

Levantate por Cuba (LPC) July 24, 2026

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The People-to-People, organization to organization, **Levantate por Cuba (LPC)** in Santiago de Cuba and the United States began in 2016 with a Renewable Energy Professor from la Universidad de Oriente and a Campesino/Small Farmer Popular Educator at BIOECO both born and raised in Santiago de Cuba and a U.S. Retired Public Health Physician, Professor, who was a former Venceremos Brigade organizer.

It began as a Campesino a Campesino project based on La Via Campesina's Principles of Food Sovereignty:

<https://viacampesina.org/en/what-is-food-sovereignty/>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9fYGCHoP-HY>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zVtYMLGaPTU>



The project was developed to begin brigades of U.S. residents going to work with the people and organizations in Santiago de Cuba in 2019 but due to COVID, brigades did not begin until 2025.

Levantate Por Cuba (LPC) – Rise Up With Cuba unites in solidarity and struggle with all peoples and nations fighting for liberation, self-determination and against all forms of oppression, both internationally & domestically inside the United States

Program:

Reverse U.S. Foreign Policy

1. End the 66 year old U.S. Criminal, Genocidal Blockade of Cuba:

Build public pressure and influence U.S. public opinion in order to bring about an end to the criminal, genocidal U.S. blockade of Cuba, including working against the U.S. prohibition of the sale of food and medicines to the people of Cuba, ending the travel restrictions, and promoting cultural and educational exchanges.

2. Remove Cuba from the U.S. State Sponsors of Terrorism (SSOT) List

3. Return All of Guantanamo to Cuba

1. While recognizing that the Blockade and acts of Genocide are primarily directed against the People of Cuba and its Revolutionary Government-

The Blockade is 2-way/bilateral, also oppressing, causing suffering, harm and death to the People of the U.S., especially the working class, People of Color and Indigenous Nations

Examples include, but are not limited to:

A. The 8 million U.S. residents who cannot get Cuba's new Alzheimer's medicine: NeuralCIM (also known as NeuroEPO), the most effective drug ever due to the blockade of importing Cuban medicines into the U.S.

B. The 170,000 diabetics every year in the US who will have a limb amputated and often die because the US blockade prohibits them from accessing **Heberprot-b, a Cuban medicine used since 2007 in dozens of countries**, but not the U.S., that prevents amputations by curing most diabetic ulcers. U.S. African Americans, Indigenous and Latinix diabetics are 3 times more likely to have a limb amputated than whites.

C. The 650,000 U.S. lung cancer victims, most affected are African American men, who cannot prolong and improve their lives because the US blockade denies them access to **CIMAvax a Cuban vaccine and treatment for lung cancer** used since 2011 in several countries, but not the U.S.

D. The U.S. Blockade stops 50 million U.S. born adults who cannot read or write above a 5th grade level from having access to the worldwide **Cuban "Yes I Can" Literacy Program** that has helped 11 million adults in 30 countries to become literate since the year 2000.

To end the blockade, to remove Cuba from the SSOT list and more we must vastly expand and deepen solidarity work with the masses of people in the U.S.

We must prioritize outreach to civil society and organizations who are not part of the existing, left U.S. political movement.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0SDcB3lfqw0>



We must listen and respect where people are at and dialogue with them on why it is in their interest to unite with the Cuban people and their government, end the blockade and remove Cuba from the SSOT list and develop exchange of ideas, programs and work

Brigades went in April 2025 & March, 2026 with a 3rd brigade going in November 7, 2026

All brigades go to Santiago de Cuba & have both 1 and 2 week options based on work schedules and family obligations. Brigades will now go twice a year, with the next brigade leaving November 7, 2026

Santiago de Cuba is the heart of Cuba's Afro Oriente of 5 provinces-where every rebellion & revolution began

beginning with Taino Cacique Hatuey and Siboney Guama 500 years ago to the Cimarron El Cobre Uprising in 1731 to the 1959 Revolution in the Sierra Maestra

Brigades **of 10 to 20 U.S. residents** will include, but not be limited to, those working in the areas of agriculture, cultural arts, energy, health, and social media.

LPC is now forming Cuba & U.S. based teams in Food Sovereignty, Health, Energy, Cultural Arts & Social Media.

The goal is to connect the quickly deteriorating situation for both the peoples of Cuba & the US to work together in mutual interest to improve our lives and benefit from our collective knowledge, wisdom and experience, including enormous advances made in public health and education in Cuba

Our goal is to vastly expand the Solidarity Movement among the U.S. civil society working class most affected by the blockade and who have the most in common with Cubans.

LPC Cuban & US members work together using Popular Education as the basis to do voluntary work in the fields of rural Cuba and on the blocks in urban Santiago de Cuba

We work in multiple rural villages that have never been connected to the electricity grid, have been the hardest hit by the increasing number and intensity of Hurricanes, including Hurricane Melissa in 2025, and with people on their blocks in the city

Some villages have now gotten solar energy and battery back-up power to homes, and solar power to transport potable water to their homes, but much more is needed including getting solar powered pumps to get water to agricultural fields

We work to get essential medicines and supplies like quality first aid kits, portable solar panels, emergency lanterns and head lamps, farmer tools and equipment and more to both these same rural villages and block clubs in the city

We do voluntary work, hand in hand with the Cubans, in the fields and in the city and hold popular education workshops to learn from each other and increase the self-sufficiency of Cubans in agriculture, energy, health, water and cultural arts

LPC Teams in the U.S. raise funds for medical, agricultural, energy and cultural arts supplies, materials and equipment taking these to Cuba on each brigade in 2 suitcases each.

We are now beginning to work together with the Cubans to get raise more funds, including to get containers shipped directly to Santiago de Cuba by ship and/or air, including larger solar panels to maternity homes, clinics, hospitals and schools and to rural areas to electrify more villages, homes, and get purified water to them and water to their agricultural fields to grow more essential food.

Purchasing these items from private businesses in Cuba is also an option being explored.

Santiago is the heart of Afro Cuban culture, art, music, religions, traditional medicine and more.

The goal of the brigade is to establish sustainable and beneficial projects with the people and organizations of both Cuba & the U.S.

It is based on the **principles** of that by working, living, eating, singing, and dancing together through mutual aid and solidarity, long-term relationships are built

It will focus on ongoing sustainable exchange projects and programs in energy, agriculture and health and expanding culture as an essential part of our movement.

All brigade members will stay with Cubans in their homes in Santiago de Cuba called Casa Particulares

All brigade members will take the 2 largest suitcases allowed by airlines one way to Cuba, one filled with medical supplies provided and sent free to their U.S. homes by **Not Just Tourists** (NJT) to be given to one or more Cuban Clinics and/or Hospitals and one with agricultural and renewable energy equipment and supplies.

All brigade members will bring some dry, packaged food

Based on Cuba's needs and priorities, we work together with our Cuban counterparts:

1. Campesinos/small rural and urban farmers in the fields food sovereignty/agroecology projects
2. Urban and/or rural renewable energy projects
3. Rural and Urban Door-to-door work in public and community health, including water purification, with block clubs, community health promoters, nurses and doctors
4. Developing cultural art projects

The U.S. brigade members will work with their Cuban counterparts at least half the day, eat together, and then have popular education workshops to learn from each other, exchange experiences, information, ideas, concepts, to build a foundation for ongoing sustainable cooperation and work

In the evening and on some days we will attend cultural sites & events

All brigade members must be prepared for difficult Cuba conditions of blackouts with no electricity at times-possible each day or night; no air conditioning; limited internet/WiFi; limited choice of food by shopping with Cubans in markets-but both vegetarian and vegan food will be available; limited transportation that will/may include walking, horse drawn carts, motorcycles, buses, vans, cars