# Guam Ancestral Lands Commission

## FY 2019 Citizen Centric Report

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**Commissioner**

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**Commissioner**

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**Commissioner**

### Management

**Joseph S. Angoco**
**Executive Director**

## ABOUT GALC

The Guam Ancestral Lands Commission (GALC) was created by Public Law 25-45 to serve as the conduit for conveying returned federal excess lands to their original land owners. GALC is known as the Land Claims Facilitator. In 2012, GALC merged into the Department of Land Management (DLM) through Reorganization Advisory No. 9 and in 2019, GALC separated from DLM through Executive Order 2019-001.

## OUR MISSION

Administer the Guam Ancestral Lands Act in order that ancestral land-owners, their heirs and descendants may expeditiously exercise all the fundamental civil rights in the property they own; establish a land bank to provide just compensation for dispossessed ancestral land-owners; and when appropriate, assume the role of Claims Facilitator to assist ancestral landowners in pursuit of just remedies.
(21GCA §80102)

## OUR GOAL

Increase the number of federal return parcels and provide just compensation to the families who will not benefit from the returns.

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# FY2019 PROGRESS

At the year-end, September 30, 2019, the GALC operated with a board of seven members and was supported by 2 classified and 2 unclassified employees. In FY 2019, the GALC did not return any property, and the GALC's aggregate amount of land returned remains at 2,643.12 acres. Furthermore, the GALC incurred $857,868 in management fees for GEDA services provided in FY2019.

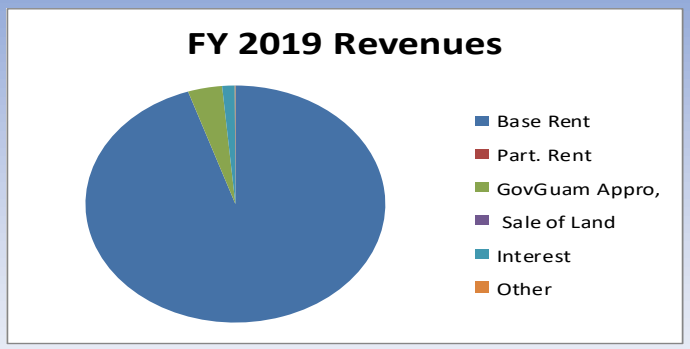
For Fiscal Year 2019, Independent Auditors, Deloitte and Touche, LLP identified one material weakness pertaining to incomplete recording and untimely reconciliation of general ledger balances against the subsidiary ledgers. These weaknesses resulted in misstatements of general ledger account balances, which were corrected during the audit process. Specifically:

- Untimely bank reconciliations and incomplete recording of collections;
- Undeposited cash balance of $175K;
- Receivables, deferred revenues, lease revenues, and management fees not updated; and
- Operational expenditures and government appropriations not reported in the financial statements.

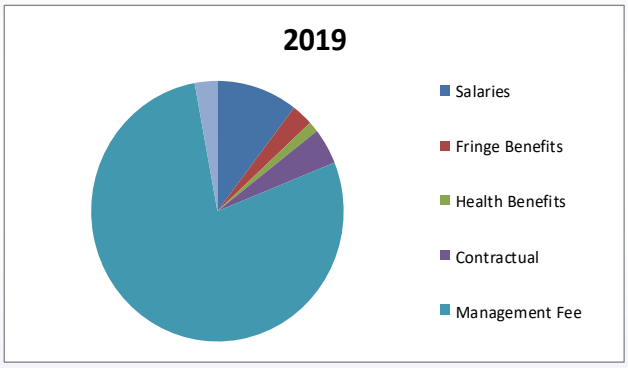
The auditors recommended the implementation of adequate internal control policies and procedures to facilitate timely reconciliation and review and ensure complete financial reporting. GALC management concurred that its internal controls are not in place and adopted some measures to address these deficiencies.

# FY 2019 Finances

| Revenues: | | 2019 | | 2018 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Base Rent | | $ 5,697,834 | | $ 728,248 |
| Part. Rent | | 390 | | 819 |
| GovGuam Appro. | | 221,838 | | 91,093 |
| Sale of Land | | - | | 2,490,000 |
| Interest | | 80,902 | | 22,239 |
| Other | | 4,200 | | 2,055 |
| Total Revenues | | $ 6,005,164 | | $ 3,334,454 |




| | | 2019 | | 2018 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Salaries | | $ 113,986 | | $ 39,944 |
| Fringe Benefits | | 30,081 | | 11,116 |
| Health Benefits | | 14,499 | | 7,384 |
| Contractual | | 48,944 | | 26,784 |
| Management Fee | | 857,868 | | 105,704 |
| Tenant Improvement Allow. | | - | | - |
| Miscellaneous | | 31,820 | | 4,055 |
| Total Expenditures | | $ 1,097,198 | | $ 194,987 |



*To view the GALC financial audit, go to the Office of Public Accountability website: opaguam.org*

# Future Challenges

The GALC Commissioners and Executive Director will reevaluate the needs of the Commission to determine the needed personnel and office space area due to the separation from DLM through the implementation of Executive Order 2019-001. In addition, GALC continues to struggle with providing easements to returned property. This is attributed to the reluctance of property owners to dedicate a small portion of their property and the lack of authority to utilize financial resources to provide easements to returned property.

# Outlook

The Commission and Executive Director will continue dialogue with the Guam Legislature to address the concerns of the Attorney General's Office related to the Land Bank Rules and Regulations.

## We Want to Hear from You

*Did you find this report informative? Do you think we need more information added? Please contact our office at 649-5263 ext 400 or email us at john.burch@galc.guam.gov*