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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Guam Council on the Arts and Humanities Agency (CAHA)
Awards Grants to Organizations and Individuals for Fiscal Year 2021 and CARES Act Relief Funding**

[Hagåtña, Guam, December 18, 2020] – The Board of Directors of the Guam Council on the Arts and Humanities Agency (CAHA) is pleased to announce the award of 15 community grants and 20 CAHA CARES Act Relief funding awards. Through financial support from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the CARES Act program, CAHA was able to award \$211,585 in grants to various organizations and individuals from Guam's creative community.

CAHA's community grant program awarded a total of \$96,985 for fiscal year 2021 through the support of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in the categories of arts-in-education, folk arts, media arts, performing arts, special projects, visual arts and the underserved:

1. \$5,100 to the GDOE, CHamoru Studies Division for their project entitled "Estorian Hinenggen CHamoru Siha" to create curriculum books in the CHamoru language.
2. \$5,100 to UOG Press for their project "Nihi Ta Fanekungok Taiguini" to produce 3 audio books in the CHamoru language.
3. \$10,000 to TASA (Traditions Affirming Our Seafaring Ancestry) to repair and restore a sailing canoe - sakman called "Saina".
4. \$2,785 to Geraldine Unpingco for "Yengyong, Yengyong Munga Mamahlo," a project to produce recordings of familiar children's song in CHamoru.
5. \$3,000.00 to Ruzelle Judicpa to produce "Good" a film based on the complexity of depression.
6. \$7000.00 to Margarita Dancel for the production of Moana Jr.
7. \$7000.00 to Mervin Tamayo for the production of Miss Saigon.
8. \$3,000 to Frank Candaso Jr. for his project entitled "Resources for Education and Advocating Reading (READ) to create local children books featuring Guam's scenery, animals and that

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- focus on social emotional learning during a time of uncertainty brought on by COVID-19 in the CHamoru, Chuukese, and Tagalog or Filipino Language.
9. \$5,000 to Inadahān I Lina'la Koturan CHamoru for their project entitled “Is our culture really important? No more talk...Action Required”. The project aims to bring together cultural practitioners and producers to discuss the strategies, partnerships and support needed to bring Guam’s Sagan Kotturan CHamoru (SKC) to its fullest potential while maintaining the respect, honor, dignity and beauty deserving of our CHamoru culture.
 10. \$8,000 to Michael Bevacqua, for his project entitled “An Taya Elektrisidat to produce a bilingual book that tells the story of 2 young children who are struggling with the lack of activities on Guam following a natural disaster and the creative ways for them to have fun.
 11. \$1,000 to Johanna Salinas for her project called “My New Normal”, a book of poems that expresses her feeling during this time of COVID-19.
 12. \$10,000 to Elizabeth Abuan for her project entitled “Treasure Chest”; to conduct art workshops at a homeless shelter. Participants will be taught to create art utilizing recyclable materials that could generate a source of income.
 13. \$10,000 to Kirsten Rosario’s for her project entitled “ASL Interpreting Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing”. Distance and regular sign language interpretive services for members of the Guam deaf and hard of hearing community including artisans will be provided and give them equal access to arts, culture, education and safety information.
 14. \$10,000 to Shannon San Nicolas for his project entitled “Personality Matrix during a Pandemic”. The project aims to use art as a means to raise awareness and help people, especially young folks with mental and post traumatic stress deal with the isolation and the problems brought on by the pandemic.
 15. \$10,000.00 to the Farmer’s Cooperative Association of Guam for their project “I Metkao” to create culture centric graphic murals at the public market facility.

Many of the FY 2021 grants met the following grant lines: Arts & Humanities in Times of Crisis, Sustaining the Arts and Humanities, Keeping your distance, and Arts and Humanities, Identity and Social Justice.

Eight (8) nonprofit organizations and twelve (12) individual artists received a total of \$114,600 through the CAHA CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act grant program. Of this amount, \$62,201 went to nonprofit arts and cultural organizations or organizations with arts-related programming. The remaining \$52,399 was awarded to individual artists. “While these grants are a drop in the bucket for our struggling creative community, we are grateful that we were able to provide this relief through the support of the National Endowment for the Arts and the CARES ACT program” said Jillette Leon Guerrero, CAHA Executive Director.

For further information, contact Jackie Balbas, Program Coordinator IV at 300-1205 or via email at jacqueline.balbas@caha.guam.gov.

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