



## CULTURAL PROGRAMS AND EXCHANGES

Reaching out to people – through music, dance, film, performing, and visual arts exchanges – is a vital component of smart power in 21<sup>st</sup> century diplomacy. For over sixty years, the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) of the Department of State has tapped the diverse resources of the U.S. arts community to encourage a dialogue with people of other nations. Key programs connecting American artists, dancers, musicians, authors, filmmakers, and other arts professionals with their counterparts around the world include:

**Cultural Envoys:** American performing and visual artists, arts managers and educators travel abroad through this program for short-term residencies to conduct workshops and master classes, present seminars, and work intensively with host country cultural institutions.

**Cultural Visitors/Fellows:** International artists, arts managers and presenters with demonstrated leadership potential are invited to participate in special training and mentoring programs in the United States that also explore direct access to American society, culture and values.

**The Rhythm Road: American Music Abroad:** A cooperative agreement with Jazz at Lincoln Center (JALC) sends American roots music around the world. By the end of 2010, Rhythm Road will have sent 156 musicians from 35 ensembles to more than 100 countries.

**Musical Overtures:** A special musical tour program to promote mutual understanding and to strengthen America’s ties with nations involved in or recovering from conflict, or facing other programming challenges.

**Performing Arts Initiative:** U.S. missions abroad organize music, dance, and other performing arts programs to showcase U.S. talent and share the American cultural experience with foreign audiences.



Rhythm Road activities have included discussions on the business of music production and turntable techniques with students in Lebanon.



DanceMotionUSA participants from Evidence, A Dance Company work with Senegalese students.

**DanceMotionUSA:** A program that presents U.S. contemporary dance to selected countries through a cooperative agreement with the Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM).

**Visual Arts Initiative (VAI):** U.S. missions abroad organize presentations of American visual art and artists that directly engage local audiences, providing insight into U.S. culture and fostering goodwill and dialogue.

**International Visual Art Exhibitions:** Support for U.S. participation in major exhibitions, including selected biennales, makes it possible to present contemporary art in context with the work of foreign artists.

**American Documentary Showcase:** This program brings award-winning contemporary American documentaries, filmmakers, and film experts to audiences in nearly 30 countries in partnership with the University Film and Video Association.

**International Writing Program (IWP):** Rising and established literary starts from across the world explore the creative writing process through the University of Iowa’s International Writing Program.

**Museum and Community Collaborations Abroad:** A partnership between the American Association of Museums and ECA connects U.S. museums and communities with international counterparts to address issues of common concern through collaborative projects.

**Carnegie Distance Learning Program:** Carnegie Hall and ECA build long-term sustainable linkages between American musicians, teachers, and high school students and their counterparts in Mexico, India, Turkey, and Indonesia.