

IDEA Presented Historic Preservation Media Award

The International Association for Integration, Dignity, and Economic Advancement, IDEA, has been awarded a 2012 Historic Preservation Media Award for their work on the exhibit "Absolute Faith: Saint Damien, Blessed Marianne and the People of Kalaupapa." Presented annually by Historic Hawai'i Foundation, this is Hawaii's "highest recognition of projects that perpetuate, rehabilitate, restore or interpret the state's architectural, archaeological, and cultural heritage." This exhibit forms the foundation for the new Damien-Marianne Heritage Center, established in Honolulu by St. Augustine by-the-Sea Catholic Church.

"Absolute Faith" focuses on the relationship between St. Damien of Molokai, Blessed Marianne Cope and the people of Kalaupapa. The exhibit includes historic photos and quotes by St. Damien, Blessed Marianne and Kalaupapa residents who knew them, as well as photographs from the canonization of St. Damien and the beatification of Mother Marianne, who will be canonized this October. It also features a portrait gallery of photos printed from rare glass negatives, of men, women and children dressed in their finest clothes, who lived at Kalaupapa in the early 1900s. Contemporary photographs of Kalaupapa residents in the late 20th century, as well as family members who are now carrying on their legacy, present a continuous history.

IDEA was responsible for developing the title, theme and flow of the exhibit; writing the narrative which includes many historical and contemporary quotations; selecting archival and modern photographs and identifying individuals in these photographs where possible; and conducting docent training.

Other organizations who received an award for their work on the exhibit include St. Augustine by-the-Sea; Mason Architects, Inc.; Barbara Pope Book Design; Heritage Resources, Inc.; Artifact Management LLC; James Erikson Studios; and Robert M. Kaya Builders Inc.

The exhibit opened March 2012 in Honolulu, Hawaii and is scheduled to remain on display until a permanent museum is built.

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