History Fact sheet

- One month after the Revolution triumphed, the National Museum of Fine Arts was reorganized, with a grant for its restoration being made a few months later.

- Museums and galleries were opened in every municipality, exhibiting artefacts and artworks that had previously been reserved for an elite audience.

-The PSP was developing ideas throughout the 1950s, with the leading artists, musicians and filmmakers of the day, which sowed the seeds for later cultural policy.

-The government placed culture in hands of the PSP in January 1961, their members were charged with running a new National Council of Culture (CNC).

In the same year this caused public disputes between PSP members and the anti-communist factions of the avant-garde

-Fidel Castro outlined a political programme which became something of a manifesto for the nascent 26 July Movement

-By the time of the first formal manifesto issued by the 26 July Movement in 1955, while Fidel was in exile in Mexico, education had become inextricably bound up with culture, in advocating the ‘Extension of culture.

-In anticipation and respond of the ideological blockade from the US nationalizing American industries that was about to fall over the Cuba Haydée Santamaría Cuadrado – who had taken part in the 1953 barracks attacks – was charged with creating a pan-American cultural house, which became known as Casa de las Américas.

- A key moment for this was the First National Congress of Writers and Artists in August 1961.

-The drive to eliminate illiteracy that began in 1961, designated the year of education, the revolutionary government took over all private and Church schools and after some difficulties it achieved virtual universal attendance at primary schools.

- On 1 January 1959 the whole country had only six museums, all in a bad condition technically, artistically and as regards resources in general.

-The initial action of the Revolutionary Government corresponding to the cultural policy was to redesign the premises and to improve the service in the National Museum, to restore and re-equip the museums.

-Alfredo Guevara Valdés director of ICAIC which was set up not only to commission films but also to disseminate them, via 616 cinemas

-The commissioning of film was initially centered on documentaries that attempted to mediate the pace of change, explaining land and housing reforms.

- 1960 More than 3,000 schools were built in the first year and over 300,000 children attended school for the first time.

In 1960 all the media came under government control, the only avenue of criticism was via the letters and they couldn’t criticize a policy directly.

- In 1961 Literacy campaign was launched which saw quarter of a million mainly young people going into the countryside to teach the peasant population to read and write

- In 1971 Fidel Castro government arrested Cuban poet Heberto Padilla, whose disillusionment with Soviet-derived forms of socialism was reflected in his job.

-The 2003 crackdown on 75 human rights defenders, journalists, trade unionists, and other critics of the government. Accused of being “mercenaries” of the United States government.

- The 1968 congress provided a forum for defining the role of artists and writers in revolutionary situations, positioning intellectual work as the ideological corollary of armed struggle and situating artists and writers as the bridge between the political vanguard and the people.

- April 1971 as the grey period. During this time, intellectuals that didn’t agreed with the Revolution were persecuted and deprived of money and status.

-Castro cited the lack of rural education and access to adequate schools as a primary impulse for seeking social change in 1953.

- Before the revolution, [40% of the population had been fully illiterate](http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/latin-lessons-what-can-we-learn-from-the-worldrsquos-most-ambitious-literacy-campaign-2124433.html), unable even to write their name.

- By 1961, Castro’s literacy campaign had almost entirely eradicated illiteracy by sending thousands of young teachers into rural areas to teach farmers and their families to read and write.

- In 1961 Castro said about culture: Within the revolution, everything; against the revolution, nothing. Material opposed by the revolution or written by opponents was not published.

- The first congress of the governing party, which took place in December 1975 and formalized the basis for the Marxist-humanist cultural policy that thrives to this day.

-Over 100,000 volunteer student, teachers, recruited into brigades, took part. Most were teenagers these teachers taught over one million children to read and write thus allowing the fulfilment of Castros promise.

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-Cuba made important advances under Castro in the progressive realization, social, and cultural rights such as education, UNESCO has concluded that there is near-universal literacy on the island-