



CHAIRPERSON REPORT

Annual General Meeting 13 September 2020

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 2019, 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 ACF20: 100% Flavour held 6-8th March 2020 a resounding success, we again ran our festival with a 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 led by our Creative Director and trustee, Greydis Montero Liranza. We introduced a new instructors to the Aotearoa Cuban Festival, Emily Glubb from Christchurch, and welcomed back Piter Pantoja Lopez from Adelaide who last joined us in 2016.
- Bringing 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 continued 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.
- 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.
- Wonderful catering for our artists by Cherie Trujilo, trustee, creating a welcoming environment for our 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 and Liza Kohunui.
- A collaboration with the Cuban Embassy in NZ to bring the “Cuba Through Kiwi Eyes Exhibition” to Rotorua supported by trustee Richard George and volunteer Lyn George and locally based trustees Liza Kohunui and Greydis Montero Liranza. The exhibition brought together photos explores the sights and people of Cuba photographed by Kiwi Tourists.
- An amazing showcase led by artist, and stage manager Javiera Pavez guided by our Artistic Director, supported by trustee Richard George and volunteer Lyn George who managed both the decoration of the venue, and music during the showcase. The following party was kept pumping by contracted DJ services by artist and DJ Rafael Ferrer from Wellington.
- Equipment and support in sound and lighting were provided under contract by Adrian Leineweber.
- Our awesome MC, volunteer, Mr Iwi Te Whau, who presented and ensured flow throughout the evening.
- Live, Rumba, Batá and live percussion throughout the festival beginning with the Friday night 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), Piter Pantoja Lopez (Aus-Cuba), Dr Adiran Hearn (Aus), Vivio Isbert Ramos (NZ-Cuba), Rafael Ferrer (NZ-Cuba), Javiera Pavez (NZ-Chile), Diego Troncoso (NZ-Chile) & Emily Glubb (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 6-8 March 2020 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, 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.

Key appointments

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 2020 New Zealand Cuban Festival.

Covid-19

The world, our communities, our trust and our festival is being reshaped by the COVID-19 global pandemic. We were extremely lucky to be the last national Latin festival able to run in NZ prior to the Level 4 lockdown.

It was a close run thing...on 28 Feb our first imported case was reported, followed by another on the 4th of March. By the 8th of March NZ had 5 reported cases and only days later WHO announced Covid-19 as an official pandemic. The requirement to self isolate on arrival to NZ was announced a week later. We discussed cancelling the festival on the 4th of March given we were bringing in teachers from Australia and participants from the length of NZ. At the time there was no requirements to self isolate and there were no restrictions on event size. We forged ahead and many of us not aware how different our world would be not a month later.

Our festival struggles to be financial sustainable without the source of various other charitable trusts. Three of our five funding bodies are associated with gambling machines that fund money back into arts and cultural events in the areas that machines are based. The Lockdown on 24 March (level 3, then Level 4 - 48 hours later) closed all non-essential business including the clubs and bars. This has of course impacted the incomes from most of these trust that have cancelled funding rounds and will have restricted funds available for the next 12 months.



In addition, the continuing uncertainty around border restrictions and requirements to be in managed isolation for 14 days prior to entering NZ have restricted our source of our Cuban experts.

Its with a heavy heart that I recommend we do not hold a full festival in 2021, the uncertainty, issues with funding and arability of trustees to support the fundraising actives are all contributing factors. However, we should pivot to look for other ways for us to continue our goals until more certainty is available later in 2021.

What's Ahead....

- Working on ways to continue to engage with youth the future of Cuban dance in NZ, to encourage their participation at a smaller local festival or through other events.
- Engaging with local promotors 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.

We close with a whakatauki, or proverb: “Whiria te tangata ka puta he oranga” 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 pivot in the Covid 19 pandemic world and find ways to weave Cuban dance and Culture into smaller events both ours and others that incorporates the family and spiritual feel we have created and love.

Kate Maguire
Chairperson
The New Zealand Cuban Festival Trust.