

# INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS OFFICE

## Citizen Centric Report

October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022



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IAO was established in 1985 through the 2<sup>nd</sup> Constitutional Convention, which became Article 3 Section 23 of the CNMI Constitution.

### Mission

Practice, Promote, Preserve, and perpetuate the Chamorro Language & Culture

### Goals

Daily Practice of the Language and Cultural Lifestyles and Life skills

## IAO Objectives

- Coordinate the development, distribution, adoption, and translation of a comprehensive history of the Marianas.
- Ensure local participation in executive managerial decision-making in the government and private sector.
- Assist and promote local entrepreneurial development.
- Establish a community foundation for the advancement of the indigenous people.
- Coordinate the translation and distribution of such official documents as the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Covenant and the analyses thereof.
- Plan for the establishment of the Indigenous Cultural Center and the Indigenous Hall of Fame.
- Coordinate an annual cultural festival.
- Develop and implement a long-range plan to assist and promote the entry of indigenous people into professional and technical institutions of higher education.
- Serve as an advocate of positions taken by indigenous people on issues brought before them.



## Programs

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) assisted the Indigenous Affairs Office (IAO) with seven personnel (5 males and 2 Females) assigned from the Office of the Governor. The assigned personnel consist of a musician, artisans, a weaver, a food demonstrator, and other cultural specialist talents. With said additional personnel, IAO was able to establish the 3P Program. The 3P Program promotes, preserves, and perpetuates the Chamorro culture.

- IAO began its outreach to the Public School System in Saipan promoting the 3P program on Chamorro culture, language, and traditions.
- Completed two more Guma' Higai to establish Chamorro Village (Sengsong Chamorro) at the site in Susupe,



Saipan.

- Completed one out of 4 traditional umbrella houses (Higai duendis) at Chamorro Village.
- Cleared, maintained, and made accessible to three latte sites on the island of Saipan. The Latte sites are Laolao Kattan, and Chacha both situated in Kagman village. Unai Bapot latte site is in Laolao Bay. In addition to making all the latte sites accessible, IAO planted numerous coconut trees, and medicinal and other native plants.
- Completed 4 mural paintings on the sites of the San



Vicente intersection in front of San Vicente Church, the wall of Guangdong Hardware in As Lito, the wall at As Terlaje Rd., and the wall inside Garapan Public Market.

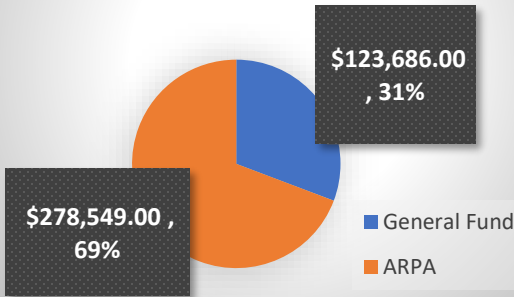
- Participated in the creation of the “Latte in the Marianas” book
- Conducted Mini Cultural Expo on June 17, 2022, to assist and promote local entrepreneurship.
- Maintaining and complementing more local plants in our medicinal garden.
- Partnered with Carolinian Affairs Offices (CAO) and Marians Visitors Authority (MVA) during their cultural event called “Hafa Adai and Tirow” twice a week (Tuesday and Thursday). Demonstrating weaving and cultural art. Starting the month of August 2022 to the present.
- Partnered with the Historic Preservation Office (HPO) to demonstrate to youth summer program participants.
- Collaborated/ assisted with the Office of the Governor with the Liberation float and Labor Day event with art, paintings, weaving, and design.
- Read a locally authored storybook during book reading at Joeten Kiyu Library titled, “Sirena, Sirena, Where Are You” (Chamorro Alphabet children’s book) to children.
- Partnered with 500 Sails welcoming ceremony of the “Animuyi” Galaide, the latest addition to the canoe family.
- Assisted and taught youth summer employment participants cultural trades and skills while learning hands-on with IAO’s outreach at public schools.



# Finances

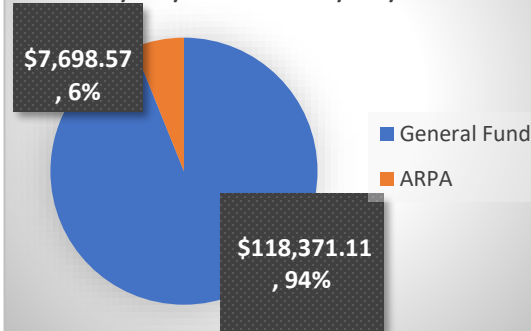
## IAO YTD BUDGET REPORT

10/1/2020 - 09/30/2022



## IAO YTD EXPENDITURES REPORT

10/01/2021 – 09/30/2022



## REPORTS

In the fiscal year 2022, Indigenous Affairs Office (IAO) with annual appropriation of \$123,686.00. In addition, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) amount of \$250,354.00. The use of local appropriation personnel budget amount of \$104,371.00 was allocated for 5 full time employees and \$19,315.00 for operations.

Due to the rise of Covid-19 cases and for the safety of our indigenous people in the CNMI, Resident Executive Roman Tudela, Jr decided to suspend all IAO social events. IAO anticipates a continued drop in Covid-19 cases this year so that we may be able to proceed on the numerous cultural events and the annual Cultural Expo held every Commonwealth Cultural Day holiday and proceed with new social events .

## GENERAL FUND YTD BUDGET REPORT

FY 10/01/2021 TO 09/30/2022

GENERAL FUND	BUDGET	ENCUMBRANCES
PERSONNEL	\$ 104,371.00	\$ 115,677.97
OPERATIONS	\$ 19,315.00	\$ 2,693.14
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 123,686.00</b>	<b>\$ 118,371.11</b>

## IAO PROJECT BUDGET REPORT (ARPA)

FY 10/01/2021 – 09/30/2022

PROJECT NAME	BUDGET	ENCUMBRANCES
OPERATIONS	\$ 28,195.00	\$ 7,216.51
PERSONNEL	\$ 250,354.00	\$ 235.17
UTILITIES	\$ -	\$ 246.89
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 278,549.00</b>	<b>\$ 7,698.21</b>





# *Key Initiatives*

## **1. Program**

- a) Chamorro language studies through media platforms
- b) Traditional medicine and medicinal plants workshops
- c) Native medicinal gardens at Latte sites.
- e) Language and culture Conferences and workshops
- f) Create an online library of Chamorro music lyrics
- g) Creating Marianas music clinic

## **2. Structures**

- a) Construct more Guma' Higai (Chamorro Thatched House) at Sengsong Chamorro and other community sites along the beach
- b) Traditional thatch houses at Latte sites
- c) Build a monument of the Naftan I tasi (Lost at Sea)

## **3. Beautification and Accessibility**

- a) Partner with HPO & MVA to develop the Latte sites on Saipan
- b) Partner with DPW & OGM to seek funding for Chamorro iconic statues with interpretive device
- c) Additional mural paintings to continue beautifying and showcasing our culture through visual art.
- d) Build interpretive signs for maintained latte site and ancestral remains located at Hopwood, Imperial Pacific Investors (IPI), and Surf Rider Hotel and other ancestral sediment sites.

## **4. Monitor re-internment of Chamorro ancestral remains**

## **5. As mandated in Article III Section 23(b) of the CNMI Constitution:**

- a) Seek funding for professional service to coordinate the development, distribution, and translation of a comprehensive history of the Marianas
- b) Advocate for more hiring of indigenous people in government and businesses
- c) Seek funding for future entrepreneurship workshops and training
- d) Establish canoe festival

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