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## GLOBAL FOUNDATION FOR DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT

Fostering Progress, Collaboration and Exchange

YEAR IN REVIEW | 2017

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Dr. Leonel Fernández President of GFDD

In 2017, Global Foundation for Democracy and Development celebrated 15 years contributing to the sustainable social, democratic, economic and cultural development of the Dominican Republic, throughout the rest of the Western Hemisphere and the world. It gladly embraced clarity, transparency and precision, as a comprehensive lens for viewing the ever-challenging world around all of us.

During its 15 years of service, Global Foundation for Democracy and Development has strived to promote positive social, cultural and environmental change, while it has continued to benefit from the remarkable readiness of its numerous and still expanding programs.

It is these type of intellectual clarity, analysis and thought, and dissemination of information that have elevated GFDD to a place where it can proudly declare that it continues to uphold the same values that inspired it fifteen years ago.

As the world around us undergoes myriad changes, GFDD projects and programs not only shine a light on the needs, passions and aspirations of the Dominican people, but it proudly extends itself to its international partners on the world stage. The long list of organizations enumerated herein is representative of GFDD's outreach commitment, not only at home but abroad.

GFDD makes every effort to help meet the needs of those less fortunate by promoting the creation of a fairer, more humane, equitable, and supportive economy. To that end, among other efforts, it passionately continues to protect the planet we all share through the implementation of a series of initiatives that have proven to be fruitful and have been well received.

These efforts also include a plethora of intellectual, scientific and technological research and publications, of which we could not be prouder. They are available to all those who are interested.

In 2018, GFDD can honestly say that it remains steadfast in its approach, clear in its goals, and that it is prepared to roll up its sleeves to achieve them.



Semiramis de Miranda Yamile Eusebio Paulino

Acting Co-Executive Directors In 2017, despite the challenges that a new year brings, Global Foundation for Democracy and Development (GFDD) continued its efforts and commitment to bring the best the Dominican Republic has to offer to the world, to continue growing and providing an important space for dialogue and learning.

Only with the support of our staff, Advisory Committee, and Board and, of course, with the kind and selfless generosity of our donors, we experienced a year full of pleasant surprises and opportunities to grow and fulfill our mission.

In the twinkling of an eye, 2017 passed and we can truly say that we are proud of our accomplishments, of where we have been and the opportunities that we created to make a difference in the lives of so many. Our programs continued to offer a wide scope of options to fulfill the needs of all of our constituents.

We kept ourselves quite busy following the agenda of the United Nations, and actively participated in the many events held by the multilateral organization during the year. As a member of the Board of well-known institutions – such as CoNGO, the NGO Committee on Financing for Development, and the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development, GFDD maintained an active presence in the work these non-profit organizations carry out, and worked to promote the Sustainable Development Goals in its active work agenda. GFDD's Roundtables program fosters face-to-face interactions with high-level officials from institutions and agencies associated with the United Nations, the Organization of American States, and Embassies and Permanent Missions headquartered in NY and Washigton, DC. The objective of the program is to serve as a platform where global issues affecting the region and beyond can be discussed and the conversation broadcast live to GFDD's audience.

The ReCrearte Program kept its objective of enthusiastically teaching the how, when, where and, more importantly, what items to recycle. In total, GFDD headed more than 50 workshops around the country. In the Dominican Republic, the EcoHuertos Program offered workshops and personalized assistance to schools committed to the introduction of sustainable gardens in their institutions. The Globo Verde Award supported the Dominican environment-friendly film industry by providing spaces where local filmmakers could showcase their talent and productions at the international level. It also provided special hands-on training for young amateur and professional filmmakers on their craft. In 2017 GFDD invited to the country world-renowned photographer Steve McCurry, who led a workshop during the Dominican Republic Environmental Film Festival (DREFF) initiative. In addition, the DREFF showcased Dominican documentaries, produced by Dominican filmmakers at the DC Environmental Film Festival (DCEFF), and a DREFF representative participated as a special guest in Trinidad and Tobago's Green Screen T&T. During the event, the D.R. co-hosted the opening night event by screening "Ciclos" (the 2016 Globo Verde Dominicano Award winner) and participating in a panel discussion on "Women and Eco-Feminism."

Through the initiative Year-Round Environmental Film Screening, the Foundation continued to promote a more sustainable world by presenting various educational films that impacted the hearts and minds of thousands of viewers throughout the country.

As part of its education commitment, GFDD hosted the visit of a delegation of students from the country's Autonomous University of Santo Domingo, through the GDAE program. The Dominican students participated in an exchange activity with their counterparts at the Ivy League University of Pennsylvania. Through them, their U.S. counterparts learned about Dominican culture in general and discussed work-related issues through the InteRDom Program. At the same time, as part of the Fellows Program, the international PhD and MSc and MA researchers presented their work at the United Nations and at Funglode's headquarters in Santo Domingo.

Please join us in this journey where we highlight the amazing activities we carried out during 2017 and the goals we successfully achieved. We encourage you to become involved so that, together, we can work to build a better world. We will see you in 2018!

> "You should never view your challenges as a disadvantage. Instead, it's important for you to understand that your experience facing and overcoming adversity is actually one of your biggest advantages."

#### Michelle Obama

## About GFDD

Global Foundation for Democracy and Development (GFDD) is the sister organization in the United States of Fundación Global Democracia y Desarrollo (Funglode), headquartered in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. Funglode was created in 2000 by Dr. Leonel Fernández upon completing his first presidential mandate. GFDD was incorporated under US law in 2002 to elevate and expand the international visibility and presence of Funglode, and to strengthen collaboration and exchange with US-based institutions.

GFDD offices are located in Washington, DC and in New York. The Foundation is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to the advancement of global collaboration and exchange relevant to Dominican professionals, general audiences and institutions in the homeland and abroad. The Foundation conducts research, enhances public understanding, designs public policies, devises strategies, and offers capacity-building in areas crucial to social, economic, democratic and cultural sustainable development.

GFDD promotes better understanding and appreciation of Dominican culture, values and heritage in the Dominican Republic, the United States and worldwide.

GFDD creates, facilitates, and implements wide-scope international human development projects, building on its own experience, expertise and strong national and international networks.

**Mission:** GFDD formulates and implements initiatives that contribute to sustainable social, democratic, economic and cultural development in the Dominican Republic and the Western Hemisphere.

**Vision**: GFDD brings new perspectives, innovative approaches and solutions to pressing issues and challenges of contemporary society in the Dominican Republic and the Americas. Through the construction of partner-ships and networks, the Foundation builds bridges and implements development promoting initiatives on a global level.



#### Areas of Interest:

- Environment
- Sustainable economic and social development
- Education
- Communications
- Health
- Culture
- International relations
- Defense and security
- Knowledge management
- Information and communications technology
- Democracy
- Dominican studies
- Globalization and regional integration

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## International Affairs

## Collaboration with the Organization of American States



GFDD and Funglode are civil society organizations affiliated with the OAS and active supporters of the organization's aims and objectives, of the Inter-American System and the Summit of the Americas program. Joint specific initiatives in the field of democracy, regional integration, trade, environment, education, culture, drug abuse prevention —as well as internships and professional training opportunities— are developed and implemented with different departments and divisions of the OAS.

GFDD's institutional mission to foster collaboration and exchange between the Dominican Republic and the Western Hemisphere is stronger than ever, and continues to compel the Foundation to collaborate with the OAS in many areas. Most recently, in June, GFDD attended the 47th General Assembly of the OAS in Cancun, Mexico. The high-level meeting revolved around the ongoing challenges surrounding human rights, the rule of law, and democratic stability in the region.

The General Assembly of the OAS brought together hundreds of member delegations and civil society organizations from the region and Observer States under the theme: "Strengthening Dialogue and Concerted Action for Prosperity." GFDD attended the official dialogue between the heads of delegation, including the OAS Secretary General, the OAS Assistant Secretary General, representatives from civil society and employees and representatives of the private sector.

In July, GFDD President, Dr. Leonel Fernández, met personally with OAS Secretary General Luis Almagro in Washington, DC, to renew the collaboration agreement between GFDD and the OAS. At the meeting, Dr. Fernández and SG Almagro agreed that that both GFDD and the OAS should continue to collaborate on "everything related to the institutional strengthening of democratic governance, such as electoral systems, political parties, judicial systems, and electoral





observation in the Dominican Republic, as well as issues related to the country's economic, social and cultural development."

At the end of the year, GFDD attended the Civil Society and Social Actors consultation at the OAS headquarters, in preparation to GFDD's participation in the VIII Summit of the Americas, to be held in April of 2018 in Peru.

GFDD regularly develops and implements programs jointly with different departments and divisions of the OAS in the fields of democracy, regional integration, trade, environment, education, culture, and drug abuse prevention, as well as internships and professional training opportunities. Another opportunity for collaboration between GFDD and the OAS occurs during the Global Roundtable initiative during which the GRT in 2017 interviewed a series of OAS Ambassadors including Ambassador Luis Alfonso de Alba Góngora from Mexico; Ambassador Marco Albuja from Ecuador and Ambassador Diego Pary Rodríguez from Bolivia.

Our collaboration with the OAS began in 2004 when GFDD attended the OAS Permanent Council Session on Civic Education in Washington DC. It is the wish of GFDD that this important collaboration will go on for many years to come. <sup>64</sup>GFDD and the OAS have committed to working together on everything related to the institutional strengthening of democratic governance, such as electoral systems, political parties, judicial systems, and electoral observation, as well as issues related to economic, social and cultural development. <sup>91</sup>

#### Dr. Leonel Fernández - GFDD President

## Collaboration with the United Nations



GFDD and Funglode are non-profit organizations with consultative status with the Economic Social Council (ECOSOC), the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Department of Public Information (DPI), the Global Compact Office, the Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the World Summit of Information Society (WSIS). Both Foundations are dedicated to promoting and advancing issues at the forefront of the United Nations' agenda. GFDD and Funglode regularly participate in UN agencies' discussions and meetings and contribute substantively to reports and position papers.

GFDD began a packed year of collaboration with the United Nations in January, when it was elected to a three-year appointment as Executive Committee Member of the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development. As such, it was responsible for monitoring and influencing the implementation of UN commitments and agreements on sustainable development.

In February, GFDD participated in the 55th Session of the Commission for Social Development, with the priority theme "Strategies for eradicating poverty to achieve sustainable development for all." GFDD called for the adoption of a new social paradigm in which sustainable tourism plays a key role in development. Later that month, GFDD took part in the United Nations Association of the United States (UNA-USA) Members' Day with some 1,200 other participants. Conversations focused on the refugee crisis, conflict resolution, the new American administration, and sustainable development.

GFDD actively presented oral and written statements at the various UN meetings:

in February, at ECOSOC's 55th Session of the Commission on Social Development, the statement focused on Sustainable Tourism in the Dominican Republic.

Later, in March, at ECOSOC's 61st Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the statement was on "The Representation of Women in Science and Technology."

The March agenda also included GFDD's participation in the weeklong 61st Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, under the priority theme "Women's Economic Empowerment in the Changing World of Work." The session was punctuated by a debate on the financial inclusion of women, and a GFDD side event, organized in partnership with the John Jay College of Criminal Justice, focused on raising awareness on social issues currently subjugating women and marginalized groups in Latin America and the Caribbean and the role of civil society in this debate.



In April, GFDD opened the second quarter of the year by attending the Civil Society Forum held during the World Bank/IMF Spring Meetings in Washington, D.C. There, in partnership with the United Nations NGO Committee on Social Development and the NGO Committee on Financing for Development, GFDD hosted an event to launch the publication Impact Investing in the Dominican Republic, by GFDD Fellow Jenna Giandoni. Also, in April, GFDD participated in the Inter-active Dialogue of the 71st Session of the General Assembly on Harmony with Nature, which took place at the UN Head- quarters. At the April UN Interactive Dialogue on Harmony with Nature, GFDD's statement was on the role of eco-tourism in helping to support sustainable development, and reflecting human activity in harmony with nature.

In May, GFDD, as member of the Non-Governmental Organization Major Group (NGO MG) of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, co-signed, along with 148 other NGOs, the official NGO MG Position Paper, in advance of the 2017 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. Also in May, at the ECOSOC Integration Segment on Poverty Eradication, GFDD's statement was on Innovative Financing Options for Sustainable Development Projects in Developing Countries, with particular reference to Impact Investing.

Later in May, GFDD hosted the meeting "Short and Medium-Term Growth Prospects in Latin America and the Caribbean" at its New York office. The meeting was led by ECLAC Economist Daniel Titelman.

In early June, GFDD participated in the first UN Ocean Conference, taking advantage of the event to draw attention to the impact that the Dominican whalewatching sector is having on the country's economic development. Whale-watching was the subject of the study of *Resident Perceptions of Whale Watching in the Dominican Republic*, by GFDD Research Fellow Bonnie Raschke, whose paper was released on the final day of the conference.

Also in June, in its capacity as Vice Chair of the United Nations Association of the United States of America Council of Organizations (UNA- USA COO), GFDD participated in the 2017 edition of UNA-USA Leadership Summit in Washington, DC.

In late June, GFDD partnered with UNA-USA COO and the Institute for Life Sciences Collaboration to host the International Conference on Novel Diagnostics & Affordable Treatment. The event, titled Advancing UN Sustainable Development Goal 3 (Good Health & Well-being), took place at the UN Church Center and was a unique opportunity for attendees to engage with a diverse panel of speakers that included high-level representatives from the World Health Organization, the World Bank and several medical practitioners.

In July, together with hundreds of sustainable development advocates and government delegates, GFDD participated in the 2017 High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), which focused on the theme "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world."

At this time, in June and July, GFDD presented two statements at the General Assembly: UN Ocean Conference presenting the Dominican Whale Watching Industry and its Importance for Sustainable Development, and Co-Signatory to the NGO Major Group Position Paper for the 2017 High-Level Political Forum, respectively.

September was a very busy month for the Foundation. GFDD actively participated in all NGO events of the UN 72nd Session of the General Assembly, which took place September 12 to 25 at the UN headquarters in New York. Also, GFDD attended the 5th edition of the International Conference on Sustainable Development (ICSD) at Columbia University in New York City.

The theme of this year's ICSD was "The World in 2050: Looking Ahead for Sustainable Development."

Also in September it attended the fifth edition of the International Conference on Sustainable Development (ICSD) at Columbia University in New York City, hosted by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) and the Earth Institute's Global Master's in Development Practice Program (MDP).

To celebrate the United Nations Day, GFDD teamed up with the UNA-USA Council of Organizations and Earlene Cruz, founder of Kitchen Connection, to take viewers around the world on a virtual culinary tour to Morocco in an event titled "Spices for Peace," celebrated in October at the UN Church Center.

As an active NGO at the UN, GFDD is a key player at many boards of the various Committees, such as the Confederation of NGO (CoN-GO); the Executive Board of the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development; the NGO Committee on Financing Development and serving as Vice Chair of the UNA USA Council of Organizations.

# Collaboration with UNA-DR



The Dominican United Nations Association (UNA-DR) is a nonprofit NGO dedicated to supporting the work of the United Nations and helping to strengthen its mission by coordinating educational and cultural activities to raise awareness and foster civic involvement. Since 2001 the UNA-DR has designed and implemented mock debates and forums on national, regional, and international issues, impacting more than 60,000 young people. GFDD provides important support in organizing activities such as the Model UN, Model OAS, and Model Inter-American Human Rights System, which offer valuable learning and civic leadership experiences to thousands of young people.

As the planet faces increasingly complex issues, Dominican young people are steadily acquiring diplomatic skills that will have lifelong positive impacts. In this context, GFDD's involvement with the United Nations Association of the Dominican Republic (UNA-DR) stood out in 2017, thanks to two awesome events that took place in New York and in the Dominican Republic.

The first one, in April, was the New York-Dominican Republic Model UN (NYDRMUN), which took place in New York. This event was attended by more than 300 delegates from high schools and universities in the United States, the Dominican Republic and Mexico. GFDD, UNA-DR and GlobalMuners organized the attendance of students from the Dominican Republic and Mexico. Global dialogues, cultural meetings, and the closing and awards ceremonies, all directly related to the current agenda of the United Nations, were simulated by the young participants.

Mexican NGO GlobalMuners and GFDD co-hosted the second key UNA-DR event of 2017: the International Conference of the Americas (CILA), which opened on October 29 at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Punta Cana Convention Center in the Dominican Republic. Almost 500 high school students from all over the Americas came together for three days to discuss the most pressing issues affecting





Latin America and the Caribbean. Thousands of participants throughout the years have strengthened their skills and acquired tools that have helped their professional and personal development while transforming society along the way. At this year's CILA, the first Cross-Sectional Dialogue on Sustainable Development convened to discuss the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Participants discussed implementation strategies for the UN 2030 Agenda and stressed the importance of fostering participation among the various economic sectors.

CILA "represents a great learning opportunity to develop competencies, skills, and certain abilities that go beyond what can be learned in classrooms. It also converts young people into global citizens; a requirement in today's world." Dr. Leonel Fernández.

<sup>44</sup> Your Model United Nations is built on open minds and fresh ideas. Many of you have been asked to represent national agendas or stands that you may personally disagree with. You will do so fairly and forcefully. This open-mindedness is the essence of successful diplomacy -- the ability to understand and analyse all positions, including those that you oppose. <sup>11</sup>

> Ban ki-moon Secretary General of the United Nations January 2007 – December 2017





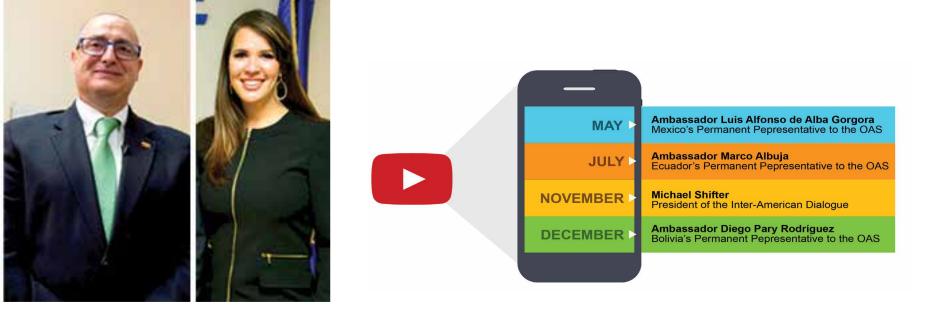
In close association with the United Nations, GFDD organizes regular interviews with ambassadors, think tanks, experts and multilateral institutions representatives in an effort to spread the news and understanding of global issues and work of different international bodies.

www.gfddglobalroundtable.org

In May, GRT's guest, Ambassador Luis Alfonso de Alba Góngora, Mexico's Permanent Representative to the OAS, covered topics such as the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and how the OAS is promoting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, climate change, and the transition toward a greener economy. De Alba Góngora pointed out that "when the OAS made the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development its own, the organization took an important step." This interview was also very pertinent as Mexico was preparing to host the OAS General Assembly a few weeks later.

In July, Ecuador's Permanent Representative to the OAS, Ambassador Marco Albuja, visited GFDD for the second time to participate in the GRT, following the election of Ecuadorian President Lenín Moreno. Ambassador Albuja explained how both President Moreno and former President Correa are focused on eradicating poverty in his country. Ambassador Albuja also noted that 20,000 Ecuadorian students are currently studying at 200 universities across the world, and the government expects their return home to apply their skills in favor of Ecuador's development.

The third GRT of 2017 took place in November, and included a conversation with Michael Shifter, President of the Inter-American



Dialogue, who shed light on recent changes in the economic relationship between the US and Latin America. Accordina to Mr. Shifter, the US does not occupy the dominant position with respect to Latin America that it once did. "In recent decades, and most of all during the last 15 years, there has been a transformation that has resulted in China having a very important presence in many countries." The conversation also covered trade agreements and particularly the consequences of the Trump administration withdrawing from the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). Regarding Latin America's reputation as one of the regions

with the highest inequality in the world, Shifter said governments should implement policies to bring about equity, stressing education as the main tool to combat inequality.

In December, GFDD's fourth and final GRT of 2017 hosted Bolivia's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the OAS, Diego Pary Rodríguez, an indigenous Quechua leader, educator, politician, and diplomat. A variety of topics were discussed, such as the inclusion of indigenous peoples in political society, the role of international organizations, the lawful production of coca leaves, and Bolivia's Law of the Rights of Mother Earth, also known as the Law of Mother Earth. The latter is considered to be the first instance that an environmental law gives legal personhood to the Earth and its ecosystems. "If we do not take care of Mother Earth, we are destined to live in a lifeless planet in the future," said Ambassador Pary Rodríguez. The conversation also touched on the social and economic integration of countries through international organizations such as the OAS and Mercosur. Ambassador Pary Rodríguez said "we can never give up the possibility of integration," and that Bolivia aims to remove barriers and integrate with nearby communities.

## Dr. Leonel Fernández



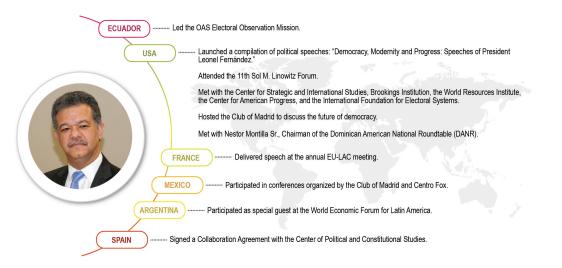
Dr. Leonel Fernández is the president of GFDD/Funglode, the Dominican Liberation Party, and the Dominican Association of the United Nations (UNA-DR); he also presides the Global Institute of Higher Studies in Social Sciences, among others. He is a distinguished member of various councils and international institutions. In February, Dr. Fernández led the OAS Electoral Observation Mission to Ecuador to take on the delicate task of observing that country's elections.

In March, Dr. Fernández launched a compilation of the political speeches he delivered during his three presidential terms, under the title: "Democracy, Modernity and Progress: Speeches of President Leonel Fernández."

As president of the European Union - Latin American and Caribbean Foundation (EU-LAC), Dr. Fernández traveled to Mexico, where he participated in several conferences organized by the Club of Madrid and Centro Fox. He then travelled to Quito, Ecuador, for additional electionsrelated activities. The final leg of this trip was to Argentina, as a special guest at the World Economic Forum for Latin America. At the end of April, Dr. Fernández met in New York with Nestor Montilla Sr., Chairman of the Dominican American National Roundtable (DANR), the only national organization in the United States of America advocating for the socio-economic and political empowerment of Dominicans in the USA and its territories, including Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, as well as with other members of the organization. They discussed advancing priorities of the Dominican Republic and its diaspora.

In June, Dr. Fernández presented the keynote speech at the annual EU-LAC meeting in Paris. Participating through video conference, Fernández noted the Caribbean's cultural and linguistic wealth and unique geographic location, as well as the origins of the relationship between Europe and the Caribbean. He reflected on the 2020 conclusion of the Cotonou Agreement, the beginning of a new





phase between the two regions, and the benefits of strengthening their two economies, while jointly taking action against climate change and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

At the end of June, in Washington DC, Dr. Fernández attended the 11th Sol M. Linowitz Forum, hosted by the Inter-American Dialogue and dedicated to improving the quality of debate and communication on Western Hemispheric issues. He provided valuable insight on issues such as sustainable growth, challenges to worldwide democracy, and US-Latin American relations in the age of Trump. Dr. Fernández signed a Collaboration Agreement with the Center of Political and Constitutional Studies in Madrid, with the goal of establishing a framework of exchange through strategic alliances in the areas of information, activities, publications, and research.

Later in July, Fernández immersed himself for three days in Washington DC, where he visited institutions and executives from different organizations and renowned think tanks, for future partnership agreements, including the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), the Brookings Institution, the World Resources Institute, the Center for American Progress and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems.

Youth participation in political processes and decision-making, as well as creating effective exchange of ideas between generations are never far from Dr. Fernández's mind. As such, he hosted in September the Club of Madrid to discuss the future of democracy. More than 14 former presidents, prime ministers, and young leaders attended the meeting at GFDD headquarters in New York. <sup>66</sup>Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choice are prepared to choose wisely. The real safeguard of democracy, therefore, is education. <sup>91</sup>

#### Franklin D. Roosevelt



Education, Professional Development & Scholarship

## Education



In collaboration with the most prominent thinkers, analysts, academics and practitioners, as well as the most reputable institutions around the world, GFDD and Funglode regularly offer innovative and inspiring training programs, seminars, workshops, conferences and discussion forums to audiences in the Dominican Republic and the United States with the purpose of enhancing the local capacity, raising the level of the national discussion, and promoting the implementation of creative solutions for the country's sustainable development.

In January, GFDD and Funglode's Center for Electoral Studies shed some light on an educational conference that took place at Funglode in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. The conference was entitled: "Elections in the United States: Results and Consequences." When reflecting on the impact of this matter for the Dominican Republic, Mario Báez, Policy and Oversight Coordination Service at UN-ECLAC and member of GFDD's Advisory Committee, recommended promoting responsible economic and social policies for growth and political stability.

In February, Professor Bolivar Morales Troncoso, offered a dissertation at Funglode's headquarters in Santo Domingo, in preparation for Listin Diario's annual Geography Week 2017. Professor Troncoso's topic was "Learn! Our Protected Areas: Source of Sustainable Life." As part of the event, the GFDD/Funglode publication "The Dominican Republic Encyclopedic Dictionary of the Environment" was raffled off among the attending teachers.

In June, GFDD hosted a meeting entitled "Short and Medium-Term Growth Prospects in Latin America and the Caribbean" at its New York office. Daniel Titelman, Chief of Economic Development of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), led the discussion with a positive forecast: "GDP in Latin



 January
 Conference "Elections in the United States: Results and Consequences." GFDD/Funglode - Santo Domingo.

 February
 Listin Diario's Annual Geography Week 2017. Funglode - Santo Domingo.

 June
 Meeting "Short and Medium-Term Growth Prospects in Latin America and the Caribbean". GFDD - New York.

 October
 Discussion "Latin America and the Caribbean: Economic Outlook and Challenges towards the Future." The Dominican Studies Institute of New York's City College.

 Fifty young Dominican leaders visited GFDD's DC office.
 Presentation by ECLAC's Washington Director, Dr. Inés Bustillo: "The Future of Latin American Economies." Screening of La Montaña (The Mountain).

American and Caribbean Countries is Expected to Grow in 2017-2018."

Once the academic year was well underway in October, GFDD convened a timely discussion on the relevance of Latin America and the Caribbean in a changing world. The Dominican Studies Institute of New York's City College hosted the panel on: "Latin America and the Caribbean: Economic Outlook and Challenges towards the Future." Dominican-American Adriano Espaillat, U.S. House Representative for New York's 13th Congressional District, participated with a presentation, and discussed a bill to assist in Puerto Rico's hurricane relief efforts

Later in October, fifty young Dominican leaders visited GFDD's DC offices in an effort to garner knowledge and inspiration on their professional development paths. The visitors, brought to DC thanks to a leadership initiative of the Dominican Republic's Embassy to the United States, attended a presentation offered by Dr. Inés Bustillo, Director of ECLAC's Washington office. She elaborated on the challenges of lower growth and the middle-income trap in which many Latin American economies find themselves. Dr. Bustillo cited innovation as a way of combating economic stagnation. GFDD and ECLAC have a strategic partnership to educate Dominicans and promote the development of young leaders.

<sup>66</sup> The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education.<sup>99</sup>

#### Martin Luther King, Jr.



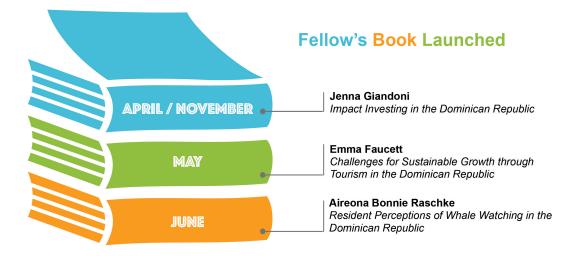


Launched in 2009, the program responds to the GFDD/Funglode desire to develop a community of scholars that contributes to the growing body of research on matters of international concern directly impacting the Dominican Republic. Fellows Program seeks to develop scholarship on issues at the forefront of the United Nations' agenda in order to give voice to national and regional concerns and to offer viable solutions to domestic and global challenges. Great news for 2017: In an effort to leverage the impact of research produced by the enterprising participants in the Fellows Program, GFDD made all books published in its Research and Ideas Series available online for free download. Researched topics include sustainable development in the Dominican Republic, relations and trade between the DR and the People's Republic of China, and cognitive behavioral therapy as a way to treat Parkinson's disease.

In April, GFDD Fellow Jenna Giandoni published "Impact Investing in the Dominican Republic," which was launched at a panel discussion at the 2017 World Bank/IMF Spring Meetings Civil Society Policy Forum in Washington, D.C. In her insightful publication, Ms. Giandoni concludes, among other things, that a "sole focus on financial return for investments ignores the importance of critical factors such as social and environmental concerns, leading to potential negative impacts in all areas of the investment."

Another title in this series, "Challenges for Sustainable Growth through Tourism in the Dominican Republic," was presented by GFDD Fellow Emma Fawcett at the Caribbean Traveling Network's annual event (Expo Feria CTN) in Santo Domingo, in May. Ms. Fawcett's research offers recommendations to overcome challenges for managing the country's burgeoning tourism





industry. The academic analyzed the importance of including poverty related issues into the tourism agenda as well as diversification of touristic products and conserving public access to beaches, among other insightful suggestions.

In June, GFDD Fellow Bonnie Raschke's research on the environmental and social implications of the Dominican Republic's whale watching industry was released. Ms. Raschke looked at the role that local communities play in this activity. The release of this important research coincided with the United Nation's commemoration of the first edition of its Ocean Conference, from June 5 to 9, 2017. The event included a panel discussion among government representatives, international policy experts and academics on the topic of eco-tourism and its impact on the environment and local communities.

In November, GFDD/Funglode, along with their Center for Economic Studies, published the Spanish edition of Jenna Giandoni's "Impact Investing in the Dominican Republic," in Santo Domingo and Barahona. Both presentations included comments from local experts in the fields of the study. <sup>11</sup>Today, the Dominican Republic welcomes more than five million tourists a year more than any other Caribbean country and it is home to 25% of the region's hotel rooms.... Between 1970 and 2000, stayover arrivals increased by more than 12% per year. Tourism accounts for 15.3% of the Dominican Republic's GDP and 14% of its employment.... As one industry insider points out, 'tourism is the oil of the Dominican Republic. **!** 

From 2014 Research Fellow Emma Fawcett's book Challenges for Sustainable Growth through Tourism in the Dominican Republic



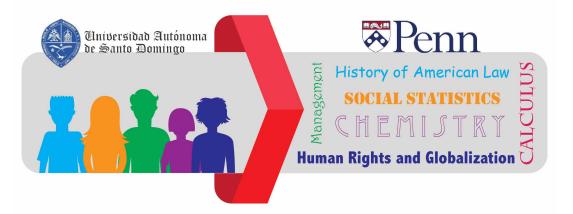


GDAE introduces Dominican students to the American style of liberal arts education and encourages dialogue between Dominican students and their Dominican-American counterparts attending these institutions. The program promotes partnership and entrepreneurship initiatives which foster innovation and stimulate Dominican economic development and international understanding. In April, Dominican students got to experience dorm life at the University of Pennsylvania (UPenn), as part of the Global Dominican Academic Exchange program (GDAE); participants went home with anecdotes of great fun as well as intensive learning. Arrangements for this exchange were made in collaboration with UPenn's Dominican Student Association, Grupo Quisqueyano (GQ). In addition to their Ivy League living experience, the visiting Dominican students at UPenn immersed themselves in a week-long academic and cultural program that included courses in subjects such as Social Statistics, History of American Law, Chemistry, Human Rights and Globalization, Management, Calculus, and more.

When they returned to the DR, Dr. Leonel Fernández awarded the students with certificates of participation in an event held at Funglode headquarters. They shared their experiences and lessons learned. For most of them, the impressive use of technology in the classrooms and the American professors' knowledge and handling of classes was one of the highlights of the experience. This was clearly music to Dr. Fernández's ears as he realized the stated goals of the program were coming to pass.

Participant students spoke effusively about the activities that were especially designed to put them in contact with other UPenn undergrads, professors and student associations, as well as to familiarize them with Philadelphia's vast





culture and local places of interest. The Dominican participants also said that the experience sparked their interest in diverse topics offered in the American curriculum. Some are already applying to other international exchange programs.

This was the second time a group of Dominican students spent time at UPenn. But this time something different happened: they now want to invite their new-found colleagues to the Dominican Republic! 2017 GDAE's students expressed their interest in reciprocity, in undertaking a similar program, but in reverse. Their hope is to invite UPenn students to spend time at their university in the Dominican Republic, for them to also gain a better perspective of local academic life and culture. This year's GDAE students came from different academic backgrounds from Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo (UASD). For this incredible opportunity, they received a scholarship from the Dominican Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology (MESCyT) in collaboration with GFDD/ Funglode's.

Past Global Dominican Academic Exchanges have included visits to Yale University, the National Dominican Student Conference at Harvard, the University of Georgia Law School, the University of Seattle at Washington State, and Babson College. <sup>6</sup> Why do you go away? So that you can come back. So that you can see the place you came from with new eyes and extra colors. And the people there see you differently, too. Coming back to where you started is not the same as never leaving. <sup>9</sup>

> Terry Pratchett Acclaimed British Author



Since its establishment in 2005. InteRDom: Internships in the Dominican Republic, has become the leading internship and academic study program in the Dominican Republic. It promotes professional, academic and cultural exchange between students, universities, scholars, professionals, businesses and non-govermental organizations on a national and international scale. InteRDom works with many universities, and affiliated national, international, public and private institutions.

www.interdominternships.org



In February, the 2017 InteRDom Winter Program officially got underway in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, for Idaima Calderón, from the University of Missouri-Kansas City. During her internship, Idaima conducted her internship in medicine and worked at the Robert Reid Cabral Children's Hospital and Fundación Aprendiendo a Vivir. By the time Ms. Calderón completed her internship in the Dominican Republic, her will to become a physician was written in stone.

In between seasons, GFDD attended the 11th National Dominican Student Conference (NDSC), hosted by the Hispanic Organization of Latin Americans at Babson College, in Boston. GFDD had a booth at the Opportunities Fair to share information about InteRDom, the Fellows Program, and the Global Dominican Academic Exchange Program (GDAE), all three of which are offered throughout the year and promote academic, cultural and professional exchange between the Dominican Republic and the United States.

The 2017 InteRDom Summer Program began in early June. Three participants, students from New York's Baruch, John Jay Colleges and Alabama's Birmingham-Southern College, arrived to the Funglode offices in Santo Domingo ready for a lifechanging experience. In addition to daily work at Cámara Americana de Comercio de la República Dominicana (AMCHAMD), MOSTCHA Inc., and Cybernetic





Park of Santo Domingo, and cultural activities connected to the program, the students had the opportunity to attend weekly GFDD/Funglode events, document their experiences, and contribute to the InteRDom's blog. A week into the program, the interns paid a visit to Santo Domingo's Colonial Zone, where they got a crash course on the Dominican Republic's colonial past.

The second excursion of the 2017 Summer Program was in July, when InteRDom's interns visited Ojo de Agua, in Salcedo, the site of the Mirabal Sisters Museum, which commemorates Patria, Minerva, and María Teresa, assassinated in 1960 by the Trujillo regime for their activist efforts against the dictatorship. The interns also took the "*Ruta del Cacao*" (Chocolate Trail) where they learned how cocoa is grown, harvested and produced into exquisite chocolate.

In August, InteRDom's interns spent a full day in the Baní municipality and saw just how a Dominican town is run.They later did some climbing at the Baní Dunes, soaked up some history at the Salt Mines and enjoyed the extraordinary Salinas Beach.

Facebook: InteRDomInternships Twitter: @InteRDom Instagram: @InteRDomInternships <sup>66</sup>I absolutely loved my time in DR, and I know that I will finish my internship equipped with the skills and knowledge that will propel me to become a doctor. The support I received from the InteRDom family was more than I could have hoped for. Without them, none of this would have been possible. <sup>9</sup>

Idaima Calderón University of Kansas InteRDom Intern



Dominican Issues, Heritage and Outreach





DominicanaOnline.org is already an institution at home and abroad. The portal addresses students, teachers, tourists, investors, travelers, children, academics, Dominicans abroad, and curious individuals who want to know and understand the Dominican Republic's history, geography, economy, culture, and daily life. Each weekend, the newsletter that DominicanaOnline publishes provides a birds-eye view about what the Dominican Republic has to offer and what interests Dominicans in general.

But, DominicanaOnline isn't just a website or a news feed – its physical presence in activities such as the International Book Fair of Santo Domingo, the Nights of the Museums in the Colonial Zone, and the National Festival of Amateur Theater brings global awareness of the steady growth in the Dominican Republic's cultural contributions to the world as they unfold.

For those looking to learn more about the sights, traditions, cuisine, and culture of the Dominican Republic, DominicanaOnline regularly uploads videos to YouTube and through its Dominicans You Should Know series, which serves to introduce viewers to Dominicans whose exploits provide concrete examples of the congenial, enterprising, and caring nature of Dominicans everywhere.

The newsletter includes a schedule of the cultural activities that take place in and around Santo Domingo every week, as well as the activities hosted by the Ministries of Culture and Tourism, a large number of community and cultural centers and private organizations. There is always something great to see and to do in Dominican Republic, and DominicanaOnline puts readers in the front row for every event.

Above all, DominicanaOnline is a living and breathing entity that





has grown over the years and will continue to do so in the future. In generating and featuring exclusive perspectives on the people and events that make up daily life in the Dominican Republic, the portal presents all of the country's facets in a comprehensive and objective manner, adapting the information to the interactivity, agility, and vitality that the internet requires.



Facebook: DominicanaOnline Instagram: @DominicanaOnline Twitter: @PortalRDonline Hashtags:#DominicanaOnline #ViveTuCiudad #LoDominicano.





The Showcase contributes to the dissemination of the best contemporary films produced in the Dominican Republic, by Dominican filmmakers, about Dominican topics. In its mission to promote the knowledge and appreciation of Dominican culture as well as to inspire Dominican filmmakers to reach out internationally, GFDD partners with institutions worldwide and creates opportunities for wide audiences to learn about Dominican culture, enjoy its art, and engage in conversations with filmmakers.

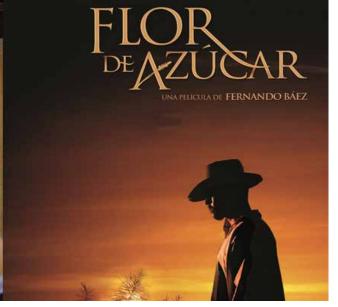
gage in conversations makers. The Dominican Film Showcase (DFS) kicked off its year in February with a presentation of Nana at the Salome Ureña School in NY. In April at the NY Havana Film Festival with two Dominican awardwinning productions, Woodpeckers and Jeffrey. The films were accompanied by their respective directors, José María Cabral and Yanillis Pérez. In collaboration with the Dominican Commissioner of Culture in the United States and the Dominican Republic's Film Commission (DGCINE), GFDD also presented a review of the Dominican Film Law by Yvette Marichal, showing how this regulatory framework has allowed significant constant growth for the film industry in the country.

The DFS continued on a roll in May with a screening of Fernando Báez's

Flor de Azúcar at the Ibero-American Film Showcase in Washington, DC. Also in May, the audience witnessed the New York premiere of the Dominican movie, *Luis*, by film director Archie López at the wellknown Lincoln Center.

In July, supporting its partners' efforts to also promote Dominican films abroad, GFDD actively participated in the 6th Annual Dominican Film Festival in New York (DFFNY), co-hosting a program of workshops, seminars, Q&A sessions, and family activities.

In September, DFS's activities went into full swing with María Montez: The Movie, a film that captured hearts in Washington, D.C. Referring to the legendary Dominican actress, DGCINE Director, Yvette Marichal, recorded a statement for





the audience: "María Montez is an excellent representative of those Dominican women who dare to follow their dreams; she made it at a time where it was very difficult to reach Hollywood."

October was a busy month for the DFS. It began by showing Los Fabulosos Ma' Mejores to school children and their parents at McGraw Mastery School in Camden, New Jersey. The film's director, Carlos Manuel Plasencia, met with the audience afterwards and fielded questions and comments. Los Fabulosos Ma' Mejores (2015) made history as the first ever baseball-focused youth comedy filmed in the Dominican Republic.

Also in October, Archie López's Luis was screened at the New York Cine Latino Film Festival, while a group of Washingtonians reached greater heights with a showing of La Montaña. Prior to the screening of that inspirational documentary, Karim Mella, the renowned Dominican mountaineer and one of the film's protagonists, sent a brief emotional video message to the audience.

Finally, at the end of the year Jeffrey and Site of Sites were screened at the GALA Theatre in the Nation's capital, as part of the 6th Annual REEL Time Film Festival in Washington, DC. These movies were followed by panel discussions with experts and special guests, including Dominican film critic Hugo Pagan. <sup>11</sup> The Dominican film industry experienced a quantum leap since the Law 108-10 (Law for the Promotion of Cinematographic Activities in the Dominican Republic) in 2010. We are seeing more films being made every year, with better quality and broader international exposure. <sup>11</sup>

> Hugo Pagan Dominican Film Critic





The Dominican Get-Togethers promote understanding and appreciation of Dominican culture, values, and heritage, and create opportunities for discussions of contemporary issues relevant to Dominican society in the homeland and abroad. GFDD reaches out to the Dominican community living in the US and to all those interested in the Dominican culture. and brings them an array of interesting and pertinent themes and different ways to celebrate the richness and diversity of the Dominican Republic.

At this year's Dominican Get-Togethers, GFDD hosted Carlos Alfredo Fatule, a renowned Dominican professional musician, film and theatre actor, writer, and lecturer. Fatule has produced, directed, and hosted numerous TV and radio shows for decades, and it is well loved by the Dominican society and diaspora. He is one of the multitalented Dominican artists that fill Dominicans with pride.

At the event, hosted by GFDD at Manhattan's Symphony Space, Fatule utilized those very talents in a 40-minute monologue replete with songs to tell the audience how he got his start and success in the entertainment industry. The spectators learned that Fatule, after studying medicine and then deciding it was not his cup of tea, jumpstarted his artistic career in 1983 when he won the Festival de la Voz y la Canción in Puerto Rico. His entertainment career has been going strong ever since.

Following the show, Fatule stayed for a lively Q&A session with the public. The artist, full of talent and professionalism, expressed his happiness at being featured in such an exciting



encounter with the Dominican community in New York.

Fatule currently works in the New York City school system, training young theatrical performers, including many immigrants from around the world. He believes that music, song and dance, positively reform and inspire human beings - in our minds, bodies and souls.





<sup>66</sup> My method in working with young people is to support self-esteem and basic values, an essential part of all human beings, and to help them better take care of themselves, others and our city. Often my students come and sit in the last row, too shy to speak up. I have to encourage them to talk and participate, but after a month they come out of their shells. <sup>91</sup>

> Carlos Alfredo Fatule Dominican Entertainer and Actor

# Dominican Week in the US



For the past years GFDD has been actively participating in the Dominican Week in the US, promoting networking and creating opportunities, alliances and exchange between the Dominicans residing in their homeland and abroad. The Dominican Week, an initiative organized by the American Chamber of Commerce of the Dominican Republic (AMCHAMDR), aims to raise the image of the Dominican Republic in the United States, promoting relations and exchange between the two countries.

Dominican Week in the USA (Semana Dominicana in the USA) is a decades-long initiative by the American Chamber of Commerce in the Dominican Republic (AMCHAMDR), to strengthen ties between the Dominican Republic and the United States in economic, commercial, social, academic and cultural areas.

For more than 25 years, a delegation of entrepreneurs, executives, professionals, members of professional and trade associations, academics, and Dominican authorities travel to the U.S. to participate in meetings and events with American diplomats and government officials, local entrepreneurs, the Dominican diaspora and more. The main goal is to share opinions, ideas, projects and programs in the fields of sustainable development and bilateral relations.

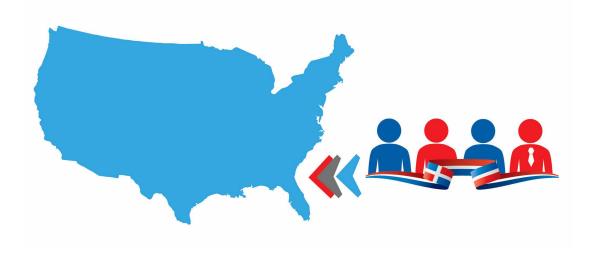
GFDD has supported this initiative for many years now, continuing to further the values of Dominican culture in different scenarios in the United States.

During the 2017 edition, the Foundation hosted a networking lunch at its New York office, with representatives of the National Supermarket Association (NSA) and other key members of the Dominican diaspora. The New York market is particularly important for Dominican exports and GFDD understands the relevance of bringing together



all stakeholders to promote and facilitate increased economic and commercial exchanges. "We all have a role to play in promoting the competitiveness of Dominican products in the U.S.," was one of the highlights of the discussion.

During the 2017 Semana Dominicana, celebrated in early May both in Washington, D.C. and in New York City, participants attended several events at the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the World Bank (WB), the Organization of American States (OAS), private institutions and universities, among others.



<sup>6</sup> With a new administration in Washington, it is important to get proactively involved and continue to position the Dominican Republic as an important and strategic partner to the United States, with economic, cultural and geopolitical shared interests. <sup>9</sup>

> David Fernández President of AMCHAMDR

# GFDD Short Productions



The program seeks to highlight and raise awareness of important local environmental and socio-economic issues, showcase best practices, and educate audiences on the different and unique cultural aspects of the country, as well as to serve as an example and inspiration for young filmmakers on how to address this incipient field in the Dominican Republic.

provoking questions: How much is the natural capital of the Dominican Republic worth? How do we put a price on the ecosystem the planet has given us and that allows us to survive? Produced in 2015 by a GFDD team led by Executive Director Natasha Despotovic and Alexandra Tabar, Value of Life looks at these issues and shares some answers. It originally screened several times in the Dominican Republic and the United States. Two years later, the short film keeps on giving.

> In April of 2017, Value of Life was part of the Official Selection of Humboldt State University's Back to

The short documentary, Value

of Life asks essential, thought-

Nature Film Festival.

In June it was selected from among more than 90 short films and awarded the Best Documentary Jury Prize at the Bangalore Shorts Film Festival. The film then proceeded to make the rounds at six international film competitions, including Florida's Blue Ocean, Washington, DC's Environmental Film Festival (DCEFF), Cuba's Festival de Cine Pobre de Gibara, and the Finger Lakes Environmental Film Festival in New York.

By August, Value of Life was selected to be screened at the 10th International Kuala Lumpur Eco Film Festival (KLEFF), held in late October in Malaysia.



Also in August, Value of Life was preselected to compete in the 2018 Cinema Los Angeles Film Festival.

When September rolled around, another GFDD production jumped on the bandwagon. Although produced in 2013, Garbage or Resource? A Dominican Republic Experience was selected to screen at GO FUTURE, a sustainable development and environmentally focused film festival held in Belgium.









<sup>66</sup> When did the bees last send you an invoice for pollination? Nature has a value — it's just that it's not market-price value. If we think differently, if we value natural capital, if we see its productive potential and its employment potential, we might have solutions in our hands. <sup>91</sup>

> Pavan Sukhdev Environmental Economist Speaking in a Ted Talk

## GFDD-Funglode Awards



The Funglode/GFDD Awards were inaugurated in 2006 in categories that pay homage to figures who have left a legacy in Dominican arts and culture: the Juan Bosch Story Prize, the Pedro Mir Poetry Prize, the Pedro Francisco Bonó Essay Prize, the Federico García Godoy Novel Prize, the Rafael Herrera Journalism Prize, the Max Pou Documentary Prize, and the Alejandro Rodríguez Urdaneta Photography Prize. The most recent GFDD/Funglode Awards ceremony was led by the Foundations' President, Dr. Leonel Fernández, and hosted by Funglode's Center for Cultural Studies and Editorial Funglode for the 2016 winners.

While celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Awards, in 2017, the opportunity was taken to launch the book *Nueve* voces contando hasta diez (Nine Voices Counting to Ten), an anthology that brings together the nine firstprize-winning stories that had been selected throughout these past 10 years of the Awards' history.

Mr. José Rafael Lantigua, director of the Center for Cultural Studies, wrote the prologue for Nueve voces contando hasta diez. The book cover displays the first-place photo from the Color category in Funglode's 2016 Abelardo Rodríguez Urdaneta Photography Prize, entitled Arcoiris urbano, by Pedro Farías Nardi.

The 2016 edition included awards in the categories of Photography, Novel, Essay, Poetry, and Journalism. A total of 104 submissions were received: 14 in poetry, 7 in essays, 67 photography displays, 5 novels, and 11 pieces of reportage. The first, second and third-place winners in most categories received cash prizes and a diploma.

2016 was a great year for Dominican writers as the GFDD/ Funglode Awards continued to encourage and celebrate the literary contributions of Dominican writers, photographers and documentary filmmakers.



#### **Rafael Herrera Journalism Prize**

First place: To the series "Paseo cultural", by Mayra Pérez Castillo, from the newspaper Listín Diario.
Second place: To the series "Era de Trujillo a 55 años", by Héctor Francisco Minaya Rosario, from the newspaper El Nacional.
Third place: To the series of reports "Las Emergencias en emergencia", by Doris Pantaleón, from Listín Diario.
Honorable mention: - Series of reports on hospitals in the South, by Ana Batista Mateo, from the newspaper Diario Libre.
Series "Aislados para salvarse", by Adriana Peguero, from Listín Diario
- "El Legado de Salomé", by Carmen Teresa Guzmán, from Listín Diario

### Abelardo Rodríguez Urdaneta Photography Prize COLOR CATEGORY

First place: Arcoíris urbano", by Pedro Farías Nardi.

Finalist: "Dreams", by David Soto Matos.

### **B/W CATEGORY**

First place: "No quiero foto", by Francisco Fortunato.

Finalist: "Nuevas minas", by Nehemías Alvino Castro.

### DIGITAL CATEGORY

First place: "Cero libertad de expresión", by Danisel Cuesto.

Finalist: "Plegaria 2.0", by Nehemías Alvino Castro.

Audience Award: "Mirada", by Denny Pérez Matos.

#### Pedro Francisco Bonó Essay Prize No winner

## Federico García Godoy Novel Prize

"Nada humano me es ajeno", by Hyden Carrón Namnún.

## Pedro Mir Poetry Prize

"Presas de la inmediatez", by Nan Chevalier.



The Funglode/GFDD golf tournaments are attended by leading figures from the philanthropic field, prominent sports figures, and others who through the years have supported GFDD's programs. They are an opportunity to share time with partners and friends as well as to engage supporters, build community and promote fundraising efforts.

www.gfddgolf.org



The fundraising golf tournaments, already a GFDD tradition, are attended by leading figures from the philanthropic field, prominent sports figures, and other friends who throughout the years have supported GFDD's programs. This year was no exception.

More than a hundred golfers teed off to support GFDD's many projects and programs that promote social, economic and democratic development in the Dominican Republic.

In 2017, players returned to the peace and elegance of Long Island's Devereaux Emmetdesigned Glen Head Country Club, one of the finest golf clubs in New York, founded on the site of America's first women's golf course in 1947.

The tournament began with a brunch that allowed participants to mingle with each other and a few special Dominican athletes, such as Juan Marichal, 1983 inductee into the Baseball Hall of Fame, and steadfast supporter of the Foundation. As is tradition, Marichal officially opened the tournament by being the first of the day to tee off.

The day ended with a cocktail reception followed by the awards ceremony. Nothing but the finest for those who step up to raise money for the tireless work being done by GFDD/Funglode. Rudy Fuertes,



head of the GFDD Golf Tournament Organizing Committee in New York, thanked everyone for their support.

Since 2010, GFDD Golf Tournaments have attracted numerous highranking officials, industry leaders, business executives, and influential members of the Dominican community, both in the DR and abroad, who contribute to do their part.





<sup>44</sup> We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.<sup>99</sup>

Winston Churchill



# Environment & Sustainable Development Programs





Since its creation in 2011, the Dominican Republic Environmental Film Festival has been providing Dominicans with a platform of knowledge and debate on the environment and sustainable development, along with its challenges and best practices, while celebrating the unique beauty and wealth that is the Dominican Republic's natural heritage. With a diverse selection of films and numerous panels, workshops, seminars, and community activities, the DREFF promotes dialogue and the exchange of knowledge and experience, inspiring Dominicans to adopt actions that contribute to the appreciation, conservation, and sustainable use of their environmental resources.

By February, the DREFF had hosted in Santo Domingo a workshop with one of the most iconic representatives of modern photography, Steve McCurry, whose theme was "Photography is not a matter of luck; it's training, work and a lot of practice."

With Valentine's Day in mind, DREFF joined BeachCorps, EcoServices Dominicana, and FECOTUR to host "A Valentine Card for the Environment," an event with students in Bávaro who created arts and crafts declaring their love for the planet. The activity was organized in the context of the UN's International Year for Sustainable Tourism.

March started with DREFF naming Denis Delestrac and Sixto Incháustegui to its advisory committees. Mid-month, DREFF and local partners, such as Colegio Domínico Americano, UNPHU, UNIBE and UNAPEC, hosted special screenings (The Change, Travesí, Garbage or Resource: a Dominican Republic Experiece, and Racing Extinction.) as a tribute to World Water Day (March 22).

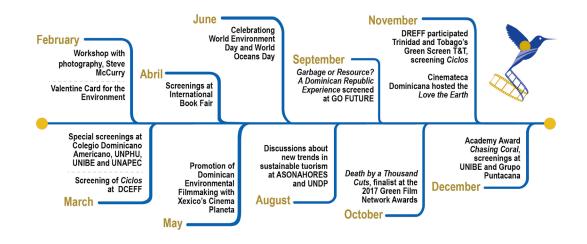
In Washington, DC, in late March, DREFF celebrated the Dominican Night as part of the DC Environmental Film Festival (DCEFF). DREFF showcased documentaries produced on the island by Dominican filmmakers at the E Street Cinema in the nation's capital. Dozens of moviegoers, filmmakers and special guests came out to watch highly-anticipated screenings of the short film *Ciclos*, winner of the 2016 Globo Verde Dominicano Award, by Hansel Ureña Espósito; *Death by a Thousand Cuts*, directed by Juan Mejía and Jake Kheel; and Site of Sites, by Natalia Cabral and Oriol Estrada.

In April, DREFF participated in Santo Domingo's International Book Fair with a series of free screenings of GFDD's environmental short films.

In May, the DREFF joined efforts with Mexico's Cinema Planeta to promote

www.dreff.org





Dominican environmental filmmaking. To that end, they co-presented Death by a Thousand Cuts and 7 Grams.

June started by celebrating the World Environment Day (June 5) and the World Oceans Day (June 8) with screenings at the National Botanical Garden. More than 200 students from schools in Santo Domingo enjoyed 10 Billion, What's on Your Plate, by Director Valentin Thurn, and The True Cost, by Andrew Morgan.

Also in June, DREFF hosted a gathering in Washington, DC of some 50 Dominican leaders who viewed GFDD's short film Value of Life.

In August, discussions continued in Santo Domingo where DREFF convened domestic and international experts to talk about new trends in sustainable tourism. Key members of the Dominican tourism industry, such as the National Association of Hotels and Restaurants (ASONAHORES), weighed in on the topic. The Coastal Biodiversity and Tourism Project of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) also participated in the conversation, entitled: "Quality over Quantity."

In September, GFDD's short production Garbage or Resource? A Dominican Republic Experience was selected to be screened at GO FUTURE in Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium.

In October, DREFF-nominated film, Death by a Thousand Cuts, was named a finalist at the 2017 Green Film Network Awards.

In November, DREFF participated as a special guest in Trinidad and Tobago's Green Screen T&T, co-hosting the opening night, screening "Ciclos" (2016 Globo Verde Dominicano Award winner) and speaking at a panel discussion on Women and Eco-Feminism. Later in the month, the Cinemateca Dominicana hosted the "Love the Earth" Film Series, in collaboration with the Ministries of Culture and the Environment, the Dominican Republic Film Commission (DGCINE) and DREFF's Year-Round Environmental Screening initiative.

Film screenings continued in December with two showings of the Academy Award short-listed *Chasing Coral* in partnership with Fundación Grupo Puntacana and Red Arrecifal Dominicana. Screenings were hosted by UNIBE in Santo Domingo, and Grupo Puntacana, in Punta Cana.

And, before the year ended, DREFF decided to take another leap into the digital realm with DREFF 24/7, an online platform that provides free access - at home or on the move - to films that have been featured in prior DREFF editions as well as other environmental movies. Check it out at http://24-7.dreff.org/

Facebook: MuestraCineMedioambiental Twitter: @MuestraCine Instagram: @MuestraCine





The EcoHuertos program seeks to support the creation of organic and sustainable vegetable gardens in schools and communities throughout the Dominican Republic. It also supports hands-on workshops in the field of natural sciences contained in the educational curriculum. The program generates awareness on the importance of a balanced diet, contributes to food security and independence, as well as creation of small local business. In 2017, EcoHuertos offered workshops and personalized assistance to schools wanting to create sustainable gardens.

The program continued its joint venture with Saint George School in Santo Domingo, where it created one of the most advanced rooftop gardens in the entire program, replete with some 26 planting beds, vertical planting pots, an automated, double-line drip irrigation system, and a Bluetoothcontrolled misting system that covers the perimeter. Organizers brag that it also works wonders for germinating new seeds.

Students learned soil monitoring and testing using the so-called

"Ribbon Method" wherein soil is pressed between two fingers and checked for the presence of long ribbons, which indicate the existence of clay, an impediment to a plant's nutrient uptake. One of the major benefits of this school's rooftop garden is that the new plants are keeping pests away and attracting bees and butterflies.

Additionally, EcoHuertos and Saint George's gardeners planted a common bee-brush (Aloysia gratissima) to attract pollinators and make for a more diverse ecosystem, and introduced new plant and vegetable varieties to their rooftop garden, in an effort to improve its ecology and brighten up the surroundings.

www.eco-huertos.org



rooftop gardens
 vertical planting pots

During 2017, EcoHuertos also joined the Community for Learning Center, which has plenty of available space to turn into vegetable gardens. It also has the added advantage of a fully functioning compost and organic material vermicomposting site.

EcoHuertos is eager to expand and share its knowledge with schools and community gardens. As word of the program is spreading, many offers are pouring in from places wanting to start their own gardens in 2018, using the expertise of EcoHuertos.



<sup>66</sup> Why try to explain miracles to your kids when you can just have them plant a garden.<sup>99</sup>

Robert Brault American Writer





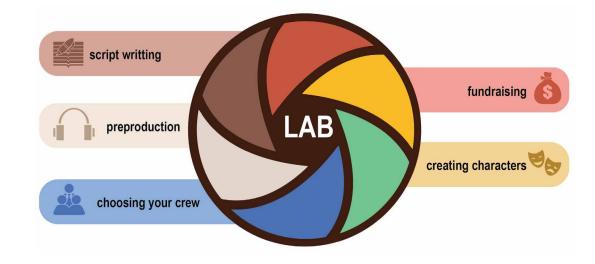
It is a unique opportunity for filmmakers, professionals and students alike, to get involved in a less-ventured area in the Dominican Republic —the making of audiovisual material on issues related to the environment and sustainable development. Comprising of four categories: Short Film, Public Service Announcement, Photography, and Junior, the competition provides opportunities for Dominicans to showcase their talent while generating awareness on environmental and sustainable development issues.

The sixth edition of the first environmental and sustainable development audiovisual competition in the Dominican Republic, the Globo Verde Dominicano Award (GVD) includes 4 categories: Short Film, Public Service Announcement, Photography and Globo Verde Junior.

One of the most attractive prizes of the Globo Verde Dominicano Award is for Dominican filmmakers getting one step closer to becoming environmental filmmakers and travelling around the world with one's movies. The winner in the Short Films category, in addition to a \$2,000 gift certificate, receives the unique prize of taking his/her film to an international environmental film festival and having it screened at festivals around the world.

Last March, the winner of the 2016 GVD began his journey to international film festivals. Hansel Ureña Espósito's winning short film Ciclos (Cycles) was screened at the Environmental Film Festival in the Nation's Capital (DCEFF) in Washington, DC. As part of the long-running Washington festival, now in its 26th year, the E Street Cinema hosted a Dominican Night that featured screenings of documentaries produced in the Dominican Republic. Hansel Ureña was there. Ciclos was also screened in November at the Trinidad and Tobago Green Screen Festival.





Also in March, Globo Verde Dominicano Lab and Workshop took place in Santo Domingo with 80 applicants and final participation of 18 students from all over the country. The workshop, titled "From Idea to Screen: How to Make Environmental Documentaries," was taught by Gabriel Romero, a Mexican documentary director and professor who currently resides in the United States. The workshop was held at Funglode's facilities in Santo Domingo over a five-day period.

Mr. Romero worked personally with each and every participant to help them develop their short film ideas, design main characters, write scripts, choose technical teams, and plan and prepare content. The students learned valuable fundamentals about all the stages of production of a documentary film: from preproduction, to fundraising, to international distribution, and reviewed case studies of successful film productions.

Facebook: GloboVerdeDominicano

<sup>11</sup> The worse my drawings were, the more beautiful did the originals appear. <sup>11</sup>

## John James Audubon





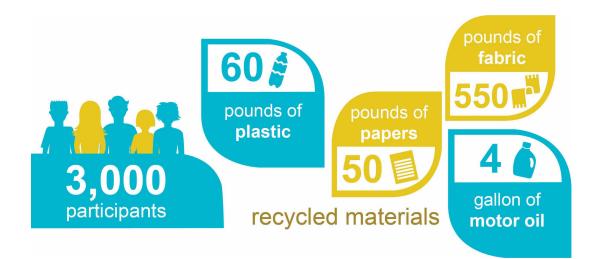
The ReCrearte program works with the most disadvantaged members of the community who receive training in the art of recycling and creating new objects from waste and, at the same time, learn to develop an alternative source of income. The program revolves around the "three golden rules" - or 3Rs - for the proper management of solid waste: reduce, reuse, and recycle. The workshops demonstrate and emphasize the idea that recycling waste and transforming it into art and daily use objects strengthens both the individuals and communities alike. February and March kicked off with a series of workshops around the country, in which hundreds of students and adults enthusiastically learned how, when, where and, more importantly, what to recycle. One of ReCrearte's favorite teaching tools is GFDD's short film Garbage or Resource? A Dominican Republic Experience. And ReCrearte's three golden rules for solid waste management are: reduce, reuse and recycle.

Among the topics Dominican students learn about in ReCrearte's workshops are how to identify colors, shapes, senses, and numbers, and how to put together puzzles, play musical instruments and use puppets. Children love making toy animals out of recycled clothing.

April saw an intense schedule of workshops as ReCrearte, at one point, joined forces with the Center for Agricultural and Forest Development of the Dominican Republic.

In May, ReCrearte participated in an exhibit at Funglode's Art Gallery as part of GFDD/Funglode's celebration of International Recycling Day. Educational murals, decorative flowers and pieces were part of the exhibit. The Fundación Propagas and the Institute for Environmental Law supported the initiative.





In early June, ReCrearte held a workshop and exhibition as part of APEC University's Environmental Week and World Environment Day celebration. The exhibition focused on water and marine life, under the slogan "*Cuatrienio de las aguas*" (Four Years of Water). In this event, DREFF screened four documentaries from its catalog.

Also in June, ReCrearte took part in the Recicla 360 annual fair, holding workshops in Santo Domingo's Galería 360 Mall in commemoration of World Recycling Day and World Environment Day.

In late July, DREFF and ReCrearte participated in the 12th Festival Internacional de Cine Infantil (FICI), with a series of animated film shorts. This event is hosted by the Vicepresidency of the Dominican Republic and the Biblioteca Infantil y Juvenil de la República Dominicana.

ReCrearte continued its rigorous schedule in August, visiting schools and offering workshops to the morethan-willing students who wanted to turn their trash into treasure.

In September, ReCrearte attended the National Botanical Garden awards ceremony where 31 Dominican schools received the Foundation for Environmental Education's 2017-2018 Eco-Schools environmental certification. Out of these 31 schools, half had hosted ReCrearte workshops. During ReCrearte's visits to numerous schools in October, discussions focused on the accumulation of plastic in the world's oceans and the impact it is having on marine life. Although new technologies are being proposed to combat this growing glut of plastic, the best solution is to assure the proper management of solid waste.

Toward the end of October, ReCrearte offered Dominicans yet another important life skill: soap making from readily available, recycled ingredients while using simple processes, thus cutting back on unnecessary waste. As a result, some community members have started making and selling their own soap which, in turn, is helping them improve their families' finances!

# Year Round Environmental Film Screenings



As part of its mission to reach more communities, institutions, and individuals around the country, the DR Environmental Film Festival (DREFF) organizes year-round film screenings that bring interesting and important films to new and remote communities. By showing a diverse selection of quality movies on critical environmental and sustainable development issues and organizing discussions and workshops, the year-round film screenings program fosters and inspires dialogue, raises awareness, and promotes sustainable practices.

In February, hundreds of students enjoyed the screening in Santo Domingo of The True Cost at Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra (PUCMM). Then, in Bávaro, many others viewed GFDD's short production Garbage or Resource? A Dominican Republic Experience. At the heart of the Colonial Zone in Santo Domingo, The Anthropologist was screened at the Academy of Sciences in celebration of the World Anthropology Day.

In March, students celebrated the International Day of Forests at the Botanical Garden with *Planeta Océano*. Then, to raise awareness for World Water Day, documentaries and shorts were shown at Colegio Domínico Americano: The Change, Travesía, Garbage or Resource: A Dominican Republic Experience, and Racing Extinction.

April is always big in terms of environmental awareness because of Earth Day (April 22). This year was no different; various screenings were held at the Botanical Garden and the International Book Fair in Santo Domingo: Las Aventuras de Itzel y Sonia: en busca de los Guardianes del Agua, Garbage or Resource? A Dominican Republic Experience, Value of Life, 10 Billion, What's on Your Plate, and The True Cost all made the rounds at these two important events.

June remained equally busy in Santo Domingo at various universities (UNAPEC, UNIBE and UNPHU), in celebration of World



Environment Day. Students had a full menu to choose from: La Casa Ausente, Freightened: The Real Price of Shipping, Blood Lions and All the Time in the World, In Defense of Food, 7 Grams and The Song of the Humpback.

In July, campers at the Chica Abuela Summer Camp in San Francisco de Macorís were treated to animated shorts: *PETer Plástico* and *The Change*. Later in the month, *La Montaña*, as always, delighted youngsters at the El Higüero summer camp; it was screened in collaboration with the Siempre Más Foundation, led by Karim Mella, the first Dominican climber to twice reach the summit of Mount Everest. In October, Valentin Thurn's thoughtprovoking Taste the Waste was shown at the Museum of Natural History, followed by a serious discussion on the enormous problem of food waste in developed nations and what can be done about it.

It was a communicative and extremely educational year for the Year-Round Environmental Film Screenings program, which reached thousands of minds and hearts with its message. <sup>11</sup> The screening of short films and workshops serve as facilitators for students to be sensitized to the subject of recycling and environmental protection, and it has proved to be a successful synergy. <sup>11</sup>

> Omar Shamir Reynoso Dominican Biologist





# Publications

# Publications

GFDD and Funglode promote research and awareness in areas crucial to the democratic, social and economic sustainable development of the Dominican Republic and the world. The series includes research papers, articles, speeches and keynotes that discuss pressing contemporary issues from national, regional, and global points of view.

http://publications.globalfoundationdd.org

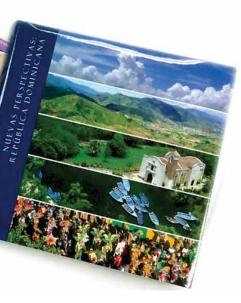


GFDD started off its 2017 publishing spree with the announcement that all past and future releases in its Research and Ideas series showcasing the work of GFDD Research Fellows will be available for free download on the GFDD website from April onward. The Fellows program's respected research topics have included sustainable development, relations and trade between the DR and the People's Republic of China, and cognitive behavioral therapy to treat Parkinson's disease, to name a few.

In the first half of 2017, GFDD launched the publication of three new Fellows' reports. Jenna Giandoni's "Impact Investing in the Dominican Republic" was presented in April, with a panel discussion at the World Bank/IMF Spring Meetings in Washington, DC. Ms. Giandoni pointed out that "impact investment could represent \$2 trillion if it were to represent only 1% of total global assets." She recommended capacity building as a policy solution to bring this hypothetical situation closer to reality.

During a panel discussion at the Santo Domingo International Book Fair in late April, anthropologist and historian Delia Blanco was asked by an audience member: "It's no mystery to anyone that as a country we have the problem of not loving and recognizing our identity. What do we owe this to and how might GFDD's book All Things Dominican help us love our culture?" Blanco responded with an extensive explanation that concluded with: "You only love what you know, and to know our culture we have All Things Dominican." The gem is available in Amazon.

In mid-May, GFDD Fellow Emma Fawcett took advantage of the Caribbean Traveling Network (CTN)'s





Expo Feria in Santo Domingo to present her study: "Challenges for Sustainable Growth through Tourism in the Dominican Republic." Ms. Fawcett's recommendations included adding poverty-related issues to the tourism agenda, diversifying tourism products, analyzing the tourism sector's value chain, collecting statistics on tourism and environmental management, and maintaining public access to Dominican beaches.

In early June, another Research and Ideas study was launched at the UN Ocean Conference, in partnership with the New York Committee on Sustainable Development, Peace Boat US, and other NGOs. Aireona Bonnie Raschke did her Fellow's research on the environmental and social implications of the whale watching industry in the northern part of the Dominican Republic. The research was entitled: *Resident Perceptions of Whale*  Watching in the Dominican Republic: A Sustainability Study.

The second half of the year included three separate launch events in the United States for the Diccionario Cultural Dominicano in New Jersey, Miami, and Washington, DC. The Diccionario Cultural Dominicano synthesizes key Dominican cultural figures, groups, institutions, and events, making the information easily accessible to anyone interested in learning more about the people and events that have shaped the trajectory of the Quisqueyano.

In mid-November, GFDD released the Spanish translation of Fellow Jenna Giandoni's research report, Impact Investing in the Dominican Republic (Inversión de Impacto en la República Dominicana). <sup>6</sup> Literacy is a platform for democratization, and a vehicle for the promotion of cultural and national identity. <sup>9</sup>

> Kofi Annan Former UN Secretary-General



Websites, Portals and Blogs





































# Collaborators

Ace Advertisement Advertisement Carriers Enterprises American Chamber of Commerce in the Dominican Republic (AMCHAM DR) United Nations Association of the Dominican Republic (UNA-DR) Art Museum of the Americas, OAS ASOVFUSA **Bangalore Shorts Film Festival BeachCorps** Biblioteca Infantil y Juvenil de la República Dominicana **Bimbo Bakeries** Bolivia Permanent Mission to the OAS **BP** Media + Partners Caribbean Traveling Network Casa Rubio Restaurant Inc. **CBA** Industries Inc Center for Agriculture and Forest Development of the Dominican Republic Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) Cinemateca Dominicana City University of New York (CUNY) Club de Madrid Colegio Dominico Americano COLIN POWELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Corinthian Medical IPA Inc. Comisionado Dominicano de Cultura en Estados Unidos Community for Learning Center in the Dominican Republic Confederation of NGO (CoNGO) DC Environmental Film Festival (DCEFF) Derle Farms Inc. Dominican American National Roundtable Dominican Film Festival in New York Dominican Republic Embassy in San José, Costa Rica Dominican Republic Embassy on the United States of America Dominican Republic Mission to the OAS Dominican Republic Mission to the United Nations

Dominicanos USA (DUSA) DR Film Commission (DGCine) Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) **EcoServices** Dominicana FCOSOC Ecuador Permanent Mission to the OAS Editorial Funglode Edwin Travel Agency EU-LAC Exclusive Management Co. FFCOTUR Festival de Cine Pobre de Gibara Festival International de Cine Infantil (FICI) Fine Fare Supermarkets Finger Lakes Environmental Film Festival Frito Lav Five Star Sparkle Cleaning Inc. Fundación Aprendiendo a Vivir Fundación Grupo Puntacana Fundación Propagas Furco Food Corp. Gala Theatre Galeria 360 Mall General Trading Co Inc. Georgetown University GlobalMuners GO Future Golf Destinaire Green Film Network Green Point Landmark Grupo Punta Cana Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Punta Cana Havana Film Festival Hispanic Indoor Media Humboldt State University Iberoamerican Film Showcase

## We thank the following institutions for contributing their skills and time to our success.

INCA Kola

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Among others...









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