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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - February 4, 2021

Hagåtña, Guam—Humanities Guåhan is pleased to present the second webinar in our "*Unincorporated: Voting, Voices and Visions para Guåhan*" webinar series, "Words & Reflections From the Commission on Decolonization," featuring COD Executive Director Melvin Won-Pat Borja.

Words & Reflections from the Commission on Decolonization  
featuring Executive Director Melvin Won Pat-Borja  
Online Webinar Presentation  
Saturday, February 13, 2021  
11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

To Register: <https://hg-votingvoicesvisions-cod.eventbrite.com>  
To View Live on Facebook: <http://facebook.com/humanitiesguahan>

"*Unincorporated: Voting, Voices and Visions para Guåhan*" explores why civic engagement matters by delving into the political history of Guam and the histories, experiences and diverse perspectives of the island's indigenous people. The upcoming *Unincorporated* magazine and this five-part series of webinars feature CHamoru scholars, civil servants, creative writers and artists in conversation as they share their work, views and visions for the future on issues of civic engagement, voting rights and self-determination.

In this second *Unincorporated* webinar, Won Pat-Borja will highlight the history of the establishment of the Commission on Decolonization, and discuss the commission's current work within the community. The presentation will also feature a special address from Commission on Decolonization Chairwoman Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero. The series' inaugural webinar, *Ti Måmakpo': CHamoru Self-Determination*, featuring celebrated historian and scholar Dr. Robert Underwood in conversation with community advocate and poet Selina Onedera-Salas, is available for view on Humanities Guåhan's Facebook page, <http://facebook.com/humanitiesguahan>.

Humanities Guåhan presents *Unincorporated* with funding support from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in partnership with the Federation of State Humanities Councils. *Unincorporated* is part of a \$1.96 million nationwide initiative, "*Why It Matters: Civic and Electoral Participation*," which provides non-partisan, free programming in 43 states and territories exploring the roles that civic and electoral engagement play in establishing and sustaining democracy.

Melvin Won Pat-Borja is the Executive Director of the Commission on Decolonization, the President of the Department of CHamoru Affairs, and acting Director of the Guam Public Library System. Prior to his appointment, he served as an educator in the public school system for over a decade, most recently with Southern High School. Melvin holds a B.Ed. in Secondary Education and a M.A. in Pacific Island Studies from the University of Hawaii at Mānoa.

The Commission on Decolonization was established by the 24th Guam Legislature in 1997 to enhance the efforts of the Commission on Self-Determination. Its purpose is to educate the people of Guam on the various political status options available. Since then, the Commission and each respective Task Force have conducted educational and outreach programs including meetings, rallies, and seminars in efforts to inform the public about the decolonization process and three status options - Free Association, Independence, and Statehood.

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.

For More Information:

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*"Unincorporated: Voting, Voices and Visions para Guåhan"* is made possible with funding support from [The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation](#) in partnership with the [Federation of State Humanities Councils](#). Any views expressed in this webinar series and magazine project do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Federation of State Humanities Councils, or Humanities Guåhan.



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