



CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE  
PHILIPPINES  
LOS ANGELES



PR-AASC-03-2026

**PHILCONGEN LA OPENS NATIONAL ARTS MONTH EXHIBIT**



Consul General Adelio Angelito S. Cruz leading the ribbon-cutting ceremony, joined by artists and curators Ms. Celina Duffy (second from right) and Mr. Valentino Bernardo (second from left), alongside Ms. Malou Villacisneros, PWC Cultural Director (leftmost), and Ms. Yey Coronel, FASGI Executive Director (rightmost)

LOS ANGELES, CA – In celebration of National Arts Month 2026, the Philippine Consulate General in Los Angeles officially opened its National Arts Month Exhibit at the Consulate’s Community Hall on 9 February 2026. The ceremony was attended by local artists, curators and collaborators from the Filipino American Service Group, Inc. (FASGI) and the Pilipino Workers Center (PWC).

In his welcome message, Consul General Adelio Angelito S. Cruz emphasized that this year’s theme, “*Ani ng Sining: Katotohanan at Giting,*” highlights art as a reflection of shared experiences and collective aspirations. He also noted that the commemoration is especially meaningful as it coincides with the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and the United States, underscoring the countries’ shared history and enduring partnership.



Consul General Cruz delivering the opening remarks



Mr. Bernardo explaining the concept behind his installation

traditional crafts from Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. During the program, Mr. Bernardo shared that he drew inspiration from the traditional wooden carts pulled by the carabao, a familiar sight from his childhood in the Philippines, and created the installation using materials lent by the Pilipino Workers Center.

The exhibit brings the theme to life through three (3) meaningful installations showcased in the Community Hall.

The first installation, “*Carabao Caravan,*” reimagines the Consulate’s existing 1993 mural by renowned Filipino visual artist Toym Imao. The mural has been transformed into a three-dimensional installation by local artist Valentino Bernardo, highlighting Philippine textiles, fashion, musical instruments, and



The second installation features artworks by local artist and community leader, Celina Taganas Duffy. In a collection entitled “*Homage To My Family*,” Ms. Duffy presented abstract acrylic paintings alongside ink drawings by her uncle, Faustino Caigoy. Her layered acrylic compositions on canvas explore color and emotion, while Mr. Caigoy’s ink drawings reflect the discipline of Kali, a traditional Filipino martial art. Ms. Duffy described the collection as a tribute to her family and heritage, embodying the spirit of *katotohanan at giting* and giving visual form to this year’s theme.



Ms. Duffy presenting her curated collection of artworks

The exhibit also features a multimedia presentation entitled, “*I Am Today’s Filipino*,” developed 20 years ago in partnership with the Smithsonian Institute. Created by Ms. Duffy together with Honolulu-based artist Mr. Ray Carbullido, the exhibit documents the Filipino-American experience in Southern California, capturing stories of identity, migration, and community-building across generations.



National Arts Month Exhibit installations on display at the Consulate's Community Hall

The National Arts Month Exhibit will remain open to the public until 27 February 2026. The Consulate invites the community to visit the exhibit during office hours. END



Consulate officials with partner local artists, curators and collaborators