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## Passport DC Celebrates 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

WASHINGTON, DC—Passport DC celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. The annual festival that commemorates International Cultural Awareness Month in the District of Columbia runs from May 1 through 31 with a wide array of cultural activities presented at embassy open houses, street festivals, and performing arts organizations throughout the city, according to Steven E. Shulman, executive director of Cultural Tourism DC, the producing organization.

“We expect 75 or more embassies to host open house on the first two Saturdays of May,” Shulman said. The non-members of the European Union will open their doors on May 6 during *Around the World Embassy Tour* and the 28 members of the European Union will hold their open houses during *A Shortcut to Europe* on May 13.

“When embassies open their doors, visitors can expect to encounter the art, music, crafts, cuisine, geography, and manufacturing prowess of the participating countries. The embassies want to express that their countries are attractive places to visit and do business,” Shulman said.

“We just started recruiting embassies for 2017,” he said, “And Brazil is our first country to register. It is a perennial favorite with a daylong program of music and

colorfully costumed dancers that they host at the Brazilian ambassador's residence. As more embassies enroll, we will add their names to our website and app."

Passport DC Signature Events include:

<i>Flower Mart</i> at National Cathedral	Friday and Saturday, May 5-6
<i>Around the World Embassy Tour</i>	Saturday, May 6
<i>Shortcut to Europe</i>	Saturday, May 13
Fiesta Asia!	Saturday, May 20
Embassy Chef Challenge	Wednesday, May 24

Cultural Tourism DC produces Passport DC annually. Events DC is the Presenting Sponsor of Passport DC. Additional sponsors include The Melrose Georgetown Hotel, Daimler, Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority, Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, The Washington Diplomat, and SH International. The producers and presenters are grateful to the more than 500 volunteers who provide services throughout the month in support of the educational mission of Passport DC.

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