

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Honolulu Biennial Foundation Announces New Hires**

*Yoko Ott joins as Operations Director and Danya Hakeem as Marketing and Development Manager*

**November 29, Honolulu, Hawai‘i** - Honolulu Biennial Foundation (HBF), which presents Honolulu Biennial, announces today the the appointment of Yoko Ott as Operations Director and Danya Hakeem as Marketing and Development Manager.

Ott, who grew up in Waianae and studied at University of Washington, has a background in governance and operations. In her new role as Operations Director, she will work on developing HBF’s strategic operations and managing its financials; Ott initially joined HBF as Project Manager of the inaugural Honolulu Biennial that debuted earlier this year. She has a background in conceiving, developing, and executing strategic and inventive programs that support artists, curators and art-field workers, presenting exhibitions and programs to audiences, furthering organizational missions, and building community partnerships. Prior to her appointment at HBF, she served as Deputy Director of Yale Union Contemporary Art Center in Portland, Oregon, Founding Director of The New Foundation Seattle, Executive Director of the artist-in-residency project Open Satellite, Manager of Youth and Community Outreach Programs at the Frye Art Museum, in addition to independent curatorial work.

Hakeem, who joins HBF as Marketing and Development Manager, has spent nearly a decade, telling impactful stories, building robust partnerships and executing meaningful programs that create lasting change. As a consultant, she provides media, project management, and fundraising services to nonprofit and business clients. Previously, she was a Program Director for Hawaii Center for Food Safety and a Producer for National Geographic and Discovery Channels. She holds a M.S. in Conflict Analysis and Resolution from George Mason University and a B.A. in Communications and Business Management from Virginia Tech University.

“We are excited to welcome Yoko and Danya to our team as HBF continues to grow and develop as one of Hawai‘i’s most active nonprofit arts and culture organizations,” shares Isabella Hughes and Katherine Tuidor, Directors and Cofounders of HBF. “They will work closely with us and our board of directors to not only present another outstanding Honolulu Biennial in 2019, but also support our annual programs and outreach locally and globally,” adds Hughes and Tuidor.

Honolulu Biennial is a multi-site, contemporary visual arts festival will take place again in 2019, running from March 8 - May 5, 2019. The first iteration of Honolulu Biennial ran from March 8 – May 8 2017 throughout various sites within Honolulu, which welcomed 97,305 visits over the course of eight weeks; presented 65 public programs; generated \$4.1 million in PR value; and had an economic impact of nearly \$36 million with 21% of visitors being

# HONOLULU BIENNIAL FOUNDATION

from out-of-state. Honolulu Biennial 2017 was honored to be a finalist for PBN's Pineapple Award in the "Best Event or Festival of the Year" category.

**About Honolulu Biennial Foundation:**

Honolulu Biennial Foundation (HBF), a 501c3 organization, supports the local arts infrastructure with a global outreach by presenting Honolulu Biennial, a visual arts festival and signature event for Hawai'i focused on exhibiting artists from the countries and cultures linked by the Pacific Ocean. Throughout the year, HBF serves the local community by presenting educational outreach programs, smaller scale exhibitions and professional development opportunities for the local arts community. To learn more visit:

[www.honolulubiennial.org](http://www.honolulubiennial.org)

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