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“AfricAméricas” week and the opening of the *Crossing Havana: Encounters with the Other City* photo exhibit are two of the great challenges *ISLAS* has taken on this year. These are events that will take place in the City of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, U.S.A., on May 6-11. During these upcoming days, topics such as the race problem in contemporary Cuba, the daily lives of Cuba’s African descendants, and the struggles of their civic leaders and activists to eliminate this scourge—a condition that affects not only the Cuban nation, but also seems to be worsening. All this will be revealed to a local, national and international audience. The most important precursor to this endeavor took place on November 4, 2012, when the Inter-American Commission for Human Rights (IACHR) held a public meeting, a gathering in which Juan Antonio Alvarado, Rafel

Campoamor and Darsi Ferrer took part.

The degree of sensitivity and spirit of collaboration we have found in Pittsburgh has been truly impressive, and bodes for resounding success in our joint ventures. It is also important to acknowledge the work that has been carried out by the city’s *Coro Latinoamericano*, directed by Kenya C. Dworkin; the *Young Men and Women’s African Heritage Association*, under the direction of Eric Asongwed and Pamela Pennywell; Carnegie Mellon University; the University of Pittsburgh; and a broad group of institutions and organizations.

As much of the media has publicized, the intention behind “AfricAméricas” week is to create a healthy dialogue between participating Cubans and a broad cross-section of the city’s population, in general, and its African-American and Afro-Latino population, specifically. What is truly noteworthy about this project is that it includes participation by a delegation of Cubans headed by civic leaders and activists like Manuel Cuesta Morúa, Juan Antonio Madrazo and Leonardo Calvo, who are coming from Havana.

The *Crossing Havana* photo exhibit is a collection of images that reveals living conditions for the island’s African descendants. This will allow spectators to see realities little known about contemporary Cuba; images that are not very familiar even in Cuba. With its opening at the *Young Men and Women’s African Heritage Association* (YMWAHA), the week-long series of events will begin: these will include conversations, presentations and lectures about democracy in Cuba, as well as civil rights and race relations on the island, and a presentation of the journal *ISLAS* at City of Asylum headquarters. Participants will also include invited scholars from Pittsburgh as well as the Cuban activists. The entire week will also be filled with films, radio interviews, music and dance presentations, and workshops for children, youth and adults. The culminating event will be a concert offered by *Coro Latinoamericano* highlighting the fusion of African music, rhythm and cultures in the Americas.

We invite all our contributors, collaborators and readers not only to read the large number of articles we are now publishing in our journal, but also to attend and participate in the diverse activities this groundbreaking week has to offer. Our black Cuban invitees are anxious to exchange experiences and ideas with everyone, especially with members of the African-American community.