. Laura Bush to two Mexican programs.

## 2003

- Santa Fe Meeting: The President’s Committee convened cultural leaders from the U.S. and Mexico for the first time to focus on, in the words of Chairman Margo, “a shared cultural heritage, recognizing the unity and similarities among our cultures.” Leaders signed a Joint Communiqué for Cultural Cooperation.
- PCAH Chairman Adair Margo and member Mercedes Paz-Slimp participate in UNESCO’s Center for the Arts & Culture Conference on the Cultural Sector at the University of Texas, Austin.
- PCAH Honorary Chairman Mrs. Laura Bush leads U.S. delegation for re-entry into UNESCO. The delegation includes Chairman Margo and the agency heads from the NEA, NEH, and IMLS.
- UNESCO Representative Milagros del Coral, Sous-Director General Adjoint pour la Culture, addresses PCAH Committee members in Washington, D.C.
- *Coming Up Taller* awards presented by Mrs. Laura Bush to two Mexican programs.

## 2002

- PCAH Member Mercedes Paz-Slimp, leads U.S. delegation to OAS Cultural Ministers’ meeting in Cartagena, Colombia.
- The President’s Committee’s *Coming Up Taller* program makes its first youth arts and humanities learning awards to two Mexican projects with awards presented by First Lady Laura Bush.



First Lady Laura Bush  
congratulates a *Coming Up Taller*  
winner from Mexico.