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Humanities Guahan Announces New Community Conversations Project

Hagåtña, Guam— Humanities Guåhan is pleased to present *Reimagining Guåhan: Social Justice through a Humanities Lens*, an upcoming civic reflection conversations project that explores important issues for our island community, including migration and belonging, cultural resilience and identity, decolonization and self-determination, environmental sustainability in the face of climate change, LGBTQ experiences, and increased militarization.

This community conversations project is a part of the National Endowment for the Humanities initiative, *“A More Perfect Union”: America at 250*, which encourages programs and projects that explore, reflect, and tell the stories of America’s quest for a more just, inclusive, and sustainable society throughout the nation’s history.

Through *Reimagining Guåhan*, Humanities Guåhan will privilege the perspectives and experiences of underserved communities on the island, specifically CHamorus and those who trace their heritage to the Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, and the Marshall Islands. These Pacific Islander voices and many others will be heard through poetry, essays, chants, personal narratives, film, or other forms of creative expression,

and in meaningful humanities-based discussions with diverse groups of residents in a variety of settings around the island about important social justice issues that affect community life and can empower positive change.

Reimagining Guåhan will launch in February 2022 and continue through September 2022. In preparation for the project launch, Humanities Guåhan will bring two master trainers to Guam from Oregon Humanities in late January 2022 to work with a new cohort of civic reflection facilitators. In the coming week, Humanities Guåhan will provide more information on this valuable training opportunity.

The newly trained facilitators will lead twenty community conversations series with each series consisting of weekly 90-minute conversations for six weeks. Two larger conversation events with 60-100 participants are also planned and will feature international and Guam-based scholars, cultural experts, and/or artists.

According to Executive Director Kimberlee Kihleng, "Reimagining Guåhan is an important opportunity for Humanities Guåhan to engage with island residents on timely social justice issues that affect our community through meaningful conversations led by trained facilitators. We look forward to launching the project and are thankful to the National Endowment for the Humanities for making the funding possible."

Humanities Guåhan is a nonprofit organization that provides foundational support and educational resources for the people of Guam. The mission of Humanities Guåhan is to foster community engagement and dialogue, inspire critical thinking, celebrate diversity, and enrich the quality of life of island residents through the power of the humanities.

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More Resources

NEH's "A More Perfect Union": America at 250 by the National Endowment of the Humanities. <https://www.neh.gov/250>.

