

BAYANIHAN

"Bayanihan" literally means, "**being a bayan (village)**," and is thus used to refer to a spirit of communal unity and cooperation.

Bayanihan leads the way

The legitimate FACGC's Board of director is moving away from a once power, position, and title centric organization to a mission centric organization. In just 18 days from the reclamation of Rizal Center on September 12th, the board conducted an in-service training about the responsibilities of volunteer board members as prescribed by the [Illinois Attorney General Office](#).

The needed paradigm shift comes in part from the lessons of the five lawsuits in the last thirty years. The lawsuits were all about election results/procedures and/or board's legitimacy. They marred the image of the Filipino American Council of Greater Chicago and unnecessarily induced financial hemorrhage. Leaders are driven to capture the helm of the organization and not to deliver sustained social services to the people but to keep their power and position. Hence, lawsuits become inevitable in the politics of power and division.

The board works and leads

The ongoing leadership development in the Board is now grounding itself (continued on next page)



Photo credit: Kaya Rial

Reclaiming Rizal Center from an unauthorized resident

The above photo collage captures the mixed feelings of disgust on the sorry state of the building and the excitement of the possibilities of the future.

The people who reclaimed the Rizal Center on the night of September 12th gathered inside the Paciano Room and reflected on future visions for the Center. A young volunteer, Kaya Rial, who was a first-time visitor of the Center, shared, "it's really heartbreaking to see its condition now, from when she (Elaine) took control of the space...a lot of the damage happened. I am hoping the space can be revitalized...to bring in new energy and momentum."

For the last five years, Rizal Center became a residence of the invalidly self-appointed Executive Director of FACGC. It ended on the night of September 12th. Judge Clare Quish of the Circuit Court of Cook County on August 19th enjoined Ms. Elaine Lehman from representing the organization in any fashion or accessing organizational funds, and also ordered her to vacate her residence from the Rizal Heritage Center on or before **September 12, 2022**.

(continuation) in the Filipino shared values of Aksyon (Action), Bayanihan (People working together), Kapitbahayan (Neighborly concerns) and Damayan (Mutual aid). These values are embedded in the first four letters of the Filipino alphabet (ABKD). Hence, immediately after the reclamation of the building, the board is transforming itself into a working board openly inviting volunteers to join the Bayanihan Volunteer Corps.

The Bayanihan Volunteer Corps implements the mandate of the April 22, 2017 Resolution which was consistent with the standing committees envisioned by FACGC. The people's power is expressed in the different Bayanihan Circles. The Circles are: (1)Fundraising (Development) Committee (special events and direct donation, grants, etc.), (2) Legal and Governance Committee (compliance with IRS, AGO, and SOS, Directors and officers Empowerment; policies and procedures, etc.), (3) Financial and Administration Committee (accounting, auditing, human resources, etc.), (4) Outreach Committee (outreach and volunteer recruitment, etc.), (5) Facility Committee (building upkeep, repair and renovation, security, etc.), (6) Press Relations Committee now called Communications Committee: (media relations, press statements, press conference, etc.), (7) Programs Committee (Program design and implementation, etc.). To join the Bayanihan Volunteer Corps, you can go to <https://rizationalcenterchicago.org/volunteer-opportunities>

STAYING with the MISSION: The Filipino American Council of Greater Chicago will continue to pursue its charitable mission as set forth in the exempt purposes of section 501(c)(3) of IRS code: "The term **charitable** is used in its generally accepted legal sense and includes relief of the poor, the distressed, or the underprivileged; advancement of religion; advancement of education or science; erecting or maintaining public buildings, monuments, or works; lessening the burdens of government; lessening neighborhood tensions; eliminating prejudice and discrimination; defending human and civil rights secured by law; and combating community deterioration and juvenile delinquency."

<https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/charitable-organizations/exempt-purposes-internal-revenue-code-section-501c3>



... the spirit of our ancestors reminds us of the power of ABKD...



Tita Sally takes a respite from cleaning the floors and toilets. Tito Al, on the other hand, continues to sort out things that can be salvaged from the ruins of five years of neglect.

Like the proverbial phoenix, the Center is rising from neglect...