

GROUNDBREAKING AT THE NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR 1964-1965



With the same festive spirit and native charm envisioned for Hawaii's Fair exhibit, Loki and Olina assist Lt. Gov. and Mrs. James K. Kealoha and Fair president Robert Moses at official groundbreaking ceremonies.



*Attending the Hawaiian groundbreaking ceremonies are:
Kei Yamato, Leslie Levi, Rev. Dr. Harry Komuro, Rev.
Joseph J. Bevilacqua, Reginald W. Carter, Robert Moses,
Lt. Gov. and Mrs. James K. Kealoha, General William
E. Potter, Reino Aarnio.*

REMARKS BY HAWAIIAN AND WORLD'S FAIR
OFFICIALS AT THE HAWAIIAN PAVILION
GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONIES, NEW YORK
WORLD'S FAIR, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1962.

GEN. WILLIAM E. POTTER (Executive Vice President of the New York World's Fair): Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to Hawaii. To start our festivities this morning I'd like to introduce the Reverend Bevilacqua, who will invoke the blessing.

REV. BEVILACQUA: Let us pray. Eternal God, the source of all human good, we are extremely grateful to be here this morning to open up this worthwhile venture. We ask thy blessing upon what we do, that this World's Fair may demonstrate the unity of all peoples throughout the world and that this Hawaiian exhibit may demonstrate to the world that the spirit of Aloha can bring people together and bind them into one common humanity.

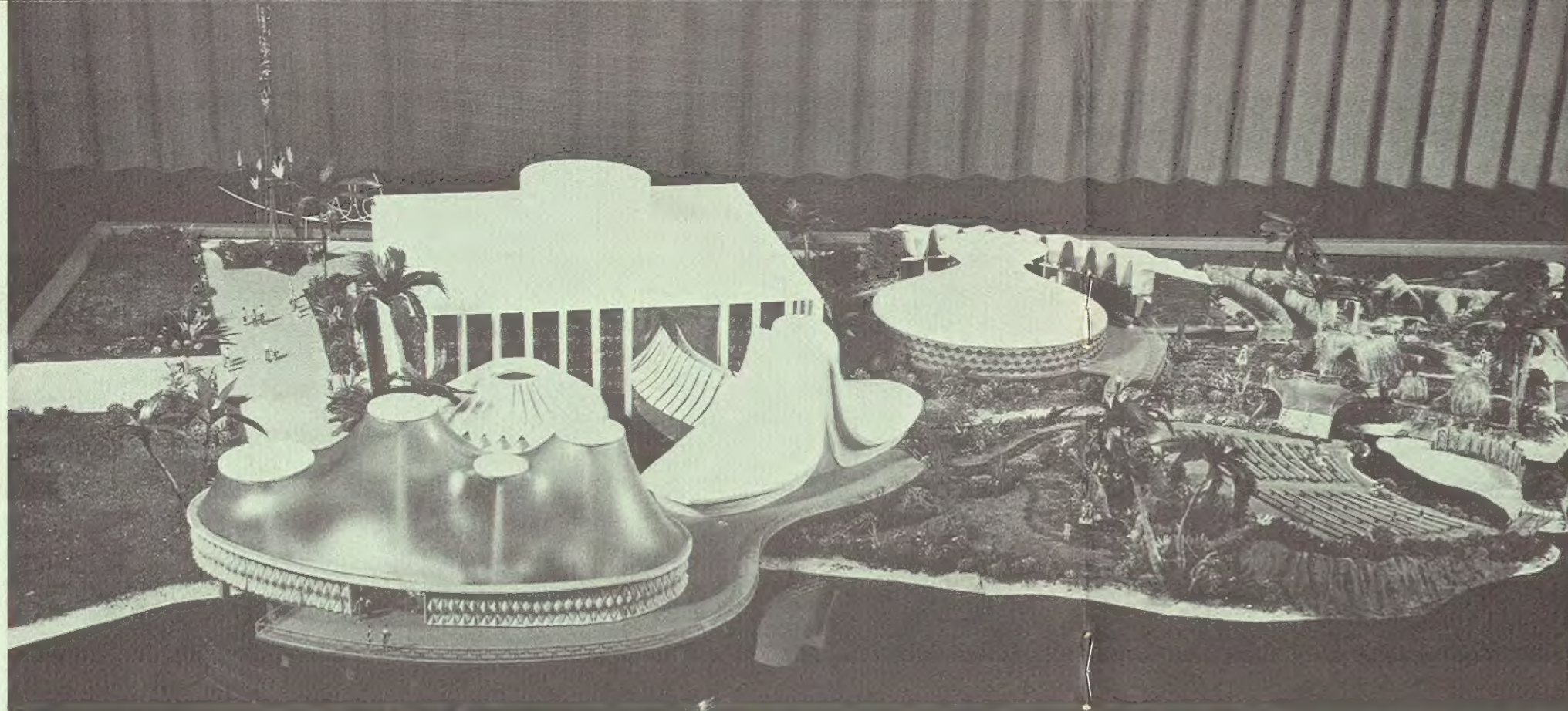
So bless our efforts here this morning and may the world come to be closer together, because the spirit of

Aloha has invaded this Fair and has gone throughout the world. In the name of Him who came in order that abundant life may be available to all people, and that the universality and harmony of all races may be demonstrated, we ask this blessing upon this groundbreaking ceremony here today. Amen.

GEN. POTTER: A year ago, I visited Hawaii in order to present to the leaders of Hawaii the advantages of being in the New York World's Fair in 1964 and 1965. We soon found that the man we dealt with, the man who was putting quiet strength back of the effort, was the Lieutenant Governor of that great state and soon-to-be executive director of the Hawaiian exhibit. I'd like to introduce to you Lt. Governor James K. Kealoha, who will make a few remarks.

LT. GOV. KEALOHA: Thank you very kindly General Potter. Reverend Bevilacqua, Mr. Moses, officers and members of the New York World's Fair Corporation.

We are indeed very happy to be one of you this morning, and as I am extending Hawaii's warmest Aloha to all of you, I see that I have also brought with me Hawaii's warm sunshine.



The magic of Hawaii, America's distinctly different state, will be recreated at the 1964-1965 New York World's Fair. Embracing 113,838 square feet in the Lake Area,

home of the exposition's amusement section, the state will present its history and culture in the Aloha Building while the "Restaurant of the Five Volcanoes," reaching

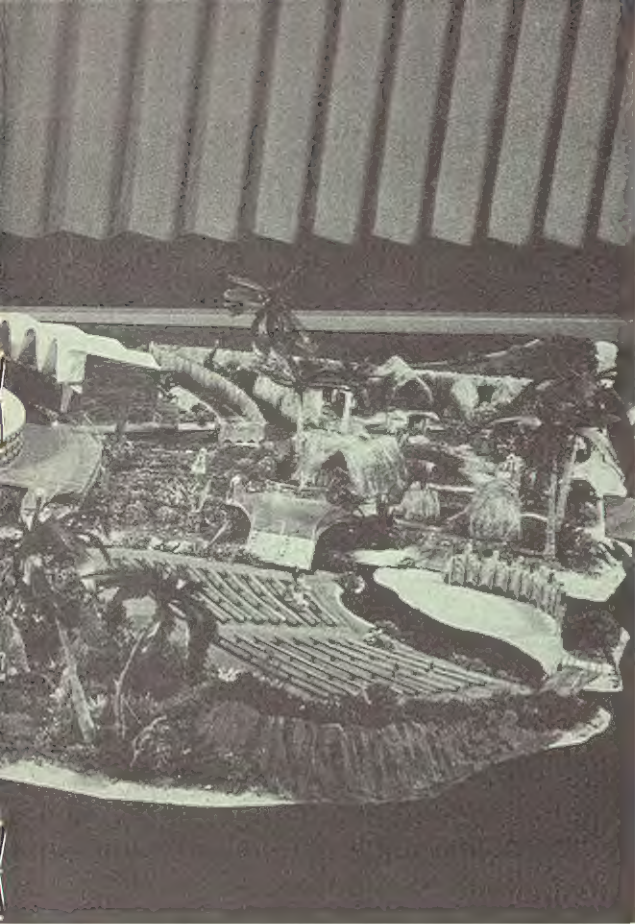
partly over the lake, will serve exotic native dishes. Life of Hawaii of old will be presented in the open-air, thatched-roof "Ulu Mau Village."

We are extremely proud to be the first state to participate in the New York World's Fair program. And at the same time, with a completion of the contract, and our now-definite participation, I hope that we can bring the spirit of Aloha from the Islands to contribute to this great event here in New York City's Flushing Meadow Park.

We wish for the Fair every success and every happiness and I am sure that we, in our little way and from Hawaii, can contribute something to its well being and to its progress. Mr. Moses, I told you a few minutes ago before arriving here that we would be very happy if you and General Potter can come down to Hawaii before the end of the year, for one visit at least.

So, we know exactly where we are going from here on until we start presenting Hawaii's part in your program. I wish every success, every happiness, and good health to all of the people of New York. Mahalo and Aloha.

GEN. POTTER: In our little expedition to Hawaii — we had people who devised an exhibit that will astound everybody in New York and be a prime attraction of our Fair. This exhibit in its entirety was designed and thought



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up by Mr. Leslie Levi, who is here today and we are honored by the presence of Mrs. Levi. The architect who put the imagination in the buildings is also here — Mr. Reino Aarnio.

It is now my great pleasure to introduce the man who manages the Fair, and who accepts the kind invitation of the Lieutenant Governor to Hawaii — our president, Mr. Robert Moses.

ROBERT MOSES: Well I'm glad that General Potter accepted that invitation. I accept it for both of us. We'll be there hand in hand. Now I don't make a practice of flattering people or playing up one particular site as against another, or using too much circus language — but I think this is the finest site in the Fair. I base this on considerable experience. Along with some other people who are still connected with the Flushing Meadow Park, we selected this as the site for the 1939-1940 World's Fair. We had charge of what was called the basic improvements, before Grover Whalen took it over and ran the Fair itself.

One of our problems was what to do about a state exhibit — and by state exhibit I mean the New York

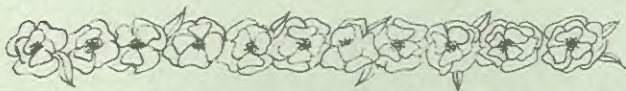
State exhibit. There was a committee appointed by the Governor, and their first disposition was to build a temporary building, just large enough for the exhibits themselves that were to go inside. We finally persuaded them to build this structure which you see over here on the west, which of course is a permanent building and has a theatre that seats over 8,000 people — and a swimming pool and all the other things that go with it. In the process, we chewed up so much time and money in building this permanent structure that there wasn't any place for the exhibit. So they had to build a temporary building which is of course no longer here, to house the State exhibit.

When we picked this site we told the Governor and the members of the Legislature and the members of the Commission, that this was the best site in the World's Fair and I still think it is. We have some problems with the water here in the lake but they're being solved. General Potter and General Whipple and the others are working on that. I don't think we need have any doubts on that score.

I would be hopeful that somehow — I don't know how

this can be done, I'm just thinking out loud, which is always a dangerous process — that something of this Hawaiian exhibit could remain here after the Fair, as a permanent part of Flushing Meadow Park. And I want to point out to you what very few people understand — that Flushing Meadow is at the geographical center of New York City. It is presently at the population center, and I think you can figure out, very easily, that this in the long run is going to be a larger and more important park in New York than Central Park. It will be *the* park in New York City.

And we want Hawaii to be here not only during the Fair, but afterwards. I haven't any doubt at all about the success of this exhibit during the Fair. I like the people who are in it. I like their enthusiasm. And we are delighted that they have such a wonderful location for their show.



Fair president Robert Moses presents official Fair medallion to Hawaii's Lt. Gov. James K. Kealoha.



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