

FestPac callouts begin today at GCC



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The excitement continues to grow among our cultural community, especially in preparation for the first callouts for the 2016 FestPac Guam Delegation to be held tomorrow at Guam Community College from 10:00 a.m. to noon. All the Programming Committee members will be there to take applications and answer any questions and discuss the expectations and responsibilities of being a Guam delegate.

Last week I wrote about Performing and Visual Arts delegation callouts. This week I would like to talk about the Traditional Arts, Demonstrations and Exhibitions, Literary Arts and Forums, Workshops and Seminars.

Chaired by John S. Calvo and Judy Flores, Traditional Arts, Demonstrations and Exhibitions will feature eight different genres.

» Carving will feature the various mediums used like stone, shell, wood, and bone.

» Weaving will include the use of åkgak, nipa, niyok and pi'ao.

» Body Ornamentation, to include tattooing, will focus on the design, technique, production and creative use of cultural icons and materials.

» Canoe and Navigation will celebrate the revival and practice of our seafaring traditions.

» Fishing and Hunting will showcase the cultural histories of the peskadot tasi and the peskadot tano.

» Culinary Arts and Cooking Traditions will be themed around "Maila ta chagi" or Let's try!, with emphasis on the preparation local dishes.

» Tools and Instruments will pro-



vide an opportunity for our blacksmiths to demonstrate a craft that is not practiced in other parts of the Pacific. There will also be a focus on the seldom played but locally made musical instrument, the bilembaotuyan.

» And we will showcase the sometimes secret and sacred art of Healing.

All these traditional art forms have been an integral part of our culture and we must strive to keep the practice alive. Selection criteria is specific to each genre and based on the knowledge and history of the art form on Guam, knowledge of the traditional tools used and the ability to prepare, produce and apply the knowledge.

There are close to 10 topics for discussion under Forums, Workshops and Seminars. To be a delegate, one only has to be able to conduct, lead, organize or facilitate a forum, workshop or seminar, or head a committee directly connected with this discipline, led by Rosa Salas Palomo and Sherrie Barcinas.

For the Literary Arts, history, indigenous language, oratory, publications, fashion and theater are the genres. Chaired by Selina Onedera-

Salas and John Ibanez, the group has worked diligently to develop the criteria for becoming a delegate. Literary Arts encompasses a broad spectrum of creative expressions articulated verbally, in print, through theatrical and stage presentations that will depict Guam's rich history, culture and heritage. Their program offers diverse artistic representations that would be both educational and entertaining to all audiences. As a result, the diversity of the Literary Arts program dictates the need for specific selection criteria

All of the above subjects and disciplines provide opportunities for our people to be delegates representing our island for the festival. CAHA and the various committees will take applications from interested individuals 10:00 a.m. to noon today at the Multi-Purpose Room at the Guam Community College. Applications also are available online at www.guamcaha.org or at the CAHA office, in the Terlaje Building in Hagåtña. Our goal is to have the final delegation selected by Jan. 31, 2016.

All five committees will be present today at GCC. If you or someone you know is interested in being a Guam delegate, stop in. With only 316 days before the 12th Festival of Pacific Arts, we need to step up, prepare for our visitors and prepare our delegation in the presentation of "Håfa Iyo-ta, Håfa Guinahå-ta, Håfa Ta Pátte, Dinanña' Sunidu Siha Giya Pasifiku", or "What We Have, What We Own, What We Share, United Voices of the Pacific." Next week we will touch on the Literary, Traditional and Forums criteria.

Monica Guzman is chair of the Guam Council on the Arts and Humanities and the 12th Festival of Pacific Arts Programming Committee.