

## Guam Indigenous Heritage Alliance (GIHA)

**Date:** Friday January 14, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.

**Chairperson:** Laura M. T. Souder

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81334969298?pwd=Wk5kQzcyc1N3NXR4aWNOanhKek1VQT09>

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Absent:</b> Michael Blas Makio (MBM) | <b>Members Present:</b> Laura M. T. Souder (LMTS), Michael Lujan Bevacqua (MLB), Hope A. Cristobal (HAC), Anna Marie B. Arceo (AMA), Patrick Lujan (PL), Melvin Won-Pat Borja (MWPB), and Elyssa J. Santos (EJS). |
|   | <b>Visitors:</b> Lincoln Budasi on behalf of The Honorable Speaker Therese M. Terlaje   |

| Order  | Notes  | Action                           |
|--|--|----------------------------------|
| <b>I. Roll Call and Introductions</b>                    | All members present asked to briefly introduce themselves.   | LMTS begins meeting at 2:05 p.m. |
| <b>II. Review of Minutes of Regular November 5, 2021</b> | Members approved minutes from November 5, 2021.  |                                  |
| <b>III. Update on Ongoing Issues of Concern</b>          | <p><b>A. Reorganization of Historic Preservation, status of new proposed legislation - PL</b></p> <p>PL reported that, as of last week, the Governor’s legal team is wrapping up their review of the SHPO’s proposed legislation. SHPO was unable to meet with the legal team last week so PL had asked to share their initial draft of the proposed legislation with GIHA knowing that it is subject to change. He announced that he will send the draft to LMTS to then disseminate it among other GIHA members. After receiving input from the legal team, SHPO can present it on the floor with backing from a legislative standpoint, Governor’s Office, GIHA, and other stakeholders. PL emphasized that the office has been working on the draft for roughly 6y months and that it reflects more than 30 years of exercising day to day operations at SHPO. Essentially, it is their best foot forward and they can now look forward to receiving feedback from</p> |                                  |

legal experts and cultural stakeholders who can review it for information contradictory to any other local statutes. PL hopes that within 15-30 days, SHPO can get feedback from GIHA members and, upon implementation, receive GIHA's full support moving forward. LMTS announced that the time frame between now and our next meeting in February is enough time for members to review the draft.

**B. Status of National Historic Preservation Guidelines for Islands - MBM**

MWPB reported that he has not received any updates on this.

**C. Naftan Update/Other Burial - PL/MWPB**

PL reported that Bill 187-36 did not make it to the session floor in December. He spoke briefly with Senator Nelson as to when this may occur. In the meantime, he is developing a cooperative agreement between SHPO, UOG, and DCA on the burial inventory project which should proceed in parallel with the building of the NAFTAN Mañaina-ta. It is a multi-year agreement that all 3 parties are in favor of. They are currently crafting an agreement on stakeholder responsibilities. The 3 parties agreed that the burden of finding funding would fall under SHPO while UOG would provide most of the labor as far as the inventory process. UOG staff and students would be responsible for conducting studies and inventory work. Those studies that have been completed - as far as data collection is concerned - could lead to immediate re-interment and those lacking data or proper inventory can possibly be reinterred on a yearly basis.

LMTS emphasized that when the archeological reports are done for the burial sites, GIHA can ensure that we have the most comprehensive information. She noted that SHPO is the main repository for archeological reports. Considering that these public documents are not easily discernible, GIHA's role can be to translate this information into a story that accompanies a site interpretation or description. This would be an expansion of the work of the Kumisión which is currently documenting genealogies of people and place. LMTS also noted that GIHA should pay close attention to recordation of periodization that include the use of terms such as "pre-contact" and "pre-colonial". The Kumisión has already weighed in on this with archeologists so that naming periods can be more reflective of our CHamoru ethos.

GIHA members to review draft and provide comments directly to SHPO. – PL.

MWPB added that UOG, DCA, and SHPO discussed the holdings of the remains that will go into the NAFTAAN. UOG had concerns about work and storage space. MWPB mentioned that the question of whether the cultural repository can be used for such purposes is still unclear because it is not designed to handle human remains. He echoed PL's report on stakeholder responsibilities and added that UOG will be hiring an Osteologist and use UOG students for inventories and the actual finalization of inventories.

MLB is working on a draft manual for the GCR which says that the GCR can be used for the temporary storage and assessment of human remains so long as there is a timeline indicating a set time that remains are going to leave. DCA needs to get the draft manual ratified by the board but he does not feel there will be any objection to this because there is no other appropriate facility that can do this work.

LMTS asked if we would be able to lift the moratorium on receiving different additional holdings from the different archeological firms.

MWPB responded that MLB submitted a proposal for a phased lifting of the moratorium. They are also working on de-accessioning of certain items to create more capacity at the Guam Museum. Once the repository is fully functioning, it will make a significant impact on their capacity. MWPB added that the doors of GCR should be open well ahead of their expiration of their lease at the Flores Building so theoretically DCA can still utilize the Flores Building as additional space. However, MWPB feels that this is problematic as it is not designed to preserve the island's historical property. There is also a very real possibility that once the GCR is open, Mr. Flores may decide that he is done working with DCA. However, DCA has a contract that would hold him to his end of the agreement. At the moment, MWPB cannot predict the timeline for lifting the current moratorium. The board has already approved the first phase.

LMTS asked if we know if the material that will be studied in the GRC has any relationship with what will go into the NAFTAAN. MWPB replied that what will go in the NAFTAAN is well defined and will be based on the time of discovery - pre-1989. One of the challenges that they are facing is that there are a number of sites that are post-1989 for which there is no responsible party anymore. The question is *what do we do with those remains?* They want to re-inter the remains with dignity and include them in the NAFTAAN. However, the question is will this create problems in the future and open the floodgates for other

companies who discover remains to ask why they cannot inter or store other remains there.

LMTS stated that just because the cap was 1989, does not mean that there were discoveries beyond 1989 in the same area that related to the same settlement - this is one issue. *How do we arbitrarily divide findings that are part of a single settlement if they were archeologically surveyed at different periods of time?* The 1989 limit, from her perspective, was operating under the assumption that when finds were made, that the property owners would take the responsibility for re-interring. This is not what is necessarily happening and our mañaina are not being respected in that regard. She proposes that we need to revisit the NAFTA law or seek clarification so that it forces property owners after 1989 to comply or to incorporate remains that come from a site that was partially surveyed prior to 1989. She feels that decisions should be driven by the protection of the burials rather than the dates when archeological firms conducted their work.

PL stated that as far as how SHPO handles these cases, anything that is found should not be touched. If they have to be reburied, it should be closest to the site. In his experience, when a company bellies up and is no longer in existence, the SHPO is left asking what they need to do. SHPO is doing the best they can to hold existing companies responsible. The companies that are no longer in existence are the exceptions to the rule. LMTS responded that those human remains may need to be incorporated into the NAFTA. PL responded that this does not have to be done legislatively and can be done at a procedural level by the SHPO.

HAC asked PL to inform her of the person to address a letter she is preparing regarding a request for public access to the burials. While there is a no-access policy, she feels the request should still be made. PL responded that it would be by installation and that he would provide her with the information she is requesting via text.

#### **D. Cultural Repository - MWPB**

MWPB stated that the GCR is behind. It was supposed to have been completed by the end of December. The report from UOG is that they are not expecting to be ready for another 2 or 3 months. DCA got word from the Governor to work with DLM to resolve the land issue because the law says that the land would be given to UOG for use of the repository but the deed has not been fully executed. The Governor has

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
|  | <p>thus asked that DCA keep the land with the Government of Guam so that there will be less challenges for DCA to operate repository. If the deed fully executes, it means that DCA would have to have an MOU with UOG to connect the power. MWPM would personally like the land to stay with DCA, but the arrangement could still be workable if it stays with the Government of Guam somehow.</p> <p><b>E. Kumisión’s Relocation Status - AMA</b><br/> AMA reported that the Kumisión submitted an invitation for bid today with GSA. As soon as the GSA clears the IFB, the Kumisión will be able to put an announcement in the newspaper. AMA hopes that this can be as soon as next week. In the Kumisión’s market research, they found about 5 places that may qualify for the bid. AMA stated that the biggest obstacle is that people are hesitant to put in bids for the Government of Guam because whoever is bidding is required to put in a certain percentage in order for them to qualify, similar to a bond.</p>   |  |
| <p><b>IV. Upcoming Member Events or Activities Needing Support</b></p> | <p><b>A. Mes CHamoru and Mother Tongue Day Proclamation and Resolution Signing LMTS</b><br/> LMTS reported that in 2021 these two efforts were joined and took place virtually. Both the governor and speaker issued the proclamation and resolution respectively. It occurred on Mother Tongue Day, February 21 and concurrently became the kickoff for Mes CHamoru. The CHamoru program at GDOE is usually responsible for the Mes CHamoru kick-off and Jimmy Teria of GDOE’s CHamoru Studies Program has already informed us that the theme has been selected. EJS will follow up as to the theme selected.<br/> LMTS proposed that GIHA plan the event for this year. This decision was agreeable to the rest of the GIHA members The Kumisión has agreed to draft the proclamation and resolution in both English and CHamoru. The signing event will also officially kickoff Mes CHamoru activities.<br/> LMTS stated these events can be merged with GIHA’s first virtual Networking event. New GIHA members can witness the proclamation and resolution signing including the organizations on and off-island. LMTS also announced that on January 26th at 2:00am CHST, there is a conference sponsored by UNESCO relevant to indigenous language</p> | <p>Kumision will draft resolution and proclamation and prepare invites for island and off-island invitees – Elyssa and Flo are staff assigned to coordinate.</p> <p>DCA/Museum will coordinate the logistics for zoom meeting including livestreaming feature for Governor’s Office and video recording for GIHA’s archive.</p> <p>GIHA members to develop program lineup at February 4<sup>th</sup> meeting and finalize details.</p> <p>LMTS will emcee event.</p> <p>Members are to help look into a dance or chant group to perform a blessing to open the event.</p> <p>Lincoln Budasi was asked to follow up with the speaker on the Resolution.</p> |

preservation and continuity. GIHA can register and attend as it will inform us of UNESCO's proclamation of the decade.

**B. CHamoru Village Upgrade Project**

MWPB stated that DCA is looking for more grants.

**C. Kumision's Place Naming Efforts**

EJS introduced the Guam Place Names project under the Kumisión I Fino' CHamoru. The Kumisión is wrapping up its first research phase on village names. It is embarking on the second phase of the project with grant funding on its way. The second phase will focus on identifying place names within each village and producing maps for the community. The task of documenting histories of place through elder interviews is ongoing.

**D. Archiving Collections**

LMTS proposed that a meeting be held between all parties overseeing repositories and collections to discuss the possibility of aligning our archival and cataloging inventory numbering systems. UOG is helping the Kumisión with this process and they can likewise seek uniformity with the Guam Museum and SHPO's processes.

PL reported that the SHPO needs to begin digitizing its archives for the sake of protecting the data. If anyone is engaged in digitizing efforts, he would like their office to get involved.

MWPB stated that the Lieutenant Governor had asked him to stay connected to the archive. He reported that a grant from DOI that went to the Governor's Office was sub-granted to the Guam Public Library System. The archive is under the Nieves Flores Library One of the things they were trying to do was secure infrastructural needs first before starting to scan and digitize documents. They also need to update the HVAC and digital service. They are working with xerox to add a scanning station that is built for odd-shaped items.

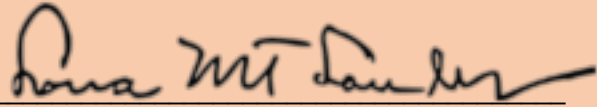
As far as addressing digitizing needs, SHPO was also thinking of developing a summer internship program. As long as infrastructure is in place, SHPO can make a big dent during a summer program.

MWPB's understanding is that there was talk about one contract to manage the sheer volume of the archive. The goal is to make the entire archive online and digital. There has to be equipment purchased by the Government

Schedule meeting with representatives of repositories for March (March 4<sup>th</sup> GIHA meeting at 3 pm) to discuss ways we can collaborate.

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
|  | <p>of Guam to maintain this effort and the Lieutenant Governor would like us to be deliberate in archiving, such as doing so for purposes of education. The hope is to be able to digitize museum artifacts and use them virtually in the future. There is a lot more that needs to go into planning and procurement.</p>  |   |
| <p>C. <b>Community Outreach Strategy</b></p> | <p><b>A. Community Outreach Strategy</b><br/> Update on network members - EJS reported that 1 additional member has filled out our survey. We now have a total of 18 members.<br/> Planning on first virtual network event to coincide with Kick off for Mes CHamoru and Mother Tongue Day proclamation.<br/> Refer to notes on Mes CHamoru and Mother Tongue Day Proclamation.<br/> All members agreed with LMTS’s proposal to combine events, invite the Governor, Lt. Governor, and Speaker, and have each GIHA member present an overview of their visions and projects.<br/> MLB discussed the logistical concerns of hosting a hybrid event so members agreed that the event will take place virtually. The Guam Museum can only house a little more than 25 people although they try to observe this cap.<br/> HAC suggested that we have PBS record the event.<br/> LMTS asked members to report at our February meeting on the areas they are responsible for so that we can finalize plans and issue invitations roughly 2 weeks prior to the event.</p> | <p>Each GIHA member is asked to prepare 5-minute presentation.</p> <p>EJS and Kumisión to announce next quarterly virtual gathering and ask network members to briefly present their mission, vision, and projects.</p> |
| <p>CI. <b>Other Business</b></p>             | <p><b>Registry of Historic Places</b><br/> PL noted that there are a few sites going up on the register for historic places. Malia Ramirez will be sending this list to the Kumisión for a review of the proper place names of these locations as some are western names.</p>  | <p>Review sites shared by Malia Ramirez when they become available.</p>   |
| <p>CII. <b>Adjournment</b></p>               | <p>The next meeting will be held on February 4th, 2022 at 2:00pm.</p>  | <p>LMTS adjourned the meeting at 3:20 pm.</p>   |

Prepared by Elyssa Santos (Kumisión i Fino' CHamoru) and approved by:



**Laura M. T. Souder, GIHA Chairperson**

**Date: 2/22/22**



**Michael Lujan Bevacqua, GIHA Vice Chairperson**

**Date: 2/22/22**