



MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION ON THE 13TH FESTIVAL OF
PACIFIC ARTS & CULTURE (FestPAC) MEETING

MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2022, AT 3:00 PM

VIA VIRTUAL APPLICATION ZOOM: VIDEO / AUDIO CONFERENCE

Commission Members Present were:

- | | | |
|------------------------|---|---|
| Kalani Ka'anā'anā | - | Hawai'i Tourism Authority Designee (arrived 3:17pm) |
| Maenette Ah Nee-Benham | - | Governor's Designee |
| Māpuana de Silva | - | Community Member At-Large Designee |
| Sylvia Hussey | - | Office of Hawaiian Affairs Designee |
| Jarrett Keohokālole | - | Senate President's Designee |
| Jamie Lum | - | Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) Designee |
| Richard Onishi | - | House Speaker's Designee |
| Kehaulani Pu'u | - | City and County of Honolulu Designee |

Guests:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---|---|
| Maka Casson-Fisher | - | Hawai'i Tourism Authority |
| Lynn J. Martin Graton | - | Public Member |
| Keali'i Haverly | - | Public Member |
| Monte McComber | - | Commission Liaison to CPAC |
| Ngahiraka Mason | - | Public Member |
| Aaron Salā | - | Festival Director |
| Mālia Sanders | - | Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association |
| Hose Inigo Santos | - | Public Member |
| Ka'iulani Spencer | - | Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association |
| Kanoe Takitani-Puahi | - | Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association |
| Pris Texeira | - | Public Member |
| Caroline Yacoe | - | Public Member |

Staff:

- | | | |
|---------------|---|--------------------------------|
| Elise Amemiya | - | Office of the Attorney General |
| Timothy Tiu | - | DBEDT |
| Scott Tome | - | DBEDT |
| Selma Malcolm | - | DBEDT |

Apologies:

Snowbird Bento

- Community Member-At-Large Designee

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Ah Nee-Benham called the meeting to order at 3:03pm on behalf of Chair Ka'anā'anā who is traveling. She welcomed all present and then conducted roll call of Commissioners: Ms. de Silva, Ms. Hussey, Mr. Keohokālole, Ms. Lum, Mr. Onishi, Ms. Ah Nee-Benham. Ms. Pu'u informed that she will be leaving at 3:30pm to attend another meeting. Ms. Bento and Chair Ka'anā'ana are excused.

Ms. Hussey presented the *wehena* (opening) for the meeting and shared an excerpt from the 3rd volume of *Nānā I Ke Kumu* and published by Queen Lili'uokalani Trust. She shared several guiding principles from the book, including:

- 1) Integration and respect for Hawaiian and Western ways of knowing.
The 'Ōlelo No 'eau (Hawaiian proverb), #203, 'a 'ohe pau ka 'ike i ka hālau ho 'okahi - not all knowledge is learned in one school. One can learn from many sources. The decades-long collaboration of Mary Kawena Pukui and Dr. E.W. (Jack) Haertig with the Queen Lili'uokalani Center truly exemplified the harmonious and respectful blending of Hawaiian and Western practices and knowledge.
- 2) Ground traditional practices in spirituality.
The 'Ōlelo No 'eau, #1740, *ke kau mai nei ka mākole* - the red-eyed one rests above, said of the rainbow with red predominating. A sign that our 'aumākua (family gods/guardians) are watching. Spirituality is one of the most important concepts in the Hawaiian worldview. It is a belief in an overarching higher power that connects all things and being in nature, the elements, and the cosmos.
- 3) Honor *nā ohana* (families).
The 'Ōlelo No 'eau, #1261, *i ulu no ka lālā i ke kumu* - the branches grow because of the trunk. Without our ancestors, we would not be here.
- 4) Practice *ho 'okūpono* (acting and operating in rifeousness, dignity, and excellence).
The 'Ōlelo No 'eau, #2065, *mai kāpae i ke a'o a ka makua, aia he ola malaila* – do not set aside the teachings of one's parents, for there is life there, which refers to ways in which we must follow traditional Hawaiian values.

Ms. Hussey reminded Commissioners to be mindful of these Hawaiian values in their capacity as Commissioners and in their work to execute the Festival.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Ah Nee-Benham invited members of the public to testify on the agenda items. Hearing none, she proceeded with the rest of the agenda items.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 26, 2022, YEAR MEETING MINUTES

The September 26, 2022, minutes were distributed and reviewed by Commissioners. Ms. Ah Nee-Benham asked for a motion to be made to adopt the minutes of September 26, 2022 meeting. The motion was made by Ms. Hussey and seconded by Ms. de Silva. Ms. Ah Nee-

Benham asked if there were any suggested edits or discussion. Hearing none, she asked for a roll call vote with the following Commissioners approving the motion to adopt the minutes of September 26, 2022 meeting: Ms. de Silva, Ms. Hussey, Mr. Keohokālole, Ms. Lum, Ms. Pu‘u, Ms. Ah Nee-Benham to adopt the minutes of the September 26, 2022 meeting, unamended. Mr. Onishi was excused from the vote due to technical issues.

The motion was accepted to adopt the minutes of the September 26, 2022, FestPAC Commission Meeting, unamended.

REPORT ON PERMITTED INTERACTIONS, PURSUANT TO ACT 103, SESSION LAWS OF HAWAI‘I 2021

Ms. Ah Nee-Benham reported that two (2) permitted interactions meetings that were held since the previous meeting. The Administration Committee (AC) on October 11, 2022, at 4:00 pm and the Venues Committee (VC) on October 12, 2022, at 10:00 am and a presentation will be provided a little later as noted in the agenda.

PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION REGARDING THE FESTIVAL DIRECTOR REPORT

Ms. Ah Nee-Benham called upon FD Salā for his report. Chair Ka‘anā‘anā then joined the meeting at 3:17 pm.

Festival Director (FD) thanked the Commission for supporting his trip to Suva, Fiji (October 2-9, 2022) as well as Mr. Eric Chang of the East West Center (EWC) Arts Program for funding it. FD reported on his meetings with The Pacific Community (SPC) and FestPAC related partners while in Fiji. The FD also advised that the Program Matrix and other program documents will be shared with the SPC to share with the countries that will be participating in FestPAC to obtain their biosecurity information and expectations. FD will also report on fundraising and preparation for the Aotearoa delegation visit in November 2022, and a FD request from the Commission.

Regarding the SPC meeting, the FD reported that he attended a series of very important meetings in Suva, Fiji. FD was engaged in discussions related to the inception, genealogy and evolution of FestPAC which started in the 1970’s as South Pacific Arts Festival and planning which took place in the 1960’s. FD reported that he met with the leaders of the different pillars of SPC. He expressed that the meetings were educational and relationship building on behalf of the Hawai‘i Commission to help him better understand how best to facilitate the process with the SPC as the custodial agent of FestPAC, while working hand-in-hand with the Council of Pacific Arts and Culture (CPAC) which is chaired by Ms. de Silva as Hawai‘i is hosting.

Regarding the Program Matrix, the FD reported that on June 6, 2024 Festival proper activities will begin with the *Wa‘a* (Canoe) Arrival Ceremony early in the morning; June 7, 2024 will be the formal opening of the Festival Village and the CPAC Meeting; June 8, 2024 Ministers’ Meeting; June 9, 2024 Ecumenical Service and a potential Choral Concert (depending on the desires of the CPAC & Ministers); June 10-12, 2024 SPC Symposium on cultural and sustainable development; June 13-14, 2024 Philosophies Conference in partnership with the

SPC, which is an addition to all the collaborative activities that will happen primarily at the Hawai‘i Convention Center and the Festival Village; 6/15/24 – Formal closing of the Festival Village; 6/16/24 – Final outcomes presentation of all FestPAC activities is to be shared with CPAC which then becomes a written publication on behalf of Hawai‘i. Also included in this day is the official Closing Ceremony.

The FD reported that Mr. McComber is the representative on the FestPAC Working Group speaking to the Youth Ambassadors Program. This will be a 3-day engagement from June 6-8, 2024, and in addition that is the Emerging Leaders engagement which is in partnership with the University of Hawai‘i - West O‘ahu. He expressed that the funding will be provided by the East West Center and the Hawai‘i Pacific Foundation. The FD also reported that the Traditional Leaders’ Meeting was brought up in Fiji, separate meeting from FD’s meeting with the SPC, sharing interest from traditional chiefs throughout the Pacific region to attend FestPAC and we should properly prepare for them.

Program Documents to SPC/Countries, Biosecurity: The FD reported that he has been revisiting the program pillars and putting program documents together for the SPC to distribute to the participating countries regarding their biosecurity needs to bring historical artifacts into Hawai‘i but that also to ensure they can find their way home.

Updates on Fundraising: The FD has been reinitiating fundraising conversations and discussions and is in preparation of assets that are inclusive of a statement regarding the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent endorsed by the Pacific Island Forum Leaders in July, the Pacific Region Cultural Strategy 2022-2032 from the SPC and the Pacific Partnership Strategy from the White House just endorsed a few weeks ago by President Biden. The document that the FD is preparing shows how aspirations for these strategies are collectively realized through the hosting of the 13th Festival of the Pacific Arts and Culture. That document will go to as many organizations and philanthropists as we can get eyes on. The FD reported that he is preparing an ask to the City & County of Honolulu which will go before the County Council before their next budget session. Also, that the FD has started to make presentations to potential funders and philanthropists as some of these organizations will begin their selections for gifting by the end of the calendar year.

Regarding preparation for the Aotearoa visit in November, plans are in progress. The FD advised that himself, Ms. de Silva and Chair Ka‘anā‘anā will discuss the details of this visit in an upcoming meeting with the SPC via Zoom.

The FD shared his challenges with the SPC in terms of communication. He indicated that communication between both has not been as direct. In May 2022, the Commission unanimously agreed to allow the FD to liaise and communicate directly with the SPC on behalf of FestPAC. FD then sought clarity from the Commission on this. The FD expressed that based on discussions at the SPC meeting in Suva recently, the Commission should find a way to engage the SPC to request a representative attend the Commission’s meetings.

FD reported that based on his meetings in Fiji recently, the Aotearoa visit in November will be communicated to the SPC to share that the Commission is supportive of the FD speaking on behalf of the Commission in preparation for the visit and then in corporation for SPC and CPAC visit in February and March 2023.

Ms. Ah Nee-Benham thanked the FD for his report and turned over this portion of the meeting to Chair Ka'anā'anā. Chair Ka'anā'anā then apologized for being late and then asked if there were any questions for the FD.

Mr. Onishi asked if the SPC was expecting a document from the Commission in order for the FD to communicate with SPC on behalf of the Commission. The FD felt that since the SPC is driven by official correspondences because of the nature of their mandate to countries, there has to be an official correspondence between the Commission and the SPC in order to communicate the decisions made. Chair Ka'anā'anā then asked the FD to draft a letter to the SPC on the Commission letterhead for his signature.

FD expressed that the letter to the SPC would include details to the fact that Aotearoa is visiting separately from the rest of SPC and CPAC because of their funding mechanism and their funding timing so FD could note in the letter to be inclusive of Aotearoa's November visit.

Chair Ka'anā'anā understanding is that there is a protocol where the heads of delegation would need to coordinate through SPC. FD thanked Chair Ka'anā'anā for the clarification and noted that the FD would coordinate the Aotearoa visit in November with the SPC. Chair Ka'anā'anā shared his concern that he does not want each country to be contacting the FD directly for individual site visits and that these requests should come through SPC and then be directed towards the FD.

Ms. Lum ask the FD if he had identified an appropriate person from the SPC to attend our Commission meeting and if we need to send them a formal invitation.

FD felt that the SPC scope of engagement might be general because what we would do is based on agenda items. We would engage that arm of the SPC, for instance if we are having a conversation about biosecurity, we would ask the SPC to send their Biosecurity and Land Resource Management designee, etc.

Ms. de Silva thanked the FD for his report and indicated that she did not know how the SPC falls into the picture, however she would question whether it is possible for SPC to be a commissioner as the Commission is mandated by Hawai'i State Law, however SPC can attend any meeting.

Chair Ka'anā'anā expressed that he would include a standing item on future agendas for SPC related item that would allow for agendized discussions.

Chair Ka'anā'anā revisited the program schedule that was shared during the FD report. Chair suggested that we extend an invitation to the traditional leaders as appropriate but questioned why it was blocked three days prior to the actual Festival. Chair advised this should be moved

into the dates of the Festival and consider the requirements it would take and the responsibility in hosting traditional leaders from around the region. Chair also looked at the dates and advised the FD to be mindful of flight arrival dates, etc.

Ms. de Silva suggested that the ‘Awa Ceremony should happen during the Ministers Meeting.

Chair Ka‘anā‘anā asked if there were any more questions for the FD and hearing none, he moved to the next agenda item.

PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION REGARDING ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Chair Ka‘anā‘anā turned over this portion of the meeting to Ms. Ah Nee-Benham, Chair of the Administrative Committee (AC). Ms. Ah Nee-Benham presented a brief report on the AC. She reported that they had a quick meeting before Commission met on October 17, 2022, to debrief the AC members on the FD’s recent meetings with the SPC. The AC also discussed the communication and promotional efforts, some of the information that the FD is pulling together that will be used for fund development activities. The website is on its way there – the SPC information received will be added to the website. Ms. Ah Nee-Benham also reported that the social media plan is currently being developed. It’s going to focus primarily on Hawai‘i and helping to prepare our communities with information on what FestPAC is, when it is and how they can participate, etc. to build public awareness and support. Ms. Ah Nee-Benham reported that the FD advised them about a possible opportunity to get some funding as well as to get some promotional materials out to the South Pacific Tourism Organization and that information is included in the AC minutes. The AC discussed what the City and County of Honolulu will be doing to assist with security, safety and ground transportation. The FD is currently working with the State Department to develop a special Visa program for the countries that will be participating in FestPAC.

Ms. Ah Nee-Benham reported that they reviewed the Kuleana Matrix and asked the Chair what the AC is to do with it and what is the role of this document. They also discussed that the FD contract comes to an end in December and how do they handle the closure of this contract.

Chair shared that the Kuleana Matrix was meant to be able to provide direction on the movement of pieces of the Festival grouped by responsibilities as a way to organize those pieces in one document.

Ms. Ah Nee-Benham reported that a revisit to the Kuleana Matrix along with the contract conversation will take place in the next AC meeting.

PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION REGARDING VENUES AND PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE UPDATE

Chair Ka‘anā‘anā turned over this portion of the meeting to Ms. Lum, Chair of the VC. Ms. Lum reported that the VC had a brief meeting on Wednesday, October 12, 2022. They discussed the SPC meetings in Fiji, the Pacific Philosophical Conference, and Symposium, etc., which the FD combined in his report in a more in-depth manner. Ms. Lum also reported that the Ministers of

Culture and CPAC meetings that are normally held in conjunction with FestPAC will also have a symposium and there are other programs which include Youth Ambassador (age 12-18 years) and the Emerging Leaders Program (age range from 18-30 years) as well as other programs.

Chair Ka'anā'anā and Ms. de Silva cautioned that the focus should be on providing the best Festival possible because that is what people are gathering to see and be part of. All the other events are ancillary. We have to be careful not to chase every event that looks attractive. Commissioner Lum asked if the Commission is able to say "No" to the SPC when they bring an event to us that they want to include. Commissioner de Silva responded that we can tell the SPC we will list the event with the FestPAC information/schedule, but we have to be clear in letting the SPC know that they will have to support and staff their events on their own.

Chair Ka'anā'anā invited Monte McComber to give a report on the Youth Ambassador Program. Mr. McComber stated that 24 counties will be participating. In 2023, there will be a virtual component where students will discuss what efforts are taking place in their country to "Regenerate Oceania" which is the theme of the Festival. The symposium will convene in person and virtually in 2024 with the intent that students will go back to their respective countries to implement some of these ideas and possibly collaborate with other countries. Mr. McComber stated that this program is supported by Kamehameha Schools (KS), Royal Hawaiian Center (RHC) and an anonymous private donor.

Mr. Keohokālole asked if this program comprises the entire KS financial commitment to the Festival. Mr. McComber replied that he believes KS will be pledging further financial support to FestPAC. Mr. Keohokālole expressed concern that we should be focusing on soliciting financial support for the main Festival events first rather than the ancillary events.

PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION REGARDING ONGOING FUNDRAISING AND FUND DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT

Chair Ka'anā'anā stated that Commissioners should have received following the last meeting a copy of the current budget as well as the FestPAC Sponsorship slide deck that was developed. He commented that we are struggling with the "chicken and egg" dilemma. Chair asked if the Commission needs funding first to come up with a plan for the Festival, or do we have a solid plan for the Festival that articulates our specific needs that we can present to potential funders before we have funds coming in. He is inclined to go with the latter. If we don't have the specific "asks," it is difficult to engage donors. Chair Ka'anā'anā asked commissioners if they had any reaction to his thoughts, or if they had specific questions about the budget or slide deck.

Mr. Keohokālole prefaced his comments by stating that he has never been a part of fundraising efforts for an event of this magnitude. In his opinion, the Commission should take the same approach as was done for the hiring of a FD, which was to set a goal and then work backwards to develop a timeline and milestones to reach to that goal. Mr. Keohokālole stated further that if the Commission can agree on a goal and the timeframe in which we want the goal reached, then the FD will have a clear direction, and we will be able to seek out the funding support we need.

Mr. Onishi left the meeting at 4:16pm.

Chair Ka'anā'anā agreed with Mr. Keohokālole's comments. Ms. de Silva also agreed. She added that we continue to talk about the things that need to get done, but the FD cannot do everything himself. She believes the responsibility rests on all of us at the moment, and we need to get volunteers in place to handle different areas to help the FD until such time that staff can be brought on.

Ms. Ah Nee-Benham stated that this discussion is why the AC feels the Commission needs to review the Kuleana Matrix again, because we have been doing a little of all the responsibilities listed in the matrix, but obviously more needs to be done, and we need clarity as to who will be doing what.

Ms. Ah Nee-Benham also raised the point that the FD has been placed at EWC because they are providing support through the use of facilities, supplies, equipment, contacts and even some financial support. She said the EWC President is supportive of FestPAC and knows how important it is to Hawai'i and the Pacific. Ms. Ah Nee-Benham believes the EWC President would support providing some staffing to the FD but not at the full level needed to accomplish all the work required to put on the Festival. This is an issue that needs to be taken up by the AC.

Chair Ka'anā'anā recollected that the EWC acted as the fiscal agent and housed the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) when it was held in Hawai'i. Ms. Ah Nee-Benham confirmed that and stated EWC also did the same for the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). She said EWC can and does act in that kind of capacity, and that is why they have been supportive of housing the FD there.

Chair Ka'anā'anā asked if EWC is a federal agency or are they tied to the University of Hawai'i. The thought was that if they are a state agency, then a Memorandum of Understanding could be executed for them to be a fiscal agent for FestPAC and house the FD and staff.

Mr. Keohokālole stated that whether the FD does it or the AC does it, a fundraising plan including goals, milestones and a timeline, need to be brought to the Commission for adoption so we can move forward. He share that the plan would give clarity to the Commission on execution of the fundraising goals and would also help the community understand how we are proceeding.

Chair Ka'anā'anā was elated to announce that the RHC pledged a contribution of \$50,000 to FestPAC as well as a number of in-kind contributions including 30-second FestPAC Public Service Announcements (PSAs) that will be aired during major events such as Merrie Monarch and the Lili'uokalani Keiki Hula competition, etc. RHC will also be providing office space for a FestPAC information center in 2023 as well as a part-time position to staff the center Monday through Friday starting in 2023 until the end of the Festival. Chair Ka'anā'anā pointed out that the RHC was one of the earliest funders for the 2020 Festival and has made a recommitment to the 2024 Festival.

Chair Ka'anā'anā tasked the AC to come up with a recommendation on funding milestones and timeline to be brought to the full Commission for action.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON AGENDA ITEMS

Chair invited the public to again offer comments. Hearing none, he moved into announcements.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Ka'anā'anā announced that commissioners who have not yet completed the State Ethics Training for the Board and Commission should do so. The training can be found online and is a 33-minute online certificate course.

Chair Ka'anā'anā reported that he and Ms. Mālia Sanders will be drafting a new meeting schedule for CY2023 for circulation to the Commission.

NEXT MEETING NOVEMBER 14, 2022

The next FestPAC Commission meeting is being contemplated for for November 14, 2022, and in person. A SPC representative and delegation from Aotearoa will be present in person to give a presentation. Ms. Sanders will be coordinating individually with each Commissioner.

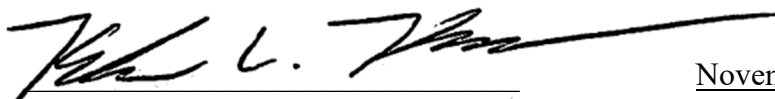
Chair Ka'anā'anā has the *wehena* responsibility for that meeting. There is no Commission Meeting on October 24th & 31st. Chair Ka'anā'anā suggested that those dates could be used for Committee Meetings.

Again, Chair Ka'anā'anā apologized for being late and thanked the public members for joining the meeting and the Commission for their steadfast support.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Ka'anā'anā adjourned meeting at 4:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kalani Ka'anā'anā
Chair

November 4, 2022
Date