

Mānoa Heritage Center Highlights 2019: Annual Report

Inspiring people to be thoughtful stewards of their heritage





Mānoa Heritage Center: 2019 in Review

2019 was a year of growth for Mānoa Heritage Center (MHC) and we are thankful to the students, educators, volunteers, partners and donors who joined us as we spread our wings throughout our newly expanded campus.

As a non-profit dedicated to promoting an awareness of Hawai'i's cultural and natural heritage during a time of rapid environmental change and complex societal issues, MHC's programs and partnerships are more relevant now than ever before. Below are highlights of what we collectively accomplished in 2019 towards MHC's strategic plan.

Goal #1

MHC will be an active resource for educators – helping their students connect with Hawai'i's cultural and natural heritage and inspiring them to take action in their own communities.

- More than **4,845 students** participated in MHC's free place-based, hands-on outdoor programs. MHC's free busing program was used by schools that are not within walking-distance or without their own fleet.
- More than **200 educators** participated in professional development workshops led by MHC staff and faculty from the University of Hawai'i's College of Education. Developing relationships with local educators is key to building a network of individuals who can expand biocultural literacy throughout the state.
- Hanahau'oli School, a leader in progressive education, seeks to embody "learning by doing" everyday in the classrooms. In 2019, they made MHC one of their classrooms and their 4th and 5th graders designed and built MHC's first-ever propagation structure. Six teams including Designers, Builders, Materials, Plants, Documentarians, and Budget,



MHC Director of Education Jenny Engle calls on kids to play the ahupua'a resource game.

worked with MHC staff to create a space where MHC's native plant keiki could thrive.

- MHC received a federal grant of \$150,000 from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association to support a project connecting educators and science-based organizations located along the urban Ala Wai Watershed. Over 2020-2021, MHC will partner with the University of Hawai'i College of Education's (UHCOE) Curriculum Studies Department to lead cohorts of K-12 educators and school administrators in professional development (PD) workshops dedicated to creating STEMS2 (science, technology, engineering, math, sense of place and social sciences) networks that support student learning. Together with Waikiki Aquarium, Lyon Arboretum, and Hawaii Green Growth's Old Stadium Park pilot project, MHC and faculty at the UHCOE are creating curriculum and models for learning that directly connect students to their natural environment.

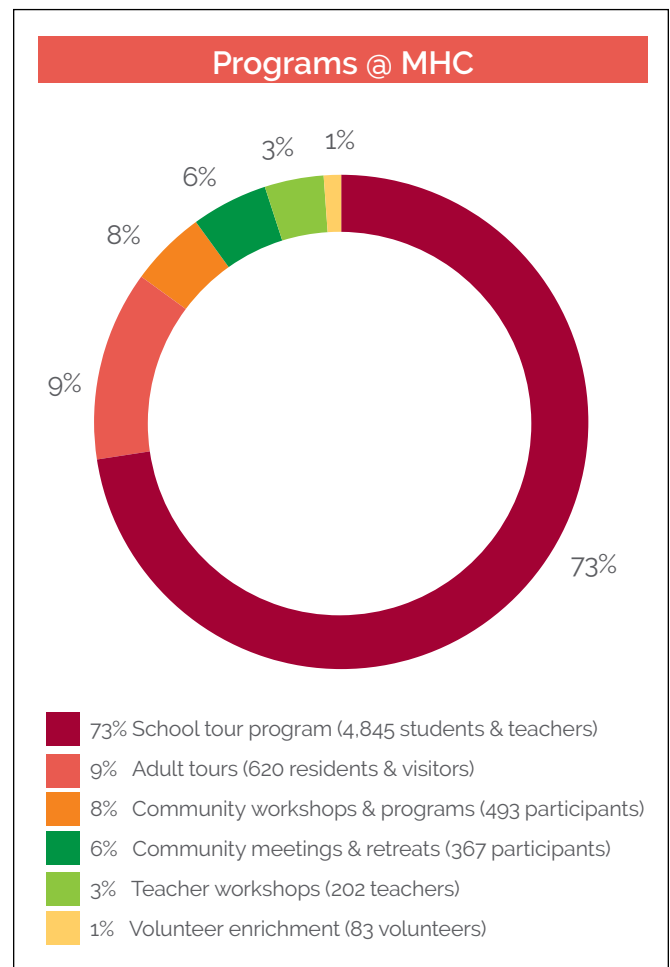
Teacher reflections:

It's a hidden gem located in town. It's sooooo beautiful and peaceful. The education center is exceptional. I would love to make this an annual field trip. (4th grade teacher, Anuenue Elementary School)

The resources that were provided for our class before our field trip were great! I liked how the activity that our class did at the end of the tour tied everything that we had learned together. Overall, it was a great and rich educational experience. (4th grade teacher, Royal Elementary School)

MHC was very private, perfect for young children; do not have to rush, worry about kids getting lost, facility was very clean, staff were friendly and knowledgeable, 20 min rotation of activities - children were able to move from one place to another; making a reservation was easy and MHC took care of the bus cost and fee (which is a huge deal for us - Title 1), it was a wonderful opportunity for them to learn the Hawaiian values, really appreciate this opportunity! Parents enjoyed it as much as children!!! (Pre-kindergarten, Ewa Elementary School)

The tour offered a well-organized and a good pace for activities. The activities were educational and allowed students to touch plants. It was exciting to take the plants back to school with us. (7th/8th grade teacher, Voyager Public Charter School)



Visitors to MHC increased by 49%
(6,610 visitors and program participants)

Goal #2

MHC will be an educational hub for kūpuna, families, neighbors, cultural practitioners, and community organizations.

- Implemented regular programming for adults. Our **monthly Saturday morning Ma Ka Hana Ka 'Ike (learning by doing) workshops** are aimed at connecting adults and families on a deeper level with Hawai'i's living culture. Each workshop engages 10-20 people depending on the topic and often sells-out within a day of being advertised via MHC's e-newsletter. Many participants are repeat attendees which has resulted in a growing network of community members engaged in MHC's mission.
- In January 2019, MHC partnered with the **Obama Foundation's Asia-Pacific Leaders Program**. Spearheaded by Maya Soetoro-Ng and Patricia Espiritu Halagao, the session at MHC focused on sense of place and engaged 21 emerging leaders from 16 countries and territories in the Asia-Pacific region selected by the Obama Foundation to design the Foundation's new leadership program for the region.
- For the first time, MHC hosted a **hula camp** for students in grades 4 and 5, taught by renowned kumu hula Michael Pili Pang. Held during Hawai'i Department of Education's (HIDOE) fall break, the hula camp was held under the watchful gaze of Kūka'ō'ō Heiau and Kahalaopuna, the rainbow goddess of Mānoa. Students learned mele and hula using MHC's garden of native plants and Mānoa's wind and rain as inspiration.



Participants in Tamsen Fox's Palm Bark Basketry Workshop show off their creations.



Members of Hui 'Ūkēkē A'o share their knowledge and love for the 'ūkēkē - the only indigenous stringed instrument of Hawai'i.



Three generations collaborate during the Botanical Lip Balm Workshop with Moani Hibbard.

Engaging online audiences

Facebook fans increased by 46% (342 followers)

Instagram followers increased by 46% (860 followers)

Goal #3

MHC will be a well-maintained facility with important historical and educational collections.

Ua ho'ono niho 'ia. Ho'oku'u ka hana.

Only when all the stones are stacked properly, then the work is done

- Traditional Hawaiian saying shared by Billy Fields

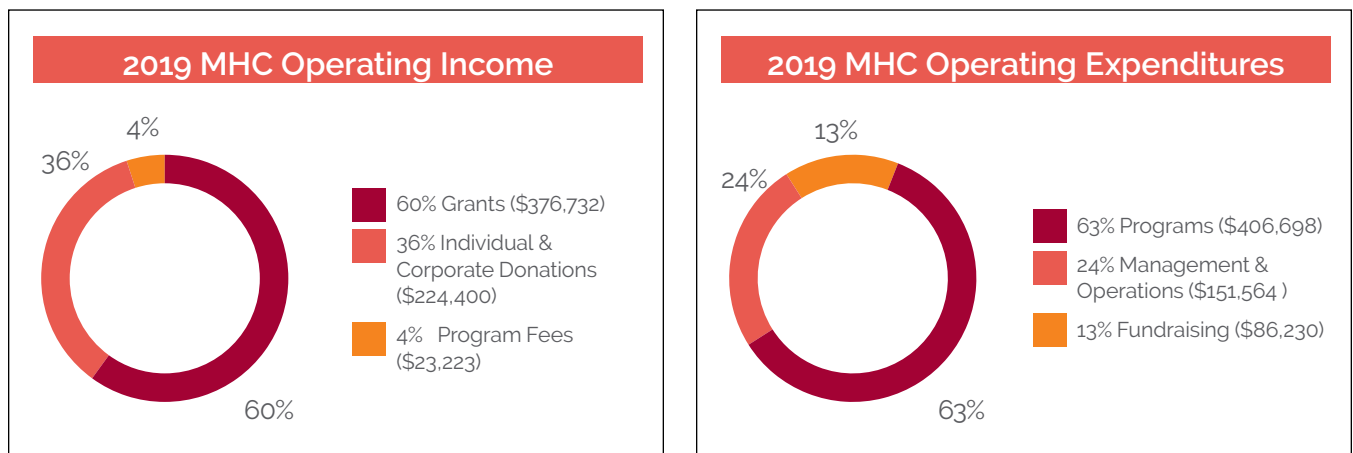
- Hawai'i Island stone mason Billy Fields was on site at MHC in late July to dismantle and rebuild a portion of the ancient wall alongside the White Garden that needed stabilization, as well as a corner of a wall extending from Kūka'ō'ō Heiau. During the week-long project, he conducted a workshop with seven participants from local cultural organizations to learn the basics of traditional Hawaiian dry stack wall techniques. The goal is to have the participants form a hui to assist and support each other with their own rock wall repair projects in the future.
- In Spring 2019, MHC's Board of Directors began a strategic planning process to develop an interpretive plan for the historic Kūali'i home. Our guiding essential question is: How can Kūali'i (its collections and as a home) and MHC as a whole engage local communities in important conversations about contemporary issues that reflect diverse and sometimes competing narratives (or new narratives) to promote responsible citizenship and cultural resilience?



Led by Billy Fields, this team of volunteer dry stack stone wall stewards rebuilt portions of Kūka'ō'ō. Back row, L to R: Kevin Prior, Nick Needle, Tory Laitila Front row: Kaiminaauao Johnson, Kai Hoshijo, Mary Cooke, Billy Fields. (Not pictured: Logan Ayau, Kialoa Mossman)

Financial Snapshot

Here's a look at how funding supports MHC's mission. The following graphs represent unaudited financials for the period January 1 - December 31, 2019:



Goal #4

MHC will be an efficient, financially stable non-profit focused on enjoyable learning.

MHC Board Member David Lee toasted Mary Cooke: "When Sam died on December second, four years ago, he knew that his and Mary's dream of a thriving cultural center would be achieved. That he lived long enough to see the groundbreaking for the Visitor Education Hale was important but beyond that he knew that Mary would accomplish alone what they had planned together." Truer words were never spoken. Mary has put her heart and soul into raising funds for the Sam Cooke Endowed Fund to ensure the long-term sustainability of MHC's programs.

Because of the generosity and support of our donors, **we have raised nearly \$4.6 million and are only \$400,000 away** from realizing Mary's goal of raising the first \$5 million for the Sam Cooke Endowed Fund. Every gift continues to be matched dollar for dollar by the \$1 million challenge grant from the Harold K.L. Castle Foundation. THANK YOU for getting us this far!



Mary and Sam Cooke, MHC co-founders

2019 DONORS: MAHALO MAHALO MAHALO

We are deeply grateful to the individuals, families and organizations who provided critical support for MHC's operations, programs and projects throughout 2019. The following donors contributed \$1,000 or more during the period **January 1 – December 31, 2019** towards annual operations and the Sam Cooke Endowed Fund:

Sam & Mary Cooke Circle (\$50,000 and above)

Atherton Family Foundation
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Allison Wong & Thomas Daniel
Micheline Wrenn

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Bernstein & Matthew Bernstein
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Marisla Fund of the Hawaii
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National Endowment for the
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Margie & Frank Newell
Pettus Foundation
TSK Charitable Foundation

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Peggy Kehoe Buchwach
Robert & Cara Chapman
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Jhamandas Watumull Fund

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Mary Anne & Mark Burak
The Edward & Peggy Eu Foundation
John R. Halligan Charitable Fund
Randy Moore & Lynne Johnson
Susan Freeman Family Foundation
Waterhouse Inc.

Guardian Circle (\$2,500 - \$4,999)

Kathryn Au
Roger Brossy & Rona Elliot
Cades Foundation
Monica & Ken Chun
Cultural Surveys Hawaii Inc
Cynthia Star Davis

Mānoa Heritage Center is led by a group of committed volunteers representing diverse sectors of our community.

Board of Directors 2019

Scott B. Power - *President*
Mary M. Cooke - *Vice-President*
Helen Nakano - *Secretary*
David Lee - *Treasurer*
Maenette Ah Nee Benham
Beryl B. Blaich
Mark Burak
Catherine L. Cooke
Julie Cooke
Ian Fitz-Patrick
Jack Gillmar
Patricia Halagao (*November 2019*)
Lynne Johnson
Susan Shaner

Sam A. Cooke - *Founder Emeritus*
Carol M. Fox - *Director Emeritus*

Stewardship Committee 2019

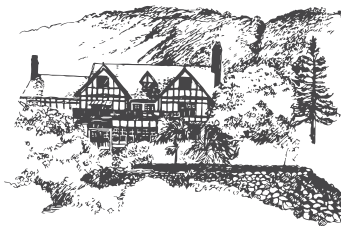
Makana Kane-Kuahiwinui
Kimo Keaulana
Mahi La Pierre
Naomi Losch
Kehaulani Lum
Kalikoaloha Martin
Aloha McGuffie
Kuki Navales
Loko'olu Quintero
Makana Reilly
Kilohana Silve
Manako Tanaka

Staff 2019

Mānoa Heritage Center depends on a team of full and part-time (*) staff to implement its mission.

Excie Batangan - *Groundskeeper **
Jenny Engle - *Director of Education*
Emily Fay - *Development Officer **
Kelsey Hara - *Digital Engagement / Web Content Associate **
Jenny Leung - *Cultural Site Manager*
Kevin Prior - *Caretaker*
Jessica Welch - *Executive Director*
Ke'ala Wong - *Education Assistant & Cultural Steward*

MHC's Native Hawaiian gardens are lovingly maintained by Anthony Ortiz, GREENSPACE HAWAII, Inc. and a corps of dedicated volunteers and service learning students.
Photography by Lianne Rozzelle.



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