COUNCIL PROJECTS

Sengebawi Poetry Competition

The 15th Annual Sengebawi Poetry Competition was held on October 16, 2016 at the American Memorial Park Visitor’s Center. Twenty-five students from ten public and private schools entered the competition to recite original poems exploring issues relating to culture, change, or identity and selected poems from Micronesian anthologies.

The event was attended by 135 people, a 27% increase over last year’s event. The results of the contest were as follows:

- **JUDGING PANEL:**
  - Terence Sheehan
  - Bethann A. Magno
  - Ann Stenzel

- **JUNIOR DIVISION**
  - Ceasar Ingruta, 1st Place
  - Jill Anne Millat, 2nd Place
  - Ryan Hoera, 3rd Place

- **SENIOR DIVISION**
  - Jeremiah Ferrante, 1st Place
  - Kayla Ferrer, 2nd Place
  - Manuel Delilaga, 3rd Place

The Council distributed copies of Micronesian to all CNMI public and private schools, JNFL Library, and Library of Congress. Micronesian is a collection of ten years of winning poems from the Sengebawi poetry competitions.

Reconstruction of the Place Names of the Gaiit Islands

This project is focused on documenting place names in the islands North of Saipan. The chief researcher is Dr. Thomas Stoltz, a Linguistics Professor at University of Bremen (Germany).

The Council began working with Dr. Stoltz in 2016 by providing him with assistance in acquiring maps of the Northern islands. Dr. Stoltz then traveled to Saipan in April 2016 to collect data through interviews with former inhabitants of the Gaiit Islands. This project is expected to continue over a period of 3-4 years and will likely involve related, albeit distinct, offshoot projects focused on the study of Chamorro and/or Carolinian languages.

21st Governor’s Humanities Awards 2018 Awardees

Don Farrell: Research and Publication in the Humanities. Mr. Farrell is awarded for his publishing of the “History of the Northern Mariana Islands” text book and “Timian and the Bombs.”

Caroline Marciante: Preservation of Traditional Cultural Practices. Mr. Marciante is awarded for his significant contributions as a Chamorros and Carolinian cultural practitioner, leader, promoter, event planner and tour operator.

Gayrwin Guerrero: Preservation of CNMI History.

Supporting the Humanities is easier than you think!

Meeting your tax obligations and supporting important projects that promote the humanities in the CNMI do not have to be exclusive. In fact, the CNMI’s Education Tax Credit Program allows businesses and individuals who make financial contributions to the Northern Marianas Humanities Council to earn credit against any taxes they owe.

What is the Education Tax Credit?

The CNMI Education Tax Credit allows businesses and individuals to make cash contributions to the Northern Marianas Humanities Council and receive a nonrefundable credit against state income taxes. The credit is a dollar for dollar reduction in the actual tax owed. For example, if a company owes $1,000 in gross receipts taxes and donates $100 in ETC, then it can subtract the $100 from its total tax bill and pay the CNMI just $900. You can get up to a maximum of $6,000 in any one year under the ETC program.

How are the contributions used?

Contributions made to the Northern Marianas Humanities Council, a private, nonprofit organization, are used to support programs and activities that promote the humanities in the Commonwealth.

Making an ETC donation is easy!

1. Determine how much Gross Receipts Tax (GRT) your business will pay during the current month.
2. Make out your check to the Northern Marianas Humanities Council and a receipt will be issued by the Council to you for the amount contributed.
3. File your monthly tax return by the regular due date.

For more information, contact the Council and we will gladly assist you with any of these steps. We can also work directly with individuals and/or firms that handle your tax filings to ensure they receive the required documents and information expeditiously.

Thank you for your support of the humanities!

2018 Financial Donors

- Butteridge, Hashling and Daviey, Inc
- Marianas Text Products
- Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC
- Marianas Visitors Authority
- Governor Ralph Deleon Guerrero

2018 Partners & Volunteers

- American Memorial Park
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- Northern Marianas Islands District Court
- CNMI Public School System
- John-Kyu Public Library
- Chief Justice Alexander C. Castro

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- Joseph Tagajan
- Edward McMillan
Community Grant Awards

The Council offers matching grants to community organizations and ad hoc groups to support a wide range of humanities projects consistent with the goals and objectives of its Strategic Master Plan. During FY 2018, the Council awarded nine Community Grants:

- **E-Publishing Doctoral Thesis + New Media Workshop**
  The Council awarded a $14,423 grant to Dr. Sylvia Frain to support the editing and e-publishing of her doctoral thesis entitled, "Fangoch Famaloa'an & Fantachu Fama'ua'a: Women Rising, Indigenous Resistance to Militarization in the Marianas Archipelago." This publication is now available on the Guampedia platform at this link: https://www.guampedia.com/fangoch-famaloaan-and-fantachu-famaualaua/

- **Judge Gustavo Gelpi: US Constitutional Rights in the Territories and the CNMI**
  The Council awarded a $1,555 grant to the CNMI Bar Association to support travel expenses for Chief Judge Gustavo A. Gelpi from the District of Puerto Rico to visit Saipan to facilitate a Continuing Legal Education (CLE) workshop for CNMI attorneys and to provide a free public presentation on U.S. Constitutional Rights in the Territories and the CNMI.

- **500 Sails – Training the Trainers of Traditional Sailing**
  The Council awarded a $11,942 grant to 500 Sails to support a "Train the Trainer" program using traditional seafarers as master teachers to teach sailing to 500 Sails' staff and project participants. The project's short-term objective is to establish a program of ongoing training so instructors can help ensure that the knowledge of existing seasoned seafarers is passed on to future generations.

- **Let's Learn Refaluwash**
  The Council awarded $3,775.05 to Valentina Rivera to design and publish ten interactive web-based lessons on the Carolinian language and culture.

- **Tinian at the Turning Point**
  The Council awarded $9,460 to Don Farrell to gather primary source materials related to World War II on the island of Tinian and produce a book that documents the history of the events that took place.

- **Exploring the Indigenous Experience in Saipan during World War II**
  The Council awarded a $6,641 grant to Dr. Jennifer McKinnon and Stephanie Soder to explore indigenous survival, relocation, and life in the civilian holding camps on Saipan during World War II. The project will collect oral histories of indigenous families and include an archaeological survey and a community-engaged project that will involve locals in recording and showcasing their history.

- **Perseverance and Grit: The Contributions of Agnes Manglola McPhetres to Education Across the Pacific**
  The Council awarded $2,859 to Ivan Propst to publish a compilation of articles, tribute statements, and awards that detail Agnes McPhetres' contributions to education in Micronesia.

- **CNMI Archives Oral History Digitization Project**
  The Council awarded a $4,845 grant to Northern Marianas College to permanently preserve approximately 150 oral history interviews by converting hard-copy transcriptions and VHS tape recordings into digital formats.

- **Late in the Marianas: Art, Icon and Archaeology Project**
  The Council awarded $9,470 to Dr. Jolene Liston and Dr. Kelly Marsh to produce a highly visual book of late and latte inspired art that weaves ancient Chamorro life with current interpretations and expressions of national identity, identity, and epistemology. The project includes a series of community presentations and a travelling exhibit based on the book's visuals.

A Message from the Executive Director

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council's FY 2018 Annual Report highlights significant activities and achievements of the Council for the period November 1, 2017 – October 31, 2018. The Council fosters awareness, understanding and appreciation for the humanities in the CNMI through a variety of projects and programs. Many of our programs reflect the community's shared histories, values, stories, identities, and a sense of place and belonging. The people who investigate and expose us to humanities topics or issues help to enrich our lives by showcasing our diversity and appealing to our intellectual interests.

This year the Council awarded a total of $56,120 to individuals and groups in the community for projects that improve access to oral history, promote an understanding of our constitutional rights, develop local capacity for research, and preserve traditional artistic culture. The Council also achieved a milestone through its Motherhood/Fatherhood Family Literacy Program as annual enrollment in sponsored literacy courses rose to approximately one thousand adults and children. This success was achieved in large part due to the hard work and dedication of Viola S. Deleon Guerrero. She stepped down as coordinator after more than eighteen years with the program. She will be remembered for her tireless efforts to strengthen family values and relationships through literacy.

We also ended the year with the retirement of Executive Director Scott Russell. Mr. Russell served more than seventeen years with the Council. He was hired by the Council in 2001 as a program officer and was promoted to executive director in 2010. On his retirement, Mr. Russell received a CNMI House Resolution, U.S. Congressional Commendation, and the distinguished Governor's Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Humanities. He leaves the Council in excellent order and with ongoing projects that engage youth and deepen our understanding of language, history, and culture.

As we work toward navigating the human experience, we are reminded that navigators must contend with sudden changes to the weather. On October 23-24, 2018, Super Typhoon Yutu hurled through the Marianas Islands leaving Saipan and Tinian utterly devastated. The story of how we make out continues to unravel each day as we move forward with the work of rebuilding our lives and enduring the hardships of recovering from a major natural disaster. The Council will remain involved in this work for as long as we are needed to help people share their stories of loss, resilience, and hope.

Your partner in advancing the humanities in the CNMI,

Leo Pangelinan
Executive Director

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