



Pinoy Festival Alliance

Joint Statement

Updated list of signatories as of November 25, 2025

For more information: Liberty Aloha de Vera, Spokesperson - 604-356-8630

Upholding Integrity:

Statement on the Main Street Filipino Cultural Centre and Hotel Proposal

The long-standing dream of the Filipino community in British Columbia has always been clear — to build a true and dignified home for Filipino culture. A landmark that embodies our heritage, not a commercial space that may be used to amplify private business interests.

In this spirit, we adopt the following position about the current proposal to establish a Filipino “cultural centre” within a hotel development at 1940 Main Street in Vancouver:

We firmly reject the building of a Filipino Cultural Centre within a hotel.

A cultural centre is not a hotel amenity — it is a representation of identity, history and community. It must stand on its own and be an inclusive and accessible space. It should not be embedded in a commercial establishment or tied to corporate branding.

We also cannot, in good conscience, participate in any process that lacks community-driven support or that uses the Filipino culture and our community for commercial or political leverage that does not align with our core values.

The Filipino community’s strength lies in unity. Our efforts must focus on a genuine and accountable path that is founded in transparency and inclusivity. Such an initiative should reflect our collective dream and must remain our shared priority.

Let us also be reminded that this dream has not come without sacrifice. This decades-long campaign has been marred by pain and loss.

The hopes of those who came before and are still to come rest in our hands.

We call on the City of Vancouver to support existing community-led initiatives for a Filipino Cultural Centre and to collaborate with other levels of government, particularly the Province of British Columbia, which has already demonstrated its commitment most recently through the What We Heard Report - to move this project forward.



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In addition, we call on the City of Vancouver to support efforts to identify a city-owned or city-controlled property that can be made available as a Filipino community space at a nominal lease rate. This initiative should be considered separately from any other proposals, as it stands on its own merit. Such a space is needed and would provide meaningful support for community building and cultural programming.

As many have rightly said, the Filipino community needs a space to call home. A place where we can gather, celebrate and share our culture.

Providing a city-owned space for our programs and activities would meet this need, strengthen collaboration among organizations and build long-term capacity within our community to lead the operation of an intergenerational and intercultural centre. With such support, this space can become a sustainable and empowering home for generations of Filipino-Canadians in Vancouver.

In conclusion, we will not take part in any project or movement that exploits our identity for profit or political gain. We stand firm in guarding the integrity of our culture and the unity of our community.

Let this serve as our shared guide. We move forward together — aligned with one vision, one effort and one heart for the future of the Filipino community in British Columbia.

Signatories as of November 25, 2025

Paul Clemente, Chair - Pinoy Festival Alliance

Lester de Guzman, Chair - Mabuhay House Society

Rudy Antonio, Co-Chair - Council of Leaders / Vice-Chair - Mabuhay House Society

Khristine Cariño, Co-Chair - Council of Leaders

Randy Bentayen, President - BIBAK BC

Stephen Andrada, President - UP Alumni Association in BC

Phoebe Sabado, President - Benguet Society of BC

Ana Napieralski, President - Grupo Ilocano Society of BC

Don Vasquez - Pamilyang Bicolnon



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Michael Mesa - Uragon Vancouver

Joel Gumban, President - Bisayan Alliance in BC

Glenn Cabactulan, Convenor - Mindanaoans of BC

Armand Perez, President - Filipino Canadian Construcion Society

Diosdado Mendoza, Past President - Filipino Canadian Construction Society

Michael de Guzman, President - Society of Filipino Engineers of BC

Delano de Belen, President - Filipino Seniors Club of BC

Chiching Orquiola, President - Seniors Brigade Society of BC

Roxane Cecilla - BC Pinoy MD

Jun dela Cruz, Director - Adamson Alumni Association of BC

Joseph Melvin Estil, President - Vancouver Hinirang Eagles Club (TFOEPE)

Joven Loretizo, President - Victoria Knights Hinirang Eagles Club

Genaro Tambogon, President - Intercity Basketball League

Irold Inso, President - BC Sepak Takraw

Alvin Aggari, President - Philippine Society of Mechanical Engineers (Canada)

Dennis Saavedra, President - Kwantlen Polytechnic University Pinoy Community

Joanne Fajardo, President - University Canada West Filipino Student Association

Christopher Estayo, President - Institute of Integrated Electrical Engineers

Nellie Asutilla, President - Goldenaires Friendship Association

Cesar Villamin, Director - Barangay Burnaby Filipino Society

Tony Matias, President - Mixed Media Music and Artists Society of BC

Ces Del Mundo - Alliance Philippines

Rob Cordero - Pinoy Cycling Collaboration



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Bogs Dela Pena, President - Zambales Society in British Columbia
Chona Tomelden, Past President - Zambales Society in British Columbia
Mark Jayson Rivera, Grand Skeptron - Skeptron de Vancouver
Henson Lagarico, President - Samahang Ilocano 61892 BC
Mhond Hidalgo, President - Batangas Community Support Society of Metro Vancouver
Merlina Fayusal, President - Forever Young Seniors Society of BC
Rachel Ambrosio, President - Philippine Cultural Arts Society of BC
Connie Lawas, President - BISDAK Christian Society of BC
Emydel Ortiz, President - BIBAK Okanagan
Belindo "Yhodz" Ablaza, Regional Council Chairman - Triskelion Grand Fraternity and Sorority TGFS British Columbia
Hilda Amino, President - BIBAK Victoria
John Agpalo, President - Kalinga Association of BC
Hannyliz Villafuerte, President - Barangay Sea to Sky Filipino Canadian Society
Pablo Wigwigan, President - United E-Sabangan Community Association of BC
Emmanuel Sarmiento - Sigma Nu Fraternity Vancouver
Delver Mangaoile - Igorot 4x4
Aedrienne Doctor, President - Simon Fraser University Filipino Students Association



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