

# **Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities Strategic Master Plan 2006-2010**

## **Purpose of NMICH Strategic Master Plan**

The NMICH is committed to a planning system that addresses the current and long-range needs and challenges of the CNMI community. The purpose of this strategic master plan is to:

- Define the mission, goals, and objectives for the NMICH;
- Establish priorities for programs, services and activities;
- Determine programs and services that are to be maintained, developed or phased out;
- Identify the need for human physical and financial resources based on priorities; and
- Allow for the plan's activities to be carried out in an organized manner.

## **Mission Statement**

The mission of the NMI Council for the Humanities is to foster awareness, understanding and an appreciation of the humanities through support of educational programs that relate the humanities to the indigenous cultures and to the intellectual needs and interests of the people of the Commonwealth.

### **Goal 1: Preserve and promote the history, the indigenous cultures and languages of the Northern Mariana Islands.**

- Objective 1:1. Increase community awareness about the history and indigenous cultures of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Strategy 1.1:1. Support original research into the history and cultures of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Strategy 2.1:1. Support the publication of books on the history and cultures of the Northern Mariana Islands (NMI)

Strategy 3.1. Support projects that record and make accessible oral histories pertinent to the Northern Mariana Islands.

Strategy 4.2:1. Support the research and study of the indigenous languages of the Northern Marianas.

Strategy 5:2:1. Support efforts to perpetuate literacy in and use of indigenous languages.

- Objective 2:1. Expand cooperative arrangements with individuals, institutions and organizations to facilitate the study of local history, languages and cultures.

Strategy 1.2:1. Support the development of accessible public exhibits that depict local history.

Strategy 2:2:1. Collaborate effectively with grant applicants who seek to facilitate the study and research of local history, languages and cultures.

Strategy 3:2:1. Collaborate effectively with Northern Marianas College (NMC), Public School System (PSS), Historic Preservation Office (HPO), Language Commission and other allied agencies to facilitate the study and research of local history, languages and cultures.

- Objective 3:1. Increase the awareness and understanding of the Northern Mariana Islands' cultural and historical ties with the Asian and Pacific region.

Strategy 1:3:1. Support scholarly research publications and fora focusing on the Commonwealth's cultural and historical ties with other island groups in Micronesia, Japan, Guam and the Philippines.

Strategy 2:3:1. Pursue cooperative arrangements among humanities agencies throughout the Pacific region to facilitate the study of regional history, political development, languages and cultures.

## **Goal 2: Advance knowledge and understanding of the humanities in the CNMI.**

- Objective 1:2. Enhance the teaching and learning of humanities in the CNMI.

Strategy 1:1:2. Support annual Teacher Institutes in Marianas/Pacific History to public and private school teachers.

Strategy 2.1:2. Encourage teachers and others to apply for re-grant funds to support workshops and activities on specific humanities topics of local importance.

Strategy 3:1:2. Support programs that broaden public awareness and understanding of the histories and cultural traditions of ethnic groups throughout the Pacific region.

Strategy 4:1:2. Support efforts to develop new teaching and learning resources to improve students' knowledge and understanding of the humanities.

Strategy 5:1:2. Explore and support available technologies to deliver programs to teachers throughout the CNMI.

Strategy 6:1:2. Support projects and programs that promote literacy in the Commonwealth.

Strategy 7:1:2. Strengthen the Motherread/Fatheread program.

Strategy 8:1:2. Continue financial support to the Motherread/Fatheread program under the terms of an MOA with the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library. Continue to seek non-federal sources of funding to support the program.

Strategy 9:1:2. Plan to hire a full time Motherread Coordinator for more effective coordination and collaboration with partners like Head Start, the Public School System, Parents Anonymous and Parents Education Center and the parents.

Strategy 10:1:2. Support the Motherread/Fatheread Institute, a training program for the trainers.

Strategy 11:1:2. Continue core Council's projects which include the Teachers Institute, Governor's Humanities Awards, Chautauqua, Covenant Day Debate, Sengebau Poetry Competition, Micronesian Authors Initiative, Junior Mock Trial and Humanities Lectures series revising them as circumstances warrant.

- Objective 2:2. Promote the understanding of US and CNMI public policy and institutions.

Strategy 1:2:2. Develop and implement the "We the People" projects that explore the relationship between the U.S. and the Commonwealth government.

Strategy 3:2:2. Support public forum focusing on the history, interpretation and impact of the Covenant.

Strategy 4:2:2. Support essay contests/debate on the Covenant and U.S. public policy as they relate to the Commonwealth.

Strategy 5:2:2. Collaborate with the CNMI Bar Association and the Judiciary to develop exhibits, publications and public forum focusing on the history and operations of the CNMI judicial system.

Strategy 6:2:2. Continue to apply for the We The People grants as these are offered by NEH.

- Objective 3:2. Collaborate with appropriate agencies and organizations in support of the humanities.

Strategy 1:3:2. Support collaborative activities that utilize VTC technology for teachers and others in Rota and Tinian. (e.g. the Teachers Institute and Motherread training.)

Strategy 2:3:2. Develop innovative programs, in collaboration with key public and private organizations, aimed at ensuring that visitors to the Commonwealth are provided with accurate information about indigenous history, cultures and languages.

Strategy 3:3:2. Request for assistance from the Federation for State Humanities Councils technical assistant to develop and implement heritage tourism project for the CNMI.

Strategy 4:3:2. On a quarterly basis meet with allied agencies such as MVA, HPO, tour agencies and the Museum to develop and implement heritage tourism project.

Strategy 5:3:2. Expand cooperative relationships with local, regional and international organizations to further the Council's mission.

Strategy 11:3:2. Continue to strengthen coverage of Council activities and programs in the local media, including newspapers, radio and cable television.

Strategy 12:3:2. Employ technology to effectively disseminate information about the Council's mission, programs and activities.

- Objective 4:2. Promote ethics in the community.

Strategy 1:3:2. Support grant applications that seek to educate the community regarding virtues, ethics and character

Strategy 2:3:2. Continue to sponsor a year-long community ethics program that includes seminars, workshops, a weekly ethics column in the local media, and a threaded discussion the Council's website

- Objective 5:2. Support local capabilities in research and writing.

Strategy: 1:5:2. Hold workshops for young writers to build local capabilities in literature.

Strategy 2:5:2. Continue the Micronesian Authors Initiative.

Strategy 3:5:2. Continue the Sengebau Poetry Contest.

Strategy 4:5:2. Collaborate effectively with visiting scholars to continue the Humanities lecture series making sure that Tinian and Rota are included in the program.

Strategy 5:5:2. Collaborate effectively with PSS and private schools for their participation in research and writing projects

Strategy 7:5:2. Continue a website that provides access to the Council's programs and application materials.

Strategy 8:5:2. Implement comprehensive and innovative technologies to improve humanities program services to the islands of Tinian and Rota.

### **Goal 3 Enhance quality of service and efficiency of operation.**

- Objective 1:3. Ensure that all the procedural, programmatic and fiscal accountability requirements are met by board and staff members.

Strategy 1:1:3. Provide opportunities for all NMICH member/staff to be made fully aware and understand their duties and responsibilities in regards to procedural, programmatic and fiscal accountability requirements.

Strategy 2:1:3. Develop and implement a standards evaluation format for board members.

- Objective 2:3 Establish an efficient, productive, effective administration and operation that enables the NMI Council for the Humanities to carry out its mission.

Strategy 1:2:3. Provide for systematic review, oversight and evaluation of the Council's operations with a special emphasis on:

- (a). re-grant application process
- (b). re-grant merit review process

- (c). re-grants management
- (d). re-grants application materials
- (e). budget and financial management
- (f). management of Council conducted projects
- (g). Council's policies and procedures
- (h). opportunities for staff development

Strategy 2:2:3. Strive for board membership that reflects the diversity of the Commonwealth, including the business community.

Strategy 3:2:3. Consult with NEH personnel on a regular basis to keep them fully apprised of Council programs and activities.

Strategy 4:2:3. Provide opportunities for staff professional development.

Strategy 5:2:3. Develop a written statement of expectations and responsibilities of board members.

Strategy 6:2:3. Implement a formal evaluation process measuring the effectiveness of the Board and the work of its committees.

Strategy 7:2:3. Establish a formal evaluation process to assess staff performance.

Strategy 8:2:3. Complete a Council Self Assessment every five years.

Strategy 9:2:3. Prepare a strategic master plan every five years.

Strategy 10:2:3. Prepare a Council annual report and ensure distribution to a wide audience.

- Objective 3:3. develop and implement a comprehensive funding plan.

Strategy 1:3:3. Develop and implement annual fund raising work plan to carry out the Council's fundraising activities efficiently and effectively.

Strategy 2:3:3. Provide training to board members and staff on fund raising.

Strategy 3:3:3. Evaluate annually the Fund raising Work plan.