Hi everyone, my name is Ash and I just want to make a little intro to the video that I’ll be showing you very soon.

Through this video I am showing you clips of our Bahay Kubo preparation, where is eboard is kind of setting out throughout the day from morning to night before the show and having our general members come in and perform and just get the set, get the lighting and all that stuff.

It’s a lot of work and a lot of set design and a lot of things, but we put a lot of work and effort into it. But these clips are really important because throughout this video, I’ll be just sharing what Barkada means to me and why this club means so much to me and other people.

Thank you!

Community. Or, in Tagalog, Bayanihan.

This word embodies the Filipino spirit of unity, collaboration, and selflessness. By sharing their time, skills, and love, my ancestors established deep roots that allowed future generations to thrive. This value runs in my bloodline, shaping how I approach life and relationships.

I apply Bayanihan to my group of friends—my barkada.

I ran for Media Specialist in my university’s Filipino student association, NU Barkada, in my sophomore year, and ever since then, it was my dream to give back to the people who imbued my life with that community spirit.

Now that I am a junior, I truly realize that I am so fortunate to have been given so many outlets when my academic and professional conquests become overwhelming. Because I am a CS and math major, I feel as though I can be too wrapped up in finding the correct answers or perfect solutions to the problems I encounter. I focused so much of my time on my classes, GPA, and future that I didn’t live in the present.

Being on this e-board has changed everything for me. Throughout these years, or these three years, I have strived to focus on the other aspects of my life I have neglected, whether that be through creative decision-making when designing merch and social media posts, creating or partaking in the various dances we organize for our performances, or just showing up to be social about anything and everything with alumni and new members alike.

I have found fulfilling peace and unconditional love through this club.

But, Barkada is more than a club though, for us, it’s a living, breathing entity that continuously evolves to welcome and uplift everyone with whom it comes in contact. By hosting countless events, creating spaces for different interests, and pouring our hearts out, we hope that everyone feels at home. But for those on e-board, it's not just an extracurricular, it’s also practically a part-time job.

And I don’t think we would have it any other way, because if it were any less commitment, we wouldn’t have the impact we have today.

Everyone in the club works so hard to ensure the roots that were planted here in 1998 will last far beyond the four/five years each person is within this club. And while that work is endless, the fruit of our labor is the love shared in the spaces we curate.

[What does Barkada mean to you?]

[Nikka] Barkada, to me, as much as this sounds cliché, it literally means a group of friends. But it truly has been a family and a home away from home.

[Gabe] You know, when you give something your all and do it in the way that we do, combine that with the four of the most formative years of your life and everything that I was and everything that I am and everything that I will continue to be that is all thanks to Barkada.

[What is your favorite member from Barkada?]

[Ahmad] My favorite memory in Barkada has to be my very first Bahay Kubo when I was a freshman. The reason it’s my favorite memory was because I just remember gleaming and my face lighting up while I was performing on stage and while I was with like a new community that I called home.

[Therese] My favorite memory from Barkada was BK last year where I joined one dance and it was tinikling and this year I’m running it back.

[Cassy] Overall for me, definitely like my eboard year was definitely like an amazing memory. Specifically, like preparing for BK and like BK in itself. Like it was our 25th anniversary and I just think we did so many like awesome things that year.

[If you could leave a message for your future self about your Barkada, what would it be?]

[Siraj] Remember to like give back to the communities that gave to you. I feel like I’ve gotten a lot of advice and friendship out of Barkada and it was a lot of it was from people who are older than me. So even like when I’m like “unc” as hell, like if someone reaches out to me to always be like a helping hand.

[Jo] Put your all into it, this is a community you don’t really find anywhere else