

## Aloha Islands by the Bay Community!

We are thrilled to share some exciting news with you - Our inaugural Islands by the Bay Festival was a massive success! Thanks to your support and enthusiasm, we were able to bring the Bay Area community together for a memorable weekend filled with entertainment, scholarships, and mouthwatering food and retail vendors. Here's a glimpse of what made our festival truly remarkable:

### Celebrating Culture and Diversity

Islands by the Bay Festival celebrated the rich tapestry of cultures that make the Bay Area so unique. From Polynesian dance performances that left us mesmerized to captivating music that had everyone dancing to the rhythm of the islands, the entertainment was nothing short of spectacular. It was a true celebration of diverse communities that call the Bay Area home.

### Islands by the Bay Scholarships

On May 7th, 2023, at Yerba Buena Gardens in San Francisco, Legacies of the Pacific (LOP) awarded various scholarships to give back to the community. The categories were sports, dance, music and art. Awards were given out at the festival. These recipients received an opportunity to participate in basketball camps, team training, private music lessons, and Hula and Tahitian dance competitions for both soloists and groups.

We want to thank the following:

- Contra Costa Regional Health Foundation who contributed to our dance scholarship fund.



- Golden State Warrior Academy for partnering with us to double the scholarship awards for basketball camps and team training.

### Sport Scholarship Team Trainings

Team Vision (Fairfield, 15 players): Coach Cecille Lizardo/Chris Castro/Coy Balanag



Coby Balanag, Aidan Barillaro, Jalen Bondoc, Angelo Cheng, Paolo Esparrago, Emmanuel Gabriel III, Masen Garcia, Lamar Legaspi Jr., Tavian Leoncio, Ethan Sinay, Michael Singer, Jeremy Tan, Tristan Whitrock



“The experience we had together at the Golden State Warriors Basketball Academy as a team was great. The guidance of the Coaching staff along with the interactive technology allows the kids to help elevate their game and have fun at the same time. Would definitely recommend this Academy to anyone who plays the game of basketball at any skill level or even if you want to just check it out to have a little fun.”

-Coach Coy Balanag, Vision (Castro) Friday, Aug 11, 2023 @6-8pm  
Warriors Basketball Academy, 1011 Broadway St, Oakland, CA 94607

Team Vision (Fairfield, 15 players): Coach Lamar Legaspi



Team Vision Basketball Academy (American Canyon, 15 players): Coach Eric Tabernero

Team Roadrunner's Sports Club (East Palo Alto, 15 players): Coach Dokesha Meacham

Our Lady of Visitation (San Francisco, 5 players): Coach Jeff Serrano

STM Broncos (San Francisco, 5 players): Coach Vilaska Nguyen







Owen Bumanglag, Tristan Caragan, Russell Nguyen  
 Not Pictured: Tio Martinez, Jada Wu

“The boys loved the experience and asked if they can go again next year! Thank you for the experience.”  
 ~Therese, STM - San Francisco  
 GSW session II (July 5-7), Los Altos

**Music Scholarship**



Aven Ramirez

Private ukulele lessons given to an awardee instructed by Raymond Bambao, Founder of Leap Year Music.



## Dance Scholarships

Congratulations to Merahi O' Tehani from Hayward, CA.  
Winner of the Ia 'Oe E Ka La Hula Competition and Festival Scholarship.



Congratulations to the winners of the San Jose Tahiti Fete held at the San Jose Convention Center, June 30 - July 3, 2023 and Manahere Tahitian Competition held at Milpitas High School on July 29 - July 30, 2023.



### San Jose Tahiti Fete Awardees

Kalea Baltazar- Vahine 11-15 yrs Advance  
Kealanie Baltazar- Vahine 16-20 yrs Advance  
Jaelynn Fa'atuga Vahine 6-10 yr  
Trinity Sky Hernandez- Vahine 11-15 Intermediate  
Jayanna Mallari- Vahine 9-12 yrs Beginners  
Kaylee Mithkeaw- Vahine 16-20 yrs  
Olivia Pierce- Vahine 7-9 yrs  
Malia Simbre- Vahine 10-12 yr Advance  
Kristine Anne Velasquez- Vahine 16-20 yrs Advance  
Mia Pualalea Williams Vahine 16-20 yrs



### Manahere Awardees

Kalea Baltazar- Vahine 11-15 yrs  
Kealanie Baltazar- Vahine 16-20 yrs  
Verdandi Bognot- Vahine 16-18 yr  
Winter DeWitt Vahine 4-5 yrs  
Jaelynn Fa'atuga Vahine 6-10 yr  
Kiana Garcia- Vahine 16-18 yrs  
Talia Jade Garcia- Vahine 13-14 yrs  
Trinity Sky Hernandez- Vahine 11-15 Intermediate  
Jayanna Mallari- Vahine 9-12 yrs Beginners  
Kaylee Mithkeaw- Vahine 16-20 yrs  
Kristine Anne Velasquez- Vahine 16-20 yrs

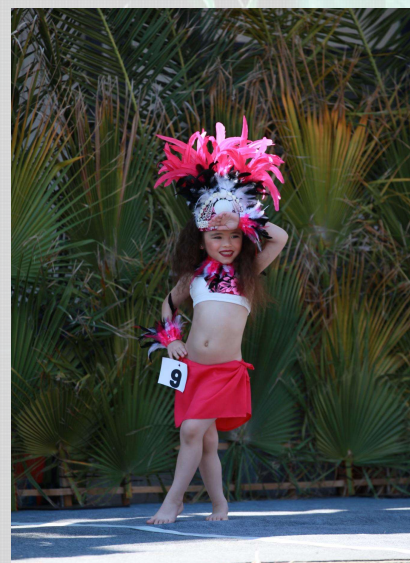




**Kealanie Baltazar**  
SJ Tahiti Fete & Manahere  
Advanced Vahine 16-20 yrs



**Verdandi Bognot**  
Manahere  
Vahine 16-18 yrs



**Winter DeWitt**  
Manahere  
Beginner Vahine Age 4-5yrs



**Trinity Sky Hernandez**  
SJ Tahiti Fete & Manahere  
Intermediate Vahine 11-15yrs



**Jayanna Mallari**  
SJ Tahiti Fete & Manahere  
Beginner Vahine 9-12yrs  
3rd Place  
1st year competing and she's only been  
dancing Ori for 1 year



**Kaylee Mithkeaw**  
SJ Tahiti Fete & Manahere  
Advanced Vahine 16-18yrs  
First season as an advanced dancer



Malia Simbre  
SJ Tahiti Fete  
Advanced Vahine 10-12yrs



Kristine Anne Velasquez  
SJ Tahiti Fete & Manahere  
Advance Vahine 16-20yrs



Hiva Katoa based out of San Diego under the direction of Jeannie and Noa Napoleon. Malia is one of 2 dancers who represent Hiva Katoa from the Bay Area.

Kaylee Mithkeaw







Verdandi Bognot family



Talia & Kiana Garcia

Garcia Family



Kiana Garcia, Manahere 3rd Place





Winter DeWitt



Jayanna Mallari



Malia Simbre with one of the Judges (Hiro) from Tahiti





Kristine Anne Velasquez  
SJ Tahiti Fete



Kristine Anne Velasquez  
Manahere





Trinity Sky Hernandez  
SJ Tahiti Fete



Trinity Sky Hernandez  
Manahere





Jaelynn Fa'atuga & Kristine Anne Velasquez & Kealanie Baltazar



Jaelynn Fa'atuga, 1st Place Manahere



A Heartfelt Thank You to our amazing Vendor Community and Outreach Partners!

We hope this message finds you in good health and high spirits. As we take a moment to reflect on the current state of Maui and how we can help support ongoing efforts, we want to also thank our Islands by the Bay community for their quick response to join in on our fundraising efforts. We were able to raise over \$6000 during our Origins Kanikapila Kokua for Maui fundraiser.

Your unwavering support, dedication, and commitment to excellence were truly commendable. We are thrilled to extend our heartfelt mahalo to each and every one of you who participated in our festival as vendors. Your presence not only added to the vibrancy of our event but also left a lasting impression on our attendees.

Here are a few highlights that would not have been possible without your partnership:

*Diverse Culinary Delights:*

Delectable offerings brought smiles to the faces of food enthusiasts and satisfied the taste buds of countless visitors. From Eleven and Whipt's delicacies, to Unco Frank's, Sikka Tikka's and Poke Man's Island favorites, your culinary talents made our festival a gastronomic journey to remember.

*Unique Handcrafted Treasures:*

Artisanal creations, whether they were exquisite jewelry, intricate artworks, fresh plumeria cuttings, one-of-a-kind souvenirs, all captivated our festival-goers and offered them the chance to take home a piece of our event's magic.

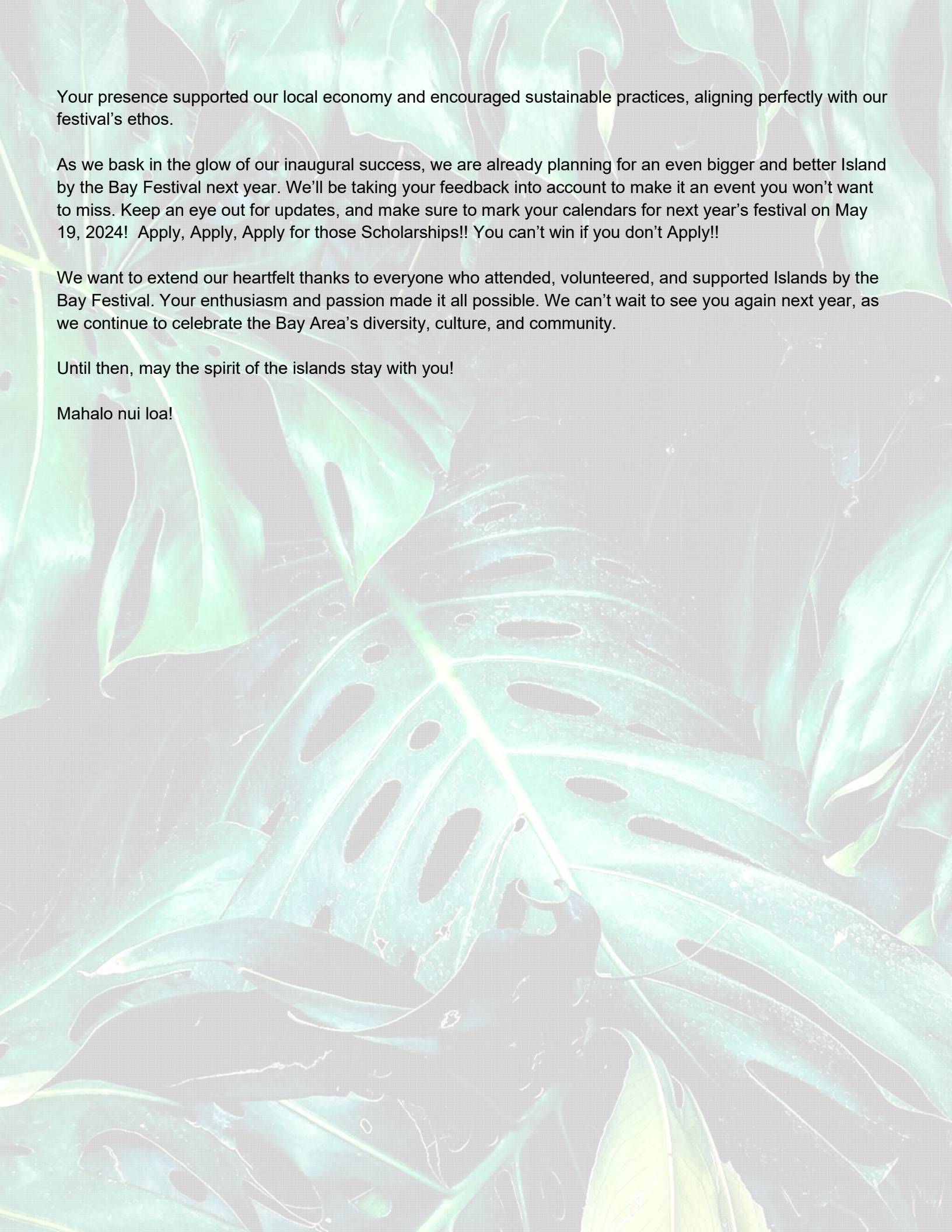
*Community Spirit:*

Participation went beyond commerce. Our Outreach partners like Make-a-Wish, Making Strides, Golden State Warriors Academy, and 99.7 NOW radio, and the National Pacific Islander Educational Network (NPIEN) helped foster a sense of community among vendors and patrons alike. The connections formed and stories shared will be cherished for years to come. We logged in an estimated ~1100 social media views after the festival. Approximately ~800-1000 people were in attendance throughout the day.



Make-A-Wish Recipient, John Paul for a Trip to Hawaii.





Your presence supported our local economy and encouraged sustainable practices, aligning perfectly with our festival's ethos.

As we bask in the glow of our inaugural success, we are already planning for an even bigger and better Island by the Bay Festival next year. We'll be taking your feedback into account to make it an event you won't want to miss. Keep an eye out for updates, and make sure to mark your calendars for next year's festival on May 19, 2024! Apply, Apply, Apply for those Scholarships!! You can't win if you don't Apply!!

We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who attended, volunteered, and supported Islands by the Bay Festival. Your enthusiasm and passion made it all possible. We can't wait to see you again next year, as we continue to celebrate the Bay Area's diversity, culture, and community.

Until then, may the spirit of the islands stay with you!

Mahalo nui loa!