

# MISSION

Our mission is to acquire, preserve, interpret, and exhibit artifacts and other historical materials to increase public awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the rich history and cultural traditions of the Northern Mariana Islands.

## STRATEGIC GOALS

The NMI Museum of History and Culture was established by the Commonwealth Museum Act of 1996 (PL 10-5) to carry out the broad mandate of the NMI Constitution and the following purposes:

- to function as the official repository and custodian of the historical and cultural artifacts of the Commonwealth;
- to acquire, preserve and make available such artifacts, with authoritative interpretation, to the general public, scholars, and visitors;
- to preserve and make available to the public such artifacts in the senatorial district where the artifacts were found or recovered;
- to foster research on the artifacts in its inventory and disseminate these results through museum exhibitions, demonstrations, lectures and other public programs and publications.
- to provide a facility where valuable collections of archaeological, historical, cultural artifacts and related documentation of the people of the Commonwealth can be safely deposited, curated, displayed and studied for the benefit, education and enjoyment of the residents of and visitors to the Commonwealth;
- to provide a forum through which adults, schoolchildren, scholars and other visitors can learn about the history and traditions of the people of the Commonwealth, including the areas of local history, medicine, arts and crafts, language, dance and other aspects of culture;
- to establish a program whereby artifacts from the Commonwealth currently being held in museums around the world are returned either on a permanent or temporary basis, for display to the people of the Commonwealth;
- to provide educational programs to the people of the Commonwealth to promote better understanding, appreciation and local study of the history and cultures of the Commonwealth;
- to promote local cultural pride and increase the appreciation of and respect for historic artifacts, materials and sites of the Commonwealth; and
- to maintain a close and continuing relationship with the Division of Historic Preservation, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, to assure the proper disposition of historical and cultural artifacts and coordinated documentation of such artifacts and related materials.



# FY2023 CITIZEN-CENTRIC Report

<https://nmimuseum.org/>

## MISSION-FOCUSED ACTIVITIES

Providing public access to the Museum's collections, conducting educational tours of the Museum's exhibits, and participation in community outreach activities are a few strategies the Museum uses to promote a better understanding and appreciation for the history and cultures of the Commonwealth.

## MARIANAS MOSAIC BOOK LAUNCH

The Museum provides a space for nonprofit groups and partners to contribute to its mission. This past year, the Museum partnered with the Northern Marianas College and the University of Guam Press to launch *A Marianas Mosaic: Signs and Shifts in Contemporary Island Life*, a book containing a collection of 22 essays that examine contemporary culture and diversity across the Marianas archipelago. The event drew 78 people to the Museum and featured book sales, presentations by the book's publisher, editor, and a handful of contributing authors. The event was also used as a forum to announce the establishment of Proa Publications.

## FIESTA FRIDAYS

The Museum hosted weekly, public events called Fiesta Fridays between September 9, 2022 and May 26, 2023 to celebrate our Commonwealth's rich cultural diversity and increase the Museum's visibility. Fiesta Fridays featured four hours of cultural performances, live entertainment, food vendors, and community service providers in a fun, family-friendly atmosphere.



## OFF SITE EXHIBITIONS



The Museum curated a temporary exhibit for display at the NMI Judiciary's Guma' Hustisia - Limwal Aweewe containing photos of cultural practitioners demonstrating their knowledge and skills at the 1982 Flame Tree Festival, household items, military personal effects, and medicine vials from the Japanese Period, Chamorro cultural artifacts such as the metati for grinding corn, and artifacts from the 1638 Nuestra Señora de la Concepción ship wreck.

T-Galleria's Marianas Experience included an exhibit of artifacts and interpretive signs in multiple languages to provide tourists with insights into the ancient Chamorro people and way of life.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Museum exhibits cultural artifacts and engages the community in its cultural and historical value through various outreach presentations in the community. One such outreach activity involves the Museum's participation as an exhibitor at the annual Marianas Tourism Education Council Tourism Summit. The event scheduled on January 19, 2023 at the Kensington Hotel exposed over 300 CNMI youth between grades 3 through 12 to an interactive exhibit featuring ancient Chamorro people and culture.

## OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE

The museum is a public corporation headed by an executive director under the direction of a 9-member, policy-making Museum Board of Governors. The executive director is supported by two administrative support staff and a facilities manager.

The museum relies on annual appropriations from the CNMI government to fund its personnel and operational costs. The Museum is a qualified educational tax credit recipient, which allows individual taxpayers and businesses to contribute to the Museum and receive a credit against certain local taxes in the CNMI.

## ACCESS TO THE MUSEUM

In FY 2023, 1,932 pre-school, K-12, and college students participated in organized tours of the Museum's facility and collections. The Museum's signature community event, Fiesta Fridays, brought over 11,000 visitors to the Museum's grounds for food, crafts, and entertainment featuring live cultural and contemporary music and dance performances. More than 200 residents participated in outreach presentations involving staff visits to schools and community spaces.



## WHAT'S IN THE MUSEUM?

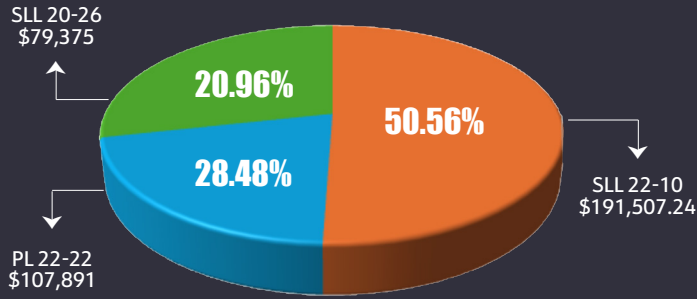
The Museum has artifacts on public display featuring historic eras in the Mariana Islands like the Ancient Chamorro Period, the Spanish Period, the German Period, the Japanese Period, WWII, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands Period, and the Commonwealth Period. The Freycinet Collection features original sketches, watercolors, and partial engravings depicting local fauna, contemporary 19th Century scenes on Guam, and reconstructions of pre-European Chamorro life and culture. The Nuestra Señora de la Concepcion Collection features artifacts salvaged from a Spanish galleon wreck in 1638 off the Southern coast of Saipan.

3-MINUTE  
VIRTUAL TOUR  
OF THE SPANISH  
PERIOD



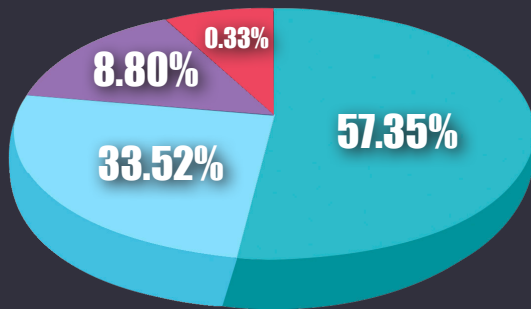
## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

### FY 2023 REVENUE



**TOTAL: \$378,773.74**

### FY 2023 EXPENSES



**TOTAL: \$175,857.66**

#### Personnel Expenses

57.35%

Wages & Salaries	\$ 88,236.89
FICA Contribution	\$ 5,572.89
Health Insurance Premium	\$ 2,767.23
401K Employer Contribution	\$ 1,441.54
Medicare Contribution	\$ 1,325.81
Personnel Insurance	\$ 539.45
Holiday Pay	\$ 969.24

**TOTAL \$100,853.05**

#### Supplies

0.33%

Operational Supplies	\$ 474.50
Fuel & Lubricate	\$ 113.34

**TOTAL \$587.84**

#### Other

33.52%

Advertising	\$ 12,959.15
Rental - Others	\$ 24,001.00
Other Services & Charges	\$ 100.00
Public Auditor 1% Fee	\$ 1,140.71
SOF Budget Adjustment	\$ 20,730.86

**TOTAL \$58,931.72**

#### Repair & Maintenance

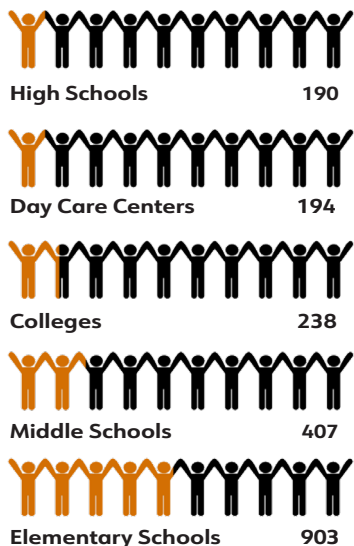
8.80%

Equipment, Building, Vehicles	\$ 15,485.05
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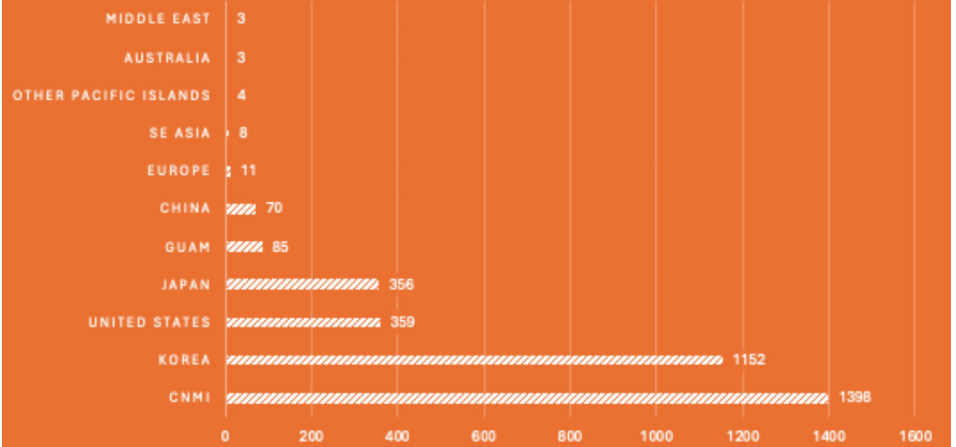
**TOTAL \$15,485.05**

## NUMBER OF VISITORS

**Group Tours Total = 1,932**



**WALK-IN VISITS TOTAL = 3,431**





## CHALLENGES

Strengthening the Museum's human resources and governance is both a challenge and priority in the upcoming year. The Museum had been operating for years without a functional Board of Governors prior to Governor Arnold I. Palacios' appointment of a new slate on August 8, 2023. In the absence of a governing body and a permanent executive director at the helm, the Museum struggled to fulfill its mission and purposes mandated by law. The lack of professional museum staff is an ongoing issue that significantly limits the Museum's ability to conduct research, support educational outreach activities, manage existing collections, and curate new exhibits.

## RELEVANT LEGISLATION

CNMI Public Law 10-5: establishes the CNMI Museum of History and Culture as a public corporation to promote the historical and cultural heritage of the CNMI and to serve as the official repository of historical and cultural materials.

CNMI Public Law 12-57: amends PL 10-5 to (1) authorize the museum to keep human remains, (2) to redefine the composition of the Museum Board of Governors, (3) to apply 1 CMC § 8247 to the Museum Board of Governors, (4) to authorize the Museum to spend donations, (5) to exempt Museum staff from the civil service system, and (6) to assign expenditure authority for the Commonwealth Museum Revolving Fund to the Chair of the Board of Governors or his designee. This law also amends PL 10-73 to add the Museum as a qualifying education institution under the Education Tax Credit Program.

## LOOKING AHEAD

- reinstate admission fees to supplement reduced operational funding by the CNMI government;
- identify and pursue new and sustainable sources of revenue;
- assess the museum's facility, operational and staffing needs;
- create virtual museum tours to improve access to museum collections for individuals with disabilities and residents on Tinian and Rota;
- create interactive exhibits to engage youth in the museum's artifacts and their historical and cultural value.
- strengthen and leverage relationships with related government agencies, schools, tour operators, and hotels.

### CONTACT INFORMATION



670-664-2160



nmimuseum@gmail.com



nmimuseum.org

The Museum Gallery is open  
Monday - Friday, 9:00AM - 4:00PM except holidays  
and established austerity dates. The Museum  
is located at the corner of Kopa di Oru St. and  
Chichirika Ave. in Garapan.

### MAKE A DONATION

The Museum Board of Governors encourage residents and visitors to support the mission and purpose of the Museum by making a financial donation. The CNMI's Education Tax Credit Law (PL 10-73) provides tax credits for businesses and individuals who make up to \$5,000 in financial contributions to the Museum each year.

## 2022-2023 STAFF

### Executive Director

Danny Aquino (2017-2023)

### Facilities & Building Manager

James I. Macaranas (1998 - Present)

### Administrative Assistant

Archibald P. Ajoste (2020 - Present)

### Office Assistant

Wenny Haruo (2017 - Present)

### BOARD OF GOVERNORS

[Appointed August 8, 2023]

Leo G. Pangelinan, Chair

Mona Celia R. Mercado, Vice Chair

Sepe Gloriana Teuira, Secretary

John Diego D. Palacios

Judy C. Torres

Raymond Muña

Eloy M. Ayuyu