



CANCILLERÍA



Embassy of Colombia in the United States

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 5, 2017

Contact: Olga Acosta
202-821-2792

Colombian Culture on Full Display at Passport DC Open House



Washington, DC – Colombian Ambassador to the United States Juan Carlos Pinzón will open the doors of his Dupont Circle residence tomorrow, May 6, as part of Passport DC, a month-long event that features programming by 70 embassies and more than 40 of DC's cultural institutions.

Programming for the open house includes including a visiting group showcasing Colombia's Carnival de Negros y Blancos (Blacks and Whites). The festival, celebrated the first week of January each year in Pasto – a city in southwest Colombia – attracts a large number of tourists from around the world.

The Carnival de Negros y Blancos celebrates Colombia's cultural heritage, which includes indigenous, Spanish and African influences, and unites the people of Pasto. The festival features a "Day of the Blacks" and a "Day of the Whites," during which people dress in costumes and face and body paint. The two-day cultural exhibition also features orchestras and a parade of imaginative floats.

As part of the Passport DC open house, there will also be performances from Verny Varela, El Tayrona and a visiting group from Palenque, Colombia. Visitors will also be able to view an exhibition by Colombia's most renowned photographer Leo Matiz.

The open house will take place from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm at 1520 20th Street, NW (across from Dupont Circle Metro North).

At last year's Passport DC event, an estimated 1,000 people visited the Ambassador's Residence each hour.

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COLOMBIA CULTURA

Updates from the Embassy of Colombia on Events in Washington, DC

May 5, 2017

Embassy-Sponsored Events

Tomorrow, Saturday, May 6, 2017

Passport DC Open House

@ Residence of the Ambassador of Colombia to the United States

Tomorrow, May 6, Colombian Ambassador to the United States Juan Carlos Pinzón will open his Dupont Circle residence to visitors as part of the citywide Passport DC event. Passport DC is a month-long event that features programming by 70 embassies and more than 40 of DC's cultural institutions.

Colombian culture will be on full display during tomorrow's open house, including a visiting group showcasing Colombia's Carnival de Negros y Blancos (Blacks and Whites). The festival, celebrated the first week of January each year in Pasto – a city in southwest Colombia – attracts a large number of tourists from around the world. The Carnival de Negros y Blancos celebrates Colombia's cultural heritage, which includes indigenous, Spanish and African influences, and unites the people of Pasto.

The Carnival features a "Day of the Blacks" and a "Day of the Whites," during which people dress in costumes and face and body paint. The two-day cultural exhibition also features orchestras and a parade of imaginative floats.

As part of the Passport DC open house, there will also be performances from Verny Varela, El Tayrona and a visiting group from Palenque, Colombia. Visitors will also be able to view an exhibition by Colombia's most renowned photographer Leo Matiz.

Stop by, enjoy some Juan Valdez coffee and celebrate Colombia. The open house will take place from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm at 1520 20th Street, NW (across from Dupont Circle Metro North).

At last year's Passport DC event, an estimated 1,000 people visited the Residence each hour.

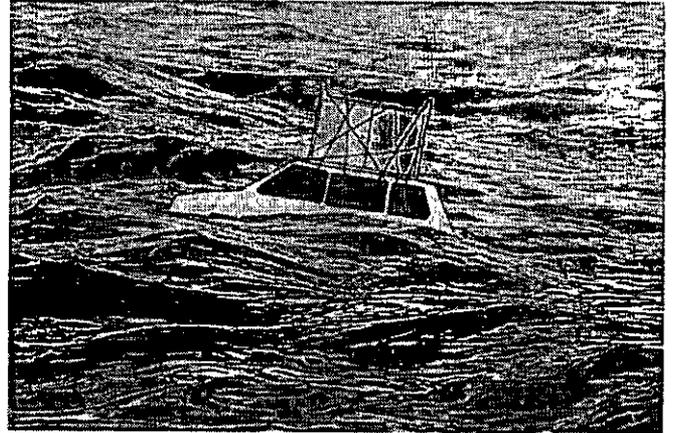
For more information on Passport DC, [click here](#).



Events Around Town

Now – Saturday, May 6, 2017
ARTOMATIC 2017
@ Crystal City, Virginia

Eight Colombian printmaking artists from Medellín will participate in ARTOMATIC 2017. The participating artists are Victoria Ortiz, Hernando Guerrero, Tatiana Londoño, Cristina Castaña, Elkin Hernando Usuga, Oscar Javier Molano, Mario Naranjo and Marya Moreno. The selection of engravings that will be on display will showcase Colombian printmaking techniques. Aside from Victoria Ortiz, this is the first time the artists will be showing their work in the Washington, DC, area.



ARTOMATIC is a non-profit organization whose mission is to create community, build audience and expand economic development by transforming available space into a playground for artistic expression.

For more information about ARTOMATIC 2017, [click here.](#)

To sign up to receive cultural event information from the Embassy or to receive our weekly Colombia Today newsletter, [click here.](#)



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Colombia Applauds U.S. Congress for Approving Funding for Peace Colombia in FY17 Spending Bill

Washington, DC – Colombian Ambassador to the United States Juan Carlos Pinzón today lauded members of Congress for approving full funding for the Peace Colombia initiative in the FY17 spending bill.

“We applaud Congress and thank the many champions in the House and Senate, Republicans and Democrats, who voted in favor of the spending bill, which helps fund the next phase of the U.S.-Colombia partnership – Peace Colombia. These resources are critical to support Colombia’s continued transformation and the future of our nation.

“The resources will also help Colombia, the strongest U.S. ally in Latin America, to become an even stronger partner over the long run. We are grateful for U.S. support and look forward to continuing to work closely with Congress and the Administration to maximize the benefits of the U.S.-Colombia strategic alliance to benefit Colombians and Americans alike.

“Thanks in large part to Plan Colombia – a U.S.-Colombia initiative that helped transform Colombia – the nation went from the brink of failure to the most dynamic economy in Latin America. Today, Colombia is positioned to take another leap on the path of sustained peace and prosperity.”

Securing resources for Colombia has been a top priority for the Embassy. Since he arrived in Washington in August 2015, Ambassador Pinzón has held 286 meetings with 169 members of Congress – 129 Representatives and 40 Senators.

As with Plan Colombia, Colombian taxpayers will fund more than 90 percent of the initiative – but the U.S. role will be critical. Just as Plan Colombia paved the way to end a decades-long conflict from a point of strength, Peace Colombia will help make peace sustainable.

Yesterday, the White House announced that President Donald J. Trump has invited President Juan Manuel Santos to visit Washington on May 18, 2017.

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