



NEWS RELEASE
MAYOR RICK BLANGIARDI
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 18, 2025

Communications Office: (808) 768-5768

City and County of Honolulu to Unveil Phase One of *Wahi Pana: Storied Places*



Events and Public Art Installations on View February 18, 19, and 20 at Fort Street, Fort DeRussy, and Operation Red Wings Medal of Honor Park

HONOLULU—The City and County of Honolulu is proud to announce the unveiling of Phase One of *Wahi Pana: Storied Places*, a series of art activations highlighting the rich cultural and historical significance of storied places, across O‘ahu. This inaugural phase will feature art installations by esteemed Native Hawaiian artists Rocky Ka‘iouiokahihikolo‘Ehu Jensen, Carl F.K. Pao, Imaikalani Kalahale, Brandy Nālani McDougall, and Cory Kamehanaokalā Holt Taum.

Wahi Pana was awarded a \$1 million grant through the [Bloomberg Philanthropies Public Art Challenge](#), which brings together mayors, residents, and artists to develop innovative, temporary public art projects that address important civic issues in their communities.

Phase One of *Wahi Pana*, in collaboration with Hawai‘i Triennial 2025 (HT25), presents multimedia art installations that illuminate the deep histories and cultural significance of Honolulu. By amplifying Indigenous Native Hawaiian stories through contemporary public installation, *Wahi Pana* aims to build a deeper connection to place, encouraging people to engage in community with heightened cultural awareness and respect. Phase 2 and 3 will be in May and September 2025, respectively.

“*Wahi Pana* is about connecting our communities to the places that shape our identity as a people,” said Mayor Rick Blangiardi. “These public art pieces remind us of the importance of preserving and sharing our cultural heritage with residents and visitors alike. This initiative underscores our commitment to honoring O‘ahu’s history and rich resources for future generations.”

The events will take place over four days, starting with a panel discussion followed by 3 days of activations. The public is welcome to join - come and be a part of the official unveiling, meet the artists, and learn about the mo‘olelo (stories) behind the public art.

Tuesday, February 18, 2025

- **Time:** 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- **Location:** Capitol Modern
- **Feature:** Wahi Pana/ Hawai‘i Triennial (HT25) panel discussion with Wahi Pana and HT25 curators

Wednesday, February 19, 2025

- **Time:** 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- **Location:** Fort Street Mall
- **Feature:** Activation of Carl F.K. Pao’s tiled floor mural installation entitled *Ke Kānāwai Māmalahoe (The Law of the Splintered Paddle)*, in collaboration with Hawai‘i Triennial 2025 and selection of poetry by Imaikalani Kalahahele
- Media availability with Mayor Rick Blangiardi.

Thursday, February 20, 2025

- **Time:** 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- **Location:** Fort DeRussy
- **Feature:** Activation of Rocky Ka‘iouliaokahihikolo‘Ehu Jensen’s five carved ki‘i *Nā Lehua Helele ‘i (The Scattered Lehua Blossoms)* commemorating fallen Kānaka Maoli warriors, in collaboration with Hawai‘i Triennial 2025

Friday, February 21, 2025

- **Time:** 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
- **Location:** Operation Red Wings Medal of Honor Park, 534 Paikau Street
- **Feature:** Activation of Brandy Nālani McDougall’s poetry installation entitled “Lē‘ahi” from *Aloha Ka‘apuni*
- Media availability with Mayor Rick Blangiardi.

Visual Assets: <https://wahipana.com/pr25-0218>

About *Wahi Pana: Storied Places and HT25*

Wahi Pana: Storied Places is a temporary public art project led by the Mayor’s Office of Culture and the Arts (MOCA) in collaboration with Bloomberg Philanthropies, Aupuni Space, Pu‘uhonua Society, Hawai‘i Contemporary, O‘ahu Visitors Bureau, Bishop Museum, and Hawai‘i Tourism Authority.

Honolulu is honored to be one of eight U.S. cities selected to receive funding from the Bloomberg Philanthropies Public Art Challenge grant, making this initiative possible. This unique, unprecedented project includes art installations across the island of O‘ahu that connect each site with their indigenous, Native Hawaiian mo‘olelo (stories).

The project spans 2025 through 2028 and includes contributions from renowned local artists, storytellers, and cultural advisors. The initiative invites the public to engage with the transformative power of art, to honor wahi pana (storied places), and to reflect on the stories embedded in our landscapes.

Hawai‘i Triennial 2025 is The state’s largest, thematic exhibition of contemporary art from Hawai‘i, the Pacific, and beyond our shores, on view for 78 days across collaborating sites of exhibition on O‘ahu, Maui, and Hawai‘i Island.

For more information on *Wahi Pana* and HT25, visit wahipana.com and hawaiicontemporary.org

About the Bloomberg Philanthropies Public Art Challenge

The Bloomberg Philanthropies Public Art Challenge brings together mayors, residents, and artists to develop temporary public art projects that address important civic issues in their communities. In 2022, Bloomberg Philanthropies invited mayors of U.S. cities with 30,000 residents or more to apply for up to \$1 million in funding to create temporary public art projects that address important civic issues and demonstrate an ability to generate public-private collaborations, celebrate creativity and urban identity, and strengthen local economies. More than 150 cities from 40 U.S. states applied. Bloomberg Philanthropies selected eight winning cities, including Baltimore, to develop projects focused on challenges related to climate change, food insecurity, gun violence, homelessness, public health, and revitalization. Since launching in 2014, the Bloomberg Philanthropies Public Art Challenge has spurred more than \$100 million in economic benefits for participating cities and action across a range of civic issues. For more information, please visit publicartchallenge.bloomberg.org.

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