

2015 Highlights

US Women & Cuba Collaboration

January 14-February 22

Co-sponsored art show "I Will Die the Way I've Lived," art by Cuba 5 Hero Antonio Guerrero, at the Columbia City Gallery.
Seattle, WA

January 23-25

Participated in the 6th International Che Guevara Conference, "Cuba: A Socialist Project in Progress," sponsored by Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (VCSC).
Vancouver, BC

February 22

El Cine Cubano Film Series presented "Amigas y Amigos: Celebration of Cuban Arts and Culture," with Bozeman area artists, writers and musicians celebrating the renewal of diplomatic relations between the US and Cuban governments. Presenters included percussionist Doug Wales and friends, jazz pianist Ann Tappan, photographer Lissa Barber, plus invited poets, dancers and spirited readings of Cuban writers. Co-sponsored by US Women & Cuba Collaboration and Gallatin Valley Friends of Cuba, Bozeman Public Library.
Bozeman, MT

March 9-20

Collaboration presented workshops at the 2015 UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) with participants from the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF-US), National Organization for Women (NOW), National Dominican Women's Caucus and representatives from the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC).

Workshop 1: "Advancing Women's Human Rights in the Americas with CEDAW/The Women's Treaty." Over 50 people participated including leaders of NGO CSW Cities for CEDAW, Tia Oros Peters whose panel organized Indigenous women and Director, 7th Generation Fund, and Alicia Campo of Brasil, International leader of FDIM (Independent Federation of Democratic Women), and representatives of the US Women & Cuba Collaboration and US-WILPF.

Workshop 2: "Cuba--Advancing a Revolution for All!" Panel members from the US and Cuba addressed issues of LGBT rights in Cuba, and the US Women and Cuba Collaboration's work on their US and Cuban Lesbians and Allies project. This panel included representatives from the Cuban Federation of Cuban Women (FMC), the Cuban National Center for Sexual Education (CENESEX), the US Women & Cuba Collaboration and US-WILPF.
United Nations, New York

March 26-29

Collaboration presented a workshop at INCITE! Color Of Violence 4 Conference, "Beyond the State: Inciting Transformative Possibilities." The workshop looked at how the Cuban

revolution has addressed the human rights of the Cuban people as well as people internationally by providing doctors, medical personnel and teachers throughout the world, focusing on the advancement of a women's rights agenda under the Cuban revolution. In particular it discussed campaigns in Cuba that are addressing the struggles against homophobia, racism and domestic violence and their relationship to building a more inclusive society under the Cuban revolution, including the screening of the Cuban documentary on lesbians claiming their identities, *Between Heaven and Earth*.
Chicago, IL

March 29

El Cine Cubano Film Series presents "Right to Travel to Cuba," a program of Estela Bravo's classic film, *Free to Fly*, and discussion about updates on Cuba travel. Experienced Montana travelers to Cuba shared new travel information. Presenters included journalist Brian Kahn (Artemis Common Ground), writer Valerie Hemingway, Bill Halperin (Bonefish Excursions), photographer Lissa Barber, cultural tourism leader Doug Wales and Jan Strout (Marazul Charters/Life Travels to Cuba/US Women and Cuba Collaboration). Co-sponsors: Gallatin Valley Friends of Cuba, the Bozeman Public Library Foundation, MSU Department of Modern Languages & Literature, and the US Women & Cuba Collaboration, Bozeman Public Library.
Bozeman, MT

April 18-June 6

Sponsored Women Studies Scholar Norma Vasallo Barrueta's 2015 US Speaking Tour from April to June which included visits to both east and west coast cities, and concluded with a presentation at the XXXIII International Congress of the Latin America Studies Association (LASA) in Puerto Rico. She visited Baltimore, MD, Morgan State University and Towson University, Edinboro University in Edinboro, PA, and several universities in the Seattle, WA region. She gave talks on "Women in Cuba," "Psychology as a Discipline in Cuba," "Contemporary Issues in Cuba," "Impact of Economic Changes for Cuban Women and Families," and "Achievements and Challenges of Cuban Women, Past, Present and Future."

May 19-20

Participated in meetings with leaders of Cities for CEDAW/The Women's Treaty Campaign with WIN (Women's Intercultural Network), Center for Women's Global Leadership and the California Girls Agenda to learn new organizing strategies as part of our Advancing Global Feminisms Campaign and to ratify CEDAW at the city level across the US.
San Francisco, CA

May 27-30

Presented at LASA 2015 (Latin American Studies Association) Conference: "Precariedades, exclusiones, emergencias." Conference presentations by Collaboration Members included 1) Caridad Morales Nussa, Towson University, discussant: "Resurgencias del desarrollo laboral – profesional e inclusión de grupos vulnerables" and presenter: "Pathways to success for Latino students in Puerto Rico and the United States mainland."

2) Norma Luisa Vasallo Barrueta, Ph.D. Universidad de La Habana, presenter: "Feminist Latin American Studies: Helen Safa's Academic, Institutional, and Political Legacy," and discussant "Pathways to success for Latino students in Puerto Rico and the United States mainland."

3) Norma Guillard Limonta, Universidad de La Habana, presenter: "Las intersecciones de la identidad, sexualidad y masculinidad."

San Juan, Puerto Rico

June 4-August 21

Co-sponsored "From Cuba With Love," Photographic Art by Lissa Barber, who has participated in two US Women & Cuba Collaboration delegations. Her images portray the people and places in Cuba that she encountered in her two recent visits to the country. This art show held at The Gallery at Zoot Enterprises also included "Engaging Cuba" by Bozemen photographer Jelani Mahiri.

Bozeman, MT

June 23-25

Participated in the Cuba Consultation 2015, and day of congressional advocacy, sponsored by LAWG (Latin America Working Group) and WOLA (Washington Office on Latin America), networking with hundreds of Cuba activists from a large range of organizations.

Washington, DC

August 28-September 11

Organized a custom coed delegation, "The Cuban Revolution: Its History and Present Day Transformation." After a few days in Havana, the delegation will proceed east, stopping at historical sites and meeting with people and organizations in Cienfuegos, Trinidad, Camaguey, Bayamo, Santo Domingo/Sierra Maestra, Baracoa and Santiago, while studying the history of the Cuban revolution and the current social and economic transformations occurring in Cuba now.

November 13-22

Organized a 20 member US women's delegation, "Advancing Women's Human Rights, Racial Justice and Community Development in Cuba," traveling under a people-to-people license. Spending significant time in both Havana and Santiago, this delegation got an early look at how women and all Cubans are experiencing the impacts of recent changes to Cuban-US diplomatic relations. Included site visits to agricultural cooperatives, community development projects, Cuba's National Center for Sex Education, schools for social work and arts education, and childcare centers and maternity homes, and featured an Encuentro on "Preventing and Addressing Gender-Based Violence" at which US and Cuban women built partnerships and exchanged local and global strategies.

December

Submitted an invited book review of *From Cuba with Love: Sex and Money in the 21st Century* to be published in *Politics and Gender*, the Journal of the Women and Politics Research Section of the American Political Science Association.

AY 2015

Collaboration supported allies in various formats.

July 6: Letter to the US Department of Justice by gender activists calling for attention to gender-biased "Law Enforcement Response to Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault."

July 8: Signed on as a community partner to support Community Alliance for Global Justice's annual dinner "Supporting Local Economies Everywhere."