

*Welcome*

*Founders:*

**Refik Radončić, President**  
**Pavle Ljuljdjuraj, Member**  
**Ivo Djukanović, Member**

*Board Members*

**Ambassador Milorad Šćepanović,** Permanent Representative of Montenegro to the UN  
**Professor Dr. Srdjan Darmanović,** Ambassador of Montenegro in Washington D.C.  
**Branko Milić,** Consul General of Montenegro in New York



THE MONTENEGRIN-AMERICAN  
FOUNDATION FOR  
THE MONTENEGRO HOUSE

THE MONTENEGRO HOUSE  
*in New York*





The idea of The Montenegro House or “one roof” under which we could all come together, maintain ties and communication with our country and roots, is as old as our Diaspora in the United States. There are true stories of Montenegrin people unselfishly sharing hard earned money from their work in the mines of Pennsylvania, California, Montana, Alaska, and Virginia with family back home while yearning for their homeland, as the poet aptly proclaims, “Oh, how I would embrace everything over there, dear Lord—those hills, those rocks, and those mountains.” A similar idea was evolving in the minds of many Montenegrin people long ago, including the first Ambassador of Montenegro to the U.S. H.E. Mr. Ante Gvozdenović; the American-born William F. Dix, Consul General of Montenegro in New York from 1918-1921, and many others. Charitable acts, such as those of Mr. Vaso Čuković, a businessman from Denver and an immigrant of Montenegro (who in 1922, established a Foundation for granting scholarships to poor students from Boka and who built a National Home and Hospital in Risan which carries his name to this day), will remain in our memories and inspire future generations. After Montenegro regained its independence, the people of our Diaspora renewed the initiative of building The Montenegro House in New York, in partnership with the government of Montenegro.

*The Montenegro House in New York* is a project that would, in the best spirit of civic, multi-ethnic, and multi-religious Montenegro, create the opportunity for gathering and bringing together our people in the U.S., in order to protect and promote the interests of the Diaspora, strengthen the civic and state identity of Montenegro, offer programs for the Diaspora, and promote comprehensive Montenegrin-American relations.

The Montenegrin-American Foundation for the Montenegro House was established and incorporated on October 7, 2010, in the State of New York. The founders are businessmen from our Diaspora who live in the U.S.

The objective of the Foundation, in partnership with the government of Montenegro, is to find a suitable property for The Montenegro House in New York that would accommodate a multi-purpose Cultural Center and offices for the Mission of Montenegro to the U.N. and the Consulate General of Montenegro.

On January 20, 2011, the Government of Montenegro bestowed its approval of and material support for establishing The Montenegro House.



## THE CULTURAL CENTER

- The multi-purpose Cultural Center will serve as a place where the Diaspora can maintain and strengthen all relations with Montenegro; a place where projects and programs benefiting the Diaspora and Montenegro will be implemented, in the spirit of the best traditions of a multi-ethnic state.
- for strengthening cooperation and coordination between all Montenegrin clubs, associations, and individuals in the U.S.
- to promote Montenegrin culture and cultural diversity by providing the learning of languages, cultural heritages, and traditions of Montenegro.
- for showcasing all forms of artistic expression from Montenegro and the Diaspora, such as literature, painting, music, exhibitions, films, folklore, and more.
- for organizing symposiums, round tables, and other events.
- for preserving the languages and cultures of Montenegro through a library fund that will collect literature and publications in the languages of all our ethnic groups and minorities.
- to promote and raise awareness of Montenegrin civic and state identity with the highest regard given to all national, religious, cultural, linguistic diversities, following the example of the U.S. and other developed democracies.
- where business people from our Diaspora and from Northern America can exchange ideas, knowledge, and experiences.
- where the Montenegrin-American Chamber of Commerce can promote investments and partnerships in the best interest of both countries.

### THE STATUS OF THE CULTURAL CENTER

Along with financial and other types of support from the government of Montenegro, the Cultural Center will be considered a not-for-profit corporation.

In accordance with U.S. regulations, the Cultural Center, through its NGO status, will permanently remain an Endowment for the use of the Montenegrin Diaspora. A record of all personal, business, and corporate contributions will be archived within The Montenegro House – Cultural Center in New York. Donors’ requests for anonymity are guaranteed.