



**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture**

**STRATEGIC PLAN  
FY 2020 – 2023**

**MISSION**

Realizing that the arts play a significant role in advancing education, community, and cultural pride and enrichment, economic development, and creativity, the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture (CCAC) will develop and foster programs that promote excellence in the arts, utilize and promote our diverse artistic and cultural resources, provide quality arts experiences for our residents and opportunities for artists, and promote and perpetuate the unique folk heritage of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

**GOALS**

To address its mission, the CCAC has adopted the following goals:

- I. Increase support for CNMI artists of all mediums
- II. Improve exhibiting program and facilities, including the development of galleries on all Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, and a permanent event site
- III. Ensure that the folk arts of the CNMI thrive
- IV. Ensure that the arts play an important role in the life of the entire community
- V. Support arts in education in the duration of the entire school-life of our students
- VI. Ensure accessibility to arts programs for people of all abilities
- VII. Support traditional canoe and navigation programs
- VIII. Ensure accessibility by underserved communities to arts programs

**Goal I. Increase support for CNMI artists of all mediums**

<b>OBJECTIVES</b>
<b>1. Increase funding available to CNMI artists</b>
a. Streamline administrative costs to ensure maximum availability of funds for arts programs
b. Support public arts programs of significance
c. Collaborate with public and private organizations to support arts programs
d. Work with tourism sector on the utilization of resident artists and art produced in the CNMI
<b>2. Provide professional development opportunities for artists</b>
a. Coordinate marketing and business workshops for artists

b. Collaborate with the NMI Humanities Council and the Office of Grants to provide grant writing workshops for artists
c. Develop workshops for artists to develop arts skills
d. Provide technical assistance to artists applying for grants through the CCAC
<b>3. Expand opportunities for folk artists</b>
a. Educate the public about grants and folk arts opportunities available through the CCAC
b. Work with the Marianas Visitor’s Authority, Carolinian Affairs Office, Indigenous Affairs Office, and the offices of the Saipan, Tinian, and Rota Mayors to continue to maintain current and collaborate on new programs that address folk arts
c. Support the Seafaring Traditions Program and other efforts to preserve and promote traditional canoe building and navigation
d. Collaborate with the Pacific Arts Council of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, the Guam Arts Council (CAHA), and other regional, national, and international entities to facilitate the participation of CNMI folk artists
<b>4. Recognize Excellence in the Arts</b>
a. Support the Governor’s Arts Awards and other programs that recognize artists, educators, and arts supporters
b. Ensure that qualified artists of merit facilitate programs of the CCAC
c. Produce press releases, articles, and features on social media presence that highlight resident artists and their work

**Goal II. Improve exhibiting program and facilities, including the development of galleries on all Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, and a permanent event site**

<b>OBJECTIVES</b>
<b>1. Identify a more accessible facility for CCAC offices and the arts galleries</b>
a. Work with the respective island Mayors, the Special Assistant for the Administration, and Public Assistance Office to identify public spaces on Saipan and Tinian for permanent arts galleries ( <i>note: Rota Arts Gallery realized 9/2019</i> )
b. Collaborate with businesses to make available space in commercial and tourism-related establishments for temporary and permanent exhibition space
c. Work with the Office of Planning, the CNMI Grants Office, and the Northern Marianas Housing Authority’s Community Development Block Grant program to realize funding necessary to facilitate a permanent event site
<b>2. Build the capacity of CCAC staff responsible for exhibiting</b>
a. Facilitate continued training in exhibiting and marketing for CCAC staff
b. Collaborate with local and regional gallery professionals to see staff development
<b>3. Enhance the promotion of exhibits</b>
a. Produce annual calendar of exhibits for wide distribution
b. See inclusion of the exhibit schedule on the Marianas Visitor’s Authority website
c. Produce quality signage, promotional, and exhibit information
d. Produce features for various media on exhibiting artists
e. Utilize social media avenues to extend informational outreach community-wide
f. Ensure information is produced in languages of major non-English speaking communities

**Goal III. Ensure that the folk arts of the CNMI thrive**

<b>OBJECTIVES</b>
<b>1. Identify and support programs that address folk artforms that are in danger of being lost</b>

a. Identify folk artforms that are in danger of being lost
b. Identify master folk artists who produce cultural artforms that are endangered
c. Develop programs to utilize master folk artists
d. Support the creation and presentation of exceptional folk arts
e. Collaborate on initiatives with the MVA and tourism industry to enhance folk arts programs for the community and tourism industry
<b>2. Support folk artists through the CCAC grants program</b>
a. Provide outreach on CCAC grants program
b. Provide technical assistance to grant applicants and potential grant applicants
<b>3. Support community-based initiatives and programs</b>
a. Provide technical assistance to organizations to support folk arts programs
b. Serve as a conduit between folk artists and private and public organizations needing folk arts and folk arts services
<b>4. Support folk arts in education programs</b>
a. Collaborate with CNMI schools to bring folk artists into the classrooms
<b>5. Support the documentation of endangered folk art forms</b>
a. Support publications on the folk arts of the CNMI
b. Maintain the CCAC archives and documentation of folk arts activities

**Goal IV. Ensure that the arts play an important role in the life of the entire community**

<b>OBJECTIVES</b>
<b>1. Support public arts programs</b>
a. Identify funding sources for public arts programs
b. Work with public and private sectors to encourage public art and the utilization of resident artists
c. Convene meetings with the MVA, Visitor industry, Office of Planning, CNMI Grants Office, beautification committees and development organizations to address the need for public art
d. Work with the Administration and Legislature to see passage of a “percent for the arts” bill
<b>2. Increase awareness of the arts and its importance to community</b>
a. Develop public campaign highlighting the importance and benefit of the arts in the CNMI
b. Consistently promote CCAC arts programs
c. Engage business organizations, including the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club, Lions Club, Korean Association, Chinese Association, and others to solicit support for the arts
<b>3. Increase participation of underserved communities, people with disabilities, and at-risk and incarcerated youth in arts activities</b>
a. Ensure all CCAC grant programs are accessible and designed to include people with disabilities
b. Provide technical assistance to grantees as necessary to see accessibility and improve activity
c. Facilitate training for CCAC and grantees by the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc. on accessibility issues
d. Collaborate with private sector businesses in identified underserved communities to support arts programs in those communities
e. Work with the Division of Youth Services and the Department of Corrections to support arts programs for at-risk youth and incarcerated youth.
f. Ensure that the Public School System, Developmental Disabilities Council, CHC Transitional Living Center, Office on Aging, CNMI Respite Care Program, and similar organizations are informed about programs available to their clients through the CCAC
<b>4. Maintain a responsive and qualified CCAC staff</b>
a. Support professional development for CCAC staff

b. Support opportunities for staff participation at local, regional, and national conferences, trainings, and meetings
c. Cross-train and involve all staff in all aspects of the work of the CCAC

**V. Support arts in education in the duration of the entire school-life of our students**

<b>OBJECTIVES</b>
<b>1. Provide assistance as necessary in the implementation of the Public School System K-12 arts curriculum</b>
a. Provide support for arts in education programs
b. Provide development opportunities for non-arts teachers on the incorporation of the arts into their instructional regime
<b>2. Provide development opportunities for teachers and artists</b>
a. Collaborate with PREL, NMI Humanities Council, and the PSS to facilitate development programs for art teachers and for artists working in AIE activities
b. Facilitate workshops for teachers and artists in grant writing and management
c. Engage private sector support for arts education programs
<b>3. Increase after-school arts programs</b>
a. Work collaboratively with the PSS, DYS, Youth Affairs, and community-based organizations to facilitate after-school, weekend, and summer arts programs for youth

**VI. Ensure access to arts programs for people of all abilities**

<b>OBJECTIVES</b>
<b>1. Develop arts programs for individuals with special needs</b>
a. Collaborate with NMPASI, the Center for Living Independently, Developmental Disabilities Council, CNMI Respite Care Program and the Office on Aging in the development of programs for individuals with special needs
<b>2. Ensure all CCAC-supported programs are accessible</b>
a. Engage knowledgeable organizations in the planning of CCAC programs to ensure accessibility is planned into programs
b. Rigorously evaluate programs for effectiveness and the acquisition of feedback from persons with disabilities
c. Promote the full inclusion of audiences and artists with disabilities in all community arts programs.

**VII. Support traditional canoe and navigation programs**

<b>OBJECTIVES</b>
<b>1. Support the continued development of the Seafaring Traditions Program</b>
a. Work with legislature to continue to see local appropriations for Seafaring Traditions Program
b. Promote the program to residents and the tourism industry
c. Encourage student participation in the programs at the Guma Higai (canoe house)
d. Collaborate with other canoe organizations in the NMI and regionally to strengthen the skills of resident student canoe practitioners
e. Develop plan to see canoe-house construction throughout Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and Pagan
f. Document canoe-construction activities and develop productions for television and social media
<b>2. Support the 500 Sails, Kanu Federation, and the CCVI traditional canoe programs</b>

a. Provide collaborative support to other traditional canoe organizations in the CNMI
b. Coordinate traditional canoe festival in the CNMI
c. Work collaboratively to share knowledge and cross-utilize resources and personnel
d. Include folk artists working in various canoe-revival efforts in the CNMI delegation to the Festival of the Pacific Arts
<b>3. Develop traditional Chamorro and Carolinian canoe-making and navigation skills within the community</b>
a. Continue teaching new and novice volunteer canoe-makers at the Seafaring Traditions Program
b. Continue work with the Northern Marianas College on the development of Traditional Navigation program
c. See continued financial support for Master Navigator training program
d. Continue work with the PSS to schedule the participation of students in the canoe-building activities
e. Build canoe houses on Rota and Tinian and extend Seafaring Traditions Program to those islands
<b>f. Support regional efforts to perpetuate the traditional knowledge of canoe building and navigation</b>
a. See the participation of Seafaring Traditions Program at the annual Canoe Festival in Yap
b. See the participation of the CNMI in the traditional canoe component of the 2020 Festival of the Pacific Arts in Hawaii
c. Continue to build relationships with Palau Community College canoe program, navigators and canoe builders throughout the region, to see a continued revival and continued development of traditional navigation throughout the region
d. Invite and collaborate with organizations involved in regional traditional navigation efforts on the CNMI Canoe Festival

**XIII. Ensure accessibility by underserved communities to arts programs**

<b>OBJECTIVES</b>
<b>1. Extend CCAC programs to Rota and Tinian</b>
a. Ensure CCAC programs and grant opportunities are extended to Rota and Tinian
b. Support arts activities on Rota and Tinian that are important to those communities
c. Include Rota and Tinian artists in development activities held on Saipan
d. Facilitate development activities for artists and educators on Rota and Tinian
<b>2. Extend CCAC programs to Chinese community</b>
a. Extend invitations to all CCAC opportunities and activities to the Chinese community, utilizing the Chinese Association and business organizations to extend outreach
b. Translate CCAC announcements and notices into Chinese
c. Coordinate meetings on CCAC opportunities, programs and planning, specifically for Chinese community that include a translator
d. Ensure that resident folk, visual, and performing artists from the Chinese community are represented at the Flame Tree Arts Festival and other major events of the CCAC
<b>3. Extend CCAC programs to Micronesian community</b>
a. Extend invitations to all CCAC opportunities to the Micronesian community, providing basic information on the activities in the various languages (Chuukese, Yapese, Palauan, Phonpeian, Marshallese)
b. Utilize Micronesian organizations to extend outreach to these communities (Palau association, Angaur Association, Peleliu Association, Chuukese association)

c. Coordinate meetings on CCAC opportunities, programs and planning, specifically for the Micronesian community
d. Continue to foster exchange and participation by skilled canoe-makers in the community from the various islands of the region in the Seafaring Traditions Program
e. Ensure that resident folk, visual, and performing artists from Micronesia are represented at the Flame Tree Arts Festival and other major events of the CCAC

## **Methodology**

This FY2020 – FY2023 Strategic was the product of numerous meetings, discussions, round tables, and public hearings, with artists, businesses, public agencies, legislators, non-profit organizations, and other stakeholders over the course of 2018 and 2019. The planning process following the post-typhoon disasters of Mangkhut and Yutu, produced significant input and feedback and facilitated a complete revisit of the CCAC’s draft strategic plan that was produced in the lead-up to the FY19 partnership agreement application.

Over the course of the coming weeks and months, the CCAC will communicate the FY20-23 Strategic Plan to the community through its website ([cnmiartscouncil.org](http://cnmiartscouncil.org)), social media (<https://www.facebook.com/dcca.cnmi>, <https://www.facebook.com/dccamarianas/>), print media, and through local radio talk programs (KKMP).

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