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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

***Honolulu Selected as one of 18 Arts for Everybody Communities.***

*One Nation/One Project's Arts for Everybody will unveil audacious, participatory public art in collaboration with 18 small towns and big cities putting a spotlight on the proven health benefits of arts participation*

**September 12, 2023** – Inspired by the 1936 Federal Theatre Project where 18 cities and towns presented their own interpretations of the anti-fascist play *"It Can't Happen Here,"* *Arts for Everybody* will bring together people and communities in 18 cities and towns across America to simultaneously premiere an array of large-scale, site-specific participatory art projects on July 27, 2024, but the journey begins today.

Responding to the prompt "No Place Like Home," each art project seeks to reflect the unique voice of its community, and through participation, impact the overall health of the community.

In Honolulu, the project is led by the Pu'uhonua Society, a Hawaiian-values based community arts organization, in relationship with Kānaka 'Ōiwi or 'Native Hawaiian' artists and cultural bearers. They're creating Hō'eu Mana, place-based and community gatherings centered on reawakening ancestral stories rooted in Hawai'i. Community gatherings started on September 1st at Arts & Letters and will continue through July 27th, 2024 with a return to Thomas Square, the site of the restoration of Hawai'i's sovereignty in 1873.

"This project gives Native Hawaiian and Hawai'i based storytellers, weavers, and creators of all sorts the opportunity to continue the work of many generations before and many generations to come by sharing their love of place through place-based, community-based, creation-based action," said Emma Broderick, executive director of Pu'uhonua Society. "Partnering with *Arts for Everybody* not only supports our local artists but aligns with our goals of celebrating our inherent sovereignty and reigniting our local stories."

*Arts for Everybody* is co-directed by national arts leaders Lear deBessonnet, Nataki Garrett and Clyde Valentin and seeks to bring about a new awareness around the value arts can have on the health of people and their community.

deBessonnet, Garrett and Valentin see *Arts for Everybody* as a breakthrough moment in the relationship between the arts and health in the U.S. "*Arts for Everybody* aims to create an electric new awareness around the value arts can bring to the actual health of people and their community. Our hope is that the *Arts for Everybody* experience will spark emotions that connect participants to their communities and each other," said the co-artistic directors of *Arts for Everybody*.

Existing research has already confirmed that taking part in the arts...

- Lowers one's risk of dementia by 63%
- Offers health benefits comparable to weekly exercise
- Improves physical and mental health
- Can significantly reduce one's risk of cardiovascular disease

*Arts for Everybody* has commissioned a series of new research studies to further examine the connection between arts participation and the health of a community.

To learn more about Honolulu's project and the entire *Arts For Everybody* initiative, visit [www.artsforeverybody.org](http://www.artsforeverybody.org).