

**Richmond-Regla, Cuba Friendship Committee**  
**Summary of Activities Hosted and/or Co-sponsored**  
**June 2015 through July 2016**

The Richmond-Regla Friendship Committee (RRFC) was enacted via Resolution 147-99 in September of 1999. The last official visit was in December of 2013. The committee regularly meets on a quarterly basis. When preparing for visits or activities, the committee meets on a monthly or bi-weekly basis.

**On June 13, 2015**, the committee hosted a film festival featuring Cuban filmmaker Gloria Rolando at the East Bay Center for the Performing Arts. The event attracted approximately 150 people and raised funds for the committee. Previewed films: Reembarque, 2014 – The story of Haitian immigrants to Oriente in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and Eyes of the Rainbow, 1997 – Assata Shakur, the Black Panther and black Liberation Army leader who took refuge in Cuba after years of struggle in the US. The event was attended by approximately 200 people.

**July 5, 2015** Pastors for Peace - The committee co-hosted the Pastors for Peace Caravan Rally that took place in Richmond. Over 100 tons of humanitarian aid reaches Cuba each year through these efforts. In preparation for the Caravan organizers conduct rallies in participating cities. The rally included words from caravanistas, past and present, Bill Hackwell on the status of Cuba and US relations.

**November 13, 2015** Cuban Institute for Solidarity with the Peoples (ICAP) Visit -The committee met with Cuban delegates and hosted a reception at Richmond City Hall. The RRFC and the International Committee for Peace Justice & Dignity cosponsored a community welcome event “An Evening of Solidarity with the Cuban People” at the East Bay Center for the Performing Arts. Ms. Kenia Serrano Puig, President of ICAP was the featured speaker. The event was attended by approximately 200 people.

**December 9, 2015** – Film Screening and reception in honor of 16 years of friendship with Regla, Cuba. Films by Juanamarea Cordones-Cook – Documentaries about Afro-Cuban artists; Gloria Rolando - Nancy Morejon, Paisajes Celebres, Celebrated Landscapes; and Manuel Mendive – El Mundo Magico de Mendive were enjoyed by guests.

**March 11, 2016** – Discussion with Miguel Fraga, First Secretary of the Cuban Embassy in Washington, DC. During Mr. Fraga’s visit to the Bay Area, he gave a presentation at City Hall on the State of Cuba and the importance of working to end the embargo.

**March 23, 2016** – Reports from Michele Seville, City of Richmond Arts and Culture Commission and Doria Robinson, Urban Tilth. Presentations on their respective visits to Cuba highlighted their insights on Art, Culture and Sustainable Agriculture.

**April 2, 2016** - the UUCB's Social Justice Council hosted the film Ghost Town to Havana; Rita Barouch brought literature to share about the RRFC that evening. Approximately 200 pieces of

literature was distributed at the Information Table. This also resulted in a write-up in Richmond Confidential about RRFC.

**April 4, 2016** – Wheelhouse Baseball Academy Send Off Celebration. The RRFC donated funds to support the Wheelhouse Baseball Academy's trip to Cuba. Five Richmond youth in the program traveled to Cuba to experience the Cuban culture and play baseball with youth baseball players in Cuba during the inaugural Havana Cuba Baseball Invitational.

**April 10, 2016** – Poeta Cubana Nancy Morejon en Richmond. The RRFC hosted a poetry reading featuring Nancy Morejon who is a poet, editor, essayist and critic. She is also a member of the Editorial Board of Casa de las Americas journal and Director of the Union of Artists and Writers of Cuba.

**April 24 2016** – Attended the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Oakland and Santiago; where Lisa Valenti from US Cuba Sister City Association was the honored guest. RRFC Members & Councilmember McLaughlin met with Ms. Valenti on 4/27/16 at Richmond City Hall.

**July 11, 2016** – Pastors for Peace 27<sup>th</sup> Caravan to Cuba. Members of the RRFC attended the rally and participated in hosting guests.

In addition to attending local events throughout the bay area, conducting regular committee meetings and sponsoring activities to educate the public on Cuba, the committee advocated for Rep. Mark DeSaulnier to co-sign bills to end the embargo and endorsed the Richmond City Council's adoption of Resolution 23-16 in support of ending the US Embargo.

To increase awareness and collaboration, the committee has recently submitted an application to join the National Network on Cuba to build relationships with supporters throughout the nation.

### **Canet Art Collection**

Cuban Artist Antonio Canet (1942-2008) bequeathed a collection of 95 prints depicting the Cuban Revolution, to the City of Richmond. It was his wish to share the collection with the American people through a traveling exhibit. The collection, "Fidel y El Moncada: Vistos por Canet," has been exhibited at NIAD in January 23-February 24, 2006 and at the Richmond Art Center with RRFC volunteer docent guides, from January 12 - March 8, 2013, attracting 1,435 visitors.

The committee spearheaded efforts to enter into a contract with MAAA to exhibit the Collection for the next five years on a traveling basis. The traveling exhibit is a wonderful achievement that the committee has worked for years to bring to fruition.

Submitted by Trina Jackson, City Council and Sister City Program Liaison  
Trina\_jackson@ci.richmond.ca.us