

Know Our Islands, Know Our History
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This new pulan, Lumuhu, signified a time to return, or resume one's route for our ancestors. This may be in relation to seafaring as this time frame signifies the last leg of strong trade winds before the voyaging window closes in our region.



Image: Sandra Iseke Okada • Tasa Voyaging 2017

The Pacific Islands are known for traditions in seafaring and navigation. In Carolinian navigation, from the perspective of the observer, everything on the open ocean is in motion-except the observer. The canoe does not move-rather, its fixed position becomes a reference point around which everything else, the islands, the stars and the ocean, move. This perspective allows the navigator to direct their movement from island to island, often across vast distances. Each island provides an opportunity to connect with others. Each journey brings with it challenges, known, and sometimes, unknown, but the successful seafarer has learned to navigate through the challenges and adapt to changing situations. The navigator, though, does not do it alone, but works with a team where each member contributes their skills, energy and dedication towards getting the canoe to their destination.

Guampedia has been on an amazing journey that has taken us thousands of miles and 15 years of exciting adventures. As a community-based project, we've weathered many challenges, in applying for grants to keep us going, creating new content, editing and fact-checking existing ones, updating relevant information, addressing visitors' comments and inquiries, maintaining our photo and video archives, submitting reports on time, meeting with local leaders and making sure everything on the website is operating smoothly.

It's hard to believe that 15 years ago-or 1950- we launched Guampedia.com as a digital educational resource. Guampedia started as a virtual "vessel" to contain the stories of Guam's past and share that information across vast distances through the Internet. Over the years, Guampedia has evolved into more than a digital repository. Through various projects and community collaborations, Guampedia has also actively engaged with the public and documented our islands' indigenous perspective, cultivating and strengthening connections to land and lineage!

Guampedia.com is 15!

Here are some of the special sections we've created over the years to take visitors on a deeper dive into our islands' unique history and rich cultural heritage!

1) [Archeology of the Marianas](#)

Guampedia, the Richard F. Taitano Micronesian Area Research Center University of Guam, and Guam Preservation Trust collaborated on this collection of 27 essays on archeological knowledge of the Marianas.

2) [Guam's Artists](#)

This artist profiles section is a work in progress that was initiated with a grant from the Guam Council on the Arts and Humanities Agency (CAHA) and with assistance from the Fine Arts department at the University of Guam. The 37 featured artists not only excelled in their craft but also have, in some way, influenced the direction of the arts in Guam over the last century.

3) [Voices of Our Elders](#)

This section began with a grant from the Guam Council on the Arts and Humanities Agency (CAHA) aimed at documenting the unique perspectives and experiences of Guam's manaina, or elders, with topics ranging from folktales, prewar religious history and cultural impacts of important events.

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4) [CHamoru/Chamorro Culture Entries](#)

Explore the 143 written entries about the first people that settled the Marianas. Topics range from cultural values, customs and rituals to tools, trade, and warfare.



Image: Sen. Ben at Finagayan Elementary School for Mes Chamorro, 2012



Image: Lourdes Aflague “Lou” Leon Guerrero, the first woman governor of Guam in November 2018.

I Pineksai - Growing Guampedia

None of this would have been possible without the support of so many in our community. In our rich island traditions, we give honor and respect to our Mañaina—I Manmo’fo’na gi Tano’-ta, our first ancestors and those before us—whose efforts have been a big part of the growing and nurturing, or pineksai, of Guampedia. Guampedia began as a project of the Guam Humanities Council and our first Board President was Lou Leon Guerrero, now serving as Guam’s first Maga’haga. We received financial support from the Government of Guam and the Tourism Attraction Fund (TAF), advocated by difunto (late) Senator Ben Pangelinan who first introduced an appropriation from the TAF for Guampedia’s annual operations and matching requirements for grant funding.

In 2009, Guampedia was incorporated as a nonprofit organization and opened our office at the University of Guam’s Dean Circle. Our relationship with the University has been mutually beneficial and we serve as part of the University’s community engagement platform. Over the years our key partners have helped us develop much of Guampedia’s online content and resources. These community partners include the [Department of Chamorro Affairs](#), [Department of Parks & Recreation](#), [Guam Council on the Arts & Humanities Agency](#), [Guam Museum](#), [Guam National Wildlife Refuge](#), [Guam Preservation Trust](#), [Guam’s Public Library](#), [Guam Visitors Bureau](#), [Northern Marianas Humanities Council](#), [UOG’s Micronesia Area Research Center](#), [War in the Pacific National Historical Park](#) and many other organizations, scholars, practitioners, educators and students.

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GUAMPEDIA



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Para Mo'na: MicrONEsia!

Today, our website averages 34,000 unique visitors a month or about 400,000 visitors annually; more than 900 subscribers receive our monthly Pulan newsletters. In charting Guampedia's course mo'na (forward), we hope that this vessel continues to cultivate connections across generations and to help create an indigenous public memory for our MicrONEsia Archipelago. We will continue to be a reference point for people who have an interest in learning about our islands, as we journey across the Pacific as our ancestors did across our Blue Continent of Micronesia over three millennia. We may come from small islands, but we are connected by a rich and diverse and ancient cultural heritage. We have many stories to share.

Grab a paddle and join us gi i hinanao-ta (in our journey) to know our islands and know our history!



One Archipelago, Many Stories

Healing the Wounds of History
Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
September 1-3, 2023

Marianas History Conference

CALL FOR PAPERS/SESSION PROPOSALS

This year's theme is "Healing the Wounds of History." We invite papers and proposals for sessions related to the theme and the overall history of the Marianas.

[Start now](#)

DEADLINE: JUNE 9, 2023

**CALL FOR
SESSION
PROPOSALS**