The 2011/12 Hawaii Community Foundation Visiting Artist Program grant project for Carlos Villa and Oliver Jackson and the Hawaii Council for the Humanities Poetry and Blues project both address important elements of the University of Hawaii Hilo current strategic mission statement mandate to inspire “learning, discovery and creativity inside and outside the classroom.

In hosting an important element of this project at the historic Palace Theater, the grant projects each serve to strengthen the County of Hawaii EnVision projection of Downtown Hilo as a global magnet for education, culture and the arts; building on rich Hawaiian traditions; embracing ethnic and cultural diversity; a shared resource that enriches the community and the rest of the world.

In keeping with the University of Hawaii Hilo vision for 2020 – the projects provide concrete opportunity for the university community to work together across disciplines. Each project with emphasis on diversity and cultural infusion will bring the feel of a global community to our local campus.

Partnership with other agencies including our sister institution Hawaii Community College supports a positive model for a shared humanities experience for our students and the local community.

The projects make available applied learning experiences, internship and practicum with faculty and County of Hawaii agencies in faculty research involving artistic and creative endeavors (Priority action 1.2).

The projects also address Supporting Action 2.4, which calls for greater integration of teaching and research to engage students in collaborations with faculty and to infuse research into the classroom.

Other tangible benefits from the grant projects include:

- **Annual Print Edition**, a new initiative developed in conjunction with the UH Hilo Art Department Visiting Artist program for 2011/2012. The limited edition print will feature ten original works created in the department print studio by a combination of visiting studio, local artists, and a selected student(s). Three of portfolio editions will be donated annually to the University of Hawaii Hilo library. One portfolio will be filed with the library rare books and another with the folio collection. The third portfolio will be available for auction in support of the annual Night in the Stacks fundraiser.

- **Community Outreach**: the Poetry and Blues project with Troupe, Bell, Yamanaka, Noland, and Taj Mahal providing 2 days each, a total of 10 days of community outreach. Between February 6 – 10, 2012, the musicians and writers will be assigned to visit with classes on the UHH and HawCC campus; public and charter schools including Honoka’a (Jazz Band) program and the Lanakila Learning Center (Hilo High school) serving students identified at-risk.
• **Research Collaboration:** Hawaii Community Foundation and Droste Visiting Research Fellow - Oliver Jackson will be in-residence from January 2 – February 17, 2012. In partial fulfillment of a special topic 1 credit studio course, conceptual and physical development of the stage setting for Poetry and Blues at the Palace theater will be undertaken by Jackson, Stephen Freedman (IdSpace Gallery, Kurtistown), and Professor Michael Marshall in collaboration with the students enrolled in the course. This project, approximately 70% of the special topic course will be a significance experience for this group of students.

• **Post Project Production:** The project will seek to utilize Na Leo ‘O Hawaii, and the HawCC Digital Media Art program as a resource to develop final DVD production of the Hilo Poetry and Blues project for airing on the community access television channel. This in turn helps Na Leo in keeping with its mission “to facilitate diverse community, education and government dialog and expression…”

• **The University of Hawaii Hilo the Poetry and Blues Project:** the Palace event and Open Conversation documented in DVD format will provide an instructional resource for Humanities instruction that will be made available to public library collections in Hawaii and to the Library of Congress.

**Project Budgets and UHH Diversity Committee Funding Request**

HCF project budget: $59,693.00
- Diversity Committee Funding Request: $1000

HCH project budget: $60,500.00
- Diversity Committee Funding Request: $4400

I am requesting higher dollar support for the HCH “Voice in a Nation” project as the outreach is significantly greater and supports partnerships across the Humanities and Social Sciences and engages both the UHH and HawCC campuses.

Principal Humanities scholar for the Poetry and Blues project John-Gabriel H James, Phillips Academy, Andover, MA (1984); B.A., East Asian History, UH Hilo (1995); M.A. in Pacific Islands and World History, UH Manoa (2004) is currently employed as a Lecturer at the Hawaii Community College, Hilo (HawCC). Academic field and research program is History and Humanities Scholarship with a particular interest in all aspects of the African Diaspora.

Copies of complete grant proposals and final project assessment reports are required by the Hawaii Community Foundation and Hawaii Council for the Humanities will be available to the Diversity Committee through the RCUH grant repository.