

Lightning Monsoon to Sunny Sowing Seeds

In the CHamoru/Chamorro lunar calendar, the months of Lumåmlam and Fangualo are interpreted as a time of lightning and a time for planting. These periods, in a way, reflect the buzz of activity at Guampedia with the Culture of Connecting project and the way we are “planting the seeds” for a great future harvest! Come see what we’ve been up to!

The Foundation and Framework

For the past two years, Guampedia has been engaged in one of its most ambitious projects to date. The Culture of Connecting Educational Recovery Project continues the work we’ve been doing since our inception—providing a digital, easily accessible educational resource and repository—and connecting our different communities in new and exciting ways. Inspired by the 13 pulans or moons of our lunar calendar, this grant supports 13 initiatives, each meant to improve the Guampedia website, expand our educational resources and connect diverse audiences from the Marianas and around the world.

Guampedia 13 Pulans, 13 Initiatives



Tumaiguini **1. Website Update & Redesign**

Update 700 entries. Enhance Educators Portal. Align with GDOE Essential Core Curriculum.



Maimo' **2. Modern Guam Rises from**

Update 700 entries. Enhance Educators Portal. Align with GDOE Essential Core Curriculum.

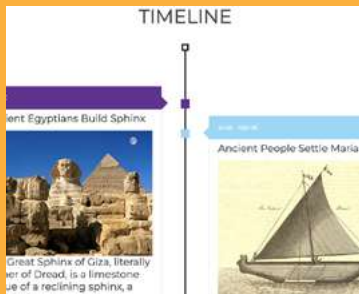


Umatalaf **3. Voices of Our Elder**

Interviews with elders & video production. Provide cultural heritage learning resources.

Each of the 13 Culture of Connecting Initiatives addresses the need for developing more digital content that teachers and students can use. As schools return to a new state of normalcy in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic. New material is being added to our

Modern Guam Rising, Voices of Our Elders and Micronesia Milestones sections. We're improving our gift shop, and our surveys are helping develop a website redesign to make Guampedia even more useful. The grant has also helped us build on relationships with scholars, researchers, artists, and filmmakers to create new resources that document and preserve the history and culture of the Marianas and greater Micronesia.



Lumuhu
4. MicroONEesia Milestones

Work with PATA to develop new regional content to support student engagement.



Makmamao
5. Marianas History Conference

ePublishing of the 5th & 6th conference papers & videos engage students in participating.



Mananaf
6. User Surveys & Profiles

Surveys to curate content for the community. Create new content based on survey analysis.

Governor's Education Assistance & Youth Empowerment Grant Program

The grant award to Guampedia is from the Education Stabilization Funds (ESF), via the Guam Governor's Office. The funding is from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to address the impact of COVID-19 to Guam's educational resources.



Semu
7. Collaboration with UOG Press

Provide historically relevant materials & assistance.



Tehnos
8. Collaboration with CAHA

Assist young artists & cultural producers register with CAHA & build online presence.



Lumamlam
9. Guampedia Heritage Gift Shop

Assist artists & cultural producers with interviews & entries to inspire new generation.



**Fanggualo
10. Collaboration
with UOG**

Assist UOG programs (Island Sustainability and Maila Tatti) to connect to Guam's history & culture.



**Umayangan
12. Collaboration
with CoD & Guam
Museum**

Installation & breakdown of the Fanhoge exhibition & create educational materials.



**Sumongsong
11. Collaboration
with DCA & Guam
Museum**

Further develop programs in training & educational materials.



**Umagahaf
13. Collaboration with
Hagåtña Restoration**

Assist in developing educational materials & historical projects.



**Chamorro Festival
March 25, 2023**

Located on the California State University San Marcos campus, the long-standing CHE'LU festival highlights the rich cultural heritage of the Chamorro/CHamoru people. In addition to the festival, Guampedia, in partnership with Guam Preservation Trust, UOG's Island Wisdom program and Traditions Affirming Our Seafaring Ancestry (TASA), hosted two additional community outreach sessions in San Marcos.

**Guam Micronesia Island Fair
August 5, 2023, Valley of the Latte Adventure
Park, Talofofo, Guam**

Guampedia hosted an information booth at the fair, continued efforts of community outreach, and garnered more responses for the user survey.



Latte in the Marianas

In the wake of the success of the Latte in the Marianas publication, Guampedia created a new banner of the impressive 16-foot Taga latte in Tinian, which was featured at the recent GMIF, and filmed the latte sites in Rota and Tinian..

Traditional Healing

Guampedia partnered with HAYA Foundation to complete their new film, *Attituyi*, a documentary on traditional healers in the Marianas. Interviews of yo'anti from Saipan and Rota will also be added to the Voices of Our Elders section. Guampedia also helped promote HAYA's book drive on our Heritage Gift Shop. A special section on Traditional Healing is also being developed.



Traditional Seafaring

Guampedia collaborated with Master Navigator Larry Raigetel (UOG Island Wisdom) at the CHE'LU Festival to highlight Micronesia's more than 4000-year history of voyaging and seafaring across the region. As part of the development of a special section and production of digital resources, more than 60 hours of Micronesian traditional seafaring footage over the past decade have been digitized. A series of interviews with Grand Master Navigator Sesario Sewralur were completed as well as the documentation of portions of the Micronesia Voyaging Society's 2023 journey from Palau to Yap and Saipan.

6th Marianas History Conference

September 1-3, 2023

Hosted at the Crowne Plaza Resort in Garapan, Saipan, the 6th Marianas History Conference had over 40 presentations and more than 200 attendees eager to learn about current historical research on the theme "Healing the Wounds of History." Guampedia resumed its role as co-organizers of the conference and documented the presentations for the e-publication of the conference proceedings, scheduled for 2024.



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29th Pacific Islander Festival Association (PIFA)

September 23-24, 2023

Held in San Diego’s Mission Beach district, the annual festival celebrates the cultures and peoples of the Pacific islands. In addition to hosting an information booth at the festival, Guampedia co-hosted a gathering with San Diego-based Chamorro filmmaker Beau Aguon to promote Guampedia and help support his documentary project on the sakman.



Edgar G. Richardson Symposium, National Portrait Gallery

September 7-8, 2023

Guampedia attended the Edgar G. Richardson Symposium at the Smithsonian Institution’s National Portrait Gallery. The symposium was part of the critically acclaimed exhibition 1898 US Imperialism Visions and Revisions which commemorates the 125th anniversary of the Spanish-American War. Guampedia is working with the National Portrait Gallery to share parts of the exhibition on Guampedia.

Symposium

Hasso Sumai/Sumay

Hasso Sumai is an upcoming exhibition that will showcase the history of Guam’s second most populated village prior to World War II and the people who were displaced by the tragedy of war and its aftermath. Guampedia also started a Sumai registry for those with ancestral connections to the village.



Celebrating CHamoru Nobenas

Guampedia assisted Dr. Lola Quan-Bautista from the Center for Pacific Island Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa with her film documentary on nobenas and the practice of religious devotions through CHamoru/Chamorro families from Guam. The video footage produced will be stored with the Library of Congress in Washington, DC.



Heritage Gift Shop

Guampedia's online gift shop has been rebranded with a new look and focus on heritage-based items. To help cultural producers access online, Guampedia partnered with Guam cultural producer, Ben "Sinahi" del Rosario. Check it out and find that special gift for that special someone!

User Survey

The Guampedia user survey has been available since Fall 2022. The responses will be used to garner information about the people who use Guampedia and help improve our website and our educational resources. To incite survey takers, post cards were produced featuring Guampedia special sections and historical illustrations.



Connecting Cultures, Connecting Places

The Culture of Connecting project aims to promote a better understanding and appreciation of the complex history of the Marianas and its people and further into greater Micronesia. Our sea turtle logo Chalani represents the journey to faraway places and the return home. Guampedia serves as a bridge that connects people who may have journeyed far away, and the very islands that give us our sense of culture, heritage, identity and place. We are so grateful to everyone who has been a part of this journey and welcome your input and suggestions to make Guampedia better. A few words from our 2023 Summer Interns...

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Part of Guampedia's mission is to promote an educated citizenry for our island. We do this through the Guampedia website and our community outreach activities. Sometimes, though, people reach out to Guampedia directly to help them with their learning goals and career aspirations. Guampedia interns over the years have gone on to successful careers and have credited Guampedia as part of that process. In summer 2023, Guampedia welcomed three student interns to assist with the Culture of Connecting project: Vinessa Dueñas, Lula Blas Fox and Ty Leon Guerrero. While Vinessa is continuing her work with us, Lula returned to her studies in Sociology and Cultural Anthropology at Northeastern University in Boston, and Ty is finishing up his senior year at Troy High School in Fullerton, California and already is being recruited for college. Here, Ty and Lula share their thoughts about their internship experience. We thank our community partners and friends who worked with our interns and wish Vinessa, Lula and Ty well on their future pursuits!

Guampedia Summer Intern 2023

Ty Leon Guerrero

I first encountered Guampedia in my capacity as a teen reporter for the Pacific Daily News. Covering the Pacific Island Festival of Arts in San Diego, I interviewed and conversed with staff at the Guampedia booth. I was immediately interested in the organization's mission and work of documenting and sharing the culture of our home islands that others could easily access.

My interest in working with Guampedia stemmed from the unique opportunity of returning home and interning amongst the people, culture, and land I grew up around. Since leaving Guam and moving to California I've always sought ways to maintain my connection to Guam, and this internship opportunity felt like the perfect opportunity to accomplish that.

I feel my time at Guampedia, in the aftermath of Typhoon Mawar, was an important experience for me. I'll never forget Tan Rita teaching me that typhoons help divide the eras of our history, which helped me further appreciate being able to witness the island's recovery. It was fitting that in addition to helping clean the Guampedia office building during the recovery, I was able to help my grandparents clear their yard of debris.

My internship experience never felt like work. I loved that I was rekindling my connection to our culture and island by re-experiencing cultural practices through the lens of research and education by helping film a documentary of a prayer service, and paying visits to ancestral sites and cultural monuments. At the end of each day, I debriefed my grandparents on my "day at the office" and they always had some interesting related anecdotes to share. Hearing their stories and comments as they related to my work only enriched the experience.

Revisiting these practices and spaces that I grew up also with came with greater meaning. With the majority of Guampedia's web traffic coming from users in the United States who identified as Chamoru, through my work I contributed in some small way to Guampedia's mission of building an online community for other diasporic Chamorus trying to learn about and stay connected to their culture, people, and island.

Interning at Guampedia opened my eyes to the fact that I belong in both the Chamoru and the diasporic community, not just one or the other, and helped me realize the many different ways I can actively contribute and give back. As someone fortunate to have lived in Guam steeped in the Chamoru culture, I feel an obligation to share what I can with other members of the diaspora living beyond our native island.

I regard working at the Guampedia office, getting to know each of the staff like family, and being home as a transformative experience. I'm forever grateful for Tan Rita and my Auntie Dominica for trusting me, and giving me the greenlight for all of this to happen. My time with the organization is a major reason I intend to return to Guam after I complete my education. Perhaps I'll even work with Guampedia again!



Guampedia Summer Intern 2023

Lula Blas Fox

This past summer, I experienced Guåhan for the first time. As a young CHamoru girl growing up in the states, I had always pictured the sea and the sky of my mother's dusty memories and my nānā's old photographs as a respite to the cold winters of Chicago, but I never realized the true beauty of my ancestors' homeland until I arrived. Guampedia helped me explore the culture of Guåhan in ways that I would not have gotten without. Whether it be through hiking around Pulantant to find latte, or documenting the song of a techa in a local nobena, the guidance of Rita, Dominica, Burt, and the other Guampedia staff members made my first trip home all the more memorable. My time in Guåhan, and my time shared with Guampedia, helped me understand the



intimate connection that CHamorus have with the land, and the importance of honoring those who came before us by preserving their ways of life. One of our excursions included visiting guma'yo'åmte, a house of healing, where me and the other Guampedia interns learned about the history of traditional medicine with Mama Chai, a suruhåna, or CHamoru healer that has been honing her craft for over 50 years. Mama Chai's åmot reaffirms the significance of traditional bodily and healing knowledge in the era of modern medicine; CHamoru suruhånu understand that illness is just as much spiritual as it is physical. Guampedia has worked with Mama Chai and other suruhånus to document their practices, allowing those on and off island to read about the history of CHamoru healing.

On another Guampedia adventure, we took a tour of Hila'an—a lengthy strip of undeveloped land on the northern coast of Guåhan—which was guided by Joe Quinata of Humåtak, where he took us to a site of ancient latte. Hila'an, which has yet to experience disfigurement from the growing tourist industry, allowed me a glimpse into the old times of my ancestors, showing me the lands they once loved and sustained. I remember the moment that Mr. Quinata and the Guampedia staff began to discuss the plans for demolition of the site; developers had already bought up the land, and in a decade's time it would be unrecognizable. Seeing the look of sadness on my face, Mr. Quinata stressed to me the importance of preserving cultural heritage through conservation, Guampedia's central tenant. Even if we could not protect Hila'an from being bulldozed, we could document how it once looked, and maintain that record as a connection to those who knew our lands before. Guampedia's continued efforts to chronicle our traditions and history preserves CHamoru beliefs, as western globalization and modernization slowly erode local cultures. It is through the work of Rita and the wonderful crew at Guampedia that we can bridge the legacy of our ancestors with the future actions of our descendants.