



**Northern Marianas
Humanities Council**

Navigating the Human Experience

2019 Annual Report



2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Polly DLG. Masga

Chair
Saipan, Director of Human Resources
Northern Marianas College

Tracy M. Guerrero

Vice Chair
Saipan, Corporate Controller
Triple J Saipan

Kevin H. Bautista

Treasurer/Secretary
Saipan, Press Secretary
CNMI Office of the Governor

Edward C. Arriola, Jr.

Saipan, President
Blue 46 Associates

Theresa H. Arriola

Saipan, Doctoral Candidate
University of California at Los Angeles

David J. Attao

Saipan, Director of Workforce Investment Agency
CNMI Department of Labor

Samuel J. Crawford

Saipan, Academic Librarian/Interim Director
Northern Marianas College

Herman T. Guerrero

Saipan, Retired
CNMI Government

Ni Deleon Guerrero

Saipan, General Manager
Marianas Medical Center Pacific Laboratories

Carol Peter-Hosono

Saipan, Training Coordinator
Commonwealth Ports Authority

Magdalena Mesngon

Rota, Resident Director
CNMI Department of Community and Cultural Affairs

Rose A. Soledad

Saipan, General Manager
IT&E

Robert Torres

Saipan, Attorney at Law
Law Offices of Robert T. Torres

Michael A. White

Saipan, Attorney at Law
Law Offices of Michael A. White

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 2019, the Council awarded six (6) community grants.

1

Oral Histories of Navigation from Satawal to Saipan

The Council awarded \$17,980 to Jim Marbrook to support digital visual documentation and audio recordings of oral histories as told by three generations of descendants of 'Papa Mau': Lino Olopai, Tony Piailug, and Cecilio Raiukiulipiy. Cultural preservation of these histories of boat building, celestial navigation, and Micronesian way finding practices will be digitally preserved into a 20-minute documentary for screening on Saipan and throughout the world. Residual footage and other materials collected will be archived and made available on a Video site.

2

Tip of the Spear

The Council awarded \$2,104 to Sophia Perez and Jack Doyle to support the creation of twelve episodes of a new podcast of interviews with the planners, supporters, and resisters of the multiple military build-up plans for the Mariana Islands.

3

Journalism to Empower Communities

The Council awarded \$850 to Rachel Ramirez and Thomas Mangloña to facilitate a one-day journalism workshop on basic reporting, story structure, importance of accuracy and bias, reporting modules, panelists, and conclusion to inspire and motivate the community to become interested in journalism and create a more diverse newsroom around the world.

4

Sharing KPV Collection with Northern Mariana Islands

The Council awarded \$12,288 to Kit Porter Van Meter to support the collection, digitization, and sharing (on kpvcollection.com) 1960's and 70's pictures and stories from NMI Peace Corps Volunteers and documents related to Chamorro and Carolinian cultures, NMI Education, CNMI status, and Northern Marianas College.

5

Rekindling Marianas Narratives – Write Your Novel

The Council awarded \$175 to Jane Mack to support her efforts to develop a local writing community that uses first-hand experiences and authentic native voices. The project will host 2-hour writing preparation sessions each Saturday in October and encourage participants to participate in National Novel Writing Month.

6

Creation of Pride Marianas Youth Alliance Membership

The Council awarded \$1,500 to Dr. Jennifer F. Maratita to support the planning phases of a non-profit youth organization whose goals are to increase resources, provide education, unify efforts, empower, and raise awareness of the disparities of LGBTQ+ Youth in the CNMI. This includes increasing public participation in humanities programs among underserved segments of the community and training for volunteer youth members to be able to educate the community on the issues that affect their lives.



A Message from the Chair

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council sailed through the rough waters this past year, post Super Typhoon Yutu. Despite the devastation to Saipan and Tinian, we continued with our mission to navigate the human experience and are excited to share the accomplishments and valuable impact we made in 2019.

The Council continued to work with our community partners to share the diversity we have on our island. Some highlights include our first-ever LGBTQ+ film screening and panel discussion, our increase support for Motherread/Fatheread@ CNMI, remembering the Battles of Saipan and Tinian on their 75th anniversary through multimedia photo exhibits, and a multitude of great discussions relating to preserving our local culture during Humanities month, held in October.

We would like to thank our community and regional partners, donors and the people of the CNMI for their continued support of the Northern Marianas Humanities Council.

Un Dangkulu na si Yu'us Ma'ase' yan Ghilisow,

Polly DLG. Masga
Board Chair

INVEST IN THE Humanities

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization (Tax ID# 66-0487631) whose mission is to foster awareness, understanding, and appreciation for the humanities through support of educational programs that relate the humanities to the indigenous cultures and to the intellectual needs and interests of the people of the Commonwealth.

We invite you to invest in the humanities by making a financial gift today to support and expand our programs on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

CNMI businesses may redirect up to \$5,000 of their Business Gross Receipts Taxes (BGRT) to the Humanities Council each year pursuant to CNMI Public Law 15-20 as an Educational Tax Credit (ETC).



COUNCIL PROJECTS

75th Anniversary of the Battles of Saipan and Tinian Multimedia Exhibition

The exhibit was a commemoration of the resilience of the Marianas Peoples. Thirty never before seen photographs and video footage of World War II during the summer of 1944 from the National Archives in Maryland were exhibited at the NMI Museum of History and Culture on Saipan, Tinian Public Library and Northern Marianas College on Rota between June 12 - August 26, 2019. There were over 500 visitors for the Saipan exhibit, 30 in Tinian and 52 in Rota. Several of the photographs are exhibited currently at the NMI Museum.

Pride Talks: Boy Erased

PRIDE Talks invited the entire community to the screening of the movie "Boy Erased" and had a facilitated discussion post screening. The topics were built around the movie's theme addressing LGBTQ issues on coming out, family, community, stigmas in the CNMI and Micronesia. The event was held on June 27, 2019 at Regal Cinemas with 62 people in attendance.

Garapan Heritage Trail

The Council completed its final phase of the Garapan Heritage Trail project by erecting interpretive signs in English, Japanese, Korean, Chinese, and Russian at 16 historic sites along the Trail. These signs complement self-guided maps and a dedicated website (www.garapanheritagetrail.com) that feature GPS coordinates and interpretive information about historic and cultural sites in Garapan Village, Saipan. On October 11, 2019, 43 people participated in a community tour of the Trail in collaboration with the Pacific Historic Parks.

Islands Too Beautiful for Their Names

The Council hosted a community lecture entitled, Islands Too Beautiful for Their Names, a presentation by Dr. Jessica Jordan, Assistant Professor of Regional and Cultural Studies - Asia at the Air Force Culture and Language Center on the captured memories of indigenous elders through oral history with a focus on the experiences of civilians who survived the Japanese era and World War II. The event was held on September 3, 2019 at the American Memorial Park Visitor's Theater with 31 people in attendance.

Essence of Po: Traditional Knowledge of the Refaluwasch People

The Council facilitated a community lecture entitled, Essence of Po: Traditional Knowledge of the Refaluwasch People, a presentation by Cealio Raiukulipi, a Master Navigator from the School of Weriyang. The presentation focused on describing the knowledge and skills a traditional navigator acquires in stages with emphasis on the prediction of weather and star patterns in the night sky. The event was held on October 28, 2019 at the American Memorial Park Theater with 31 people in attendance. A live streaming video of the event on Facebook reached an additional 627 people.

Na Lala' i Finu' Chamorro

The Council facilitated Na Lala' i Finu' Chamorro, a panel presentation to showcase efforts to protect, preserve, and promote the Chamorro language in the CNMI. Featured panelists included: Diann Torres, First Lady and President of the Lady Diann Torres Foundation, Jonas Barcinas, Director of the PSS Chamorro Carolinian Language Heritage Studies Program, Roman Tudela Jr., Resident Director for the Indigenous Affairs Office, and Carmen Toimaño,

Retired Educator, Author, and Poet. The event was held on October 9, 2019 at the American Memorial Park Theater with 28 in attendance. A live streaming video of the event on Facebook reached an additional 1,196 people.

Amalawa Mwalilili Refaluwasch

The Council facilitated Amalawa Mwalilili Refaluwasch, a panel presentation to showcase efforts to protect, preserve, and promote the Refaluwasch language in the CNMI. Featured panelists included: Melvin Faiso, Executive Director for the Chamorro and Carolinian Language Policy Commission, John Tagabuel, Executive Assistant for the Carolinian Affairs Office, Patricia Kapleo, Director for Leljalj Akkabwung Carolinian & Chamorro CNMI PSS Language Immersion Project, Tom Tebuteb, Retired Educator and Former Secretary of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, and Felix Rabauliman, CTE Music Teacher for Hopwood Middle School. The event was held on October 29, 2019 at the American Memorial Park Theater with 22 in attendance. A live streaming video of the event on Facebook reached an additional 1,175 people.

Reviving and Promoting Canoe Culture in the Marianas

The Council hosted a community lecture entitled, Reviving and Promoting Canoe Culture in the Marianas, a presentation by Pete Perez, Executive Director of 500 Sails, to showcase the history of reconstructing a working model of the Chamorro Proa based on details and drawings provided in Anson's Voyage Round the World in the Years 1740-1744 and efforts by 500 Sails to engage the CNMI community in building and sailing these canoes. The event was held on October 30, 2019 at the American Memorial Park Theater with 15 in attendance. A live streaming video on Facebook of the event reached an additional 936 people.

Oral History Workshops

The Council hosted a series of educational workshops entitled, How to Conduct and Publish an Oral History Interview. The overarching goal of the workshops were to develop the capacity among residents of the Northern Marianas Islands to record, preserve, produce, and distribute oral history. The workshops were facilitated by Rlene Steffy, Oral Historian and Ethnographer and co-facilitated on one occasion by Dr. Jessica Jordan, Assistant Professor of Regional and Cultural Studies - Asia at the Air Force Culture and Language Center. A total of 76 people participated in these workshops on Saipan (April 26-27, Sept. 5-6), Tinian (July 31-Aug. 1), and Rota (May 31-June 1). The culmination of this project will include the publishing of an Oral History Guide (e-booklet) for release as a free resource in 2020.

Veterans and First Responders

The 2019 Veterans and First Responders Program featured film screenings of the documentary film, Almost Sunrise, and VETOGA yoga sessions with Iraq combat veteran, Tom Voss, on Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and Guam between July 30 - August 24, 2019. Funding for this program was made possible through the "We Will Never Forget: Field of Heroes" events sponsored by Tan Su Lin Foundation. Tom Voss's journey to find alternative methods for dealing with depression and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) was the subject of Almost Sunrise. His journey led him to the use of yoga, meditation, and breathing techniques which he shared with the CNMI and Guam community through 90-minute VETOGA sessions. A total of 219 people attended a VETOGA session and 276 people attended a film screening. Overall, the activities were well received by participants and of the 54 who submitted an evaluation form, many indicated that the VETOGA sessions provided much needed relaxation and stress relief.

LEGACY PROGRAMS

22nd Governor's Humanities Awards

The Governor's Humanities Awards was held on October 24, 2019 at PIC Charley's Cabaret where the five awardees were recognized in these categories: Lynne Michaels for Research and Publication in the Humanities; Eric Reyes for Preservation of Traditional Cultural Practices; Dr. Chaz Algaier for Outstanding Humanities Teacher in the classroom, Emma Perez for Outstanding Humanities Teacher in a non-classroom setting and Dr. Boyd Dixon for the Lifetime Achievement award. Former Board members Frankie Elipitico, Magdalena Mesnon, and Gordon Marciano were recognized each for their six years of service to the Council.

15th Annual Junior High Mock Trial

The Junior High Mock Trial was established in 2005 to help students develop useful knowledge about the law and courtroom procedures. The program also teaches reasoning and critical thinking skills and helps students prepare for the competitive high school-level program. This year's event took place on March 30, 2019 at the Marianas Business Plaza. Each of the four participating middle schools: Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Jr. Sr. High School, Saipan Community School, Mt. Carmel School, and Tinian Jr. Sr. High School divided into defense and prosecution teams, with both attorneys and witnesses and deliberated on a fictitious case.

16th Annual Valentine Sengebau Poetry Competition

The Sengebau Poetry Competition features middle school students who recite from "Microchild" written by Valentine "Val" Sengebau Anthology of Poetry. High school students recite original poems. The event was held at the American Memorial Park Visitor's Theater on October 15, 2019 and was attended by 75 people. Eight middle school and eight high school students competed for top prizes and were treated to a surprise performance by the Guam-based music group: "Microchild". A live streaming video of the event on Facebook reached an additional 450 people.

Junior Division:
Klin Delson Guerrero, 1st "The Plague", FMS
Aleesa Castro, 2nd "Searching", FMS
Issa Telega, 2nd "Wagedelich", DMS
Ocean Telega, 3rd "The Plague", DMS

Senior Division:
Elaine and Nehemiah Fernandez, 1st "Who We Are", SSSS
Malina Palacios, 2nd "Who Are We?", TISHS
Kiran Shrestha, 3rd "Of Many", TISHS

4th Marianas History Conference

The Council co-hosted the 4th Marianas History Conference on Guam at the University of Guam campus between August 31 - September 1, 2019. The Conference featured keynote speakers Tina DeLisle of the University of

Minnesota, Rene Escalante of De La Salle University, and Jessica Jordan of the Air Force Culture and Language Center. The conference sub-theme of "Commemorating Our Histories" highlighted two significant commemorations: Ferdinand Magellan's voyage around the earth and the 75th Anniversary of the American defeat of Japanese forces in the Marianas. The event featured 15 panel presentations and was attended by 150 people, including a small delegation of participants from the CNMI.

Humanitini

Now in its fourth year, Humanitini is by invitation-only and intended for the Council's network of potential board members and financial donors to come together in a casual, intimate setting to have conversations about the humanities. This year's event featured Microchild - a musical trio whose band and album are named after Valentine Sengebau's anthology of poetry. The event was held on October 16, 2019 at the NM Museum of History and Culture with 61 people in attendance.

Mothered/Fathered@ CNMI

Mothered/Fathered@ CNMI helps families create a literacy rich home environment. Staff and volunteers promoted literacy and program activities at 119 events in the community reaching a total of 26,467 people. Parent trainers lead 15 adult course cycles (8 hours a cycle) at various sites contributing to 74 graduates. The program also hosted 22 Story Exploring Sessions engaging 385 children between the ages of 4-11 with activities that promote reading comprehension, critical thinking, family values, and problem-solving skills. Thanks to feedback from parent trainers, volunteers, and community partners, Mothered/Fathered@ CNMI adopted a new name and logo!

Your Humanities Half-Hour

Your Humanities Half-hour is a 30-minute weekly radio talk show airing on local radio station Power 99, which also streams live on the internet. Hosted and directed by CNMI veteran media and PR personality Catherine Perry, the show welcomed 58 guests speaking on various Marianas-related humanities topics of their experience or expertise, in addition to numerous brief on-the-street interviews. In FY 2019, 38 original broadcasts were produced, including several broadcasts with predominantly indigenous Chamorro and Refaluwasch language usage. Each of these shows were uploaded to the Northern Marianas Humanities Council YouTube channel, along with 12 broadcasts from previous years. A short article featuring the program and a recent episode of David Sablan's accounts of the Battle of Saipan in 1944 was published in the Fall 2019 edition of *Humanities*, the magazine of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

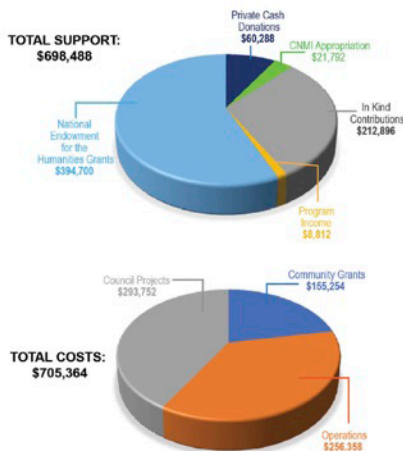
NEH Chairman Visit to Saipan

Jon Peede, Chairman of the National Endowment of the Humanities, visited Saipan on November 14, 2019 and met with students, community groups, and leaders to promote the humanities and learn more about the CNMI and its people. Some of Chairman's impressions were captured on Your Humanities Half-Hour Radio Show which can be accessed online at the Council's YouTube channel.

National Humanities Conference

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council joined Humanities Guåhan, Amerika Samoa Humanities Council, and the Hawaii Council for the Humanities as co-host for the 2019 National Humanities Conference (NHC) in Honolulu, Hawaii between November 7-10, 2019. NHC is coordinated by the Federation of State Humanities Councils and the National Humanities Alliance as a resource to bring together the nationwide network of the 56 state and U.S. territorial humanities councils. As a co-host, our Council facilitated a number of activities and sessions during the conference, including the closing plenary panel entitled, "The Navigators' Water: Traditional Seafaring in the Pacific".

2019 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



Financial Donors

Citizens for Change of Article XII
City Trust
CNMI Government
Duty Free Shoppers - Saipan
Gloria Gavanagh
Guerrero, Hastings, and Davey, Inc.
Herman T. Guerrero
Insurance and Business Management Corp.
Isa Arriola
Juan S. Tenorio
Juan T. Guerrero & Associates, Inc.
M.S. Vilagomez
Marfega Trading Co., Inc.
Marianas Fast Food, Inc.

Marianas Insurance Company
Marianas Medical Center & Pacific Labs, LLC
Marianas Visitors Authority
Micronesian Telecommunications Corp. (IT&E)
Mobil Oil Marianas Islands, Inc.
Ni Delson Guerrero
Royal Travel Saipan
Saipan Sprints, LLC
Tan Su Lin Foundation
The Law Offices of Michael A. White
Thomas Voss
Triple J Saipan
Wendi Herzig

Volunteers

Adam Walsh
Ajani Burrell
Amador Yu
Anita Sablan
Armi Atalig
Bryan Mojica
Daniel Brown
Dawn Torres
Dora
Edward Hofschneider
Dr. Elizabeth Triche
Fatima Manaloto
Isa Arriola
Jana Mack
Janet King
Joe Quinara
Judge Joseph Camacho
Laila Staffier
Mark Soroda
Paul Mura
Crispin Guerrero
Pastor Ray Kinsella
Reo Arriola
Ryan Camacho
Samuel Westbrooks
Sarah Westbrooks
Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio
Vander Wax
Victoria Nishide
Judge Wesley Bopdan
Zaldy Dandan

NOTABLE ACTIVITIES

50th Anniversary of the Micronesian Repatriation Association of Okinawa Visit to Saipan

The Council printed a graphic card with historical information about Okinawans who lived in the Mariana Islands prior to War War II which was distributed during the 50th anniversary of the Micronesian Repatriation Association of Okinawa visit Saipan on August 29, 2019.

PIC Filmmaker's Lab

The Council provided travel support for 4 CNMI residents to travel to a 3-day filmmaker's lab at the Guam Museum - an event sponsored by the Pacific Islanders in Communication and the Guam International Film Festival between March 21-23, 2019.

6th Annual Women's Summit

The Council provided travel support for Rlene Steffy, Ethnographer and Oral Historian of the Micronesian Area Research Center to participate in the 6th Annual Women's Summit on March 29, 2019 as its keynote speaker.