
Cuba Thanks Support for Marti Sculpture Project in New York

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New York, Jan 31 (Prensa Latina) Cuban officials have thanked today in this city the support of institutions and New Yorkers to the project to take to the island a replica of the statue of the pro-independence hero, Jose Marti, located in the Central Park.

Cuba's permanent representative to the United Nations, Anayansi Rodriguez, and Havana historian, Eusebio Leal, acknowledged the efforts made for years to materialize the initiative, such as those carried out by the Bronx Museum of the Arts, through its Friends of Jose Marti sculpture project.

Thanks to the support of many of you, we have reached this point, and we are close of turning the noble dream into reality, the ambassador said during an event at the island's Permanent Mission to the UN where dozens of people participated.

Leal highlighted the contribution of lawyers, donors and other Cubans and Americans enrolled in the project, which he assured, could take to Cuba in the first months of this year the replica of the equestrian bronze sculpture by Anna Huntington (1876 -1973).

'When I first knew this statue 20 years ago, I dreamed that we should do a replica to take this wonderful work to Cuba, which represents our national hero in the exact moment of his death,' he said.

The historian provided details of the process to boost the initiative and obtain the required permission, which included the generosity of the Bronx Museum of the Arts executive director, Holly Block, the approval of the State Department and the authorization of New York Mayor, Bill de Blasio.

According to Leal, Block agreed that the New York institution would be responsible for collecting the necessary funds, about \$2.5 million USD.

Executives from the Bronx Museum of the Arts explained that the works of the reproduction of the Jose Marti statue began by a complex process to obtain three-dimensional images from different angles.

Due to the weight of the statue, more than six tons, and its location in a busy area of Central Park in New York, it was unthinkable to dismantle it to take it to a workshop or any other variant than the digital scan of the figure, made by an extraordinary team, they emphasized.
