



PR-AASC- 10 -2026

“MOUNTAIN SPIRITS” OPENS AT UCLA FOWLER MUSEUM



Mountain Spirits exhibit curators providing a guided tour to opening program guests.

LOS ANGELES, CA – The Philippine Consulate General in Los Angeles supported the opening of the exhibit “*Mountain Spirits: Rice and Indigeneity in the Northern Luzon Highlands, Philippines*” on 11 April 2026 at the Fowler Museum at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).



Visitors viewing featured Ifugao artifacts in the exhibit.

The exhibit showcases the cultural traditions of the Ifugao people of Northern Luzon and their world-renowned rice terraces, which depict generations of communal labor, spiritual beliefs, and a sacred relationship with the land. Through video installations, soundscapes, textiles, household and farming tools, and ritual objects, the exhibit highlights the connection between

rice cultivation, indigeneity, and cultural identity.

Representatives from the Consulate General joined members of the academe, museum professionals, and members of the Filipino-American community in Southern California for the opening program. The launch event was further enlivened by a special performance by the Malaya Filipino American Dance Arts and BIMAK (Benguet, Ifugao, Mountain Province, Apayao and Kalinga), which explored music and dance traditions rooted in the highland cultures of the Cordillera Mountains.



Visitors entering the exhibit gallery at the UCLA Fowler Museum



Special performers bringing Cordillera traditions to life

The Consulate General supported the project through a Philippine Studies Grant facilitated by the Office of Senator Loren Legarda, alongside the Asian Pacific Alumni Association of UCLA, UCLA Division of Social Sciences, UCLA Cotsen Institute of Archaeology, and Save the Ifugao Terraces Movement (SITMo). The exhibit was co-curated by UCLA Prof. Stephen Acabado and SITMo Executive Director Marlon Martin, and was made possible through lead support from the Henry Luce Foundation.

The exhibit will remain open to the public until January 2027. For more information, visit: <https://fowler.ucla.edu/visit/> END