



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Guam Humanities Council launches opening of *Picturing America, Picturing Guam* Exhibit and Workshops

The Council invites island residents to the opening of *Picturing America, Picturing Guam*, on Thursday, January 27th at 7 p.m. at the Isla Center for the Arts, University of Guam. *Picturing Guam* is a highlight of works from local masters, including Joe Babauta, Monica Baza, Tan Elena Cruz Benevente, Jill Benevente, Sal Bidare, Segundo Blas, Ric Castro, Ron Castro, Manny Crisostomo, Mark Dell'Isola, Judy Flores, Al Lizama, Tun Jack Lujan, Adriano Pangelinan, Lewis Rifkowitz, Kie Susuico and works from the Spanish Documents Collection at the Micronesian Area Research Center. The exhibit will run through February 16, 2011.

The Council and local humanities scholars will conduct educator workshops, beginning Saturday, January 29th at Isla for participating teachers and education students. Participants will learn how *Picturing America and Picturing Guam* can be used in the classroom as an effective educational tool.

Picturing America, Picturing Guam was made possible through a small grant award under the 2008 *We the People Initiative*, National Endowment for the Humanities. *Picturing America* brings high-quality reproductions of American masterpieces into classrooms and libraries, which are used in conjunction with a Teachers Resource Book and program Web site. The project aims to engage students and citizens with a deeper understanding of history and character through the study and appreciation of art.

By featuring work by local masters in *Picturing Guam*, residents will be able to examine our own artistic heritage – painting, sculpture, architecture, fine crafts, and photography – in relation to America's art traditions. Through the lessons and activities developed around the project, students will be able to include local and national art pieces in their investigation of the cultural and political history of our island, as well as the character, ideas and aspirations of a country.

The Guam Humanities Council is a non-profit organization that provides foundational support and cultural and educational programs for the people of Guam. The mission of the Guam Humanities Council 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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