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Fanohge CHamoru Put i Tano'-ta: Charting Our Collective Future



From March 29 through May 31, the [Antonio M. Palomo Guam Museum](#) hosted the “Fanohge CHamoru put i Tano'-ta:

Charting Our Collective Future” exhibition. This temporary exhibition was created to highlight a series of foundational events that depict the island’s journey towards greater self-governance and our ongoing endeavor of achieving true [self-determination](#). A central point in this exhibition was the presentation of these events through the CHamoru/ Chamorro understanding of history as a cyclical construct. Rather than viewing history through a typical linear sense, this circular perspective portrays the past, present, and future as an interconnected series of events that often reflect, build upon and lead back to one another. This was present

throughout the layout of the exhibition, which was designed in a circle that enveloped the walls of the Guam Museum’s changing gallery, culminating in a space for patrons to sit and reflect at the center.

Between May 6 through May 12, the Guam Museum partnered with Guampedia to host a series of guided tours with several hundred island students aging from elementary to university. The goal of these tours was to provide a meaningful immersion experience within the Guam Museum. This was done through the focus on four key objectives: to share the information of Guam’s political status history, build the

connection between Guam’s current struggles and its undecided political self-determination, educate visitors on the three political status options, and highlight how the island’s youth will soon be able to take part in this vote that will determine our collective future.

The first tour hosted 26 5th grade students from Wettengel Elementary School. This consisted of a tour of the museum grounds as well as the temporary exhibit. Upon entering the exhibition, these students were met with a screening of them performing the Fanoghe CHamoru, which they had helped Guampedia to create the previous year. They were then guided throughout the exhibition by docents who shared the story of this

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journey and answered any questions that were asked. The tour ended with time for each student to write their thoughts and create artwork to reflect their experience within the museum. Afterwards, students were treated to a light lunch with a storytime activity on the folktale of [“Sirena.”](#)

Throughout the next tours, the age of students rose, allowing for more parts of the museum to be incorporated. Older students were not only toured around the grounds of the museum and temporary exhibition, but through the “I Hinanao-ta nu i Manaotao Tano’ i CHamoru Siha: The Journey of the CHamoru People” permanent exhibition as well as given a screening of the Guampedia film, [“I Tinituhon.”](#)



Acknowledgements

Designing an exhibition for public display is rarely ever the work of one individual scholar, curator or graphic designer. Like many worthy endeavors, it often takes many hands and minds working together to weave a story that excites, educates, entertains and is pleasing to the senses. “Fanoghe CHamoru Put I Tano-ta: Charting Our Collective Future” represents an example of what can happen when people are willing to share their knowledge, perspectives, experiences and talents in the spirit of *inafa’maolek* and *inagofli’e* for the benefit of our entire community.

It is in this spirit that we express our heartfelt thanks to the following individuals, organizations and entities for their contributions and support—in big and small ways—that have helped us along this journey. Dangkalo’ na si yu’os ma’ase!!

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Historical Highlights

Guam Becomes an American Territory

On June 20, 1898, the Treaty of Paris of 1898 was signed, ending the [Spanish-American War](#). This day marked the transfer of Guam from Spanish administration to an American one. The Americans not only brought a [new style of governance](#) that held the authority to impose a countless [Naval Executive Orders](#) that restricted the local economy, politics, and culture. During this time, known as the [US Naval Era](#), all powers to create, approve, and enforce laws were vested in the highest commanding officer stationed on the island who would act as the [Naval Governor](#).

1st Constitutional Convention

On June 1, 1969, 43 delegates representing each village on Guam convened at the first [Constitutional Convention](#). The purpose of this convention was to call to attention the serious deficiencies the [Organic Act of Guam](#) had posed on the running of the island's government. Over the course of one year, 34 recommendations were highlighted and sent to the US Congress for review. Of these 34, only one was acted upon.

2nd Pacific Preservation Summit

From May 24 to May 26, the [Guam Preservation Trust](#) hosted their 2nd Pacific Preservation Summit. This year's theme, "Technology Empowering Cultural Heritage," brought together hundreds of academics, researchers, professionals, and cultural practitioners from around the Pacific to share their work in the preservation of their people's history, culture, and traditions. This three day event began with a keynote address by [Pale' Eric Forbes](#) at the Antonio M. Palomo Guam Museum. Afterwards, participants engaged in a series of breakout sessions where they could attend informational lectures from among 20 presenters in the field of preservation. These presentations were held in sites throughout Hagåtña, encouraging participants to [explore our island's capital](#).

On day two, participants were welcomed back to the Guam Museum where Joseph D. Franquez gave the keynote address on "How to protect the heritage of our past with the advances of technology." Afterwards, participants were invited to experience the southern part of Guam at the [Valley of the Latte](#). Day three began with remarks from Adelina K. Jose, Consul General of the Palau Consulate, and a keynote address from H. Larry Raigetel. This three day summit was then concluded with a site visit of the [Traditions Affirming our Seafaring Ancestry](#) (TASA) Canoe Hut at the Paseo de Susana. Click here to watch the [keynote addresses](#) of each day at the Pacific Preservation Summit.

