

ANNUAL REPORT



2018



**Northern Marianas
Humanities Council**
Navigating the Human Experience

COUNCIL PROJECTS

Sengebau Poetry Competition

The 15th Annual Sengebau Poetry Competition was held on October 16, 2018 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 *Microchild* – an anthology of poetry composed by the late Valentine N. Sengebau.

The event was attended by 125 people, a 27% increase over last year's event. The results of the contest were as follows:

JUNIOR DIVISION	
Oceania Teigita, 1st	Strategy, DMS
Jill Anne Millari, 2nd	Man and Life, MCS
Ryan Nuera, 3rd	The Plague, TJS
SENIOR DIVISION	
Jeremiah Fernandez, 1st	Listen CNMI, SSMS
Keyla Flores, 2nd	Where I Belong, TJS
Manuel Quitugua, 3rd	Indecision, TJS



The Council distributed copies of *Microchild* to all CNMI public and private schools, JKPL Library, and Olympio T. Borja Library. *Microchild* is a collection of ten years of winning poems from the Valentine Sengebau poetry competitions.

Junior High Mock Trial



The 14th Annual Junior High Mock Trial program was held on April 7, 2018 at the Superior Court (Guma' Hustisia/Limawal Aweewe'). One hundred fifty-one students participated in the

program whose purpose is to help students develop useful knowledge of the law, courtroom procedures, and critical thinking and reasoning skills. The event is open to teams of students in the 7th and 8th grades each led by a teacher coach and volunteer attorney. At the conclusion of the trial, the presiding judge provides a critique of the teams' performance, helpful tips, and acknowledges exemplary performance. The Junior High Mock Trial program provides experiences in an enjoyable, non-competitive format to help students prepare for the Annual High School Mock Trial Competition.

Humanitini

The Council hosted its 3rd Annual Humanitini event on June 21, 2018 at the CNMI Museum. Humanitini was launched in 2016 as a cocktail reception to engage potential board members and financial donors with the humanities and Council programs. Invitees are primarily drawn from within the social and professional networks of current board members. Forty-one people attended the event in 2018.



Motheread/Fatheread Family Literacy Program

The Motheread/Fatheread Family Literacy Program (Motheread) facilitates an 8-week literacy course for adults and children at multiple sites throughout Saipan, Tinian, and



Rota. In 2018, Motheread completed 74 adult course cycles and 40 Story-Sharing/Exploring course cycles for children. Of the 403 adults that participated in at least one course session, 61% (n=244) completed the course. Of the 586 children that participated in at least one Story-Sharing/Exploring course, 69% (n=405) completed the course.

Motheread is in its 20th year of service to the CNMI community. To celebrate, all 37 Parent Trainers & Story-Exploring/Read Aloud/Head Start Trainers who actively facilitated a class session were recognized at a dinner reception on October 19, 2018 at Charley's Cabaret, Pacific Islands Club.

Your Humanities Half-Hour

Your Humanities Half-Hour is the Council's weekly radio program hosted by Catherine R. Perry. The 30-minute program airs each Sunday at 2pm and features interviews with humanities scholars and guests with the goal of bringing a

discussion of humanities topics to communities on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

In FY 2019, YHHH featured forty-one distinct topics through interviews with over seventy guests.

Reconstruction of the Place Names of the Gani Islands

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

The Council began working with Dr. Stolz in 2018 by providing him with assistance in acquiring maps of the Northern (Gani) Islands. Dr. Stolz then traveled to Saipan in April 2018



to attempt to collect data through interviews with former inhabitants of the Gani Islands. This project is expected to continue over a period of 3-4 years and will likely include related, albeit distinct offshoot projects focused on the study of Chamorro and/or Carolinian languages.

21st Governor's Humanities Awards 2018 Awardees



Mr. Guerrero is awarded for his short films based on the book "We Drank Our Tears" which is about the indigenous people and their stories of World War II.

Victor Cabrera: Outstanding Humanities Teacher (in a classroom setting). Mr. Cabrera, a teacher of 14yrs, is awarded for his unconventional methods of teaching middle school students on how to farm and be self-sustaining.

Cecilio Raiukilipiy: Outstanding Humanities Teacher (in a non-classroom setting). Mr. Raiukilipiy is awarded for teaching the traditional ways of navigating and sailing on traditional canoes to the community.

Scott Russell: Lifetime Achievement Award in the Humanities. Mr. Russell is awarded for his 19 years of service and contribution to the Northern Marianas Humanities Council and the community.

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 "Tinian and the Bomb".

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

Galvin 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 taxes owed. 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 \$800 in ETC, then it can subtract the \$800 from its total tax bill and pay the CNMI just \$200. You can give up to a maximum of \$5,000 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 Business Gross Receipts Tax (BGRT) 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

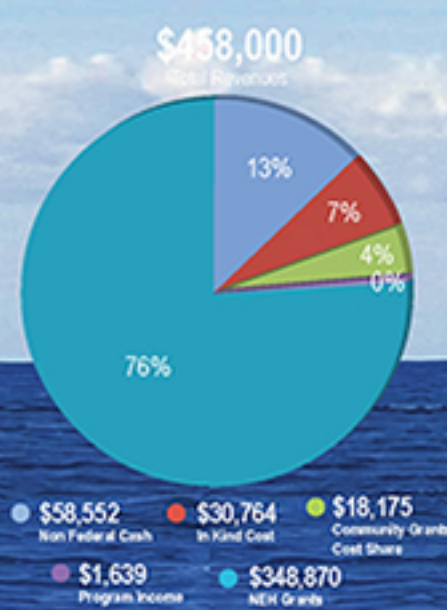
Gutteridge, Haskins and Davey, Inc.
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Pacific Development, Inc.
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2018 Partners & Volunteers

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2018 Board of Directors

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*Saipan, Attorney at Law for The Law Office
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COMMUNITY Grant Awards



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, "Fañohge Famala'an & Fan'tachu Fama'la'an: 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/fanohge-famala'an-and-fan'tachu-fama'la'an/>.



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 sailing instruction to help ensure that the knowledge of existing seasoned seafarers is passed on to future generations.

Let's Learn Refaluwasch



The Council awarded \$5,775.05 to Valentina Rivera to design and publish ten interactive webisode 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 relative 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 includes 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 Mangloña McPhetres to Education Across the Pacific

The Council awarded \$2,859 to Ivan Probst 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.



Latte in the Marianas: Art, Icon and Archaeology Project

The Council awarded \$9,470 to Dr. Jolie Liston and Dr. Kelly Marsh to produce a highly visual book of latte and latte inspired art that weave ancient Chamorro life with current interpretations and expressions of national ethnicity, 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 humanities topics or issues help to enrich our lives by showcasing our diversity and appealing to our intellectual interests.

This past year the Council awarded a total of \$66,120 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 seafaring culture. The Council also achieved a milestone through its Motherhead/Fatherhead 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 Mariana 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 Pangellian
Executive Director