



CHAIRPERSON REPORT

Annual General Meeting 12 August 2019

It is my great pleasure, as the Chairperson, to welcome you to the Annual General Meeting of The New Zealand Cuban Festival Trust. Today I would like to share with you the work undertaken by the Trust and our supporting crew since our last meeting August 2018, highlighting our achievements and signalling our future plans. At the end of my report, I am more than happy to take any questions from the floor.

Achievements

As a trust we are delighted to state that the Aotearoa Cuban festival ACF19: 100% Flavour held 8-10th March 2019 a resounding success, we managed to run a festival with a substantial profit and solidifying our festival as one the must do's on the NZ Latin Festival circuit. The success of the festival is underpinned by many achievements that are a testimony to the team work lead by the trustees and our support network some highlights were:

- Carefully crafted workshop schedule, incorporating beginner, improver plus and advanced level instructors and introducing some new instructors to the Aotearoa Cuban Festival including Diego Troncoso , Ricardo Grecco & Yan Zhou from Auckland and Dr Adrian Hearn from Melbourne led by our Creative Director and trustee, Greydis Montero Liranza.
- Brining in new instructors from the non-Cuban salsa genre to create a new bridge into the great Latin dance community. Providing an opportunity to incorporate a great afro-Cuban knowledge and creating connections and opportunities.
- The inclusion of Dr Adrian Hearn, omo añá, or son of the sacred batá drums and anthropologist to the line-up brought in a new exciting element to the festival.
- The live Batá playing was only possible through the concerted efforts by trustee, Richard George and Volunteer Lyn George by arranging the transport of drums to our festival.
- A community program delivering free dance opportunities to the Rotorua region, with our contracted artist Greydis Montero Liranza (NZ-Cuba).
- Community awareness was raised by utilising the Sunday farmer's market and Thursday night markets for several weeks preceding the festival supported by local volunteers Liza Kohunui (trustee), Tina Moke, Roimata Mansell, Tanya Saville Wood, Michael Appleton, Jayne Baume, Sidney Morehu and various dancers from Greydis Dance.
- Continued Inclusion of youth in the community week were achieved through an in-school program at Wester Heights High School by Greydis Montero Liranza (NZ-Cuba).
- Superbly managed team of volunteers, managed by volunteer Roimata Mansell and her local team, creating a seamless and welcoming experience for our festival goers.



- The Trust secretary, and volunteer, Patricia Foote who organised and oversaw catering and accommodation for the artists creating a welcoming environment for our artists.
- Flavoursome Cuban cuisine overseen and injected with Love by Ms Olguita Liranza (Cuba), volunteer, provided for our instructors providing a taste of home, assisting us in providing manaakitanga to our hardworking artists.
- Wonderful series of photographic images captured by our contracted photographic services by Little Doves. Great video images and stunning post editing provided by contracted videography services by Michael Appleton. Social media support provided by volunteers Lyn George and Trustee Cherie Trujillo.
- An amazing showcase led by volunteer, performer's liaison and stage manager Karen Saunders, guided by our Artistic Director, and contracted support in sound and lighting by Adrian Leineweber.
- Our awesome MC, volunteer, Mr Iwi Te Whau, who presented and ensured flow throughout the evening.
- Live Arara, Rumba, Batá and live percussion throughout the festival beginning with the Friday night Arara workshops and completing in the final workshop. The live percussion and signing provided reference to the roots of the music that increases the spirituality and authenticity of the learning experience an essential element in learning Cuban Dance.
- Entertaining parties with great music, amazing workshops, culminating in a fun and flavoursome final workshop delivered by our contracted Cuban and Cuban loving artists: Greydis Montero Liranza (NZ-Cuba), Israel Ortiz (Aus-Cuba), Adrian Medina Scull (Aus-Cuba), Christina Monneron (Aus), Dr Adiran Hearn (Aus), Vivio Isbert Ramos (NZ-Cuba), Rafael Ferrer (NZ-Cuba), Javiera Pavez (NZ-Chile), Diego Troncoso (NZ-Chile), Ricardo Grecco (NZ-Brasil) & Yan Zhou (NZ) and our local trustees who provide teaching support Liza Kohunui (NZ) and Kate Maguire (NZ).

On behalf of the trust we wish to extend our thanks to those who contributed in whatever small or large way to making this years' festival a stunning success.

Governance and Management

It continues to be challenging and busy 12 months with the Aotearoa Cuban Festival being held 8-10 March 2019 as we managed both funding and promotional program.

We continued to be supplement through volunteers who would consistently contribute to the ongoing organisational challenges of preparing for a festival, our thanks to Lyn George, Tina Moke, Roimata Mansell, Iwi Te Whau, Karen Saunders, Tanya Saville-Wood and Michael Appleton.

The continuing challenge in our Governance and Management in the ongoing year continues to be the coverage for trustees when they are less available and potential vulnerability to the deliverables in the event time-line. Mrs Cherie Trujillo who joined



us last year has provided great support in decision making, some useful ideas, and the promotion program.

Key appointments

We will be offering a repeat contract of Greydis Montero Liranza as the Creative Director of the Aotearoa Cuban Festival 2020, her contributions in the last 36 or more months were key to the successful festival in 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019. We hope she will accept this critical appointment.

Our continued dedicated work by our Trust Treasurer Richard George, and the current Trust Secretary Patricia Foote, we are grateful your contributions to the smooth running of the trust.

Funding

I would like to acknowledge the hard-work completed by all trustees in the area of Fundraising and thank you for your efforts. The capability of a non-profit organisation to apply for funding has impacted the financial sustainability of the Trust.

The trusts thanks goes to New Zealand Community Trust, Rotorua Energy Charitable Trust, Southern Trust, Creative Communities Scheme – Rotorua District, and One Foundation (formally First Sovereign) for the financial support of the 2019 New Zealand Cuban Festival.

What's Ahead....

- We will work closely with our Creative Director to develop another successful festival in 2020 and all working together to continue to ensure a financially successful festival
- Working on ways to continue to engage with youth the future of Cuban dance in NZ, to encourage their participation at festival or through other events.
- Working on finding the promotional hook to encourage a wider participation to enable the trust to continue brining a truly Cuban experience to New Zealanders.
- Working on a new year of fundraising for the 2020 festival.
- Engaging with local promoters and school to endorse a network of mini-events held throughout NZ, to encourage Cuban dance opportunities, and promotional opportunities for the festival throughout the year to the New Zealand Cuban Dance community.

As has become a tradition, I'd like to close this year with a whakatauki, or proverb that was used last year as it still contains relevance: "Whiria te tangata ka puta he ora" The direct translation is "By weaving people promote well-being".



(sourced from https://www.nzherald.co.nz/northland-age/news/article.cfm?c_id=1503402&objectid=11553901, 4 August 2018).

The way forward for us must be to continuing to focus on finding ways to be weave in all persons interested in Latin dance, while continuing to educate and bring fun and joy. As a trust we have a challenge ahead of us to build on our strengths and continue creating a financial successful festival that still incorporates the family and spiritual feel we have created and love and be open to all possible participants.

Kate Maguire
Chairperson
The New Zealand Cuban Festival Trust.