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Celebrating Pan American Day 2024:
Promoting Social Equity and Diplomacy for Peace through Cultural and Jazz Diplomacy

Panel Discussions, Performances, and Events

In recognition of Pan American Day and the interconnectedness of cultural exchange in the Americas, the U.S. Permanent Mission to the OAS proudly presents a series of events under the theme "*Promoting Social Equity and Diplomacy for Peace: Cultural and Jazz Diplomacy in the Americas.*" Spanning the month of April, these events aim to celebrate the transformative power of cultural diplomacy, particularly through the lens of American jazz, while fostering dialogue and cooperation through the Inter-American System. **Explore more with YouTube videos [here](#) and Spotify music [here](#).**

1. High-Level Book Talk and Discussion with Author Marie Arana. *Date: [April 16, 2024](#); Time: 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.; Location: Hall of the Americas. Join us for an enlightening discussion with author [Marie Arana](#) focused on literature and cultural diplomacy, in celebration of Pan American Day. Her works, including [LATINOLAND](#), [Bolívar: American Liberator](#), and [Silver, Sword, and Stone](#), have garnered critical acclaim and shed light on the rich tapestry of Latino identity in the Americas. Held in partnership with the OAS Columbus Memorial Library. **Register at [this link](#).***

2. Panel Discussion and Jazz Presentation: "The Lasting Impact of the Jazz Ambassadors Program in the Americas." *Date: [April 17, 2024](#); Time: 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.; Location: National Museum of American Diplomacy. Held in celebration of Jazz Appreciation Month, this event delves into the influential [Jazz Ambassadors Program](#), initiated by the U.S. Department of State during the Cold War era. Featuring expert insights and commentary on historical performances, it will explore jazz's role in fostering international relations, provoking discourse on civil and political rights, and promoting cultural diplomacy throughout the Americas. **Register at [this link](#).***

3. Latin Jazz Concert: "Expresiones: An Evening with John Santos and Hugo Cruz." *Date: [April 19, 2024](#); Time: 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.; Location: National Museum of Natural History's Baird Auditorium. The [Smithsonian National Museum of the American Latino](#) invites you to immerse yourself in the talents of [Hugo Cruz and Caminos](#), followed by the consummate rhythms of seven-time Grammy-nominated percussionist [John Santos](#) and his stellar sextet. This event promises an unforgettable journey through the rich tapestry of Latin Jazz. **Register at [this link](#).** (Note: 40 slots have already been reserved for OAS Missions).*

4. Film Screening: "The Jazz Ambassadors." *Date: [April 24, 2024](#); Time: 4:00 p.m.; Location: Embassy of Colombia. Sponsored by the U.S. and Colombian Permanent Missions to the OAS, this screening of [The Jazz Ambassadors](#) documentary delves into the nexus of the Cold War, the Civil Rights movement, and cultural diplomacy, in commemoration of the International Day of*

Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace (April 24) and Jazz Appreciation Month. [Register at this link.](#)

5. Panel Discussion and Jazz Performance: “Cultural Diplomacy for Realizing Social, Ethnic and Racial Equity, and Inclusive Governance.” *Date: April 30, 2024; Time: 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.; Location: Art Museum of the Americas. Organized by the U.S. Permanent Mission to the OAS through the Inter-American Committee on Culture, this event explores the intersections of cultural diplomacy, social equity and economic inclusion in the Americas. Held on International Jazz Day (April 30), and with a focus on jazz's heritage and its role in fostering culture for development, the discussion aims to inspire actionable strategies for advancing social and racial equity. Featuring Venezuelan jazz percussionist [Fran Vielma](#) and his Quartet. [Register at this link.](#)*

6. Reception and “The U.S. Army Blues” Performance, Hall of the Americas. *Date: May 2, 2024; Time: Evening; Location: OAS Hall of the Americas. Concluding the series, a jazz performance by [The U.S. Army Blues](#) celebrates the rich legacy of music in the U.S. Armed Forces and its contribution to cultural diplomacy. This event honors jazz's history of promoting integration and diversity, echoing Inter-American themes of social equity and diplomacy for peace. [Register at this link.](#)*

Through these events, the U.S. Permanent Mission to the OAS endeavors to ignite meaningful discussions, celebrate cultural diplomacy's potential to drive respect for civil and political rights, and inspire actionable strategies for realizing social and racial equity in the Americas, building upon the legacy of the [U.S. Civil Rights Act of 1964](#).

Join us in commemorating Pan American Day 2024 and embracing the power of cultural exchange to unite nations in the promotion of peace and democracy.



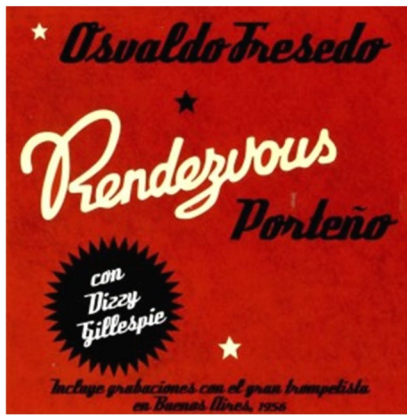
The Music Division of the OAS played a key role in fostering U.S.-Latin American musical exchange, influenced by Pan-American efforts like the Good Neighbor Policy. These exchanges, initiated in 1941, became a model for global cultural and musical diplomacy.



First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt greeted by [Dr. Leo Rowe](#), Director General of the Pan American Union, at a 1936 concert reception at the OAS, where music was a bridge for understanding and cooperation.



[The Roerich Pact](#) on cultural heritage was agreed to by twenty-one nations of the Americas and signed as a treaty in the White House, in the presence of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, on April 15, 1935, by all the members of the Pan-American Union.



[Dizzy Gillespie](#), the influential jazz trumpeter, and [Osvaldo Fresedo](#), the renowned tango composer and orchestra leader, met during Gillespie's tour of Latin America sponsored by the U.S. Department of State in 1956. Their encounter was historic, showcasing a fusion of jazz and tango, and inspiring collaboration. Gillespie's interest in Latin and Afro-Cuban music persisted throughout his career, as evidenced by a visit to Havana in 1977. With a racially integrated band, his 1956 tour included Guayaquil, Ecuador (July 26-27); Buenos Aires, Argentina (July 28-August 4); Montevideo, Uruguay (August 5); Rio de Janeiro (August 6-12) and Sao Paulo (August 13-17), Brazil.