



A Special Message from the Board of Trustees of Mo`olelo Performing Arts Company



Earlier this year, the Mo`olelo Performing Arts Company board of trustees voted to transition its assets and programs to Playwrights Project, the San Diego-based arts group that is well known for its community-based creative programs with outreach to highly diverse populations.

“We believe this development is the very best course of action for Mo`olelo because of our limited resources, both financial and organizational, and the significant outreach changes in the arts community.” stated Mo`olelo Board chair Jerry Buckley. In addition, he noted, “For more than a decade, Mo`olelo has been one of the leading theatre companies dedicated to providing San Diego audiences with socially-conscious, community focused, Equity productions that featured diversity and inclusion on stage and off. We are proud to see so many of San Diego’s performing arts organizations now embracing these priorities as an important part of their missions.”

Mo`olelo’s Co-Founder Seema Sueko, currently Deputy Artistic Director at the Arena Stage in Washington, D.C., added, “Playwrights Project is an organization I have long admired. I am honored that the remaining assets of Mo`olelo were donated to this fine organization, and that the spirit with which the artists, volunteers, and community members built Mo`olelo can live on in the important work of Playwrights Project.”

Both the Playwrights Project and Mo`olelo boards are pleased that the spirit and vision of Mo`olelo, already embraced by Playwrights Project, will be continued with a commitment to produce a locally-commissioned play that explores the personal voyages of immigrants to San Diego’s City Heights area. Lisa Kirazian’s play, *Soul Fire*, will be presented in the Weingart Library’s Performance Annex in June 2018, directed by Delicia Turner Sonnenberg. Community events leading up to the production will be scheduled beginning in the fall.

Playwrights Project’s Executive Director Cecelia Kouma explained, “We’ve chosen the name ‘Mosaic’ for the program. We are creating something whole and beautiful from many diverse pieces – a true mosaic. The program will celebrate the many unique segments of San Diego through moments on stage amplifying individual communities. I’m thrilled by the opportunity to professionally produce powerful stories developed in our community programs.”

We encourage you to become a part of our Mosaic and to continue to evoke the Mo`olelo spirit with us as we join Playwrights Projects in launching this production. We will continue to lift the voices of our community, celebrating diversity and creativity with Mosaic, which we hope to make an annual production with your support. Dates and more details will be coming soon.

Mo`olelo was successful because of so many individuals: its brilliant Co-Founder, Seema Sueko, past and present board members; a loyal and generous group of donors and patrons; and the many highly talented artists and technicians who presented memorable plays that challenged, informed and inspired audiences. For this legacy, the Mo`olelo board is deeply grateful to each and every person who supported our vision to make a positive difference.