

Dr. C. Makanani Salā

SUMMARY

Cultural governance executive, historian, and Indigenous cultural practitioner with senior leadership experience in municipal government, regional arts funding, historic and cultural policy, and international cultural engagement. Former Executive Director of the Mayor's Office of Culture and the Arts for the City and County of Honolulu, with direct responsibility for public art governance, Percent for Art (1% law) compliance, and interagency cultural policy coordination. Trustee-level leader in regional arts funding organizations.

PUBLIC SERVICE, CULTURAL GOVERNANCE & BOARD-LEVEL EXPERIENCE

Trustee / Equity & Inclusion Committee Leadership

Creative West (formerly WESTAF)

Regional Arts Organization representing western states and Pacific jurisdictions

- Serves on the governing board of a multi-state regional arts organization administering public and philanthropic arts funding.
- Provides oversight on grantmaking policy, equity frameworks, and fiduciary responsibilities affecting western states and Pacific jurisdictions.
- Contributes to strategic planning and governance at a scale comparable to state and federal arts agencies.

Executive Director

Mayor's Office of Culture and the Arts (MOCA), City and County of Honolulu

Honolulu, Hawai'i

- Oversaw the City's arts and culture portfolio, functioning as the municipal analogue to a state arts agency.
- Administered public art processes and ensured compliance with the City's **Percent for Art (1% law)** across capital improvement projects.
- Coordinated with City departments, design professionals, and artists on culturally significant capital projects.
- Stewarded public art and cultural processes with attention to artistic excellence, cultural context, regulatory compliance, and public accountability.
- Oversaw the City's **Sister City and international relations portfolio**, supporting cultural exchanges and visiting delegations.

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP**Chief Executive Officer****Gravitas Pasifika, LLC**

Honolulu, Hawai'i

- Leads a boutique consulting and cultural production firm advancing Native Hawaiian and Pacific-centered initiatives across the arts, education, and public sector.
- Advises public agencies, foundations, and cultural institutions on cultural policy, governance, and large-scale public initiatives.
- Oversees international and inter-Pacific collaborations involving Indigenous leaders, cultural institutions, and creative sector partners.

EDUCATION**Ph.D., History**

University of California, Irvine

- Emphasis: Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century U.S. History and the Indigenous Pacific

M.A., Hawaiian Studies

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

B.A., Hawaiian Studies

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

CULTURAL PRACTICE & COMMUNITY AUTHORITY

- **Kumu Hula 'Ūniki 'Ailolo**
- **Ho'opa'a 'Ūniki 'Ailolo**

Grounded in long-term cultural practice, place-based knowledge, and intergenerational responsibility, informing professional work in public policy, governance, and stewardship.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Public Arts Governance & Policy
- Arts in Public Places / Percent for Art Administration
- Historic and Cultural Stewardship
- Regional & State-Level Arts Funding Oversight
- Interagency & Public-Sector Coordination
- Cultural Policy Development
- International Cultural Exchange & Diplomacy

APPOINTMENTS & SERVICE

Available upon request.