



**CULTURAL CRAFT ARTIST RECOVERY MICROGRANT PROGRAM**  
a program of the Northern Marianas Humanities Council  
**APPLICATION GUIDE**



The Cultural Craft Artist Microgrant Program offers financial support to craft artists residing in the Northern Mariana Islands whose craft practices were negatively impacted by Super Typhoon Sinlaku. Awards are intended to help craft artists recover and continue their practice and contributions to the cultural heritage of the Northern Mariana Islands. Awards will be made to adult residents in need of assistance to resume their craft practices.

The Cultural Craft Artist Recovery Microgrant Program is made possible through the generous support of CERF+. Guided by generosity, inclusion, and care, CERF+ supports and empowers craft artists through emergency relief, education, and preparedness.

## **I. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

- Applicant must be 18 years of age or older.
- Applicant must be a CNMI resident.
- Applicant must demonstrate ongoing, pre-disaster engagement as a Cultural Craft Artist in one or more of the following areas:
  - i. Traditional weaving, plaiting, and basketry
  - ii. Shell-based work and handmade adornment (including jewelry)
  - iii. Textile and fiber-based cultural making practices
  - iv. Embroidery, beadwork, and decorative surface techniques
  - v. Regalia and ceremonial clothing creation
  - vi. Traditional carving and woodworking practices
  - vii. Canoe-related making traditions and seafaring cultural objects
  - viii. Pottery, ceramics, and earth-based object making
  - ix. Masks, ceremonial implements, and performative cultural objects
  - x. Handcrafted musical instruments and sound-producing cultural objects
  - xi. Handmade garments, accessories, and wearable cultural expressions
  - xii. Quilting, knitting, crochet, and other stitch-based textile traditions
  - xiii. Doll-making and storytelling objects that carry cultural narrative and memory
  - xiv. Printmaking, woodcut, and hand-pressed visual culture practices
  - xv. Bookmaking, handmade paper, and narrative or archival object forms
  - xvi. Mixed-media cultural works that integrate multiple hand-based traditions
- Applicant demonstrates engagement in one or more cultural craft art practices that were negatively impacted by Super Typhoon Sinlaku.
- Applicant's cultural craft art practices are for non-profit purposes with a public-facing component.

## **II. APPLICATION DEADLINE**

A completed, signed application form and supporting materials must be submitted by July 15, 2026.

## **III. DEFINITIONS**

**CNMI Resident** – an individual registered to vote in CNMI elections.



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**Cultural Craft Artist** – For the purposes of this program, a Cultural Craft Artist is an individual based in the Northern Mariana Islands whose primary or sustained artistic practice centers on the creation of handmade material cultural expressions that reflect, transmit, or are informed by Chamorro, Carolinian, and other cultural knowledge systems of the Northern Mariana Islands.

**Cultural Heritage of the Northern Mariana Islands** – The cultural heritage of the Northern Mariana Islands encompasses the living and inherited traditions, knowledge systems, languages, practices, and material culture of the Chamorro and Carolinian peoples, along with the histories and contributions of other communities that have shaped life in the islands. It includes both tangible and intangible expressions—such as arts, crafts, seafaring and navigational knowledge, ceremonial practices, oral traditions, music, dance, foodways, and historic sites—that are passed down, adapted, and sustained across generations within the CNMI.

**Public-Facing Activities** – activities that prioritize public engagement, collaborative knowledge-making, and civic reflection.

#### **IV. AWARD REVIEW CRITERIA AND PROCESS**

Applicants will be evaluated along the following criteria:

- Age and residency eligibility requirements.
- Applicant demonstrates that one or more craft art practice were negatively impacted by Super Typhoon Sinlaku.
- Applicant demonstrates that the affected craft art practice are conducted for nonprofit purposes and include a public-facing component that benefits the community.
- Applicant demonstrates how the requested award will advance, restore, strengthen, expand, or sustain the cultural heritage of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Applications will be reviewed for eligibility within two weeks of the application deadline. Successful applicants will receive an award notification via email and a check payment for the award within one week of receiving this notice.

#### **V. AWARD DETERMINATION**

Following the eligibility review process, the total funds available under this program (\$10,000) will be divided equally among all eligible applicants approved for funding. While individual award amounts are anticipated to fall between \$250 and \$500, the final award amount will be determined by the total number of approved applicants.

#### **VI. APPLICATION CHECK LIST**

- Submit a copy of a government-issued photo identification card with date of birth.
- Submit a copy of a valid CNMI voter registration card.



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- Submit a completed, signed application form.

**VII. SUBMISSION GUIDELINES**

Submit a complete application packet by email, hand delivery, or online form submission by July 15, 2026.

- Grant applications and supporting materials submitted via email must be submitted as one pdf document to [info@nmhcouncil.org](mailto:info@nmhcouncil.org).
- Hand delivery submissions must be made to the Northern Marianas Humanities Council office located at Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai, Saipan by 4:30PM.
- Online form can be accessed at <https://www.nmhcouncil.org/sinlaku-app>