

THE COMPLEX EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM BUILT BY THE OFFICE OF THE HISTORIAN OF HAVANA CITY

In January 2014, the General Secretary of United Nations Ban Ki-Moon visited the restored sites returned to citizens through the work of the [Office of the Historian of the Havana City](#) in Cuba. Led by the Historian of the City, Eusebio Leal, the Office celebrated in 2013 its 75 years of existence and operation for the recovery of the Havana historical centre, declared World Heritage Site by UNESCO. The Secretary recognized the great results achieved through a variety of initiatives undertaken by the Office, with a strong cultural, architectural and social impact.



In July of 2013 the first 31 graduates in [Preservation and Management of Cultural and Historical Heritage](#) from the College San Gerónimo of Havana received their diplomas. Chaired by high authorities from Government and the City Historian of Havana, Eusebio Leal, the ceremony has highlighted the importance that the country recognise to this new career that contributes to the recovery and preservation of historic heritage.

Created in 2006 by the Office of the Historian of Havana, the San Gerónimo University College provides courses of the *Preservation and Management of Cultural and Historical Heritage* career over a hundred students. The course lasts for six years and it is aimed at training professionals able to respond to the demands of work with the historical and cultural heritage, giving priority to workers and professionals involved in heritage rescue work organized by the Office of the Historian and involved in the vocational schools.



The curriculum includes 15 disciplines and the teachers are full time professors, professors from the University of Havana, specialists working in the City Historian's Office, in the National Museum of Fine Arts and other prestigious national institutes. The Old Center of Havana is the ideal field of study for this course, having a variety of hands-on activities in labs, restoration workshops, museums, cultural sites, urban heritage areas and all those places where students can acquire the skills required.



The first 31 graduates acquired the skills of specialists and researchers in managing urban and socio-cultural heritage and they will be able to contribute to the ongoing work in the country for the valorisation of the great historic and cultural heritage that is one of its significant resources.

The City Historian's Office, however, is also managing [vocational schools](#) for the young who are interested in learning trades related to historic preservation.



In this context, in October 2013 the [first cooperatives](#) formed by people who participated in courses at the vocational schools were officially presented. These cooperatives, specialized in glassware and metal trades, will bring an important contribution to the ongoing works in the City of Havana thanks to their activity.

Thanks to this complex educational system, which offers different specialization levels, the Office of the Historian of the Havana City is creating professional cadre, recognised in the scientific, institutional and social plan, which will guarantee the future of the country historic and cultural heritage recovery and conservation.

To know more

[Plan Maestro](#)

[Oficina del Historiador de la Ciudad de La Habana](#)

[Historian of the City, Eusebio Leal](#)

