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We celebrate this year the National Culture Day in the midst of exceptional circumstances. The restrictions imposed by the pandemic forced creators and institutions to move events, presentations and debates to the virtual realm. Added to the pandemic and its consequences of all kinds were the effects of the resurgence of the blockade, which became more suffocating than ever. We faced limitations that hindered the participation of the population in cultural processes and the social projection of writers, artists, art instructors and promoters, and their organizations and institutions, from the UNEAC, the AHS, the José Martí Brigade and the Institutes and Councils from the Ministry of Culture to the network of libraries, museums, houses of culture and other provincial and municipal entities, but alternatives were always sought so that culture would not stop and would reach all Cubans. For Fidel, culture represents the “shield and sword of the nation”: the shield, that identity nucleus that we treasure, protects us from disintegrating influences, as Cintio and Lezama would say; The sword, for its part, is capable of going very far and carries the truth of our country (and defends it) in the most remote places