

Vincentian Association of Artists Writers and Producers, Inc
UPR Submission Republic of Cuba April May 2013

1. The Vincentian Association of Artists Writers and Producers, Inc is a duly incorporated Private non-profit company under the Companies Act of the Laws of St. Vincent and the Grenadines on 4th September 2011. The Association was born out of the need and desirability to have a non-profit organization to partner with other non-profit associations, in pursuing similar objectives.

2. The need for such an Organization was evident, after seeing many opportunities to enhance our Cultural output go abegging. Our Association has 12 stated Objectives, to wit:

- a. To nurture and develop the creative talent of Vincentians in the Literary arts, Visual Arts, Performing Arts, Music and Cinematographic Arts, and the Cultural Arts in general.*
- b. To create cultural spaces such as Art Galleries, Museums, Cultural Houses and Cultural Schools.*
- c. To seek and provide opportunities for Education and Training for Cultural Artistes.*
- d. To mount exhibitions and develop cultural tours.*
- e. To provide opportunities for exposure for Cultural Artists and Writers.*
- f. To publish the various works of our Writers and Artists.*
- g. To build links and networks with Cultural Artists Writers and Producers in our America.*
- h. To promote and safeguard our Vincentian Oral Traditions and Traditional Knowledge.*

i. To undertake Cultural Exchanges.

j. To institute a series of Awards to members and non-members for their Excellency.

k. To develop International Partnerships in the Arts.

l. To secure and preserve our History, our Heritage and Culture.

3. The Vincentian Association of Artists Writers and Producers Inc has from its inception the good fortune to work closely with a number of Cultural and Governmental Organisations of Cuba; so that our statement is made from the natural point of view and from the position of reality.

4. Cuba has a very rich Cultural tapestry and the people of Cuba have been able to develop and enhance their national identity to the extent that it is the envy of nations within our ALBA Neighbourhood.

5. As far as we can ascertain, the Cuban people can pursue the development of their artistic and creative skills without hindrance or limitations, and we can give testimony to this submission by the evidence of many cultural institutions and schools, museums and other places of learning that has grown over the years with a distinctiveness that identifies them as Cuban.

6. In our considered opinion therefore, the Cuban people have the full right to enjoy their human and cultural rights with true independence.

7. We are also of the opinion that the Cuban people through their Cuban Revolution have ensured that they enjoy civil, political, cultural, economic and social rights in an atmosphere of peace and freedom.

8. Our nexus to the Cuban people and their Revolution is through working alongside cultural organisations that relate to Cinema,

Dance, Literary works and Artistic works; Music and the Performing Arts.

9. We have seen first-hand the transformation, as prior to 2011, we worked with them for a few years in pursuing a number of frameworks which enables us to make a studied evaluation. We see a Cuban Society that is advancing and its people working in solidarity and equity.

10. We register our concern about the realities and inequities of a decades old blockade, aggression and hostility that have no relevance in the Twenty-First Century where freedom, fundamental rights and democracy is the cry of nations all over the globe.

11. The economic oppression of the blockade is not an outcome of peace and self-determination. It is more like the dictates of an old world order that has passed its time.

12. Cuba in our view has steadily sought to encompass all its people in all facets of its cultural and social life without discrimination of any kind, and encouragement is very active and obvious in every Province of the Republic.

13. We are informed that Cuba has been able to maintain a high level of co-operation with the United Nations human rights procedures and mechanisms of non-discriminatory nature and of universal application.

14. We believe that Cuba has always been ready to participate in true and sincere dialogue about human rights on the basis of respect for its full dignity and sovereignty.

15. From various reports reaching our Association, the Cuban government has adopted measures to fight against forms of discrimination based on prejudices due to sexual orientation and gender identity.

16. We have advocated for training opportunities for cultural artists and practitioners, and Cuba has been responsive to the requests. We

know from experience that Cuba places are exceptionally high value on educational opportunities.

17. Its world famous International Book Fair of Havana is among the leading Book Fairs in the world, and in our Americas; attracting millions of individuals, numerous countries of the world including Poet Laurates and highly recognized authors of the world. It is proclaimed as the largest Cultural Event in Cuba. "The book" is so highly revered nationally.

18. We endorse the efforts of Cuba and the Cuban people who remain resolute, firm and determined to keep their Revolution safe; to proclaim their nationality and deepen their distinctive identity against all odds.

19. Their co-operation and support which is given to our National in the pursuit of higher education; cultural exchanges; medical support programs is unmatched anywhere else and it is sincerely appreciated by all right-thinking Vincentian nationals.

Hon. Rene. M. Baptiste

President

The Vincentian Association of Artists Writers and Producers, Inc

Tuesday October 9th , 2012