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NEWSLETTER

A VISION OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER COVERING LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN ISSUES A PROJECT BETWEEN GREEN ZONE FOUNDATION AND TELESUR



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The Cultural Heritage Commission of the Congress of Peru, chaired by Congresswoman Susel Paredes of the Popular Democratic Bloc, unanimously approved legislative initiatives to protect cultural and natural heritage.

Among the approved measures is Bill 11573, which declares the research, conservation, and enhancement of the pre-Hispanic archaeological monument of Huishco to be of national interest, as part of Peru's ancestral heritage.

Likewise, Bill 13146 was approved, recognizing the Pukllay Carnival of Andahuaylas, in the department of Apurimac, a highly significant festive tradition as part of the country's cultural heritage.

Meanwhile, Bill 13293 declares the festival of the Lord Just Judge of Patapampa, celebrated in the peasant community of Pfuisa, Cusco, as intangible cultural heritage.

Another ruling was Bill 08768 and Bill 11060, which declares Colonel Jose Felix Castro y Huerta and Ignacio Quispe Ninavilca Santisteban heroes of Peruvian independence to be of national interest.

The Ministry of Education will work with the Regional Government of La Libertad and the Provincial Municipality of Trujillo to formalize the declarations, in line with their respective responsibilities.

Participating in the session were Mildred Fernandez, archaeologist and director of the Chincana project (Cusco), and Jorge Calero, who presented on the state of archaeological heritage in the region.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) held a workshop in Huayllabamba, Cusco, to safeguard food traditions, focusing on knowledge about corn from the Sacred Valley.



Costa Rica Book Fair to Be Held with Guatemala as Honorary Guest

Costa Rica Book Fair to Be Held with Guatemala as Honorary Guest

The Costa Rica International Book Fair 2026 (FILCR) will return to the Antigua Aduana Institute with a program of nearly 250 cultural activities, including literary presentations, conferences, dance, music, and storytelling.

The event will be held from August 22 to 30 and aims to “strengthen audience development, foster reflection on the publishing industry, and promote the circulation of new national literary works.”

The program will include proposals from exhibitors, institutions, and external agents, evaluated by a committee based on their cultural contribution and feasibility. The institution confirmed that the book cover exhibition and the Comic Book Hall will be maintained.



Guatemala will be ‘the guest of honor,’ with a cultural agenda organized in conjunction with its embassy in Costa Rica. There will also be photography exhibits, dance, music, gastronomy, and binational cultural exchange activities.

A documentary and photographic exhibition will be presented on the 56th anniversary of the Costa Rican Book Chamber, highlighting its defense of copyright and its support for the 2021 Reading Promotion Law.

The fair will include the second edition of ‘The Window of Heroes,’ an initiative for elementary and high school students that brought together more than 3,000 young people in its first edition.

FILCR 2026 will be a key event for the Costa Rican publishing sector, with a publishers’ conference planned for April. Since 1997, it has boosted sales, the circulation of new releases, and market growth.

The return to the Antigua Aduana faces infrastructure challenges, such as a lack of halls and parking. However, the organizers defended the central location and the predictability of dates for publishers and authors.



Mexico Doubles Funding for Cultural and Artistic Festivals

In the first quarter of 2026, 149 festivals across all 32 states have received support.

The Mexican Ministry of Culture doubled its funding for cultural and artistic festivals through the Program to Support Cultural and Artistic Festivals (PROFEST), reaching a historic record in 2026.

The 'National Circuit of Festivals for Peace,' announced by the Mexican President, Claudia Sheinbaum, and the Secretary of Culture, Claudia Curiel, aims to expand the territorial impact of cultural events.

In the first quarter of 2026, 149 festivals across all 32 states have received support, representing an increase of over 116% compared to 2025, with a total budget of US$5.5 million.

Meanwhile, the 'Michoacan Plan for Peace and Justice' includes 30 events in municipalities such as Uruapan, Zamora, Aquila, Cheran, Lazaro Cardenas, Apatzingan, Zitacuaro, and Paracho, strengthening community activities.

The 'Territories of Peace' strategy includes 82 festivals in 46 priority municipalities, among them Mazatlan, Oaxaca de Juarez, Colima, Manzanillo, Morelia, Gustavo A. Madero, Iztapalapa, Ciudad Juarez, and Tlalnepantla.



The text reads, "From Mexico City, we celebrate life, culture, and the defense of our sovereignty, led by President Claudia Sheinbaum! This 1st Spring and Ornamental Flower Festival is dedicated to Benito Juarez, on the 220th anniversary of his birth, with a clear message for the world: no more war, yes to peace!"

The General Directorate of Circuits and Festivals of the Ministry of Culture reported that the PROFEST 2026 call for proposals received more than 500 projects, which were evaluated by judging committees based on cultural, financial, and inclusive criteria.

Curiel emphasized that the funding strengthens the national cultural ecosystem, fosters local talent, and creates spaces for encounters between diverse communities and audiences.

All activities benefiting from PROFEST resources will be free and open to the public, guaranteeing greater inclusion and citizen participation in the country's cultural and artistic offerings.

Cuba: 63rd Edition of the Pepe Sanchez Trova Festival Concludes

The program featured only local talent from Santiago, due to the complex energy situation.



On Sunday, the 63rd edition of the Pepe Sanchez Trova Festival, considered the oldest of its kind in Cuba, concluded at the Cespedes Park in Santiago, after four days of celebrations.

The closing event included performances by the duos Voces Latinas and Las Bayamesas, Felipon, Ruben Lester, Renier Fernandez, Ruslan Fernandez, Grupo Oyu Oro, and Septeto Sones de Oriente.

Due to the complex national economic and energy situation, the program featured only local talent from Santiago de Cuba, reaffirming the city's capacity to sustain the trova tradition under adverse circumstances.

Rosa Maria Prades, director of the Miguel Matamoros Music and Entertainment Marketing Company, affirmed that trova will not disappear in Santiago de Cuba, a city recognized as the birthplace of the genre.

Raulicer Garcia, provincial director of Culture, expressed his gratitude to the people, musicians, and organizations that supported the festival, highlighting its representative character of the Caribbean nation and its cultural significance.

The edition expanded to include educational, health, and recreational centers, as well as municipalities such as Contramaestre, Palma Soriano, Segundo Frente, and San Luis.

The festival, which began in 1964, commemorated the centennial of the birth of Cuban Commander Fidel Castro and the 170th anniversary of Pepe Sanchez, a founding figure of Cuban trova.

The theoretical forum "Lino Betancourt in Memoriam" provided an opportunity to reflect on the tradition and enduring relevance of the genre, with contributions from researchers, audiovisual presentations, poetry readings, and analyses by artists such as Xiomara Vidal and Ñico Saquito.

Miguel Matamoros Provincial Music and Entertainment Marketing Company, the Cuban Institute of Music, and the Provincial Directorate of Culture organized the festival, which reaffirmed Santiago's status as a UNESCO Creative City.

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