The SFCA is pleased to announce that a significant new restaurant is opening this month in the ground floor kitchen space of the Hawai’i State Art Museum which will benefit downtown workers, attract museum guests and bring Honolulu’s foodies back to our historic building.

Named “Artizen,” the new restaurant is the creation of Michelle Karr-Ueoka and Wade Ueoka, the wife-and-husband team of MW Restaurant. Executive Manager and co-restaurant’s owner J. Karr signed the lease for the space Nov. 3 with the Friends of the Hawai’i State Art Museum. The restaurant will be open Monday through Saturday and will serve lunch, special event meals and possibly morning pastries at the museum.

The couple, who will continue to run their popular MW Restaurant on Kapi’olani Boulevard, plan a “soft opening” at the museum location this month.

The HiSAM kitchen space thrived during Ed Kenney’s Downtown tenure but has been vacant since the most recent tenant, Grand Café and Bakery, closed last May.

MW Restaurant’s menu includes many local favorites such as ahi poke, fried chicken, and oxtail and Portuguese bean soups. Another big draw is sure to be their made to order bento lunches.

The husband-and-wife team each spent years working with influential local chef Alan Wong—Michelle primarily as pastry chef and Wade as chef de cuisine. Both have also worked at Thomas Keller’s famed The French Laundry in Napa Valley.

Karr said the concept for Artizen will be “grab and go” meals featuring daily specials, salads and sandwiches on fresh baked bread. There will not be table service, but plenty of available seating in the restaurant area.

“We are going to move fast here,” Karr said. The total lease space is 2,656 square feet with a seating area of 1,434 square feet, the kitchen includes 842 square feet and an office.

Outdoor seating in the HiSAM Sculpture Garden is shared with other building occupants and museum visitors. The restaurant will be available to cater on the Front Lawn, and 2nd Floor Courtyard for special events.
First Friday: Holiday Music with Harpist Ruth Freedman
Friday, December 4, 6–9 p.m., Hawai‘i State Art Museum, Free

Ruth Freedman will perform songs of the season during First Friday December 4.

To celebrate the holidays, angelic harp artist Ruth Freedman will perform songs of the season during our Dec. 4 First Friday event.

With her beautiful antique harp, which is more than 100 years old, Ruth play your favorite holiday classics and much more.

Join us from 6 to 9 p.m. for First Friday at the Hawai‘i State Art Museum.

Next month’s First Friday falls on January 1, 2016 and HiSAM will be closed for the New Year’s holiday.

Second Saturday – Lauhala Holiday
Saturday, December 12, 11 a.m.–3 p.m., Hawai‘i State Art Museum, Free

Come down to HiSAM and get your Holiday decorating started Hawaiian-style! You’ll learn weaving from the Ladies of the Lauhala Hui and go home merrily with ornaments to treasure and share: fish, stars, and mini-wreaths.

Downtown streets aren’t crowded on the weekend, so walk, bike, take The Bus or drive to HiSAM on Second Saturday ($3 flat-rate parking across the street at Ali‘i Place; enter at 1099 Alakea St. Free parking available at City & County underground lot at Beretania and Alapai.)

Come see—it’s your art!
HiSAM engages new audiences

HiSAM continues to grow into its potential as “The Peoples Museum” through a wide variety of programming. Under the leadership of APP Manager Karen Ewald and Friends of HiSAM co-Presidents Lisa Yamada and Andrew Rose, the venue is engaging new audiences.

October featured three events: Art-Zone, a family friendly event sponsored by HiSAM featuring Artistic Teaching Partners engaging audiences in the galleries; Art & Flea, a First Friday Partnership saw guests searching out clues to post on Instagram to the sounds of KTUH DJ’s; and Hallowbaloo, an extravagant adult focused rental event which extended HiSAM’s presence out onto Hotel and Richard Streets for a community block party.

HiSAM engaged new audiences to HiSAM where they were treated to the recently installed HA-WAII: Change & Continuity exhibition.

Also in the news about HiSAM:
A docent training program began this month and an expanded Art Bento Museum education program is under way including students from three Turnaround Arts schools.

We are thrilled about the announcement of a new restaurant tenant, Artizen by MW opening in December! We look forward to establishing and recruitment for a Gallery Manager position in the New Year.

All this, and let’s not forget HiSAM is staffed by two full time employees: many people are volunteering to make this a truly exciting community place. Join in supporting the Friends of HiSAM in their bid for a Levitt grant to support live music programming at HiSAM next summer. (For details see www.levittpavilions.org).

Art Lunch Lecture – George Woollard ~ A Life in Art

Artist and revered teacher George Woollard will share images, stories, philosophy and more with the Art Lunch audience. Not only passionate about his dual endeavors of making art and teaching art, Woollard believes that each provides inspiration to continue practicing the other. Also contributing to the creative fire is a lifetime of travelling the globe, armed with boundless curiosity and a deep belief in the benefits of considering the points-of-view of others.

For Woollard, the feeling of “life” in a work is the gift he seeks to pass on to its viewers. He considers his completed pieces to be best understood as performance art:

“It is in the making of things that the art talks place.”

George Woollard earned a BFA and an MFA from the University of Hawai‘i at Manoa, studying first painting and then printmaking. His work is currently on display in Image & Imagination in the galleries of the HiSAM and at the First Hawaiian Center in downtown Honolulu.

www.sfca.hawaii.gov

Song for Jinja by George Woollard.
Display cases features artworks by island artists at Hawai‘i Convention Center

Thousands of local residents and visitors attend events at the Hawai‘i Convention Center in Honolulu every year.

At the convention center, dozens of painting, sculptures and murals provided through the SFCA’s Art in Public Places program are exhibited throughout the $350 million building.

On the third floor are six display cases which have been refreshed with a new exhibit designed to entertain and educate titled “Where We Live: Places of Hawai‘i.”

Five of the display cases, which are 7 feet tall by 11 feet long, contain unique artworks focusing on the major islands – Kaua‘i and Ni‘ihau; Oahu; Moloka‘i, Lanai and Kaho‘olawe; and Hawai‘i.

The first case includes information about the SFCA and HiSAM and give this overview of the exhibition:

“For many people who live in Hawai‘i or who have visited the islands, the distinctive natural surroundings that characterize specific locales make an indelible impression, lasting forever in one’s memory. Hawai‘i’s unique environment and striking landscape often serve as subject matter for local artists. Some of the art exhibited here takes viewers back to places they have once visited, while others introduce visitors to new sites vividly interpreted through a variety of artistic visions. All the works are more than simple depictions of geographic areas in Hawai‘i. Instead, they evoke a sense of place conveying an essence and capturing a special feeling about the location shown. The art displayed in this exhibition includes realistic and recognizable representations of particular places as well as distilled aspects in abstracted and stylized images. Tranquil settings are shown alongside dynamic and vibrant locations illustrating the diversity found on our island home.”

The next time you visit the convention center, take a look at these displays and enjoy art from across our island state.
Bring HiSAM home with you using latest links

The SFCA website is filled with useful information and tools for artists, teachers, grantees and art lovers. Information about the SFCA and HiSAM galleries, events, grant availability, deadlines and official reports and documents are all regularly posted and updated.

New to the website are two more reasons to visit the site – a link that allows you to view the art from the four exhibits currently on view as well as the Sculpture Garden and Sculpture Lobby, and a statewide listing of SFCA funded programs and events.

HiSAM has six different exhibition areas filled with painting and drawings, ceramics, sculpture, photographs and other artworks.

After you’ve toured one or more of the galleries you may want to look back at a particular piece that grabbed your interest. You might not remember the name of the artwork or the artist, but you remember what you saw.

Collections Manager Wanda Anae-Onishi has gathered images of all artworks from each section of the museum that will enable you to revisit these works from your computer or cell phone whenever you like.

To follow the links, go to our web site at sfca.hawaii.gov, and click on HiSAM in the tool bar of the SFCA home page and use the pull down to go to exhibitions, and then current exhibitions and open any of the galleries currently on view.

Inside each page is a link to view the artworks in each exhibition. To see the artworks in the Sculpture Garden and Sculpture Lobby again go to the HiSAM pull down, go to visitor information and then to HiSAM Sculpture Garden. This page contains the links to all the artworks in the garden and the lobby.

These links allow you to bring the museum home with you and see all the artworks currently on display any time you like.

Also on the home page, about halfway down on the left is a link titled SFCA Funded Programs & Events.

Click on this link which will connect you to events that are funded all or in part by the SFCA on all major islands. Exhibitions, lectures, literary arts, music, theater, workshops and classes connected to our programs and grantees are listed and linked for easy access to more information.

Follow these links to see all the artworks in HiSAM

Image & Imagination exhibition
HAWAII: Change & Continuity exhibition
He Makana exhibition
Voyaging: The Art of Wayfinding exhibition
Sculpture Garden
Sculpture Lobby

Art Acquisition Selection Committee exhibition visitation schedule

Here is the current schedule for Acquisition Award Selection Committee for January–March 2016. These exhibitions were approved by the SFCA Board of Commissioners at their general meeting Nov. 18.


For information about how to have your group’s exhibition visited by a SFCA AASC for possible recommendation of artworks to add to the Art in Public Places Collection, visit http://sfca.hawaii.gov/art-in-public-places/application-forms-2/.
Ige selects Hamamoto to lead SFCA Board of Commissioners

Governor David Ige has named Patricia Hamamoto the new Chairperson of the SFCA Board of Commissioners.

Hamamoto, who replaces Sherman Warner in the leadership role, was named a commissioner in June. She will serve a four-year term as a volunteer board member and is then eligible for a second four-year term.

Hamamoto served more than three decades in Hawaii’s public school system—the last eight years as superintendent of schools. She was also the principal of Saint Louis School for nearly 4 years, retiring in 2013. Her career in education has spanned more than forty years and she still helps out at our public and private schools.

She left her post as chief of Hawaii’s public school system in 2009.

Hamamoto has held several positions in public education ranging from classroom teacher to various school and state level administrative roles.

She is a graduate of Maryknoll High School and her first teaching job in Hawaii was teaching Social Studies at Highlands Intermediate School in 1975.

Q & A with Patricia Hamamoto

What skills do you bring that will contribute the SFCA board? I bring a variety of experiences: from the schools (teacher - principal); working understanding of the interaction between the executive and legislative branches of government; when it comes to the budget and passing bills; working with a board, other department heads, different state agencies, private-public partnerships, and the impact of unions in supporting government employees.

Have you been a member of other boards or commissions? Yes. Pacific Resources for Education and Learning, Boy Scouts of America, Salvation Army, Mediation Center of the Pacific, Partners in Franciscan Ministries and Saint Francis School Board.

Does it help to understand how the state system works? Yes. The state system is a huge complex bureaucracy which moves as directed by laws, rules and policies. Understanding the differences and how they work and complement each other makes for positive and successful results. In addition, working with other state departments and agencies is critical to our success.

How important is the SFCA to the state and its people? Extremely important - the SFCA is charged with ensuring that our culture, beliefs, practices and values, as seen through the lenses of our artists and craftsmen, are captured, preserved for all times.

How important is art in education? Schools are in the business of transmitting our culture and preparing our children and youth for the future. What better place than in the schools to promote a love, an understanding and support for art and SFCA.

What do you hope to accomplish during your term as chairwoman? To make SFCA known and recognized throughout the State as the lead agency in supporting, advocating and promoting Hawaii’s culture and the arts. As well as provide all communities access and participation in the many different expressions of culture and the arts.

What are the primary difference between being a board member and a SFCA staff member? Primary differences - Staff has a wealth of expertise, are responsible for the delivery/implementation of programs that support the goals and priorities of the board members as they work to achieve the vision and mission of SFCA.

Deputy Comptroller Audrey Hidano leads commissioners Pat Hamamoto and Dean Sakamoto in taking the Oath of Office.