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Humanities Guåhan Launches *Kuentusi i Tano'* Video Project

Hagåtña, Guam – On Friday, December 17 Humanities Guåhan launches its first in a series of videos, which explore topics and expressions of indigenous cultural and spiritual connections to the land. *Kuentusi i Tano' (Speaking to Land)* seeks to promote indigenous Pacific Islander voices, cultures, and practices through accessible digital spaces, while preserving living histories and traditions, and creative expressions and stories.

A total of three (3) videos were created with grant funding from the Guam Economic Development Agency (GEDA) Qualifying Certificate Community Contribution (QCCC) program, Guam Regional Medical City and TNN Guam dba Tsubaki Hotel; and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). These videos, which are a part of an ongoing series, were produced in collaboration with project videographer Brian Muna (Brian Muna Films), and feature CHamoru landscapes, personal narratives and other forms of creative expression about farming practices, history, cultural identity and sense of place.

Historian and scholar Christine Taitano DeLisle shares her poem [*In the Company of Butterflies*](#) (published in *A Pacific Collection: Readings for Civic Reflection*, 2011), where she reflects on the connection between physical and emotional

landscapes, and calls for the preservation of these sacred spaces. In [Farming Sovereignty in Guåhan](#), Jessica Nangauta, lanchera and manager of University of Guam Triton Farms, reflects on and emphasizes the importance of generational farming and food sovereignty. And in [Reflecting on CHamoru Identity Through Archaeology](#), Alea Rosario Dugan, indigenous archaeologist, speaks about archaeology in Guåhan, various archaeological sites in Tumon and throughout the island, and acknowledges some of the challenges surrounding cultural and historic preservation in Guåhan.

Kuentusi i Tano' is a continuation of Humanities Guåhan's *Kuentusi i Hanom (Speaking to Water)* 2017 film project, which explores stories about the deep cultural importance and meaning of water in our lives. Like *Kuentusi i Hanom*, *Kuentusi i Tano'* privileges the voices and perspectives of Pacific Islanders, specifically indigenous CHamorus and those who trace their heritage to other islands in Micronesia - the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), the Republic of Palau and the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI). In expanding on the *Kuentusi i Hanom* project, Humanities Guåhan also highlights the importance of place, inclusive of both *i tano'* and *i tasi* (the land and the ocean), and the invaluable cultural stories and voices embedded within them.

These video projects are accessible on [Humanities Guåhan's YouTube channel](#), as well as through the [Humanities Guåhan website](#). For more information about this and other Humanities Guåhan programs, email us at info@humanitiesguahan.org; or directly at nduenas@humanitiesguahan.org or kkihleng@humanitiesguahan.org.

Humanities Guåhan is a nonprofit organization that provides foundational support and educational programs 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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