



## MISSION & VISION

**Enriching the diverse Filipino cultural heritage in support of empowering the community.**

The Rizal Center is a home away from home, a safe and vibrant space where our **kababayans** (compatriots) can be their authentic selves. We advocate for social change, address the unique challenges faced by our community, and champion the values of unity, resilience, and compassion.

We aim to create culturally rooted transformative programs by fostering three core values:

### Bayanihan

Townspeople working together

### Kapitbahayan

Neighborhoodly concern and support

### Damayan

Compassionate mutual aid

## PROGRAMMING

The Rizal Center serves as a **vibrant cultural hub** offering diverse programming that fosters a sense of belonging, empowerment, and identity for the Filipino American community while also promoting cross-cultural understanding and appreciation for the wider Chicago community. The center's programming is comprised of six key pillars:

### Community Engagement

Kapihan (coffee talks) Social Connections, Asian American Action Day

### Economic Development

Business practices workshops, Tiyanngge (Market) Day for Filipino/FilAm vendors

### Educational Initiatives

Filipino American Pamana Children's Library, Tagalog and other Filipino dialect lessons

### Events & Performances

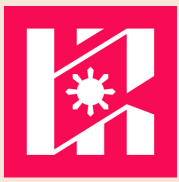
Piano recitals, AAPI Heritage Month celebrations, Art Exhibits, Film Screening, Pancit (noodle) and Parol (lantern) competitions, Karaoke Day

### Health & Wellness

Health clinics and forums, Health screenings, Line Dancing, Filipino Martial Arts, and Tai Chi

### Religious Cultural Practices

Pasyon (retelling of the Passion of Christ and Paskuhan, Christmas celebration)



# RIZAL CENTER

## Board Members

Jerry Clarito, Chair

Norberto "Bobby"  
Luna

Corazon Sopena

Rizalina "Sally"  
Velasco Richmond

Willi R. Buhay

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Lant

Malou Tabo

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## Stay Connected!

 @rizal.center

 Rizal Center

## PARTNERSHIPS

Through meaningful and impactful partnerships, the Rizal Center remains steadfast in its commitment to empowering and celebrating the vibrant Filipino American community, enriching lives, and preserving heritage for generations to come.

With the support of these organizations, the Rizal Center is able to provide and sustain its vast array of dynamic programming.

- Alliance of Filipinos for Immigrant and Empowerment
- Asian American Advancing Justice - Chicago
- Asian Giving Circle
- Asian Health Coalition
- Circa Pintig Community Theater
- Dancing With Joy, Inc.
- Filipino American Grandparents Association of Chicago
- Various Lions Clubs
- National Asian Pacific Center on Aging
- Philippine American Seniors Association of Chicago
- Philippine American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Chicago
- Philippine Independence Week Corporation
- Philippine Nurses Association of Illinois
- Sing Filipino American Artists of Greater Chicago
- Trilogy, Inc.
- University of Illinois -Chicago -Global Asian Studies Program
- University of Illinois -Urbana, Champaign Philippine Students Association
- University of Michigan- School of Information
- University of Michigan- Diversity Research and Policy Program

## HISTORY

FACGC is one of the oldest (71 years old as of March 2024) Filipino American community-based nonprofit organizations owning a property in the United States. It continues its initiatives to create meaningful spaces where its community can come together to connect with and be inspired by one another.

Chicago's Filipino American community has experienced a profound evolution over recent decades, with the Rizal Center at its core. Starting as a modest "clubhouse," developing into a thriving community center, it stands as a testament to the resilience and cultural pride of the Filipino American Council of Greater Chicago (FACGC). The City of Chicago has recognized the historical marker of the Rizal Center by naming the short stretch from N. Wayne Ave where it's honorarily named Carmelito Llapitan Ct. after Carmelito Llapitan, a postal worker who initiated the buying of the Rizal Center, to the corner of Southport Ave. at Irving Park Rd. in Chicago's north side as Dr. Jose Rizal Ave., after the Philippine hero Dr. Jose Rizal.

Furthermore, the Rizal Center has been acknowledged by the Uptown Chamber of Commerce for its significant cultural role in the 46th Ward. This recognition highlights the center's importance as a cultural institution that has contributed to the vibrancy and diversity of the local community for decades past and decades to come.

