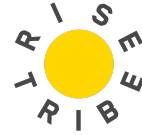


RISE Tribe
rise-tribe.ca
risetribeto@gmail.com



Date: July 29, 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 RISE Tribe, we are writing in strong support of MM43.8, **Explore Partnerships for a New Filipino Community Centre in Toronto.**

At RISE Tribe, our purpose is to create a home base for Filipinx-Canadians to connect, explore identity, and grow into who they're becoming. Especially for Filipinx youth and Millennials, there is a need to find places to come back to — to connect with others, ask questions, explore identity, and grow over time. It's about creating a space where people can be real, stay curious, and become more grounded in themselves and their role in community, together. Through a dedicated space where culturally-specific programming, services, and cultural initiatives can continue to grow, we believe this motion represents an important opportunity for the City of Toronto to recognize, support, and invest in the Filipino community.

Through qualitative research in 2023 and 2025 with 13-44 year old Filipinx- Canadians, RISE Tribe uncovered the core need for meaningful connection to Filipinx culture, to other generations and to each other.

"There's not much there for folks to gather in person and together in community and do things together and human connection. I feel like, for me, that definitely didn't exist, and doesn't exist other than this conversation we're having right now." - 29-44 year old

"To be involved in a community, it's only through school or a sport vs a Filipino umbrella. There wasn't something that was a dedicated Filipino community progressing out from High School." - 18-24 year old

With one of the largest Filipino communities in Canada calling Toronto home, it is essential that we create pathways to sustain and strengthen the vital work that grassroots organizations have been doing for decades to support, uplift, and serve our community.

We urge the City Council to support MM43.8 and take this meaningful step toward building a more inclusive and representative Toronto.

Sincerely,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature is 'Mari de Lara' and the second is 'Natalie Matias'.

Mari de Lara and Natalie Matias
Co-Executive Directors, RISE Tribe