Queen Emma's 178th Birthday Celebration

by Kelly Ota

Between August 1862 and November 1863, Queen Emma lost her husband and her only child. In an effort to raise her spirits, many loved ones encouraged Emma to travel abroad on a fundraising trip for the Anglican Church in Hawai‘i. She agreed to the journey and wrote of it, "My motives in visiting London are not for display or enjoyment; they are ... to save if possible my dying people. From the great good already done by the Episcopal Mission, I believe that to support that mission is one of the best means to save and render virtuous the Hawaiian people."

She departed home on May 6, 1865 and did not return until October 22, 1866. Her travels took her through parts of Latin America, Europe, and North America and brought her face to face with many major figures in World History. Most importantly to the Queen, her work earned considerable assets for her mission and much goodwill for her cause. A Londoner observed, "The Queen's reception in England surpasses in success anything that could have been anticipated by the sanguine of Her well-wishers ... Her dignified and gentle bearing wins all hearts, and secure Her a place in the memory of all who have the good fortune to meet Her Majesty."

On January 2, 2014, at Queen Emma Summer Palace, The Daughters of Hawai‘i will debut an exhibit documenting this journey. Join the Daughters of Hawai‘i in celebrating Queen Emma's 178th birthday with an open house-free admission and the opening of this long anticipated exhibit. Light refreshments in Emmalani Hale.

For more information please visit daughtersofhawaii.org and click on the events calendar or call 808-595-3167. Queen Emma Summer Palace is open Monday through Sunday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. except on major holidays.

President's Report

Mark your calendars for our 2014 Conference, "Museums 2020: Vision and Visitors" to be held on Friday, April 25th at the Mānoa Grand Ballroom, Japanese Cultural Center, Honolulu, Hawai‘i. Fieldtrips for tours and programs at member museums will be scheduled for Saturday, April 26th. A request for Session Proposals was recently sent to HMA members. Registration information will follow in December. This is a great opportunity for enrichment and interaction with your colleagues.

I wish you a wonderful holiday season,

Jane Hoffman
Lecture by
Dr. Stacy Kamehiro
by Heather Diamond

On the evening of August 27, 2013, The Friends of 'Iolani Palace and Hawai'i Museum Association teamed up to co-sponsor a lecture by visiting scholar Dr. Stacy Kamehiro at 'Iolani Palace. Kamehiro is an associate professor in the Department of History of Art and Visual Culture at the University of California, Santa Cruz and is the author of The Arts of Kingship: Hawaiian Art and National Culture of the Kalākaua Era (University of Hawai'i Press, 2009).

Kamehiro's lecture was entitled 'Iolani Palace: Spaces of Kingship in Nineteenth Century Hawai'i. She discussed the design of the palace structure and grounds as a dynamic and deliberate fusion of traditional Hawaiian symbolism with European aesthetics. According to Kamehiro, Kalākaua used the construction of the palace for a much more complex purpose than simply to impress outsiders with Hawai'i's modern sophistication. He used it to demonstrate and reinforce his sacred status as monarch and to inspire a sense of nationalism in his subjects. Kamehiro illustrated how the seemingly very European building and its setting were very carefully modeled on traditional chiefly compounds and embellished with traditional symbols of chiefly status such as pulo 'ulu'u and kāhili. She discussed how Kalākaua appropriated and harnessed the Victorian fascination with collecting acquire and display Hawaiian and European decorative objects in his palace and national museum.

Close to fifty people attended the lecture and had an opportunity to participate in a lively discussion over refreshments following Kamehiro's talk.

IMLS Announces Effort to Strengthen State Museum Associations
March 28 and 29 in Bentonville, Arkansas

The American Alliance of Museums, working in cooperation with IMLS, will explore capacity-building strategies for state museum associations to better serve local museums. Leadership from the nation's 45 state museum associations will be invited to share the unique stories of their organization's history, organizational structure, operations, and overall approach to serving their constituencies. The convening will take place March 28 and 29, 2014, at Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Bentonville, Arkansas. The results of the two-day convening will be shared with all state, regional, and national museum associations in order to help support a strategic approach to better supporting museum professionals.

For many museums, especially for small museums and museums in remote areas, state museum associations play a significant role in providing technical assistance, professional development opportunities and more. While they face similar challenges and opportunities, state museum associations operate with a variety of governance structures and typically have small budgets and limited opportunities for networking and information sharing as a group. IMLS and AAM will host a national meeting for state museum associations to assess their needs and develop capacity-building strategies.

Websites for Grants & Resources

Institute of Museum & Library Services www.imls.gov
Heritage Preservation www.heritagepreservation.org
National Endowment for the Humanities www.neh.gov
National Endowment for the Arts www.nea.gov
American Assn. for State & Local History www.aaslh.org
Western Museum Association www.westmuse.org
American Alliance of Museums www.aam-us.org
Hawai'i Museums Association www.hawaiimuseums.org
Hawai'i Council for the Humanities www.hihumanities.org

Nūhou

Nūhou is the quarterly newsletter of the Hawai'i Museums Association which carries articles of professional interest to HMA members. Submissions to Nūhou are welcome, subject to editing, and should be received c/o HMA at the above address by January 20, April 20, July 20, and October 20. Photos and artwork are welcome and encouraged. HMA reserves the right to accept, reject and edit all submissions.

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The Hawai'i Museums Association is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to communication and cooperation among the staffs and supporters of Hawai'i's museums. Membership, subject to approval by the HMA Board, is open to all individuals, educational institutions, historical organizations and museums interested in the growth and development of the museum professionals and its activities in the State of Hawai'i. Individual memberships: Students $15, Out-of-State $20, Single $35 per year, Dual $65. For institutional rates and applications please refer to the website at www.hawaiimuseums.org. Complete and mail with payment to: Hawai'i Museums Association, P.O. Box 4125, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96812-4125.

Nūhou is Going Green in 2014

Members, we need your email addresses to send you your printable, digital copy of Nūhou. Archived issues of past newsletters will be posted on our website so that you don't miss out on news around the state. Email addresses and changes can be directed to membership@hawaiimuseums.org.
by Noelle M.K.Y. Kahanu

On September 21, 2013, Bishop Museum unveiled Pacific Hall — the culmination of a 3-year $8.7 million renovation project. Over 6,000 people of all cultures, places and ages streamed through the doors, breathing new life into a hall that had opened nearly 120 years before.

"Te rūtu, a te ata tapu e. Tai 'akatarutaru, taruru a! The sounding of the drums. The sacred dawn. The sea bringing abundance sounds!" In the foyer, visitors are greeted with a traditional Mangareva chant on the left and three Vanuatu slit drums on the right. Soon, the hall opens up to a vast expanse of blue and within it, an inlaid wood map of Oceania. Rising above hangs a traditional Fijian fishing canoe and further up is a 35 foot long media screen with moving images of Pacific people sailing, fishing, and dancing.

On the main floor is a large case filled with model canoes reinforcing the notion that the ocean was once our pathway to each other. "We were taught here in Hawai‘i that we are the most isolated landmass in the world," says Hawaiian scholar Manu Aluli Meyer from the corner introductory video, "but nothing could be further from the truth. We are connected, and it is our ocean that connects us." Indeed the spirit of Tongan luminary Epeli Hau‘ofa infuses the space with "Oceania is us."

Fellow Tongan epic storyteller Emil Wolfgramm describes the main floor as "Kau Moana: Peoples of the Oceans Deep," where tall upright cases explore various facets of life — from gods and ancestors to the sea and land, from family and community to chiefs, navigation and trade. Interactive videos provide greater depth through interviews with contemporary scholars, artists and poets. Contemporary artwork allows for a window into current issues and for the young, there is a resource center filled with activities and a costume alcove.

A new beautiful koa grand staircase leads upwards to 'Anu‘u Nu‘u Ka ‘Ike, a wide blue multi-layered community mural created by a group of native master, emerging and student artists. Its title embodies the mural’s many layers, as the artists sought to portray our collective Oceanic origins, continuing connections, and shared future. Across the way is a large migration map and a rail of 17 touchable adzes that trace the eastward movement of Pacific peoples. Various cases illuminate Papuan and Austronesian ancestors from New Guinea, South China and Taiwan, the Lapita cultures, Hawai‘iki in Tonga and Samoa, the Society Islands, Marquesas, and remote Eastern Polynesia. Most of the artifacts on display come from archaeological field work carried out by Museum scientists such as Kenneth Emory, Yoshihiko Sinoto, Roger Green, and Patrick Kirch.

How do we know what we know? an interactive corner display depicts the many ways, through linguistics, archaeological excavations, and genetic analysis, while four interactive media stations enable further detailed exploration through contemporary interviews, maps, expeditions, artifacts and photographs.

Finally, there is a small alcove dedicated to Sir Peter Buck, Te Rangi Hiroa, one of the most famed Pacific scholars of all time. Bishop Museum’s director from 1936 until his passing in 1951, his lifelong mission was to document the rich cultures of Polynesia. More than sixty years later, Pacific Hall seems to once again reverberate with his devotion to Pacific peoples, their cultures and traditions.

"Saturday was a great day! Pacific Hall is a wonderful addition to Bishop Museum. From historic artifacts highlighted by cutting edge technology, from the overall to the tiny details, from the atmosphere to the intricate craftsmanship (that floor map!), applause to the museum. It was alive. You could feel the mana. Aloha Bishop Museum." Justin Hill
Save the Date!
“Museums 2020: Vision & Visitors”
Hawai‘i Museums Association 2014 Conference
April 25-26, 2014 at Mānoa Grand Ballroom,
Japanese Cultural Center, Honolulu, Hawai‘i

HMA is the primary provider of museum training programs in the state of Hawai‘i. It serves the museum field with an annual conference on current issues in the museum field and seminars in specialized areas of museum work such as collections management, exhibition design, and educational programming. The annual Hawai‘i Museums Association Conference serves museum professionals working in Hawai‘i whose research and practice span more than 100 museums in Hawai‘i. The conference hosts the most diverse group of practicing museum professionals and museum studies students in the Pacific.

Over 100 academic and industry participants convene to share research and explore topics that focus on a highly diverse museum community. Keynote speakers, and academic and industry researchers present papers, and offer workshops and posters on recent developments for a highly broad range of topics. We hope to see you there.

Grant Awards for New Exhibit Planning at ‘Iolani Palace

by Heather Diamond

‘Iolani Palace has recently received two prestigious federal grants for new exhibit planning: a National Endowment for the Humanities grant in the amount of $40,000, and a Museums for America grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services in the amount of $65,000. These grants will partially fund a two-phase interpretive planning project, culminating in the development of a new master interpretive plan and the creation of a design/concept package for a set of new permanent exhibits to be located in the basement galleries. The master interpretive plan will draw on visitor learning research to provide comprehensive guidelines for enhanced interpretation of the palace and its grounds. Visitor-centered methods will also be applied to the development of the new exhibits, which will be focused around the theme “Points of Contact.” In August of 2013, the first phase of this project began with an advisory retreat that included a design team, five scholars, and two consultants. The design phase will take approximately one year. This project will provide enhanced capacity to tell the rich and varied stories surrounding ‘Iolani Palace.

Inside this Issue of Nūhou—
Pacific Hall Opens
Spaces of Kingship
Strengthening State Museums Associations