



# CULTURAL TRIBUTE TO LIBERTY

THE AMERICAN HELLENIC  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**CELEBRATES THE BICENTENNIAL  
OF THE 1821 GREEK REVOLUTION  
FOR INDEPENDENCE**

# CULTURE COMMITTEE

To develop relations and networks among cultural, business, academic, and political spheres and identify initiatives to advance Greece's cultural wealth in ways that promote economic growth, outward-oriented exchanges, and diplomatic overtures. To audit Greece's cultural management expertise and practices with the aim to forge a sustainable strategy among active stakeholders.

## Committee Members

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**Dr. Eugenia Arsenis**  
Director-Dramaturg - FERA  
Delegate, Greek Directors' Guild



**Sophie Daskalaki-Mytilineou**  
Senior Advisor to the CEO,  
MYTILINEOS  
Chair Sustainability Committee



**Xenia Kaldara**  
President and General Director  
Michael Cacoyannis Foundation



**Eva Karaitidi**  
CEO, Hestia Publications



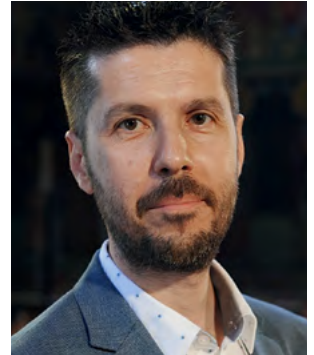
**Pantelis Panos**  
General Manager, American School  
of Classical Studies



**Anna Pataki**  
Publisher and CEO, Patakis  
Bookstore



**Stavros Stavropoulos**  
Financial and Administrative Director  
Michael Cacoyannis Foundation



**Panagiotis Tsougkrianis**  
Entrepreneur / Senior IT Consultant  
General Manager @ Honest Partners

## Committee Chair

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**Zozo Lidoriki**  
Chair, International Relations for Culture

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**CULTURE IS A POWERFUL DRIVER FOR DEVELOPMENT,  
WITH COMMUNITY-WIDE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT. IT CREATES THE FUNDAMENTAL  
BUILDING BLOCKS FOR OUR PERSONALITY AND THE TIES  
THAT LINK US TO COMMUNITIES AND NATIONS.**

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– NIKOLAOS BAKATSELOS , PRESIDENT , AMERICAN-HELLENIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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**Katerina Tzagaroulaki**  
Committee Coordinator



**Vassilis Karamitsanis**  
President, Animasyros International  
Animation Festival



**Efstathios Liantis-Lianos**  
Assistant Professor, Department  
of Social Theology and Religious  
Studies, National and Kapodistrian  
University of Athens



**Vicky Marangopoulou**  
Director 4/2018-7/2020 at National  
School of Dance (KSOT)  
Founding Artistic Director 1995-2015  
at Kalamata International Dance  
Festival



**Efi Nestoridi**  
Executive Director of Digital  
Governance, EYDAP



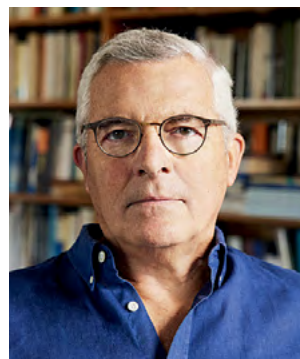
**Leonidas Tzonis**  
Executive Vice President and CFO,  
Hellenic American College  
Vice Chair of the Board of Directors,  
Hellenic American Union



**Nikos Ververidis**  
Founder, eλculture.gr



**Artemis Zenetou**  
Executive Director, Fulbright  
Foundation Greece



**Yannis Zirinis**  
Member of the BoD, Diazoma

AmChamGR's Culture Committee celebrates the 90th anniversary of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce in a landmark three-day cultural event that brings together institutions from across the country's cultural sector.



## CULTURAL TRIBUTE TO LIBERTY

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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

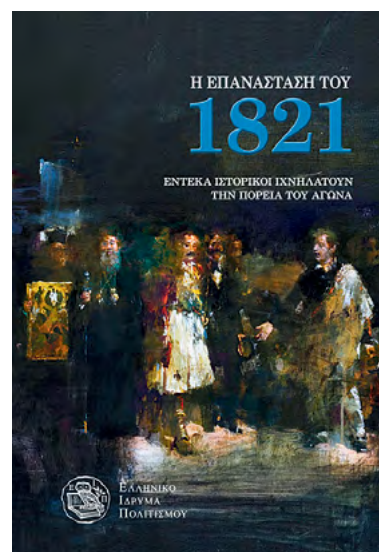
**CELEBRATES THE BICENTENNIAL  
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**D**edicated to its commitment to honor and showcase Greek culture and heritage, the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce Culture Committee is organizing a pioneering online festival titled "Cultural Tribute to Liberty" to be held in March 2022.

With a clear vision and with full faith in the international appeal of our cultural product, AmChamGR will create an online platform that brings together a range of artforms, performances and activities including music, theater, opera, lectures, discussions, exhibition tours, documentaries, and animation. The program also features the participation of the Hellenic Foundation for Culture and the City of Athens, leading public institutions, which the Chamber extends its gratitude to.

Over the course of three days, and with scheduling adjusted to accommodate for viewers in both European and United States time zones, the Chamber's Cultural Tribute to Liberty event will host and showcase a selection of events touching on and inspired by themes and histories of the Greek Revolution and Greek cultural history. These include two virtual exhibition tours by the Michael Cacoyannis Foundation, an experience of the Animasyros 2021 international animation festival in Syros, a virtual exhibition tour by the American School of Classical Studies at Athens (ASCSA) and Gennadius Library, a series of short films titled "The Journey of a Nation" (created within the framework of the Morias 21 project), a roundtable discussion between four historians organized by Hestia Publications, a documentary by *ελculture* on behalf of the Hellenic Broadcasting Corporation (ERT), a play produced by the Hellenic American University - Hellenic American Union with the support and coordination of International Relations for Culture, the opera "Marco Bozzari" by Pavlos Carrer, a project by the City of Athens, and three lectures presented by historians: Maria Efthymiou, Stefanos Kavallierakis and Charalambos Meletiadis of the Hellenic Foundation for Culture.

With the launch of this festival, the Culture Committee hopes to establish it as a recurring event with the participation of the country's numerous cultural institutions. It is the Committee's belief that culture has the power to support, strengthen and even save humanity by bringing people together and promoting positive values and respect for the spirit of liberty and freedom. And in this sense, culture has never been more relevant than it is today.



### **The Revolution of 1821: Eleven Historians Trace the Course of the War for Independence**

is a collective volume by the Hellenic Foundation for Culture, featuring contributions by prominent historians. From the ideological awakening that led to the Revolution and the philhellenic movement abroad, to the heart of the revolution, the war victories and setbacks, and the activities of the "Filiki Eteria" ("Society of Friends"), this volume offers insights into the "Struggle," as it is known in Greece, and allows for a multifaceted understanding of the Revolution's inner workings.





**The Orphans of 1821:**  
**Stories of American Philhellenism**  
 an 11-part documentary series  
 filmed throughout Greece,  
 Europe and the northeast  
 United States, and focusing on  
 the plight of orphaned children  
 during the Greek Revolution

The USS *Constitution*, constructed 1794-1797 and today located in the Boston National Historical Park in Charlestown, Massachusetts, is the oldest commissioned ship in the United States Navy. Naval officers and crew still serve aboard her, while she serves as a museum and as a symbol of American Philhellenism, as she rescued and provided safe passage to dozens of Greek children orphaned during the Greek War of Independence.

**Illustrations and Representations of the Greek-speaking World from the 18th to the 21st Century**  
 an exhibition of works spanning four centuries from the collection of George Gaitanaris and Io Dolka,  
 presented by the Michael Cacoyannis Foundation and the Municipality of Tripoli



*Asia and other vessels at the Battle of Navarino, 20 Oct 1827 (1828)* by George Philip Reinagle is a colored lithograph print depicting the HMS *Asia* (center right), vice admiral Sir Edwards Codrington's flagship, surrounded by vessels of the Ottoman-Egyptian fleet, including Ottoman admiral Capitan Bey's flagship the *Fahti Bahri* (center left) and Egyptian Moharram Bey's frigate *Guerrière* (right). It is part of a series based on the Battle of Navarino as witnessed by the artist.



*Various Sieges of Mesolongi* is a hand-colored lithograph print by renowned Greek artist Panagiotis Zographos who was commissioned (1836-1839) by general Yannis Makriyannis to produce scenes of the Greek Revolution. The print is a later reproduction, following a successful original run that was presented to King Otto of Greece and other European monarchs.

### **The Free and the Brave: American Philhellenism and the Glorious Struggle of the Greeks, 1776-1866**

an exhibition at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens exploring the relations and connections between Greece and the United States during the century of revolutions



A view of the ASCSA's "The Free and the Brave" exhibition in I. Makriyannis Wing of the Gennadius Library, showcasing a selection of the library's rare archival material on the Greek Revolution of 1821 alongside paintings and objects from museums and private collections in Greece.



American newspapers were quick to publish news of the Greek War of Independence, as seen in this copy of the *Boston Recorder and Telegraph* newspaper [Vol. XI, no. 25.], dated Friday, June 23, 1826, proclaiming that "Missolonghi Fallen!" Part of the Curtis Runnels Collection.



*The Greek Slave*, completed March 1844, is a renowned marble sculpture by American sculptor Hiram Powers and is one of the best known and critically acclaimed American artworks of the 19th century. Seen here, a much-reduced copy (just 35.5 cm) in Parian porcelain produced by English potters Minton and Company in 1848.



### **International Relations for Culture**

**and Hellenic American Union-Hellenic American University present:**

Director-dramaturg Dr. Eugenia Arsenis directs "The Grecian Captive; Or, The Fall of Athens," a play written by American playwright Mordecai Manuel Noah in 1822 on the Greek War of Independence, with her students from the Hellenic American University.



**Marco Bozzari**, a Greek national opera in four acts, is an ode to the bravery and excellence of the great general of the Greek Revolution. Composed by renowned Greek composer Pavlos Carrer, the play premiered in Patras in 1861 and was received enthusiastically both in Greece and abroad; yet despite the opera's considerable success, the original score has been lost. In 2021, the opera was performed, in Greek, by the City of Athens Symphony Orchestra and Choir, produced by the Culture, Sports and Youth Organization of the City of Athens.





**The Journey of a Nation**, by the Captain Vassilis and Carmen Konstantakopoulos Foundation and Costa Navarino, is a series of digital short films based on the memoirs of Theodoros Kolokotronis, one of the great generals and leaders of the Greek Revolution. Created in the context of Morias 21, the series draws inspiration from famous works of art depicting the battles and sieges of the Greek War of Independence such as the fall of Tripolitsa, the liberation of Kalamata, and the historic arrival of first Governor Ioannis Kapodistrias at Nafplio.



**Animasyros International Animation Festival** has been held annually since 2008 in Hermoupolis, Syros — the capital of the Cyclades. Animasyros 2021 took place September 22-26 on Syros Island, focusing on the theme of “Freedom” in honor of the bicentennial of the Greek Revolution of 1821. The festival invited broad interpretations of its theme — from personal and social freedom to revolution and national self-determination — as much in its main competition sections for animated films as in its educational workshops, exhibitions and other parallel events, featuring contributions from Greece and abroad.



In a **discussion organized by Hestia Publishing**, historians Xenia Baloti, Nikos Karapidakis, Petros Pizani and Yiannis Papatheodorou talk about the origins and history of the Greek Revolution of 1821, as the beginning of Greece’s freedom and national self-determination.

## Troupe

an exhibition of works by Greek painter Kostas Spiropoulos, a leading figure of Greece’s contemporary pop art movement, inspired by the people and events that shaped Greece from the Greek War of Independence of 1821 till today, and presented by the Michael Cacoyannis Foundation

### *Living from the Family, Troupe, Carnival*

Distancing himself from historiography, artist Kostas Spiropoulos endeavors to accentuate polychromy, multiformity and the infinite perspectives through which everyday anonymous heroes see and interpret things. From his own words on the exhibition: “Heroes may or may not have a specific name, maybe they do not need to have one; they have all been exposed before the face of overconsumption and, despite coming from a majestic mythical past, they land within the historical present and move toward the metaphysical future.”



# A message from Culture Committee Chair Zozo Lidoriki



**W**hen, around ten years ago, the International Relations for Culture non-profit organization proposed to then-President and now Honorary President of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce, Yiannos Grammatidis, that Culture be incorporated into the Chamber's work, he was initially surprised but then wisely said, "Tell me *why*." The reply to that was simple: "Because we, the people who work in culture, believe that Greece's cultural product, old and new, is our country's greatest competitive product. This product represents to the world Greece unscathed, and for this reason, must walk hand-in-hand with healthy entrepreneurship, in a mutually beneficial quid pro quo relationship."

This is how our effort to promote investment in culture was born. The first step was to map the field of culture with the survey "Culture Pulse." Following pilot seminars and meetings with numerous organizations operating in our sector, we then held the first Athens Culture Symposium in 2015 and formally established the Culture Committee in 2017. The Chamber then proceeded toward the main goal of promoting investment in culture, always with the support of its Presidents — first, Simos Anastasopoulos and standing President Nikolaos Bakatselos — and with the assistance and ideas of Executive Director Elias Spirtounias.

We, the members of the Culture Committee, people with visions and ideas, know very well what kind of culture and civilization we want—what kind of *life* we want for us all. How we converse, how we love, how we protect those weaker than us, how we defend our language, the extent of our freedom, what we mean by common good, dignity, respect for intellectual rights, personal responsibility, environmental management, meritocracy, ethos... All of this is *culture*. All of this requires *knowledge*, which in turn requires *education*. And from education comes *growth*, which paves the way for *investment* and *profit*.

The younger generation, with clear eyes and a fresh outlook of technology, and without delusions of grandeur, with knowledge and not despair, without the culture of mediocrity, can show the way forward to growth and the improvement of our lives. Culture means *freedom*. And a free person knows how to say No.

So let's put culture center stage! Let's join forces—the Culture Committee and all the Committees. Everyone will win. In the words of former US National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski: "With the spear of culture and education, Greece conquered that which empires could not conquer with weapons and blood."

**Zozo Lidoriki**

Chair of the Culture Committee



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