



Filipino-Canadian Civic Action Network (FCCAN)

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Date: July 22, 2026

To: Toronto City Council

Cc: Councillor Neethan Shan, City of Toronto

councillor_shan@toronto.ca

Re: Letter of Support for a Filipino Community and Cultural Centre in Toronto

Dear Toronto City Council,

On behalf of the Filipino-Canadian Civic Action Network (FCCAN), we are writing to express our strong support for the creation of a dedicated Filipino community and cultural centre in Toronto. FCCAN is a non-partisan, community-driven organization committed to empowering the Filipino/a/x community through civic engagement, education, and advocacy. In Toronto, Filipinos make up roughly 6.2% of the City's population, making it one of the largest visible minority groups in the urban area (Statistics Canada, 2021). Our work with the Filipino community has consistently shown that Filipino-Canadians need stable, accessible, and culturally grounded spaces where community members can gather, organize, heal, celebrate, and access support.

The findings of [FCCAN's 2025 Community Safety Report](#), developed in response to the 2025 Lapu-Lapu Day tragedy, strengthen the case for a dedicated Filipino community and cultural centre. The report reflects responses overwhelmingly drawn from residents of the City of Toronto and the GTA (99%) and shows a clear demand for safer, trusted, and culturally specific community infrastructure. Nearly 47% of respondents said they feel unsafe or concerned about the lack of safety planning at Filipino cultural events, while 88% said governments should provide funding for safety planning and infrastructure for Filipino cultural events. These findings demonstrate that the need is not only cultural but also structural: community members are calling for safer, more intentional environments in which cultural life can continue and thrive.

The report also makes clear that community space must be understood as part of community wellness and recovery. 84% of respondents said free or low-cost mental health services would be most helpful for Filipino families dealing with trauma or crisis, and 74% said culturally specific counselling would be especially valuable. Respondents also highlighted the need for "spaces for open sharing without judgment," more cultural education, and environments that reflect the full diversity of Filipino identities and experiences. A Filipino community centre could serve as



exactly this kind of trusted hub: a place for trauma-informed programming, culturally grounded mental health supports, youth and seniors' programs, newcomer connection, mutual aid, civic participation, and community healing.

Furthermore, FCCAN has engaged with the community through community events, including our *Kwentuhan* sessions, and outreach at major Filipino community events across Toronto. These activities created space for dialogue, collective learning, and identification of key issues affecting Filipino-Canadian communities. They also validated, in a direct and practical way, the importance of having physical community spaces where civic education, cultural connection, intergenerational exchange, and community support can take place. FCCAN's outreach itself depended in part on donated community space, including support from Kababayan Multicultural Centre, and Filipino Centre Toronto underscoring the ongoing need for more permanent Filipino community infrastructure.

FCCAN therefore strongly supports the City of Toronto working in partnership with Filipino community representatives to explore the development of a Filipino cultural and community centre. We appreciate that this initiative is being considered with attention to Scarborough and other areas of Toronto so the centre can best serve Filipino communities across the city, while building on the grassroots efforts that organizations and residents have sustained for many years.

A dedicated Filipino community centre would be more than a building. It would be a long-term investment in belonging, safety, care, cultural continuity, and civic participation. It would provide a much needed home for the kinds of outreach, education, support, and healing work that our community is already doing, often without adequate permanent space or infrastructure.

Thank you for your leadership on this important initiative. FCCAN would welcome the opportunity to continue contributing community insight and outreach experience to help move this vision forward.

Sincerely,

Veronica Javier
Chair
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