

## Korimakao: a community in art

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Hits: 1720

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## Korimakao: a community in art

The Korimakao Community Artistic Ensemble is an artistic institution founded on August 13, 1992 by the Commander of the Revolution Faustino Pérez and the renowned actor Manuel Porto. Its artistic-social objective has been to develop artistic creation and cultural promotion in pursuit of a deep appreciation of the arts and to directly influence the enrichment of the spirit and thought of the people of Cenaguer, the rest of the country and even others nations.

It is a cultural entity dedicated to offering employment opportunities to young Cubans with talent and artistic vocation, who without necessarily having to graduate from specialized education, can professionally perform as creators, artists and promoters of cultural activity. In these more than two decades of continuous work, we have trained more than 2,000 people from different generations.

In the Korimakao, the performing arts, music, visual arts, literature and audiovisual media merge, with a conception of comprehensiveness and transdisciplinary dialogue; betting on the value of artistic creation as the highest way of expressing culture in pursuit of improving the comprehensive quality of life of human beings.

Located in the town of Pálpite, this Center constitutes an important source of employment for the inhabitants of the territory, with an approved workforce of 180 workers: 100 artists, 20 associated with

production and technical means, and 60 with services and administration. institutional.

### **Korimakao fundamental actions**

In these years of uninterrupted work, the sociocultural impact of C.A.C. Korimakao is undeniable, expressed in:

- Annual artistic tours of the 18 settlements of the Ciénaga de Zapata, characterized by coexistence in these communities and the presentation of multidisciplinary programs for different age groups.
- Presentations in community spaces in social disadvantage and areas of difficult access inside and outside of Cuba; This is the case in the last five years of artistic tours of communities on the southern coast of Matanzas and Cienfuegos with the Border Guard Troops; several tours of Escambray towns in Cienfuegos and Santa Clara, places affected by meteorological disasters in Pinar del Río and Matanzas; peripheral neighborhoods of Havana, tour all the military units of the Central Army and surrounding communities; etc.
- Development of Events and main activities of the cultural programming in the territory such as:

- Evening in commemoration of the Victory of Playa Girón since 1995, Day for Cuban Culture, Tribute Day, Municipal Theater Event "With the forest on the slope", Guerrilla Provincial Literary, Event of the Provincial Book Center "Between letters and coals"

- Holding appreciation and creation workshops for children, adolescents and young people, mainly in the schools of Pálpite, Playa Larga and Caletón, their results are expressed in the participation of its members in the cultural programming of Korimakao. Vocational training and aptitude test preparation are also provided to those interested in entering the arts education system.

- Implementation of the comprehensive Plan for the summer of the territory, with artistic presentations for all audiences, with an emphasis on children, adolescents and young people; It includes the opening and closing of the summer stage with popular dance music concerts, children's performing arts clubs, trova concerts, dance performances, etc.

- Artistic creation for political and cultural events of the municipality, open tribune, central acts for the victory of Playa Girón, inauguration of the ecological tourism event "TURNAT", coal festivals, among many more.

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- Presentation of notorious Cuban and foreign artists in the municipality thanks to the institutional management of the Ensemble, its artistic and community prestige. It would be very difficult if without the intention of the Korimakao, the public from Puerto Rico could enjoy them; this is the case of the contemporary dance company "Danza Espiral", the theatrical groups "Icarón Teatro", "Teatro Guiñol de Santa Clara", "Neón Teatro", "El portazo", "Y no hay luz"; in music Martha Campos and the "Entre cuerdas" collective, Tony Ávila and his group, Ray Fernández, are distinguished among many others.
- Visit of prestigious personalities from the national and international political, cultural, artistic and communication fields of the stature of Fidel Castro, Armando Hart, Abel Prieto, Piedad Córdova, Walter Mercado, Víctor Casaus, Alexis Leiva Machado (Kcho), Irma Shewerert, Jorge Perugorria, Vladimir Cruz, Liliam Padrón, José Antonio Méndez, Frank González, Miriam Muñoz, among many others.
- Promotion of Cuban art to national and international tourism distinguished by the uniqueness of its humanistic and inclusive profile.
- It is the largest youth center in the territory, with direct delegates to all the World Youth and Student Festivals since its foundation.

### **The only artistic institution in the municipality.**

An entity with a prolonged, constant and holistic impact on the artistic and cultural management of the Ciénaga de Zapata.

### **Korimakao promotes the first Local Development Project in the Zapata Swamp**

Currently, the General Directorate of the Korimakao Community Artistic Complex is promoting the only Municipal Initiative for Local Development in the territory, in order to promote this unique institution of its kind in Cuba and unique on the world scene. An idea that perfectly agrees with the current demands of the Cuban socioeconomic context that bets on initiatives that contemplate economic viability, sustainability and self-management.

### **The creation of this Initiative:**

- It fosters an increase in the professional, human, and economic motivations and incentives of artists, workers, and especially the Pálpite community.
- It understands community social development integrally, from all its dimensions, understanding art and culture as articulating

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axes and strengths from which to start.

- Strategically enhances the Art-Community-Ecology-History relationship, as the driving force behind the local transformation process.
- It develops a participative and integrative, creative and creative, sustainable and sustained work that allows us to be recognized as a center of local, national and international reference for artistic and community work.

### **Acknowledgments**

Korimakao has received numerous recognitions for his professionalism, altruism and dedication. Among the most relevant are: the National and Provincial Prize for Community Culture; the Neighborhood Prize given by the Committee for the Defense of the Revolution, the distinctions Los zapaticos de rosa awarded by the Organization of Pioneers "José Martí"; Honor Honor of the José Martí Cultural Society; Elena Gil from the Félix Varela Center; National Vanguard of the Culture Union; the Replica of Máximo Gómez's Machete of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, among other distinctions.

### **Headquarters and contacts**

Pálpite community. Kilometer 25 of the Highway from Jagüey Grande to the Ciénaga de Zapata, Ciénaga de Zapata municipality, Matanzas province, Cuba

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