

Artists: More opportunities to fund art with grants

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ing arts would apply for grants, “but they couldn’t take advantage because it was strictly visual arts.”

The Percent of the Arts statute, first enacted in 1979, requires developers who get tax breaks through the government of Guam’s qualifying certificate program to purchase local artwork worth “at least 1 percent of the overall construction, remodeling, or renovation cost” of a building.

CAHA is one of several government entities that must sign off on a building’s occupancy permit before a building or part of a building opens to the public.

When the law was amended in 2011, it allowed developers to give the 1 percent of their construction costs to CAHA in lieu of displaying local artwork throughout the building. To foster cul-



SHAWN RAYMUNDO/PDN

Local artist Dawn Lees Reyes' painting "The Blud Hole," depicting Guam's culture and natural world as one matrilineal link, is housed in a third floor conference room of the Gloria B. Nelson Public Service Building in Mangilao.

Won Pat’s measure describes visual art as drawings and paintings, as well as ceramics and sculptures. Filmmaking, photography, printmaking, literature and architecture would also be included under the visual arts definition.

talking about blacksmithing, ... healing arts demonstrations, building an oven, cooking and sharing of food. They’ve taken the essence of art and modified it to their liking,” said Filamore Palomo Alcon, owner of the Guam Gallery of Art.

those weavings up on those shelves, ... show the art of these people that are traditional artists. We need to present it in a permanent manner.”

Flores said several traditional artists have benefited from the Percent of the Arts

pieces of art from 18 artists hang throughout the new building. The theme of each piece of work is based on environmentalism and sustainability.

According to GWA spokeswoman Heidi Ballendorf, the utility agencies spent about \$276,000 on local artwork to comply with the Percent of the Arts law. The cost to construct the building was about \$26 million, she said.

Good timing

The timing of the measure couldn’t have come at a