



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Guam Humanities Council publishes *A Pacific Collection – Readings for Civic Reflection*

The Guam Humanities Council is pleased to announce the publication of ***A Pacific Collection – Readings for Civic Reflection***. The book features 20 literary pieces from Chamorro and Pacific Islands writers. The Council used these pieces in their project, *8,000: How Will It Change Our Lives?* Community Conversations on the US Military Buildup in Guam to explore Chamorro history and culture, and Guam's long relationship with the United States.

The Council began the *8,000* project in early 2009 with partial funding support from the National Endowment for the Humanities We The People Initiative to examine the impact of the relocation of military personnel and their families to Guam in 2014 through humanities-based conversations on related themes of service, leadership, community, identity, sustainability and power.

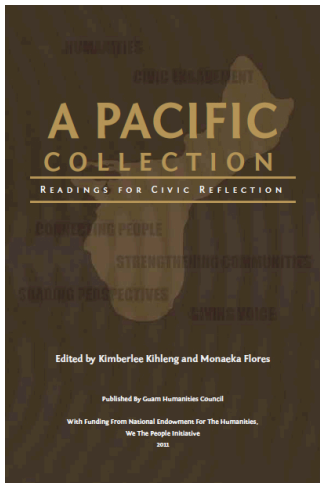
The Council selected the “civic reflection” model to convene conversations with diverse groups of residents in a variety of venues throughout the island, and trained eighteen facilitators in how to use the model. Through civic reflection, individuals are invited to step into a hospitable space where they may critically think and talk about the values and choices we make while living together as a community. Discussion questions were developed for each piece based on the civic reflection model and have been incorporated into the reader.

The Pacific focused poems and essays played an important role in the success of the project by providing the voices essential for civic reflection in Pacific Islands communities. The contributing writers include Brandy Nalani McDougall (Hawaii), Barry Lopez (Hawaii), Craig Santos Perez (Guam), Jay Baza Pascua (Guam), Christine Taitano DeLisle (Guam), Emelihter Kihleng (Pohnpei), Ruperake Petaia (Samoa), Charissa Aguon (Guam), Teresia Teaiwa (Kiribati), and CT Perez Cruz (Guam).

Over a two and a half year period, the Council convened 142 conversations with a wide range of Guam residents (1,775 in total) from college and GED students, the Dededo and Tamuning municipal planning councils, artists and active and retired military personnel to activists, civilian military contractors, legislative staff, community leaders and university professors in forty-eight venues across the island.

Complimentary books will be donated to the islands public and school libraries.

Additional support for the project was provided by the Bank of Guam, Cars Plus, Outrigger Guam Resort, DeLisle's Beauty Supply, Mariacy Beauty Academy, Family Finance Company, Pay-Less Supermarkets, AM Insurance, GFS Group,



Budget Car Rental, Meskla Restaurant, Carmen's Mexican Restaurant, Pacific Daily News, Gabriel's Italian Cuisine, Subway Guam Restaurants, I.P. Coffee Co., and Lorea Industries, Inc.

The Guam Humanities Council is a non-profit organization that provides foundational support 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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