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Humanities 300

December 2, 2021

Rationale

This is the rationale for Fantastic 4's podcast on 'Āina Loa, which is an eco-friendly farming community with local farmers, eco-tourists and homeless family support. The purpose of our podcast is to educate the people of Hawai'i nei about the possibility of an imagined future agricultural community of families. Our team believes that action can only happen if people can share in a common vision of the future. By creating this podcast episode, we hope to inspire more people to work towards this as a reality.

The audience our team intends on reaching out to the most is the 30 and under crowd. They are the generation that must take an interest in preserving Native Hawaiian traditions, land, and sustainment issues. So, it is important that we can reach and inspire them to want to do so, not only for the generations of today, but also for the betterment of future generations here in Hawai'i. The information we are presenting to our audience is told through the journal entries of the characters we have created. We intend to show the impact that our imagined community has through the eyes of an agriculturist, an eco-tourist, and the father of a previously unsheltered family. We chose this dramatic reading genre in order to reach more people. By creatively showcasing the 'Āina Loa Community through the lives of the people benefitting from it we hope to inspire people wanting to participate in this dream and facilitate change.

Ultimately, we would hope that our listeners are currently living in Hawai'i nei or have spent time living here. We would prefer for our listeners that do not have any experience living in Hawai'i nei specifically to come with an open mind to the possibilities of the future we are presenting. Issues about land ownership, sustainable tourism and homelessness exist all over the world and our podcast

episode is one vision of how to address these issues. Our podcast episode matters because it is a creative and different way to bring about awareness. We would like our podcast to challenge people to think about how this imagined future is possible despite circumstances that are faced in contemporary times. If we can encourage people to think about wanting to live in our imagined community and think of innovative ways to nurture this future, it possibly can facilitate change in our communities today. We also would like to share some traditional Hawaiian farming methodologies, observational practices, and religious ways of life to further instill a connection to land, and the importance of place-based education.

For the roles and responsibilities of the team Celeste was the date tracker and tried to keep everyone informed of the deadlines and overall schedule. And when there were syllabus date discrepancies, she emailed Dr. Yasmine for clarification. She also wrote from the perspective of the Eco-tourist Janie. Storytelling through Janie is meant to give an outside point of view on what ‘Āina Loa looks like and how people outside of Hawai‘i nei might experience it. Through this character she hoped to show that you are not required to be Native Hawaiian to benefit from and participate in this kind of Community. Responsible tourism can be a positive part of the future for everyone.

“I think skills I offer to the group are time management and creative input on the characters we are developing. I think with doing a drama a big portion of our time has to be put into developing who our characters are. Why would our listeners care about our message if they don’t feel a connection to the world our characters live in”.

For his role in our team Mark was the editor of our entire podcast. While we all individually recorded our own segments Mark took on the responsibility of editing all the segments together in a cohesive manner and adjusting the various details to enhance the overall quality of our podcast. Mark also added sounds and voiced two of the characters in the episode, the Lapu the spirit of the land and Nakoia the head of a previously unsheltered family. The family perspective was important to our podcast because we wanted to relate to and bring awareness of the many families that struggle here. A big portion of a complete and equal future vision of Hawai‘i nei requires us to remedy the inequality that has taken place in

the past. Family is also a necessary bridge that we require to transfer the cultural knowledge of Hawai‘i nei that we hope to preserve.

“I am old and like to fiddle with computers and applications. I lived part-time on my uncle’s Waimanalo farm’.

For her role on our team Mokihana provided a lot of the research and sources that we used in order to make our podcast credible. She also created our promotional flyer, made a glossary of the Hawaiian words that we used in order to help our readers and spell checked our scripts to make sure we were using the proper Hawaiian punctuations. In the podcast she plays character of the multigenerational farmer and head agriculturist of the community. Her character is important to our story because she educates the people in ‘Āina Loa on traditional farming methods that help sustain both the communities economic and body health.

“I offer culturally appropriate science, engineering and agricultural practices. I am horrible at computer editing and such, however I can offer good sources and a somewhat creative character. My character skills are strictly education, farming and some fishing methodologies. My character also utilizes the elements and practices traditional observational methods to read the weather, so she knows when an appropriate time to plant is. She coordinates the community work days and teaches members how to farm and fish. This helps our community members be more self-sustaining, especially for our homeless members. This also teaches our tourists the vital importance that our community members rely on the resources in our communities. Hopefully with this thought, it teaches tourists who visit how to care and respect the environment, the people, and the culture of our community”.

The strength of our podcast comes from the lived experiences of the creators who live and work in Hawaii nei. Another unexpected strength of our podcast is that the format we chose to convey our topics through is new and interesting. While fictional and idealized our reviewers were interested to see how the end result would come out and I believe that if they listened to our second draft, the recording they would have found some enjoyment in it. The weakness in our

podcast lies in trying to find the balance of storytelling and time. In the beginning writing stage our story overall didn't quite have a finite direction and we struggled with deciding where the story was going. In a one-episode podcast how much of a story arc could we achieve between three people writing three different characters. At one point before the first draft, we debated if the story required a dramatic element like a problem with the Department of Land and Natural Resources. However, the wall was, if our characters weren't likeable/relatable would our listeners care about their problems with the DLNR? How much of the problem and then solution could we cover in one episode as well? So, as we came to the first draft we asked our reviewers if they thought our podcast required a dramatic element. In return we didn't receive any comments about the drama element until much later with Dr. Yasmine. So with the time we had left we focused on what feedback we did receive and fine tuning our characters for the recording portion of this project. With the feedback we did receive Mark suggested that we record individual days so he could edit them together in a more cohesive way. And Mokihana went through our drafts to double check on our Hawaiian spelling and punctuations.

While our team appreciates all the feedback we did receive. In reviewing them for writing this rationale we could have actually received 5 reviews for our podcast episode, 3 peer reviews, 1 from Dr. Yasmine and 1 more from another podcast that focused on reviewing other podcasts. The most valuable peer review we received was from Christian Joshua Chong who thoughtfully advised us to add a glossary of Hawaiian terms and praised our endeavor to use different perspectives and overall approach to podcasting. He also gave some thoughts on how to break up our days differently than we had them in the draft. Overall, we took into consideration and used most of his critiques to enhance our podcast episode. While Halley-Ann Natividad didn't provide as much constructive ideas as Christian did, we did take her comment about spelling to heart. Overall, in both peer reviews we found that 2 people in our target audience were interested in what we were doing and wanted to hear the recorded version.

References

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