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### Announcement of CJ Ochoco as the new Executive Director



Hagåtña, GU – The Board of Directors of Humanities Guåhan is pleased to announce the appointment of CJ Ochoco as its new Executive Director. CJ is a Guåhan-raised creative who has worked for the past six years, co-founding and managing Breaking Wave Theatre Company, a nonprofit organization that aims to use theatre and the arts to nurture individuals and build communities.

Since 2017, CJ has also served as a Student Success Coach and the Advanced Program and National Test Center Coordinator at the University of Maryland Global Campus. She holds a BA in Fine Arts: Theatre from the University of Guam (2016), a Master of Arts in Leadership and Cultural Management through Colorado State University (2019), and a Graduate Certificate and Master's Degree in Strategic Communications from the University of Maryland Global Campus (2023).

"We were so impressed by CJ throughout the interview process," says Board Chairperson Beth Perez. "Following our national search, we are indeed honored to return home to a talented local professional with such poise, knowledge, and dedication to advancing the public humanities discourse on island."

CJ is passionate about using creative storytelling to perpetuate the CHamoru culture and the cultures of all those who call Guåhan home. "I am eager to embark on this journey as the next Executive Director of Humanities Guåhan and look forward to empowering the diverse voices and cultures that makeup Guåhan, as well as supporting and uplifting the CHamoru people, by making the Humanities accessible for all," says CJ.

CJ will succeed Dr. Kimberlee Kihleng, Humanities Guåhan's long-serving Executive Director, who is embarking on new life adventures with her family in Aotearoa New Zealand and Toronto, Canada.

CJ will officially begin her work leading Humanities Guåhan on April 1, 2024.

Humanities Guåhan is a nonprofit organization deeply committed to supporting the people of Guåhan through foundational support and educational programs. Our mission is to foster community engagement and dialogue, inspire critical thinking, celebrate diversity, and enhance the quality of life for island residents through the transformative power of the humanities.

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