



BAYANIHAN COMMUNITY CENTRE COORDINATOR APPOINTED

We are pleased to welcome Jean Penola as the Bayanihan Community Centre coordinator starting in October.

This appointment is made possible through a grant from Victoria Foundation's Community Recovery Program. The grant supports the centre's staff and equipment needs as it recovers from Covid-19 restrictions in its activities.

Jean has a Master's degree in Intercultural and International Communication from Royal Roads University. She interned at the Bayanihan Community Centre and stayed on as a volunteer dance teacher for the Sampaguita Dance Group.

She also holds a Master's degree in English Language and Literature from Xavier University, Ateneo de Cagayan, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Linguistics from Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology.

Jean and her family arrived in Canada in 2017.

Before their arrival, she was employed as a language and literature teacher at Mindanao State University--Iligan Institute of Technology, where she was engaged in community service and outreach programs, to increase reading comprehension, thinking and writing skills of students.

She also organized training and workshops for students, teachers and parents and held administrative roles as program head of the Department of English and assistant to the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs.

While with the MSU-IIT, Jean founded a student theater group called the AB English Organization or ABEO Playhouse. It continues to produce classical to contemporary drama.

Jean and her husband, Geoffrey, are former resident members of the Integrated Performing Arts Guild (IPAG), a leading Philippine dance and theater company, whose world-acclaimed productions integrate the dance, music, and arts traditions of the Southern Philippines. Their children, Suzanne and Sean, are also gifted in song and dance.

In Victoria, in 2019, she produced, choreographed and directed the successful “Our Story in Songs and Dances” to mark the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Victoria Filipino Canadian Association.

Her administrative experience and cultural knowledge and sensitivity will help the Bayanihan Community Centre re-open safely and will encourage centre users, primarily newcomers, immigrants, refugees, children, youth, seniors and elders, in the safe resumption of activities.

Her creative and artistic skills will be valuable as the centre takes on an additional new role as a Cultural Arts Studio for visual arts, music, spoken word, dance and performances, employing traditional methods as well as new technology for digital productions.

We envision that the Bayanihan Community Centre will emerge stronger, energized and more productive after the pandemic.

It is timely that we have Jean Penola as the centre’s coordinator as the Bayanihan Community Centre marks its 20th anniversary.

We look forward to an anniversary celebration that will showcase the centre’s community involvement in culture and arts.

We thank and acknowledge the financial support of



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