GUAM
PHILHARMONIC
FOUNDATION, INC.

For Immediate Release
Dededo, Guam USA

GPF seeks fellows for new Prográmen Paláabra CHamoru Language Education Fellowships

Recently, there has been a public call to deliberately address the need to educate about and perpetuate the CHamoru language and culture. Thanks to generous financial gifts from the **Diep-Dang Kim-Xoa Charitable Foundation** and the **family of the late Tony Lam**, the Guam Philharmonic Foundation, Incorporated is accepting applications for **three (3) fellowships** for dedicated CHamoru language practitioners and educators. The fellowship program will be called the Prográmen Paláabra Fellowship (CHamoru Language Education Fellowship).

Each fellow will be awarded $2,500 each to conceptualize and teach a CHamoru language program to separate cohorts of 20 students in the Summer of 2026. Interested individuals can visit https://www.guamphilharmonic.org/ppclfp.html to learn more about the fellowship program. **Deadline to submit application packets is Wednesday, July 16, 2025**. A special presentation announcing the fellowship recipients will be held on Sunday, July 27, 2025, at a public event with members of the donor families present. Both the Lam and Diep families are connected to ***Operation New Life*** – the largest humanitarian effort of the 20th century where Guam was the first US processing point for over 110,000 refugees to escaped Vietnam in 1975.

This program is administered through the GPF's Saint Cecilia Fund. Other individuals, families and corporations interested in joining the effort to perpetuate the CHamoru language may make a donation to the GPF's Saint Cecilia Fund. The Guam Philharmonic Foundation, Incorporated is a 501 c 3 nonprofit educational organization. Donations may be tax-deductible to the fullest extent permitted by law.

For more information about this news release, please contact Ms. Joanne Matanane at matanane@guamphilharmonic.org or call 671-988-7347.

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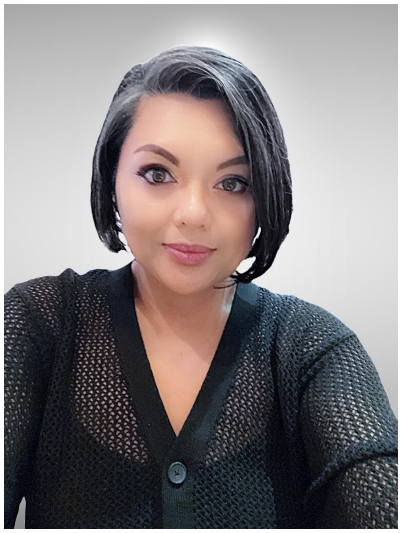

Joanne Matanane
PPF Program Director

Joanne Matanane is a passionate educator and interdisciplinary artist with over 30 years of experience in the arts and program leadership. For the past 10 years, she served as the band director for the Luis P. Untalan Middle School Band program. You may find her in various roles on and off-stage, wielding a baton, or clinging to a clipboard. She is an Associate Conductor for the award-winning Tumon Bay Youth Orchestra and works on Special Projects for the Guam Philharmonic Foundation, Inc. and World Theater Productions. Matanane is currently the Managing Director of the Tumon Bay Music Festival (TBMF) and the Music Director for Catholic Services at the Andersen Air Force Base Chapel.

Photo credit: Joanne Matanane – courtesy of herself.