Americas
Society
COUNCIL OF THE
Americas

Celebrating a Very Successful 2006
Dear Members and Friends,

2006 was another exciting year at the Americas Society and Council of the Americas. During the year we continued to build our team and successfully execute against our goals. We not only delivered more programs in more cities than ever before but we also leveraged the content through the launch of News and Views our monthly newsletter as well as a series of Editorials and Viewpoints published on our website and in approximately 18 different newspapers and journals. Additionally, we believe that we had a greater impact than ever before while preparing for the enormous opportunities and challenges that lie ahead.

Some of the highlights for 2006 include:

- Approximately 160 programs in New York, Washington DC, Miami and Latin American Cities. This includes 20 in Miami.
- Expanding our Latin American Cities programs to 15 programs (public and private) in six countries: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Peru and Uruguay. In 2007, we expect to add three additional Cities.
- Taking our policy agenda to a new level while weaving it through many of our programs. The launch of our monthly newsletter as well as building a top notch Advisory Board including three former Latin American Presidents for our new Hemispheric Policy Journal “Americas Quarterly” (to be launched in April 2007).
- Expanding our Working and Study Groups. This included but is not limited to the launch of our Rule of Law Working Group, the continuation of the Brazil Study Group and expanded activity of the North American Business Committee.
- Re-launching of Canadian programming with the hiring of Former Canadian Consul General to NY, Pamela Wallin to lead this important initiative.
- Working closely with the US, Canadian and Mexican governments and the private sector leaders as co-secretariat of the North American Competitiveness Council, supporting the goals of the Security and Prosperity Partnership.
- Focusing on the numerous elections in the Hemisphere through public and private meetings. Our opportunity in 2007, is to engage all the new governments in positive dialogue.
- Hosting seven Presidents during the week of the UN General Assembly and an additional two Presidents in Washington DC, and four in Latin America during the year.
- Launching our Asian Latin American Series: encompassing programs in Art, Literature, Music and Policy.
- Expanding our Americas Society cultural offerings throughout the year. Our literature and music programs have again achieved broad recognition as best in their space.
- Our Gallery was full throughout the year. Additionally, we launched “A Principality of its Own: 40 years of Visual Arts at the Americas Society,” at Art Basel in Miami.
- Organizing another Americas Society record-breaking Spring Party.
- Hosting the most successful Council of the Americas Washington Conference in our History.
- Through the Council of the Americas, continuing our advocacy agenda particularly focused on the pending trade agreements for Colombia and Peru.

Our goals for 2007 are even more aggressive than in 2006 as we look to grow the organization, add value to our members and make an even greater impact.

We look forward to seeing all of you throughout the year and hope you will continue to share our passion and enthusiasm as we enter 2007.

[Susan D. Segal]
In 2006, the Americas Society and Council of the Americas hosted more Hemispheric leaders than ever before, including Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico and Panama. We also welcomed a number of presidential candidates to New York, Washington, and Miami as part of our Andean and Mexico Elections Series and our Brazil Study Group.

The year 2006 marked one of the most intense presidential elections periods in recent history in Latin America and the Caribbean. In all, 11 new presidents were elected to office. Leading to the elections, we organized the Mexico Election Series, and the Andean Elections Series as a way to give our members an inside view. We brought together leading presidential candidates and their advisors, analysts, academics, and other major political figures to analyze the various political platforms and issues affecting those countries holding elections, and the impact of any changes on U.S. business and political interests in the region.
Exclusive, invitation-only meetings with Hemispheric leaders provide an important space to discuss topics of interest in small, intimate forums. Former presidents, ministers, presidents of central banks, members of the U.S. Congress and Senate, have come to Americas Society and Council of the Americas programs to analyze topics ranging from democracy in the regions, investment and trade, to security, energy and the rule of law.

Top Row: Carlos Gutierrez, Secretary of Commerce, Susan Segal AS/COA, and William Rhodes, AS/COA, after a private meeting with Secretary Gutierrez in New York.

Second Row: Ana Vilma Albanez de Escobar, Vice President of El Salvador; Dilma Vana Rousseff, Presidential Chief of Staff of Brazil; Senator John McCain (R-AZ) and Rep. Jim Kolbe (R-AZ) at a celebration of Rep. Kolbe’s 30 years of service to the Americas.

Third Row: José Blanco, Secretary General, Spanish Socialist Workers Party; Tasso Jereissati, Senator and President, Partido da Social Democracia Brasileira; Pedro Pablo Kuczynski, then-Prime Minister of Peru; Guillermo Ortiz, Governor, Central Bank of Mexico.

Fourth Row: Henrique Meirelles, President, Central Bank of Brazil; R. Nicholas Burns, Under-Secretary for Political Affairs; Alberto Carrasquilla, Minister of Finance of Colombia; Daniel W. Fisk, Special Assistant to President Bush and Senior Director for the Western Hemisphere at the National Security Council; and Diego Borja, Minister of Economy and Finance, Ecuador.
“The Council serves as a reminder that we, the men and women of the Americas, are more than just a partnership of governments. We are an alliance of peoples.”


L to R: Thomas Shannon, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs; Secretary Rice; and Tabaré Vázquez, President of Uruguay.

Clockwise: Martín Redrado, President, Central Bank of Argentina; Francisco Gil Díaz, Minister of Finance and Public Credit, Mexico; Bottom Row: Zhou Wenzhong, Ambassador of China to the U.S.; and Carolina Barco, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Colombia. Bottom: Conference sponsors, Council leadership and the Secretary of State.

Save The Date:
37th Annual Washington Conference on the Americas
May 1-2, 2007

U.S. State Department and Inter-American Development Bank

Sponsors: AIG, FedEx, Ford Motor Company, IBM, MERCK, ChevronTexaco
Americas Society hosted its 26th Annual Spring Party on June 6 at Cipriani Wall Street, attracting over 700 guests from the worlds of business, philanthropy, government, diplomacy, arts and entertainment. Our key fund-raising event honored William R. Rhodes, Chairman, President and CEO, Citibank N.A. and Senior Vice Chairman, Citigroup, Inc., as well as Roberto Egydio Setúbal, President and CEO of Banco Itaú, and Vice Chairman of the Board of Banco Itaú Holding Financeira S.A., for their contributions to financial stability and economic prosperity in the Hemisphere.

Above: Susan Segal, David Rockefeller, William R. Rhodes and Roberto Egydio Setúbal.

Top R: Roberto Egydio Setúbal surrounded by family and friends.

Right: Amalia Lacroze de Fortabat and David Rockefeller.

INAGURAL DINNER

Americas Society awarded President Alvaro Uribe of Colombia, its Gold Insigne - an honor given to democratically elected Heads of State from the Western Hemisphere who work to promote greater understanding among the peoples and nations of the Americas. The ceremony took place October 6 at our 2006/2007 Inaugural Dinner, a black tie event that launches the Society’s upcoming season of programs.
This year, the Americas Society **Chairman’s International Advisory Council** headed for Brazil for its annual trip. Meetings were held in São Paulo, with an additional trip to Rio de Janeiro. In São Paulo, Chairman’s Council, Board members and special guests met with top government officials and high-level private sector representatives. Topics discussed were issues of hemispheric trade, economics, policy and energy.
In addition to the joint programs with the Americas Society, the Council of the Americas expanded its reach throughout the Hemisphere. It coordinated regional working groups of business leaders and public officials to discuss and promote Hemispheric issues of free trade, investment, regional integration and security. The Council of the Americas continued its regular breakfast series with regional ambassadors, and provided testimony to the U.S. Congress on matters of trade and investment.

**ACTION AND STUDY GROUPS**

Chris Sabatini, AS/COA, launched the Rule of Law Working Group in March 2006. The group convenes leaders from a variety of sectors to identify key areas through which to improve the efficiency, predictability, and transparency of judicial and regulatory systems across the Americas.

As part of our Energy Action Group, we hosted the program Energy in the Americas, in collaboration with the American Enterprise Institute in Washington, D.C., to discuss the Council’s Report “Energy in the Americas: Building a Lasting Partnership.” Eric Farnsworth (left) of the Council, presented the report as the keynote speaker. The report outlines the opportunities for making the Americas energy self-sufficient and economically successful.

Our Trade Advisory Group meeting in Miami included participation from Ira Shapiro, Greenberg Traurig, and Mustafa Mohatarem, General Motors Latin America.
Americas Society and Council of the Americas continue to expand their presence and regular programs in Miami through both private and public programs that give members face-to-face access to some of the regions most influential leaders. This year we hosted the 2nd Annual Latin America Conference in Miami, featuring a keynote address by then-Governor Jeb Bush. We also entered into a strategic partnership with U.S. Southern Command to enhance the dialogue with the private sector operating in Latin America and the Caribbean, and to discuss such issues as: electoral politics in the region; the role of strategic communications in enhancing the U.S. image; and the effects of CAFTA for Central America.

Our Latin American Cities conference series took us to six countries – more than ever before – increasing our local footprint in the Hemisphere, and attracting new membership in each market.
In establishing the Americas Society in 1965, David Rockefeller sought “to create a space” in New York City where the public could expand its awareness of the complexity and beauty of art, music and literature from the Western Hemisphere. A few examples have helped to buttress the historic role that the Americas Society has played in introducing Americans to the cultural riches of the Hemisphere: The Society co-organized the first auction of Latin American art with Sotheby’s - an event credited as “the birth of [the] market” for Latin American art; we hosted the first one-man show of Fernando Botero in the United States; clarinetist Paquito D’Rivera and cellist Antonio Meneses regaled audiences at our landmark building on Park Avenue; our magazine, Review, is considered the most important U.S. publication for writing in the Americas; and we sponsored the translation of One Hundred Years of Solitude by Gabriel García Márquez, as well as other groundbreaking works by authors such as Manuel Puig, Guillermo Cabrera Infante, and Mario Vargas Llosa.

These pages feature a sampling of the full roster of cultural events including art exhibitions, concerts, literary discussions, readings, and publications which, like our latest book, A Principality of Its Own: 40 Years of Visual Arts at the Americas Society, continue to redefine the canon and always capture the imagination.
In 2006, the Literature Department presented the symposium “El Galeón de Manila: the Literary Nexus of Spain, Latin America, and Asia from the Colonial Period to the Present.” Composed of four distinct public programs, the symposium featured distinguished scholars and contemporary authors such as Evelyn Hu-DeHart (Brown University), María Kodama, Jessica Hagedorn, and Cristina García. Along with the publication of Review 72 (Latin American-Asian Writing and Arts), this venture succeeded in its objective of addressing and exploring the relationship of exchange among Spain, Asia, and Latin America.

The fall season opened with a series of book presentations that encompassed the historical and the contemporary. Edith Grossman read from her new translation of Spanish Renaissance poetry, Pulitzer prize-winner Oscar Hijuelos spoke with Lori Carlson about their new anthology of Cuban poetry, and an anthology of indigenous language poetry was presented as part of the city-wide “Celebrate Mexico Now” festival.

The rest of the season was dedicated to Brazil, featuring experts such as Marta Peixoto (New York University), Nicolau Sevcenko (Universidade de São Paulo), and Antonio Sergio Bessa (Bronx Museum of the Arts) speaking on topics ranging from the literary movements of Brazil to the problems of urban poverty in Brazil. The season opened with a cross-disciplinary evening of poetry and music with Brazilian violinist and guitarist Jorge Mautner and poet Francisco Alvim, and culminated with a launch celebrating the publication of Review 73 (Brazilian Writing and Arts).

The Music Department hosted concerts and projects which helped expand and diversify audiences for the Society’s cultural programs while developing important relationships with funders, and with cultural institutions such as Asia Society and, for the first time, Canada’s globally respected Banff Centre. Our members heard the first performance in over two hundred years of Omnes moriemini, a piece that had been lost since it was written in Mexico in the late 18th century. The piece is thought to be among the first with a solo cello part written in the Americas.

Music of the Americas in the Schools brings musicians who specialize in the Latin American repertoire to public schools in Queens, NY. Their performances benefit thousands of students, are programmed in consultation with school staff, and feature audiovisual curriculum materials, including cultural and musical information, listening guides, songs, and classroom activities that allow students and teachers to take maximum advantage of the visits.
The year 2006 brought unprecedented shifts in the political landscape in the Americas. Eleven countries took to the ballots in presidential elections. Our 6th Annual Latin America Conference: “Regional Policy the Year After Elections” sought to put in context the meaning of elections results in other countries as well as domestically given midterm elections in this country.

STRENGTHENING OUR VOICE IN THE POLICY & ACADEMIC COMMUNITIES

Building on our active engagement in the Hemispheric policy discussion, News & Views, the monthly electronic newsletter of Americas Society and Council of the Americas, serves as a resource for our business and individual members as well as academics, think-tanks, policymakers, the media and others. News & Views represents a unique collaboration with the Financial Times newspaper; subscribers to the newsletter are granted access to FT news and editorial content relevant to the Americas.

This year, Americas Society and Council of the Americas raised initial funding for Americas Quarterly, the first independent journal dedicated specifically to promoting and deepening discussion and debate about policy in the Americas, and informing policy makers, activists, scholars, and business leaders on current events. Premiering in April 2007, Americas Quarterly will target the emerging class of business, political and civic leaders and young technocrats, to broaden the discussion of future policy alternatives, highlight specific reforms throughout the region, and allow for a new generation to have a voice in the U.S., Canada, Latin America, and the Caribbean.