

Kintusi I Hanom seeks to privilege the voices and perspectives of Pacific Islanders about the deep cultural importance and meaning of water in their lives. These stories of water are from indigenous Chamorros and other Micronesians-those who trace their heritage to the Federated States of Micronesia, Palau and the Marshall Islands. Kintusi I Hanom is a collaborative pilot project between Humanities Guåhan and the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service through funding from the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center.

The voices that are heard in stories, chants, poetry, personal narratives, reflections and other forms of creative expression have been collected and curated for presentation in this interactive digital kiosk as part of the Water/Ways and Hita I Hanom exhibitions. Kintusi I Hanom serves as an important and necessary space for the often marginalized voices of indigenous peoples to be recognized and celebrated. Speaking to water in the diverse indigenous languages of Guam and Micronesia is particularly significant.

Storytelling, oral histories and cultural traditions throughout Pacific Islands societies are important and highly respected forms of knowledge. Such knowledge is passed down through families, clans and communities over generations and/or reiterated in a more contemporary context through narratives, poetry, performance and other creative forms. Storytelling is therefore a part of Pacific Islander identity and is a lived experience. Through Kintusi I Hanom, participating Chamorros and Micronesians share their cultural knowledge in relation to the physical, spiritual, creative, economic and political aspects of water in video and audio recordings co-curated with Humanities Guåhan.

This project provides an invaluable opportunity to engage with Chamorros and Micronesians about the power of water in their histories, arts and cultures, and to preserve their water stories as an important part of their heritage and identity.

PROJECT STORYTELLERS

The late Manny Sikau, Master Navigator Antonio Piailug, Master Canoe Builder Sesario Sewralur, Master Navigator Rosemarie Camacho and Joe Nowell, Animun Tasi Paddlers

Patrick Cruz Flores, Surfer Sam Ilesugam and Alexius Saulis, Community Leader and Chanter

Jonathan Guerrero, Fisherman Kintina Rapun, Community Leader

Elfrie Koshiba and Yukie Teriong, Community Leader and Taro Gardener

Marie Auyong, Educator

Craig Santos Perez, Scholar and Poet Vicky Lola Leon Guerrero, Scholar and Writer Jo Nita Kerr, Educator Leonard Iriarte, Master Chanter Emelihter Kihleng, Scholar and Poet

Jay Pascua, Poet, Chanter and Artist Cara Flores-Mays and Duk Duk Goose, Inc. (Nihi TV Show), Education

PROJECT VIDEOGRAPHERS

Brian Muna, Brian Muna Films Edgar Flores and John Leon Guerrero, Edgar Flores Photo/Video

PROJECT CURATORS

Kimberlee Kihleng Monaeka Flores Nedine Songeni

PROJECT DESIGNER

Mary Camacho, Mylo Design

A special thank you goes to Dr. Larry and Cheryl Cunningham and Ward Kranz for sharing the film of the construction and launch of Lien Polowat. UMI Studios Japan was kind enough to allow Humanities Guåhan to use clips of the film for the project video of the late Manny Sikau. We are very grateful.



Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center





