

Man, Land, & Sea

A publication by Guam Coastal Management Program

September 29, 2023



8TH ASSEMBLY
OF PLANNERS
SYMPOSIUM



4



Summer Ocean
"paint and learns"

6

Protecting Guam
from Ridge to Reef



INSIDE

29TH Annual Guam International Coastal Cleanup 2023



KINDNESS
MATTERS





Ocean Conservancy®

29TH Annual Guam International Coastal Cleanup 2023

By: The Guam Coastal Management Program

The Guam International Coastal Cleanup was held on Saturday, September 16, 2023, and has become a landmark event in our island community for decades, drawing participants from local organizations, schools, businesses, and individuals who share a passion for environmental conservation and stewardship. With the support of these dedicated volunteers, we have made significant strides in keeping our oceans clean and safe for marine life. This year's cleanup hosted over 3,000 volunteers cleaning up approximately 25 coastal sites with approximately 14,000 lbs (7 tons) of trash collected.

Guam first joined the Ocean Conservancy in this worldwide effort to prevent pollution with three sites: Ylig Bay, Agat Shore, and Dungca's Beach with only 450 volunteers. Guam is now in its 29th year with over 25 sites and over 3,000 volunteers collecting several tons of trash from Guam's beaches.

The Guam International Coastal Cleanup is organized and led by the Bureau of Statistics and Plans, Guam Coastal Management Program with generous Site Leader Volunteers who organize and manage each of the cleanup site locations. GDOE students were able to receive service learning credits for their participation.



8TH ASSEMBLY OF PLANNERS SYMPOSIUM

Mobilizing the Guåhan 2050 Sustainable Development Plan
Providing a Framework for Public Participation.



SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

HYATT REGENCY GUAM RESORT





The 8th Assembly of Planners Symposium was held on Thursday, September 21, 2023, at the Hyatt Regency Guam to explore the promising trajectory of Guam's future through the Guåhan 2050 Sustainability Plan.

This annual symposium, renowned for its commitment to addressing Guam's most pressing challenges, cast a spotlight on the development of the **Guåhan 2050 Sustainability Plan**—a visionary blueprint that charts the course for a sustainable, resilient, and prosperous Guam and marks a pivotal moment in Guam's history as it assembles leading planners, experts, and community members to chart a path towards a more sustainable and resilient future.

The symposium was attended by approximately 200 participants and allowed attendees to interact and engage in the kickoff of the Guåhan 2050 Sustainability planning process and signified a collective effort to safeguard Guam's unique environment, preserve its cultural heritage, and cultivate economic opportunities for all residents.

The symposium, organized by the Bureau of Statistics and Plans, Guam Coastal Management Program, has long been a platform for collaborative discussions and innovative solutions in the realm of urban and environmental planning. This year, it took on an even greater significance as it hosted the official launch of the Guåhan 2050 Sustainability Plan.

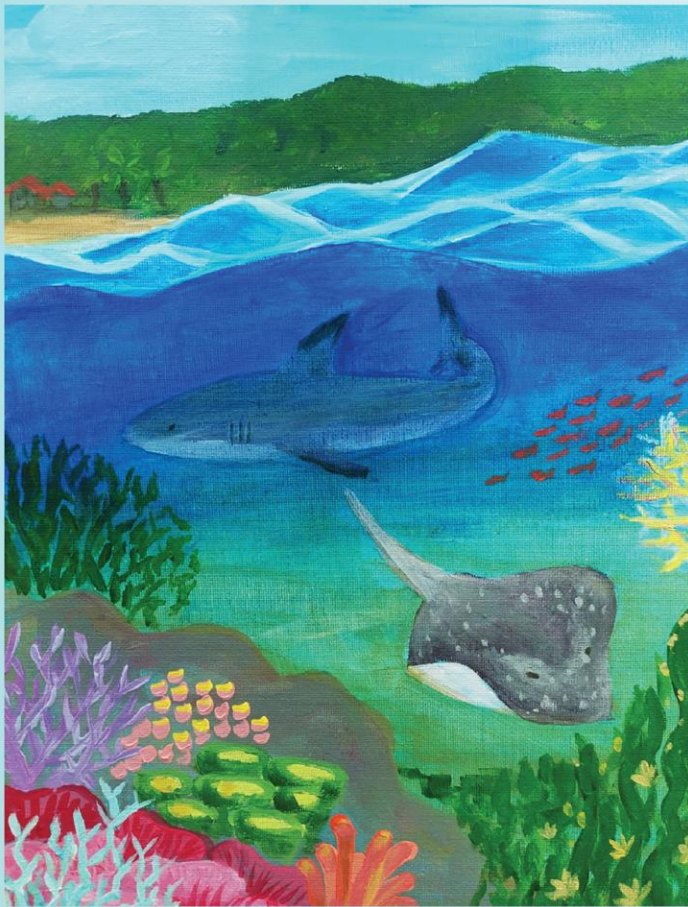
“The symposium allowed attendees to interact and engage in the kickoff of the Guåhan 2050 Sustainability planning process.”





From Art to Action- Guam Coral Reef Initiative's summer ocean "paint and learns".

By Cara Lin



A painting created to guide participants during the Paint and Learn session, featuring sharks, corals, a mangrove whipray, and seagrass with flowers. Painting created by Esther Ahn.

Art can be a unique, personal, and powerful way to learn about and appreciate our natural world. This past summer, the Guam Coral Reef Initiative (GCRI) hosted two public "paint and learn" events, one at the Inalåhan Mayor's Office and one at the Piti Mayor's Office, to celebrate and learn about Guam's amazing marine environments through painting. The painting sessions were led by Cara Lin, GCRI Seagrass and Mangrove Conservation Coordinator, and a guest painting instructor, Esther Ahn. Participation was free for 20 participants for each session and funded by a Department of Interior Coral Reef and Natural Resources grant.

During a two-hour session, participants completed a painting featuring marine environments in Guam with information shared about what they were painting at each step. Participants first painted the background, including the land and water, to represent the important concept of "ridge to reef" conservation. Our reefs and other marine life are directly linked to the land and freshwater. When it rains the water flows through streams and down the land, collecting potential pollutants and sediment until it goes into the ocean. If we are not careful about protecting the forests on land and preventing erosion, cloudy and polluted water can hurt our marine life by smothering it with sediment, causing disease, or causing algae overgrowth. Cara also shared about upcoming tree planting events that can help protect water quality and prevent erosion.



After painting the background, Cara shared information about the next portion of the painting — corals and seagrasses. Often in tropical environments, seagrasses are overlooked due to the vibrant colors seen in coral reefs. However, seagrass and corals are actually linked. Seagrasses help corals by improving water quality and can help reduce bacteria in the water and coral disease. Seagrass also helps absorb carbon and fight climate change, the primary threat to our coral reefs. However, our seagrasses may not be growing and reproducing as expected, and Cara has been on the search for seagrass fruits and flowers. Participants in this paint session not only learned about seagrass, but also how to help in searching for flowers and monitoring the seagrass at Piti Bomb Holes, which has recently declined.

For our Piti Paint session, the painting also included a mangrove whipray, a type of stingray that can be found in Guam and other parts of the Pacific. It gets its name from the fact that it start its life off in the mangroves. Juveniles are about the size of a dinner plate and swim through the mangrove roots for protection, and they can often be found in Sasa Bay Marine Preserve in Piti. Once the stingray is larger and more mature, it then moves into deeper waters and can be found in coral reefs and rocky areas. Although no mangroves were included in the painting, the mangrove whipray was included in the painting to signify the role that mangroves, as well as seagrasses, play as nursery habitats.



Photo credit: Cara Lin

Participants at the Piti Paint and Learn session show off their painting inspired by the corals, seagrass, and mangroves in Piti.



Photo credit: Cara Lin

Participants in Inalāhan paint while learning about seagrass, which can be found in many areas of Inalāhan's coast.

The Guam Coral Reef Initiative (GCRI) has held many educational events for our public in the past, including snorkeling sessions, scientific talks, and this summer also included paint and learns. GCRI hopes to continue holding events that combine art, science, and sustainability into the future. To stay informed of upcoming events, make sure you follow GCRI on Facebook @GuamCoralReefInitiative, or on their Instagram @GuamCoralReefs.



**Man, Land, and Sea
Newsletter
September 29, 2023**

CONTACT US

P.O. Box 2950
Hagatna, Guam 96932
671-472-4201/2/3

For Newsletter
Information,
please contact
Steven Dierking at
671-475-9647
or email at
steven.dierking@bsp.guam.gov

The Man, Land and Sea newsletter is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) through the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended, administered by the Office for Coastal Management and the Guam Coastal Management Program (GCMP) of the Bureau of Statistics and Plans, Government of Guam through Cooperative Agreement Award NA22NOS4190193
<https://bsp.guam.gov/guam-coastal-management-program/>



GUAM HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN PUBLIC MEETING

- TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2023
- 4:30PM TO 8PM
- UNIVERSITY OF GUAM JESUS AND EUGENIA LEON GUERRERO SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION BUILDING



Come learn about protecting Guam's endangered species and promoting sustainable development.

Keynotes from Lt. Governor Josh Tenorio, DPW Director Vincent Arriola, and DOAG Director Chelsa Muna!

**To receive more information,
email: chargualafc10679@triton.uog.edu
or call (671) 797-5985.**

GUAMHCP.COM



Photo credit: G. Curt Fiedler

Organizing a Beach Cleanup? We can help!

Contact the Guam Coastal Management Program and get connected with other volunteers and supplies.
Call 671-475-9647
or email
gcmp@bsp.guam.gov
for more information.
*limited supplies available per cleanup event.

