

More attention, interest in art



MONICA OKADA
GUZMAN

As auditions continue for the Guam delegation that will be representing our island at FestPac, it's exciting to hear that other countries have finalized their delegation selections. This week we received official notice the delegation from New Zealand has been finalized. The following was received via a press release.

Coordinated by Creative New Zealand, which did a site visit here on Guam in March, the Māori Committee has selected 100 Māori and New Zealand-based Pasifika artists to represent Aotearoa at the 12th Festival of Pacific Arts in Guam.

"Once again we're extremely pleased with the quality of artists who will be representing Aotearoa next year," said Darrin Haimona, head of the Aotearoa delegation for the 2016 festival and chair of the Māori Committee. "Together with our Pasifika brothers and sisters we will showcase the best of Māori and Pacific art from our country."

Selected through applications and auditions, the Aotearoa delegation represents a breadth of art forms ranging from customary Māori arts such as clay artistry, waka navigation, tã moko, weaving, kapa haka, carving and traditional music, as well as various arts practices such as contemporary dance, music, visual arts, moving image and sculpture, spoken-word poetry and theatre.

On the local level, our Literary Arts committee will be holding auditions today at the Lujan House in Hagåtña beginning with History (8:30 to



10:20 a.m.), Publications (11 a.m. to 2 p.m.) and Oratory (2:40 to 4:40 p.m.). Interested individuals should contact Selina Onedera Salas at literary.guam@gmail.com to sign up for a time slot (15 minutes each) or for more information on the Literary Arts program for the Festival.

Applications to participate as a Guam delegate in the various disciplines are available at CAHA located in the Terlaje Building in Hagåtña or can be downloaded from the CAHA website at www.guamcaha.org under "Grants and Programs." For further information contact CAHA at 300-1204-08 or via email at info@caha.guam.gov. Deadline for submission of applications is November 27.

Aside from FestPac, CAHA has been bustling with activity this month with annual panel review meetings to evaluate the fiscal 2016 CAHA grant applications. A total of 42 grant applications have been received. This year CAHA will give preference to FestPac-related programs and activities in the grant awards.

Meanwhile, we are ending this year's grant cycle with Saturday art workshops for children with autism and their families and will continue for the next two Saturdays.

On Thursday, we had an opening reception at the CAHA Gallery for an exhibit featuring some of Guam's most prolific artists. "FOUND" is a three-person show featuring artists Mar-Vic Cagurangan, Marcial Pontillas and Romeo Carlos. The exhibit showcases small sculptures and large-scale installations made from reclaimed objects — something not typically seen at art exhibits in the past. The three artists salvaged trash and discarded items and turned them into "found art," hence the exhibit title "FOUND." Paintings by guest artist Julius Sotomayor Cena are also highlighted. The exhibit runs until Oct. 2 at the CAHA Gallery in Hagåtña.

Guam's artistic community continues to grow and expand beyond traditional mediums reflecting our modern day society and culture, and challenging our perceptions and perspectives. I am so pleased to see so many new artists coming out of the woodwork and challenging convention.

My husband and I recently attended the GAX display a few weeks ago. Not only were there traditional art and photographic displays, the exhibit also featured a number of young talented individuals presenting a variety of live performing art pieces including rap, original songs, poetry and slide shows led by Dakota Camacho.

Monica Okada Guzman is chairwoman of the Guam Council on the Arts and Humanities Agency.