

LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
Governor of Guam
I Maga'Haga Guahan

JOSHUA F. TENORIO
Lt. Governor of Guam
I Segundo Na Maga'Lahen Guahan



CHRISTINA D. GARCIA
Chief Executive Officer/Administrator
Ufisiãt Atmenestradoran Eksekutibon Akãdi

CARLOS P. BORDALLO
Deputy Administrator
Sigundo Atmenestrãdõ

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 20, 2026

GEDA Presents \$500,000 Appropriation to GUMA for Training and Incubator Grants

The Guam Economic Development Authority (GEDA) today presented a check for \$500,000 to Guam Unique Merchandise and Art (GUMA) during a special presentation at the GUMA Board Meeting. GEDA received the funding, authorized by a legislative General Fund appropriation under Public Law 37-125, to be used to directly support aspiring entrepreneurs and graduates of GUMA's business training programs through targeted mentoring and start-up assistance.

"Small businesses are the backbone of Guam's economy. This appropriation allows us to leverage GUMA's incredible decade-long track record to inject vital capital straight into the hands of our local creators and entrepreneurs, building a more resilient economic future for our island," stated Christina Garcia, GEDA CEO/Administrator.

For more than a decade, GUMA has remained steadfast in its mission to empower Guam's entrepreneurs. Since 2013, GUMA has supported more than 400 local enterprises, successfully incubated 53 businesses, demonstrating a proven impact on the island's economic resilience. To ensure these funds are maximized, GEDA will oversee GUMA's allocation of the \$500,000 across three key pillars:

1. **Incubator Grants:** Direct grant awards will be provided to small and home-based businesses that have successfully completed GUMA's training program. Grants will support growth needs such as equipment, workspace, marketing, branding, and inventory.
2. **Administrative Support:** These funds will cover the essential administrative functions necessary for GUMA to deliver its programs, including management fees, website maintenance, software subscriptions, and other general business expenses.
3. **Training:** Funding will support two full cohorts of GUMA's comprehensive 16-week business training program, covering part-time staffing, instructors, and graduation activities

"We are incredibly grateful to the Guam Legislature for this appropriation and to GEDA for their continued partnership. This is a powerful investment in Guam's future. It allows us to expand our reach, equip more local families with business skills, and turn homegrown ideas into economic realities," said Monica Guzman, Executive Director of GUMA.

Each sub-grant requested by a local business undergoes rigorous evaluation by a panel of business experts before final approval by the GUMA Board. GUMA has committed to working closely with GEDA to ensure timely and efficient management and reporting processes for the duration of the funding.

For more information on GUMA's training programs and incubator grants, please visit www.gumaguam.com or contact info@gumaguam.com.

###