



Dear Friends of the Humanities:

As much as this news is difficult to share, our community must be made aware of the immediate threat to our work and the public humanities across the U.S.

Yesterday, I received a series of emails from Acting Chair Michael McDonald of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) notifying us that the agency had terminated all grants awarded to the Northern Marianas Humanities Council in their entirety, effective April 2, 2025.

Our Council has been an independent affiliate of NEH for over 33 years, working in partnership with the agency to provide vital programs and activities that advance the humanities in our Commonwealth. In addition to the public-facing humanities projects we have conducted since 1991, we have awarded a total of \$1,412,493 in the form of subgrants to individuals and groups, providing critical funding support for 222 humanities projects in the CNMI.

Today, NEH grants awarded to our Council account for approximately 93% of our annual operations and programmatic expenses. We currently receive no funding from the CNMI government and cash donations from supporters like you amount to 5% of our total revenues.

Needless to say, the loss of NEH funding will severely diminish our ability to continue serving our Commonwealth, eliminating programs essential to our cultural infrastructure.

In the CNMI, we could lose:

- support for literacy, local authorship, and scholarship in the humanities like our annual [Sengebau Poetry Competition](#);
- vital support for CNMI-wide K-12 teachers and students, including our plans to offer adult conversational Chamorro and Carolinian courses for parents of students in CNMI PSS's Chamorro Carolinian Language and Heritage courses;
- projects that document, preserve, and promote CNMI history and cultural heritage much of which is held in our [Digital Archive](#);
- activities that support civic engagement and foster critical thinking and dialogue on topics and issues important to our citizens as reflected in our [Marianas Values](#) research project;

- programs that promote awareness and understanding of the experiences and perspectives of our diverse community, and made available in various media formats like our weekly [Your Humanities Half-hour Show](#); and
- our [Community Grant Program](#) which provides our citizens and local nonprofits with the agency and funding support to implement public humanities projects to address our community needs.

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council works in Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, and supports regional concerns through the Pacific Islands Humanities Network.

HOW TO TAKE ACTION

- Contact your elected officials in the U.S. Congress. For residents of the CNMI, contact [Representative Kimberlyn King-Hinds](#) and express your concern for the future of public humanities programs and share stories or experiences you may have that speaks to the impact of our Council and programs.
- Share this message with your family and friends.
- Write a letter or op-ed to the [Marianas Variety News & Views](#).
- Like and share our social media messages.
- [Make a cash donation today](#) to protect the humanities in the Marianas.

More than ever, your voice and action for the humanities is so important. Thank you for your support and courage to stand with us in this fight to protect the vitality of our cultural heritage and the work we do together to navigate and explore the human experience.

Please reach out to me with questions, concerns, or ideas.

Sincerely,



Leo Pangelinan

Executive Director
Northern Marianas Humanities Council