

6TH FILIPINO AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL BOOK FESTIVAL

Hiraya/Emergence

WRITING TOWARDS THE FUTURE

Oct 15-16, 2022

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PAWA



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presents

Enduring Piña

at the San Francisco Filipino Cultural Center
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July to November 2022

*Detail from Creativity piña paper panel inspired by Michelangelo's Creation of Adam with QR codes

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Table of Contents

2	Letter from the Festival Co-Directors
3	Letter from the Filipino American Center Librarian
4	Festival Committee and Community Partners
5	Festival Donors
6	Program Schedule
12	Author Signing Schedule
13	Participant Bios

Letter from the Festival Co-Directors

To our festival attendees, we extend a warm welcome to the 6th Filipino American International Book Festival. It is a delight to gather in person with you again.

This year, our festival theme is “Hiraya/ Emergence: Writing Towards the Future.” “Hiraya” is a Tagalog word for imagination, the embodiment of one’s hopes and dreams—first the flower, then the fruit. Having postponed the festival for a year due to COVID-19, this celebration of Filipino/a/x literature and art is an emergence from the difficulties and isolation of the past three years.

Historically, the festival has been held in-person at the San Francisco Public Library every two years since 2011. It was founded by Gemma Nemenzo and the Literacy Initiatives International Foundation, Inc., with Philippine American Writers and Artists taking over its organization in 2013. It remains the only festival in the United States to bring together Filipino/a/x writers from around the world, from downtown San Francisco to the Philippines.

As we also celebrate Filipino American History Month this October, we mark the history of this unique Bay Area literary festival, alongside the legacies of Filipino American theater in SOMA Pilipinas, anthologies such as Liwanag, and the birthplace of ethnic studies. These throughlines run through the work of several of our festival authors and performers.

We extend our gratitude to our partners at the San Francisco Public Library, whose support has allowed this sixth festival to blossom so beautifully. We feature award winning and internationally lauded authors as well as emerging writers and small presses, from a Nobel Peace Prize winner to an 11-year-old self-published picture book author. In the breadth of our programming, our genres span poetry, graphic memoir, comics, fiction, play-writing, and children’s literature. We are able to offer all of it for free to the public, because of the generosity of SFPL, the Filipino American Center, our donors, community partners, and the hard work of our festival organizing committee rock stars.

The festival reflects the phenomenal growth of Filipino/a/x literature of the past few years. Despite the uncertainty of current times, it is through the sharing of our stories that we move together towards the next.

In community and appreciation,



Edwin Lozada
Co-Director, Filipino American
International Book Festival



Christina Buhain Newhard
Co-Director, Filipino American
International Book Festival

Letter from the Filipino American Center Librarian

On behalf of the Filipino American Center of the San Francisco Public Library, I would like to extend a hearty welcome to all attending the 6th Filipino American International Book Festival. The library is honored to continue its role as the host for this important biennial Filipino American cultural institution. The San Francisco Public Library is committed to serving and partnering with the Filipino community, as well as all immigrant communities.



As San Francisco's home to the literary arts, the Library is proud to host this stellar lineup of authors who have dreamed, imagined, and written about the Filipino experience, past, present and future. Our hope is that this festival helps to cultivate even more inspiration for budding writers and artists for years to come.

Come visit the Filipino American Center at the Main Library. It was created in 1996 to highlight the Filipino American experience. The Center houses Filipino American and Philippine resources covering various subjects and topics. The collection is comprised of reference and circulating materials of popular interest, scholarly research and unique items. Materials in Filipino and other Philippine languages as well as language learning books can also be found in the Library's General Collections and Humanities Center and the International Center, also located on the third floor. The Filipino American Center sponsors a broad range of programs, events, and exhibitions throughout the year, in collaboration with writers, scholars, artists, organizations and other members of the community. The Excelsior and Ingleside branch libraries also house a Filipiniana collection comprised of both reference and circulating materials.

Enjoy the Festival!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Abraham Ignacio, Jr.'.

Abraham Ignacio, Jr.
Librarian, Filipino American Center
San Francisco Public Library

Festival Organizing Committtee

Maria Bolaños
Jaena Rae Cabrera
Maya Ong Escudero
Michael Gonzalez
Abraham Ignacio, Jr.
Dina Klarisse
Keana Aguila Labra
Karen Llagas
Edwin Lozada
Christina Newhard
Beverly Parayno

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Aileen Cassinetto
Lisa Suguitan Melnick
Joshua Paras

BULOSAN CENTER SOCIAL MEDIA INTERNS

Louissandra Manangan
Jessica Tualla

Thank You to Our Community Partners

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Bulosan Center for Filipino Studies
Carayan Press
Philippine Studies Department at City
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Filipina Authors Book Club
Friends of the SFPL
The Hinabi Project
James C. Hormel LGBTQIA Center SFPL
Galing Bata
Kearny Street Workshop
KulArts
Litquake
Manilatown Heritage Foundation
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(PAWA)
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San Francisco

Positively Filipino
Sama Sama Cooperative
Sampaguita Press
San Francisco Community Health Center
(SFCHC)
San Francisco Filipino Cultural Center
SOMA Pilipinas
Tagalog Classes Atbp.
Tuttle Publishing
Yuchengco Philippine Studies Program
at USF



Thank You to Our Donors

Thank you to our generous donors for making this event possible.
We appreciate your support!

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

10,000+

Abraham Ignacio

1,000+

Maya Escudero

Penelope Flores

Almira Astudillo Gilles

Michael Gonzalez

Patricia Araneta Gonzalez

Amanda Quintos

Juanita Tamayo Lott

\$500 – \$999

Edwin Lozada

Bert Parayno

\$100 – \$250

Florante Aguilar

Trish Ang

Marissa Aroy

Bren Bataclan

Ted Benito

Anne Clifford

Desi Danganan

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Titania Bucholdt

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Gina Campbell

Aileen Cassinetto

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Tess Crescini

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Karen Llagas

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Mika Remulla

Anthony Santa Ana

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Annamarie Montecina Till

Allie Moreno Valero

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Justine Villanueva

INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

\$10,000+

Literary Arts Emergency
Fund

Racial Equity Program, San
Francisco Public Library

\$3,000 – \$5,000

Chief of Main/Friends of
the San Francisco Public
Library

James C. Hormel LGBTQIA
Center, San Francisco
Public Library

\$1,000 – \$2,999

Filipino American Center,
San Francisco Public
Library

Sari-Sari Storybooks

SOMA Pilipinas

USF Yuchengco Philippine
Studies Program

IN-KIND SUPPORT

Litquake

Newhard Design

San Francisco Filipino
Cultural Center

Program Schedule

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15

	Koret Auditorium (Lower Level)	Hormel Center (3rd Floor)	Learning Studio (5th Floor)	African-American Center (3rd Floor)	Children's Center (2nd Floor)	Latino Rooms (Lower Level)
10-10:30 am						Marketplace open
10:30-11 am	Opening, Keynote					
11 am-noon	Hiraya Plenary					
noon-1 pm	Lunch Break					
1-2 pm	YA Panel	Meredith Talusan Workshop (ends at 3 pm)	Mythology Panel	Poetry Panel	Kids + Teens Program, Marketplace (see page 7)	
2:30-3:30 pm	Fiction Panel		Baybayin Panel	Theater Panel		
4-5 pm	Inkstorm 1	Graphic Novel				
5-5:45 pm						Marketplace closing

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16

	Koret Auditorium (Lower Level)	Hormel Center (3rd Floor)	Learning Studio (5th Floor)	African-American Center (3rd Floor)	Children's Center (2nd Floor)	Latino Rooms (Lower Level)
noon-12:45 pm	Opening, Keynote					Marketplace open
1-2 pm	Inkstorm 2	MG Panel	Filipinx Asian-Amer Studies Panel		Kids + Teens Program, Marketplace (see page 7)	
2:30-3:30 pm	Inkstorm 3	Indie Publishing	Ani Almarino Panel	Liwanag 3 Panel		
4-5 pm	Maria Ressa Plenary					
5-5:30 pm						Marketplace closing

Kids + Teens Program Schedule

The program takes place inside the Fisher Children's Center, 2nd floor.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15

	Main Stage/Grove St Reading Corner	Activity Studio	Children's Marketplace
1-1:30 pm	Zoe Dorado, Zachlewis Maravilla	Zine Workshop with Isabel Roxas (ends at 1:40 pm)	Children's Marketplace
1:30-2 pm	Marielle Atanacio		Children's, MG, and YA author signings (see page 12 for schedule)
2-2:30 pm	Erin Entrada Kelly		
2:30-3 pm	Annie Cheng/Ube Books		
3-3:30 pm	Sophia N. Lee and Isabel Roxas	Conrad Benedicto and Kulintang	
3:30-4 pm	Tracy Badua		

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16

	Main Stage/Grove St Reading Corner	Activity Studio	Children's Marketplace
1-1:30 pm	Waray Words With Fae	Jason Tanamor	Children's Marketplace
1:30-2 pm	Renee Rutledge		Children's, MG, and YA author signings (see page 12 for schedule)
2-2:30 pm	Maxie Villavicencio Pulliam	Laurel Flores Fantauzzo	
2:30-3 pm	Bayani Books	Cynthia Salaysay	
3-3:30 pm	Candy Gourlay	Mae Respicio + Slime Kit Raffle	
3:30-4 pm		Tito Ramon's Pop-Up Puppet Show	

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15

10 AM

Marketplace opens

Latino Hispanic Room, Lower Level

10:30 – 11 AM

Welcome

Opening, “Larry the Musical” performance,
and keynote by Gina Apostol

Koret Auditorium, Lower Level

11 AM – NOON

Hiraya/Emergence: Writing Towards the Future (Plenary)

Koret Auditorium, Lower Level

With Ani Almario, Gina Apostol, Gideon
Lasco, Reine Arcache Melvin, and Vicente
Rafael. Moderated by Troy Espera.

NOON – 1 PM

Lunch break

1 – 2 PM

Coming of Age on the Page: a Young Adult Author Roundtable

Koret Auditorium, Lower Level

With Candy Gourlay, Laurel Flores
Fantauzzo, and Cynthia Salaysay.
Moderated by Randy Ribay.

Horror, Power, and the Precolonial Imagined: Philippine Mythology and Folklore in Comics and Novels Today

The Bridge Learning Center, 5th Floor

With Conrad Benedicto, Mark A.J. Nazal
of Diwata Komiks, Kaitlyn Fajilan of
Kwento Comics, and Jason Tanamor.
Moderated by Earl Matito of Philippine
Campfire Stories.

The Shape of a Poem: a Conversation on Craft, Poetic Forms, and Creative Practice

African American Center, 3rd Floor

With Joi Barrios, Michael Caylo-Baradi, Marianne
Chan, Barbara Jane Reyes, and Angela
Narcisco Torres. Moderated by Karen Llagas.

1–3 PM

How to Be a Writer From Many Worlds: A Free Writing Workshop with Meredith Talusan*

Hormel LGBTQI+ Center, 3rd Floor

Community Partner: the Philippine Studies
Department at City College of San Francisco.

**Limited capacity, priority to registered
attendees.*

1 – 4 PM

Kids and Teens Program

(see separate listing on page 10)

Fisher Children's Center, 2nd Floor

Children's Marketplace Opens

2:30 – 3:30 PM

Fierce and Fabulous: Filipinx Fiction Now

Koret Auditorium, Lower Level

With Melissa Chadburn, Mia P. Manansala,
Lara Stapleton, and Lysley Tenorio.
Moderated by Ricco Siasoco.

The Art of Baybayin and Philippine Calligraphy

The Bridge Learning Center, 5th Floor

With Ian “Taipan” Lucero and Kristian
Kabuay. Q+A with Lisa Melnick.

Gossip, Sex, and the End of the World: Tongue in a Mood and the Emergence of Filipino American Theater

African American Center, 3rd Floor

With A. Samson Manalo, Theodore S.
Gonzalves, Lorna Velasco and Rhoda
Gravador. Moderated by Debra Belale.

4 – 5 PM

Inkstorm 1: Authors Read Freshly Inked Work

Koret Auditorium, Lower Level

Gina Apostol

Melissa Chadburn

Catherine Ceniza Choy

Mia P. Manansala

Michelle Peñaloza

Barbara Jane Reyes

Dr. Robyn Rodriguez

Meredith Talusan

Visual Storytellers: A Graphic Novelist Roundtable

Hormel LGBTQI+ Center, 3rd Floor

With Bren Bataclan, Candy Gourlay, Isabel Roxas, and Kenneth Tan. Moderated by Jaena Rae Cabrera.

5:45 PM

Marketplace closes

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16

NOON

Marketplace Opens

Latino Hispanic Room, Lower Level

12:15 – 12:45 PM

Welcome

Opening, and keynote by Erin Entrada Kelly
Koret Auditorium, Lower Level

1 – 2 PM

Inkstorm 2: Authors Read Freshly Inked Work

Koret Auditorium, Lower Level

Erina Alejo

Joi Barrios

Bren Bataclan

Michael Caylo-Baradi

Gideon Lasco

Reine Arcache Melvin

Lysley Tenorio

Angela Narciso Torres

Writing the Awkward Years: A Middle Grade Author Roundtable

Hormel LGBTQI+ Center, 3rd Floor

With Tracy Badua, Cookie Hiponia, Erin Entrada Kelly, Sophia N. Lee, and Mae Respicio Korner. Moderated by Randy Ribay.

Filipinx and Asian American Studies in 2022: Our Books, Our Stories, Our Histories

The Bridge Learning Center, 5th Floor

With Catherine Ceniza Choy, Dr. Robyn Rodriguez, and Allyson Tintiango-Cubales. Moderated by Theodore S. Gonzalves.

1 – 4 PM

Kids and Teens Program

(see separate listing on page 10)

Fisher Children's Center, 2nd Floor

Children's Marketplace Opens

2:30 – 3:30 PM

Inkstorm 3: Authors Read Freshly Inked Work

Koret Auditorium, Lower Level

Marianne Chan

Liza Gino

jxtheo

Allan Samson Manalo

Veronica Montes

Vicente Rafael

Lara Stapleton

Kenneth Tan

Placemaking, World-Building, and Tiny Revolutions: Independent Publishers on Their Work

Hormel LGBTQI+ Center, 3rd Floor

With Erina Alejo, Mark A.J. Nazal of Diwata Komiks, Cecilia Lim of Kwentto Comics, and Maria Bolaños, Dina Klarisse, and Keana Aguila Labra of Sampaguita Press. Moderated by Edwin Lozada.

Books for Young Thinkers: Ani Almarion on Adarna House, the Raya School, and Creating Philippine Futures

Q+A with Dr. Lily Ann Villaraza

The Bridge Learning Center, 5th Floor

Liwanag 3: Filipino/a/x Creators Celebrate the Newest Edition of a Historic Bay Area Anthology

African American Center, 3rd Floor
With Steve Belale, Luna Salaver, mg Burns, and Kimberly Acebo Arteche.
Co-moderated by Dara Del Rosario and Jason Bayani.

4 – 5 PM

A Conversation with Nobel Peace Prize Winner Maria Ressa (Screening of Recorded Interview, Plenary)

Koret Auditorium, Lower Level
Moderated by Ben Pimentel. Community Partner: Litquake.

5:15 – 5:30 PM

Marketplace closes

Kids and Teens Program in the Children's Center

SATURDAY, OCT 15

Pickup your Golden Ticket at 1 pm in the Children's Marketplace for a free book bundle. 40 tickets available.

1 – 1:50 PM

Isabel Roxas: Team Pom Reading and Zine workshop.

Capacity is 30 participants max. Book signing in Children's Marketplace at 3:30 pm. Recommended ages 8+.
Activity Room

1 – 1:30 PM

Youth Authors Read. Alameda County Youth Poet Laureate **Zoe Dorado** poem reading, and picture book author **Zach Lewis Maravilla** reads **"A Splendor Adventure."** All

ages. Book signing in Children's Marketplace follows at 1:30 pm.

Main Stage/Grove Street Reading Area

1:30 – 2 PM

Marielle Atanacio reads "Who Turned on the Sky?" All ages. Book signing in Children's Marketplace follows at 2 pm.

Main Stage/Grove Street Reading Area

2:30 – 3 PM

Annie Cheng of Ube Books reading. All ages. Book signing in Children's Marketplace follows at 3 pm.

Main Stage/Grove Street Reading Area

3 – 3:30 PM

Conrad Benedicto reads "Musalaya's Gift"

and kulintang performance. Recommended ages 12+. Book signing in Children's Marketplace follows at 3:30 pm.

Activity Room

Sophia N. Lee and Isabel Roxas present

"Holding On." All ages. Book signing in Children's Marketplace follows at 3:30 pm.

Main Stage/Grove Street Reading Area

3:30 – 4 PM

Tracy Badua reads "Freddie vs the Family Curse." Recommended ages 8+.

Book signing in Children's Marketplace follows at 4 pm.

Main Stage/Grove Street Reading Area

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16

Pickup your Golden Ticket at 1 pm in the Children's Marketplace for a free book bundle. 40 tickets available.

1 – 1:30 PM

Jason Tanamor reads “Love, Dance, and Eggrolls.” Recommended ages 12+. Book signing in Children's Marketplace follows at 1:30 pm.

Activity Room

Waray Words with Fae the Waray Puppet and Raffle! Learn Waray with Tita Cyra Africa and Fae the Waray Puppet. We'll also raffle off 30 copies of “Sandangaw: A Waray Tale” by Voltaire Oyzon for a classroom of the winner's choice. All ages.

Main Stage/Grove Street Reading Area

1:30 – 2 PM

Renee Rutledge reads “One Hundred Percent Me.” All ages. Book signing in Children's Marketplace follows at 2 pm.

Main Stage/Grove Street Reading Area

2 – 2:30 PM

Laurel Flores Fantauzzo reads “My Heart Underwater.” Recommended ages 14+. Book signing in Children's Marketplace follows at 2:30 pm.

Activity Room

Celebrating Bayani! Maxie Villavicencio Pulliam's reads “Fierce Filipina”. All ages. Book signing in Children's Marketplace follows at 2:30 pm.

Main Stage/Grove Street Reading Area

2:30 – 3 PM

Cynthia Salaysay reads “Private Lessons.”

Recommended ages 14+. Book signing in Children's Marketplace follows at 3 pm.

Activity Room

Celebrating Bayani! Robin Aquilizan reads Bayani Books. All ages. Book signing in Children's Marketplace follows at 3:00 pm.

Main Stage/Grove Street Reading Area

3 – 3:30 PM

Mae Respicio reading “How to Win a Slime War” and Slime Kit Raffle!

Recommended ages 8+. Book signing in Children's Marketplace follows at 3:30 pm.

Activity Room

Candy Gourlay reads “Is it a Mermaid?” with Magic Hat Storymaking Activity. All ages. Book signing in Children's Marketplace follows at 3:30 pm.

Main Stage/Grove Street Reading Area

3:30 – 4 PM

Tito Ramon's Pop-Up Puppet Show.

All ages.

Activity Room



Authors and Publishers Signing Schedule

OUTSIDE KORET AUDITORIUM, LOWER LEVEL

October 15, 5–5:30 pm

Gina Apostol
Melissa Chadburn
Catherine Ceniza Choy
Theodore S. Gonzalves
Mia P. Manansala
Michelle Peñaloza
Dr. Robyn Rodriguez
Meredith Talusan

October 16, 1–1:30 pm

Marianne Chan
Liza Gino
jxtheo
Allan Samson Manalo
Veronica Montes
Vicente Rafael
Kenneth Tan

October 16, 2–2:30 pm

Erina Alejo
Joi Barrios
Bren Bataclan
Michael Caylo–Baradi
Gideon Lasco
Reine Arcache Melvin
Lysley Tenorio
Angela Narciso Torres

EASTWIND BOOKS, MARKETPLACE

October 15, 5–5:30 pm

Barbara Jane Reyes

October 16, 1–1:30 pm

Lara Stapleton

CHILDREN'S MARKETPLACE, 2ND FLOOR

October 15

1:30 pm

Zachlewis Maravilla

2 pm

Marielle Atanacio

3 pm

Annie Cheng

3:30 pm

Sophia N. Lee
Isabel Roxas
Conrad Benedicto

4 pm

Tracy Badua

October 16

1:30 pm

Jason Tanamor

2 pm

Renee Rutledge

2:30 pm

Laurel Flores Fantauzzo
Maxie Villavicencio Pulliam

3 pm

Robin Aquilizan
Cynthia Salaysay

3:30 pm

Mae Respicio
Candy Gourlay

MARKETPLACE, LOWER LEVEL

October 15–16

Diwata Komiks Table

Joe Arciaga
Erica Juliet
Mark A.J. Nazal

Liwanag Table

Liwanag 3 Contributors

Kwento Comics Table

Cecilia Lim
Waverley Lim
Meriden Angeles
Kaitlyn Fajilan
Jenapher Zheng

Sampaguita Press Table

Keana Labra Aguilar
Maria Bolaños



Share Your Feedback With Us!

Snap the QR Code to tell us about your festival experience,
to help us plan the next one. – *FilBookFest Committee*



Participant Bios

Ramon Abad is a Filipino American puppeteer, artist and teacher. He is also a San Francisco-based illustrator, designer & animator; dedicated to the ideal that good, well-made visuals are based on good, well-written narratives. His clients include IDEO, Cisco Systems, Veracode, Levi Strauss & Co, West Elm, Pottery Barn, PBS Hawaii, Will Vinton Studios (Portland, OR), & Polka Theatre (London, UK). Find him at ramonabad.com.

Cyra Africa is the 7th of 11 siblings. She grew up and studied in 2 of the 7,100 Philippine Islands. Their many childhood pets included a lazy water buffalo, a bored cobra, cats who hunted birds and snakes, dogs named after celebrities, a pig who thought he was a dog, and a rooster with a crooked beak. She has one child, one pet, and is 5 minutes away from 5 of her siblings, as the magic carpet flies. Her fun and artistic family tolerates and supports her LEGO hobby, toy hoarding, puppeteering attempts and creating a fairy garden. She is currently focused on writing children's stories about Filipino *engkanto* (supernatural beings). This introvert dreams of being a published author to support her book addiction but more importantly, to help continue sending books to elementary schools in small barrios in the Philippines where most *engkanto* stories are still being told. She is the creator of "Waray Words with Fae," a YouTube series created to teach simple words and phrases in Waray and Tagalog with their English counterpart. The fun and short videos are hosted by a puppet named Fae. Find her on IG @ [waraywordswithfae](https://www.instagram.com/waraywordswithfae).

Erina C Alejo (they/she/siya) is an artist, researcher and educator who works across decades and geographies to construct archives on labor, displacement, family and communal history, born and raised in San Francisco. They are a third-generation San Francisco renter with family, documented through *A Hxstory of Renting* (2015–ongoing). Alejo administers grants for the Office of the Vice President for the Arts at Stanford University. They also participate in Stanford's Creative Cities, a working group reimagining the role of art in the urban sphere. Alejo's 2020

SFMOMA commission, *My Ancestors Followed Me Here*, is an outgrowth of their previous work on gentrification and community resilience. Alejo directs SoMapagmahal Photo Mxntorship Program, is co-founder and co-organizer of Appendix Collective, and serves on SOMA Pilipinas's Arts and Culture Committee. Find them at erinacalejo.com.

Ani Rosa Almario, Ph.D. (she/her) is the Vice-President for Product Development of Adarna House (www.adarna.com.ph), the Philippines' first and largest children's book publishing house. She also runs a progressive K-12 institution called the Raya School (www.raya.edu.ph). Ani lectures on children's literature at the University of the Philippines Diliman and on curriculum and early childhood at Miriam College. She is the secretary-general of the Philippine Board on Books for Young People (PBBY) and a former president of the Book Development Association of the Philippines (BDAP) and the Reading Association of the Philippines (RAP).

Gina Apostol's (she/her/siya) fourth novel, *Insurrecto*, was named by *Publishers' Weekly* one of the Ten Best Books of 2018, selected as an Editor's Choice of the NYT, and shortlisted for the Dayton Prize. Her third book, *Gun Dealers' Daughter*, won the 2013 PEN/Open Book Award. Her first two novels, *Bibliolepsy* and *The Revolution According to Raymundo Mata*, both won the Juan Laya Prize for the Novel (Philippine National Book Award). She has received the Rome Prize, a Civitella Ranieri Fellowship (Umbria, Italy), and the Emily Harvey Foundation Fellowship, among others. Her essays and stories have appeared in *The New York Times*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *Foreign Policy*, *Gettysburg Review*, *Massachusetts Review*, and others. She lives in New York City and western Massachusetts and grew up in Tacloban, Leyte, in the Philippines. She teaches at the Fieldston School in New York City. Find her at ginaapostol.com.

Robin Kitana Aquilizan (she/her) is a 24 year old Filipina American. She grew up in Union City, CA where she was a youth community organizer and

learned her passion for social justice, Filipino history, and Ethnic Studies. She graduated from San Francisco State in 2020. For more than 10 years her family has been operating a business called Bayani Art, working with artists globally to teach people Filipino history through art and apparel, and now children's books. Robin, along with her family, has created three books on Filipino heroes Lapu Lapu, Gabriela Silang, and Andres Bonifacio. Find her at bayaniart.com.

Kimberley Acebo Arteché (she/they) is an educator, cultural worker, and interdisciplinary artist. Her work explores the hybrid cultures formed by technology, movements of immigrants in America, and the way movements through space and spaces has been affected by these two. Arteché received her BFA from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, and MFA from San Francisco State University where she received the School of Art's Distinguished Graduate award. She has been awarded the Murphy Cadogan Contemporary Art Award by the San Francisco Foundation, was Kearny Street Workshop's Featured Visual Artist in the 2015 APAture Festival, and residencies at the Vermont Studio Center and the Growlery. She has shown at East Tennessee State University, SOMArts Cultural Center and at the Wailoa Arts & Cultural Center in Hilo, Hawaii. Find her at kimacebo.art

Marielle Atanacio is a Filipina author/illustrator creating children's books that introduce characters of pre-colonial mythology to our families. She was a former English Literature major that went rogue to pursue design in college, where she's been for the past 10+ years. While Marielle was an English student, she took a folklore and mythology class, but was only exposed to Euro-centric stories, where their ancient societies and histories were praised. When she dug deeper into the pre-colonial stories of the Philippines, she discovered the inherent beauty and magic that is her identity. Marielle is on a journey to reconnect with these pre-colonial stories and processes her research through art and storytelling. Find her at bymatanacio.com.

Tracy Badua (she/her) is a Filipino American author of books about young people with sunny hearts in a sometimes stormy world. According to her

grandmother, Tracy inherited this love of the written word from her great-grandfather, a school teacher in the Philippines. To Tracy, this means writing is in her blood, and she continues this family tradition by telling stories with her own spin in an accessible, heartfelt way. By day, she is an attorney who works in national housing policy and programs, and by night, she squeezes in writing, family and pup time, and bites of her secret stash of candy. School and work brought her from California to Washington, DC, and back, and she now lives in San Diego, California, with her family and photogenic Maltese. Find her at .tracybadua.com.

Joi Barrios serves as a Senior Lecturer teaching Filipino and Philippine Literature at UC Berkeley (UCB) after serving as Associate Professor at the University of the Philippines Diliman (UPD). She is the author/editor of more than a dozen books, among them: language textbooks such as *Tagalog for Beginners*, 2011, and *Intermediate Tagalog*, 2015 (both by Tuttle Press; four poetry collections, including *To Be a Woman is to Live at a Time of War*, 1990 (Institute of Women's Studies, 1990); the book of novelettes *My Prince Charming and Other Romance Novelettes*, (UP Press, 2001); and her research, *From the Theater Wings: Grounding and Flight of Filipino Women Playwrights* (UP Press, 2008). She has won fourteen national literary awards, three teaching awards from UP and UCB; and four lifetime achievement awards. Her latest books are the poetry collection *Sa Aking Pagkadeستیيرو* (UP Press, 2022) and *Tagalog Stories for Language Learners* (Tuttle, 2021).

Bren Bataclan (he/him/his) is a Boston-based artist and the author of *Fe: A Traumatized Son's Graphic Memoir*. He was born in the Philippines and grew up in Daly City/Bay Area, CA. In the early 2000s, Bren began giving away paintings in public spaces with a note saying, "This painting is yours if you promise to smile at random people more often." Since then, he has given away over 3,000 paintings and painted over 300 murals for schools, hospitals and businesses. Bren now delves deeper into his Filipino culture, both personally and politically. His newer works deal with his immigration experience and how climate change affects the Philippines. Find him on IG/FB @brenbataclan, or TW @smileproject.

Jason Bayani is the author of *Locus* (Omni Dawn Publishing 2019) and *Amulet* (Write Bloody Publishing 2013). He's an MFA graduate from Saint Mary's College, a Kundiman fellow, and works as the artistic director for Kearny Street Workshop, the oldest multi-disciplinary Asian Pacific American arts organization in the country. His publishing credits include *World Literature Today*, *BOAAT Journal*, *Muzzle Magazine*, *Lantern Review*, and other publications. Jason performs regularly around the country and debuted his solo theater show "Locus of Control" in 2016 with theatrical runs in San Francisco, New York, and Austin.

Steve Belale is a artist, born and raised in San Francisco. A graduate of San Francisco State University, his creative background is extensive—from fine art to graffiti, murals to company branding, creative campaigns to molding, casting and everything in between. He is a contributor to *Liwanag 3*. Find him at stevebelale.com.

Conrad J. Benedicto (he/him/they/them) is a teacher, author, and kulintang musician who studied with Master Danongan Kalanduyan from 1997 to 2016. Benedicto was Master Kalanduyan's apprentice within the Alliance for California Traditional Arts' Apprenticeship Program in 2007 and again in 2013. He teaches social studies, environmental education, and kulintang music at Balboa High School in San Francisco. In 2018, Conrad received an individual artist grant from the San Francisco Arts Commission to compose original kulintang music for his project called, "Kulintang Dialect." *Musalaya's Gift* is his first fantasy novel.

Maria Bolaños (she/they) is a Filipina American poet and co-Founder of Sampaguita Press. She studied English Literature, Media Studies, and Creative Writing at UC Berkeley. Her poems were nominated for Best of the Net in 2021 and 2022, and her writing has been featured in North American publications such as Cut Fruit Collective's *Cut Fruit Stories*, *Touchstone Literary Magazine*, and *decomp journal*. She is the author of the poetry chapbook, *SANA*. See more of their work on Instagram @mariabeewrites.

MG Burns is a contributor to *Liwanag 3*.

Jaena Rae Cabrera (she/her/siya) is a Branch Manager with the San Francisco Public Library at the Ocean View Branch. She is also the vice-president of the Asian Pacific American Librarians Association, editor-in-chief of WOC+Lib, and an editor of *In The Library With The Lead Pipe*. Outside the library world, she may be found reading graphic novels, searching for the best coffee in the city, or hanging out with her cats, Gizmo, Biko, and Niko.

Michael Caylo-Baradi (he/him) is an alumnus of The Writers' Institute at The Graduate Center (CUNY). His work has appeared in *The Adirondack Review*, *Kenyon Review Online*, *Hobart*, *The Galway Review*, *Our Own Voice*, *The Halo-Halo Review*, *PopMatters*, *Philippines Free Press*, and elsewhere. He is the author of *Hotel Pacoima*, released by Kelsay Books in 2021. Find him at mcaylo.blogspot.com.

Melissa Chadburn (she/her/hers) is the author of the debut novel *A Tiny Upward Shove* (Farrar, Straus & Giroux). Through her own labor and literary citizenship, Chadburn strives to upend economic violence. A PhD candidate in creative writing at the University of Southern California. Find her at melissachadburn.com.

Marianne Chan (she/her/hers/they/them/theirs) grew up in Stuttgart, Germany, and Lansing, Michigan. She is the author of *All Heathens* (Sarabande Books, 2020), which was the winner of the 2021 GLCA New Writers Award in Poetry, the 2021 Ohioana Book Award in Poetry, and the 2022 Association for Asian American Studies Book Award in Poetry. Her poems have appeared in *Poetry*, *New England Review*, *Kenyon Review*, *Michigan Quarterly Review*, and elsewhere. She is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Creative Writing and Literature at the University of Cincinnati. Find her at mariannechan.com.

Annie Cheng is a Filipino-Chinese immigrant from the Philippines. She is a mother, a wife, a recent nurse graduate, and a meningitis survivor. Ube Books was created to celebrate the Filipino Nursing community as she believes the Filipino Nursing community have given so much, and continuously do so, to the communities they live in.

She also wants her son to see himself, his family, and culture in the literature he is exposed to, and to use her press to spread Meningitis awareness, a disease that almost took her life in 2020. She believes that recognizing signs and symptoms, early interventions, and proper treatment can save lives. Find her press at ubebooks.com.

Catherine Ceniza Choy (she/her) is the author of *Asian American Histories of the United States* (Beacon Press, 2022). The book features the themes of anti-Asian hate and violence, erasure of Asian American history, and Asian American resistance to what has been omitted in a nearly 200-year history of Asian migration, labor, and community formation in the US. Choy's award-winning first book, *Empire of Care: Nursing and Migration in Filipino American History* (2003), explored how and why the Philippines became the leading exporter of professional nurses to the United States. Her second book, *Global Families: A History of Asian International Adoption in America* (2013), unearthed the little-known historical origins of Asian international adoption in the United States beginning with the post-World War II presence of the U.S. military in Asia. An engaged public scholar, Choy has been interviewed in many media outlets, including ABC 20/20, CNN, NBC News, *San Francisco Chronicle*, and Vox, on anti-Asian violence, the disproportionate toll of COVID-19 on Filipino nurses in the United States, and racism and misogyny in the March 16, 2021 Atlanta spa shootings. The daughter of Filipino immigrants, Choy received her Ph.D. in History from UCLA and her B.A. in History from Pomona College.

Dara Del Rosario is an educator, organizer, and researcher. Born in Manila and raised in Los Angeles, Del Rosario moved to the Bay Area where she earned a degree in Art History with a minor in Anthropology at San Francisco State University. Her work and research interests include Asian American Art History, epistemology, and cross cultural relationships in regards to contemporary art. From 2012 to 2015, Del Rosario was a program coordinator and an educator with Pin@y Educational Partnerships, where she taught Filipino/a American history at Philip and Sala Burton High School. She has served on the curatorial team with Galería de la Raza, assisting in the development of exhibitions showcasing contemporary Latino/a artists from around

the world. She has been on the General Planning Committee for Kearny Street Workshop's APAture, a multi disciplinary arts festival for emerging Asian American artists.

Zoe Dorado (she/her) is a poet, journalist, and musician who is interested in the way storytelling integrates itself into different art forms. She is part of the Bayanihan Youth Group of Filipino Advocates for Justice, SPOKES — the youth advisory board of Youth Speaks, and is the Inaugural Youth Poet Laureate of Alameda County. As a poet, she has collaborated with the SEIU-UHW, creating poetry for healthcare workers; led poetry workshops for youth at the Filipinx Bay Area Cooperative Sama Sama; and has performed in San Francisco's City Hall to her Lola's kitchen. Find her at zoedorado.com.

Troy Espera is a communications and media professional with 15 years of journalism and newsroom management experience. As the former head of news production in North America for Philippines-based network ABS-CBN, he led multiple award-winning programs and documentaries. Today Troy leads communications at San Francisco Community Health Center, a public health organization that serves queer people of color living in the Tenderloin and SoMA. Troy holds undergraduate degrees in journalism and Spanish, and is currently earning a master's degree in Diverse Community Development Leadership. His graduate research focuses on in-language delivery of health services for linguistic minority populations in urban communities.

Kaitlyn Fajilan (she/her) is an award-winning Filipinx-American filmmaker, actor, writer, musician, and host. Her writing credits include being an independent contractor for the Philippine television network, ABS-CBN, as well as head writer of *The Mask of Haliya*, an urban fantasy series through Kwento Comics. In addition to being a freelance journalist and creative writing consultant, she has served as the Director of Writing at FilAm Creative, a community organization dedicated to the advancement of Filipinx in media and entertainment. Kaitlyn currently works as an educator for the AAPI theater organization East West Players. Kaitlyn is also the creator of the indie comedy, *Fruit Fly*, which won Audience Choice at the 2021 San Diego Filipino Film Festival, and other

movies like *Madeira*, *Undie Run*, and the upcoming *One Pine*. Find her at kwentocomics.com.

Laurel Flores Fantauzzo (she/they/siya) is an author and a teacher. Her nonfiction book, *The First Impulse*, was a finalist for the 2018 Philippine National Book Award. Her young adult novel, *My Heart Underwater*, was named a *Kirkus* Best Book of 2020. She has taught at Ateneo de Manila, Yale-NUS in Singapore, and the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. She lives between the Philippines and the U.S. with her wife. Find her at laurelfloresfantauzzo.com.

Liza Gino (she/her) is a multi-award-winning author of *Imelda's Secret*, an entrepreneur, and a community advocate. She wrote her novel in the hope of inspiring and empower those who read about the Filipina "comfort women" and their continued struggle to find peace and justice decades after the end of World War II. After learning about the "comfort women," Liza embarked on a mission to build awareness of their continued plight. If anything, the goal is to help empower individuals, especially women, to have courage and take their power to control their own chosen path. She won 3 book awards for historical fiction, women's interest, and a silver award. Find her at imeldassecret.com.

Theodore S. Gonzalves (he/him/his) is a scholar of comparative cultural studies who taught extensively in the United States, Spain, and the Philippines. Currently, Theo is a curator at the National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, in Washington, D.C. In the field of performing arts, Theo served on the advisory board for Kumu Kahua Theatre in Honolulu and Bindlestiff Studio; co-founded Jeepney Dash Records; played keyboards for Bobby Banduria; and toured extensively as the musical director for the theater troupe, tongue in A mood. Theo's musical work has been featured at concerts such as the Asian American Jazz Festival and performances at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. He has also written, produced, and performed several scores for independent films. Generous support for Theo's scholarly and creative works include recognition as a senior Fulbright U.S. Scholar, a Moeson fellow at the Library of Congress, a senior fellow at the Smithsonian Institution, an Asian

American Center fellow at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a Meet the Composer Awardee. Find him at theogonzalves.com

Candy Gourlay (she/her/siya) was born in the Philippines, grew up under a dictatorship and met her British husband during a revolution. In her award winning debut novel *Tall Story*, she lightly explores the impact of the migration phenomenon that has pushed many Filipino mothers to leave their families. In *Shine*, listed for the Guardian Prize, she asks why people leave and why people stay. These explorations led to her Costa and Carnegie shortlisted novel *Bone Talk*, set in the moment when headhunting tribes in the Philippines came face to face with the American invasion of 1899. Her latest book tries to hilariously explain the forces that led to European exploration of the East Indies (which Candy only latterly realised includes the Philippines) via a comics biography illustrated by Tom Knight of the explorer Ferdinand Magellan, credited with "discovering" the Philippines among other places. Her first picture book, *Is It a Mermaid*, lushly illustrated by Francesca Chessa, plays with the story that European sailors first encountering bulbous sea cows in the shallows of Southeast Asian islands mistook them for mermaids. Find her at candy-gourlay.co.uk.

Rhoda Gravador is currently a piano and voice teacher in Marin County. Rhoda's first production at Bindlestiff Studio was back in 1997 with A. Samson Manalo's Fil-Am sketch comedy group, tongue in A mood, followed by the Bindlestiff Pinay Collective as a writer and performer. Most of Rhoda's performance experience was with the Asian American sketch comedy group, The 18 Mighty Mountain Warriors, as the only principal female writer and regular onstage player. She is currently pursuing standup comedy and runs a weekly open mic with the Bahaha Barkadas. Find her on IG @tiger.tita.

Cookie Hiponia (she/her/siya) was born in the Philippines and immigrated to America when she was nine years old. As the mother of children born into two cultures, Cookie had spent years searching for books that reflect her family's experience. When she couldn't find such a book,

Cookie heeded Toni Morrison and wrote the book she wanted to read with her daughters. *We Belong* is that book, a semi-autobiographical middle grade novel-in-verse about the Pilipino American immigrant experience that weaves in Tagalog cosmic mythology. Cookie lives in Seattle with her family. Find her at titacookie.com.

Erin Entrada Kelly (she/her) is a *New York Times* bestselling author. She has received numerous honors, including the 2018 Newbery Medal for *Hello, Universe*, a 2021 Newbery Honor for *We Dream of Space*, and the 2017 Asian Pacific American Award for *The Land of Forgotten Girls*. All her books are Junior Library Guild Selections. *Lalani of the Distant Sea*, a fantasy inspired by Filipino folklore, was named one of the Best Books of the Year by *Kirkus*, *Booklist*, *BookPage*, and others. Her work has been translated into several languages. Erin is on the faculty of Hamline University's MFAC program and serves as a fiction thesis advisor for the Rosemont College MFA program. She was raised in Lake Charles, Louisiana, but now lives in Delaware. Find her at erinentradakelly.com.

Dina Klarisse (she/her) is a poet and freelance writer and editor based in the Bay Area. Poetry is her way of making sense of her experience as a queer Filipina American immigrant and recovering Catholic, as well as her interest in the intersections of history, language, culture, and identity. Her work has been published in ASU's *Canyon Voices*, *The Daily Drunk Mag*, *Chopsticks Alley*, *Kalopsia Literary Journal*, among others. She is the author of the poetry chapbook, *HANDSPUN ROSARIES*. More of her writing can be found on her Instagram @hella_going and blog hellagoing.com.

Keana Aguila Labra (they/them/she/her) is a Cebuana Tagalog Pilipinx genre & genderfluid poet & writer in diaspora residing on stolen Ohlone Tamyen land. She works to provide a safe literary space for underserved & underrepresented communities as the co-Editor-in-Chief of literary magazine, *Marias at Sampaguitas* & the co-Founder of the BIPOC/LGBTQIA+ focused publishing press, *Sampaguita Press*. They are also the Assistant Director of the Santa Clara County Youth Poet Laureate Program alongside Director Janice Lobo Sapigao, a former Barangay Tanod

intern with the Bayanihan Center in San Francisco, a fellow of the Kearny Street Interdisciplinary Writer's Lab cohort summer '21, & served as one of the Honorary Santa Clara County Poets Laureate of Oct. '21 with Lorenz Mazon Dumuk. She is the author of the chapbooks, *No Saints* (Lazy Adventurer Publishing), *Mohilak* (Fahmidan Co. & Publishing), and *Kanunay*. Find them on IG @keanalabra.

Gideon Lasco (he/him) is a physician and medical anthropologist. He is senior lecturer at the University of the Philippines Diliman's Department of Anthropology, affiliate faculty at the UP College of Medicine, and research fellow at the Ateneo de Manila University's Development Studies Program. He obtained his MD from the UP College of Medicine and his PhD in Anthropology from the University of Amsterdam. Currently, he is pursuing language studies at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. An op-ed columnist in the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, his collection of essays, *The Philippines Is Not A Small Country*, was published by the Ateneo de Manila Press in 2020, and his ethnographic monograph on human stature, *Height Matters*, is forthcoming with the University of the Philippines Press. A Palanca-winning essayist, he is also the editor of *Drugs and Philippines Society* (Ateneo Press, 2021), a collection of critical perspectives on drug use and drug policy in the country. Find him at gideonlasco.com.

Sophia N. Lee (she/her/hers) wanted to be many things growing up: doctor, teacher, international spy, time traveler, journalist, and lawyer. She likes to think she can be all these things and more through writing. She writes books for kids and kids at heart. She has an MFA in Writing for Children and Young Adults from The New School in New York City, and works as a creative writing instructor for kids, teens, and sometimes, grownups too. Her first book, *What Things Mean* (Scholastic Asia, 2016), won Grand Prize at the 2014 Scholastic Asian Book Awards. Her latest work is *Holding On* (Atheneum, 2022), a Filipino picture book written by her and illustrated by Isabel Roxas. She has another picture book from Atheneum titled *Lolo's Sari-sari Store*, illustrated by Christine Almeda, slated for release in the summer of 2023. Learn more about her on sophialeewrites.com.

Cecilia Lim (she/her) is a first-generation Filipina American and the creator and CEO of Kwentto Comics, a division of Double Forest Entertainment, LLC. She has a BA in Economics from the University of Illinois and a JD from the University of Illinois at Chicago John Marshall Law School. As a lifelong innovator and strategist, she worked at Florida Power & Light Company, a Forbes 200 company, for over 20 years. Cecilia believes in giving back to the community and through the years, she has given of her time to create and produce several large charity events in Florida and Los Angeles, served as an officer of the Philippine American Society of Palm Beach County and FilAm Creative in Los Angeles. An avid fan of fantasy and science fiction, Cecilia now combines her passion for empowering young women creatives and her love of mythology. Find her at kwentto.comics.com.

Karen Llagas's new chapbook, *All Of Us Are Cleaved*, is forthcoming from Nomadic Press in 2023. Her first collection of poetry, *Archipelago Dust*, was published by Meritage Press in 2010. A recipient of the 2022 RHINO Founder's Prize, Filamore Tabios, Sr. Memorial Poetry Prize, an Elizabeth George Award and a Hedgebrook residency, her poems, translations, prose and reviews have also appeared in various journals and anthologies. Born and raised in the Philippines, she has an MFA in Writing from Warren Wilson College and a BA from Ateneo de Manila. Karen lectures at UC Berkeley and works as a freelance translator & cultural consultant. She divides her time between San Francisco and Los Angeles with her husband and their two dogs, Boccia & Oso.

Edwin Lozada, a Fulbright-Hays scholar and a recipient of a San Francisco Individual Artist Commission grant in Literary Arts, is president of PAWA and one of the founders and directors, and curator of The Hinabi Project: The Art of Philippine Textiles. He is currently Co-Director of FilBookFest.

Ian "Taipan" Lucero is a cum laude graduate of the University of the Philippines Diliman College of Fine Arts. He started out as an independent creative industry professional, providing design and marketing services to a long list of clients that included Fortune 500 companies. Eventually working as the only Filipino designer in a company in Kobe,

Japan, he experienced first hand through practicing Japanese Calligraphy or Shodo, the immense love and respect the Japanese show their culture. Inspired by this, he quit his job and went back home to start CalligraFilipino. With this he celebrates pre-colonial writing and traditional Filipino culture, combining his self-developed Baybayin writing with traditional elements such as the colorful Okir of the Maranao, the radial design pattern of Kulintang, the Lingling-o fertility charm of the Cordilleras, among others. His works have been showcased locally and internationally, and has been featured by mainstream outlets on print, radio, television, and new media. Find him on IG @ [taipanlucero](https://www.instagram.com/taipanlucero).

Allan Samson Manalo (he/him) is a writer, director, producer, and stand-up comic who has performed in more than 500 colleges and comedy clubs throughout 47 states and the Philippines. Manalo is the co-founder and Artistic Director of the Filipino American comedy troupe, tongue in A mood. His written works have been published in *Stage Presence: Conversations With Filipino American Performing Artists*, *Liwanag 2*, the literary journal *ZYZZYVA*, and most recently in *Gossip, Sex, And The End Of The World: The Collected Works Of Tongue In A Mood*. Find him on IG @ [a.samson.manalo](https://www.instagram.com/a.samson.manalo).

Mia P. Manansala (she/her) is a writer and certified book coach from Chicago who loves books, baking, and bad-ass women. She uses humor (and murder) to explore aspects of the Filipino diaspora, queer-ness, and her millennial love for pop culture. Her debut novel, *Arsenic And Adobo*, has won multiple awards, and the second and third books in the Tita Rosie series, *Homicide and Halo-Halo*, and *Blackmail and Bibingka*, are out now. Find her on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram: @MPMtheWriter, or check out her website miapmanansala.com.

Zachlewis B. Maravilla (he/him) became the author of *A Splendor Adventure* at a young age, and to him, it still feels like yesterday when he was just a young boy with a dream. He has always loved writing. It offered him a way to share his creative expression. When he embarked on his journey to make his dream a reality, he had to stay determined and never give up. He knew he would look back at that moment and be glad he persevered. He wants to inspire kids that it is not too early to reach for their dreams and never to give up, no

matter how impossible something seems. His book is entertaining while empowering children to reach for their own Splendor Adventures. For him, one life changed is more than enough to set a spark for a better world. He is also a TV actor and one of the stars of a 10-episode TV show, "Backseat Drivers." He had appeared in TV shows on Netflix and Hulu, and loves to sing and perform. He had performed at the historic Saban Theater in Beverly Hills as a singer and soloist at the iconic Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles.

Earl Matito is the content creator behind one of the Philippines Top Spotify Podcasts, Philippine Campfire Stories produced by Podcast Network Asia. The show tells stories of myths and legends and true horror from the Philippines, narrated in Tagalog. He also guested some of the Philippine's award-winning fiction authors highlighting mythology and folklore like Yvette Tan, Mervin Malonzo, Edgar Samar, Eliza Victoria and Ian Sta Maria.

Lisa Suguitan Melnick is a third generation Fil-Am of Ilokano and Cebuano roots. She is the author of *#30 Collantes Street* (Carayan Press, 2015) and also a correspondent for PositivelyFilipino.com. Lisa's Positively Filipino.com earned Plaridel Awards in 2020 for Best Profile Writing ("The Scholar Unplugged"), Best Feature Writing ("Utom Unfolds T'boli Myths Through Music") and in 2015, Best Entertainment Story ("Maség: An Artistic Tempest"). Her work is also published in *Beyond Lumpia, Pansit, and Seven Manangs Wild*, edited by Evangeline Buell et al (Eastwind Books, 2014) and *The New Filipino Kitchen*, edited by Jacqueline Chio-Lauri (Agate Surrey Press, 2018). She is an instructor and a co-advisor for the Katipunan Learning Community at the College of San Mateo.

Reine Arcache Melvin, (she/her) born and raised in Manila, is a Filipino-American author whose works focus on the Philippines and the lives of Filipinos both at home and abroad. Her short-story collection *A Normal Life and Other Stories* won the National Book Award for Fiction, and *The Betrayed* won both the National Book Award for Fiction and the Palanca Grand Prize for the Novel. *The Betrayed* is published this year in the UK, Italy, and the United States by Europa Editions. She has worked as a journalist, translator and editor

for various international publications, including the *International Herald Tribune* in Paris. Find her on IG @reinemelvin.

Rashaan Meneses is a writer and a teacher.

A 2020 Bainbridge Resident for Seventh Wave, she received a 2018 Author Fellowship from Martha's Vineyard Institute of Creative Writing, an Ancinas Scholarship for the 47th Annual Community of Writers in California and has been a past fellow at MacDowell, and The International Retreat for Writers at Hawthornden Castle in Scotland, U.K. Her fiction and non-fiction have appeared in *LitHub*, *The Seventh Wave*, *Kartika Review*, *BorderSenses*, *Puerto del Sol*, *New Letters*, *Kurungabaa*, *Doveglion Press*, UC Riverside's *The Coachella Review*, University of North Carolina's *Pembroke Magazine*, and the anthology *Growing Up Filipino II: More Stories for Young Adults*. She teaches in the Collegiate Seminar program and English/Composition at Saint Mary's College of California. The founder of Ruelle Electric, she tumbles at The Quarry. Find her at rashaanalexismeneses.com.

Veronica Montes (she/her) is the author of the award-winning chapbook *The Conquered Sits at the Bus Stop, Waiting* (Black Lawrence Press) and the full-length collection *Benedicta Takes Wing & Other Stories* (Philippine American Literary House). Her chapbook *I'm Not Lost* is forthcoming from Ethel in 2023. Find her at veronica-montes.com.

Mark A.J. Nazal (he/him) is a writer, creator, chief creative and co-founder of Diwata Komiks and SurrealArts. He is a multicultural writer/director and a multi-nominated, Primetime Emmy® Award-Winning Visual Effects Artist & Supervisor best known for his work on Fox's hit show, *Gotham*. His other credits include *Westworld*, *Lucifer*, *The Walking Dead*, and *Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.* Diwata Komiks is a diversity-focused indie comics company featuring new myths with stories for and about immigrants, third-culture kids, and other folk just looking to belong. Their titles include the *Carmina: A Filipino-American Urban Mythology series*, *Carnal Tales: Cautionary Tales from A Filipino Childhood*, and *Darahug: A Visayan Folk-Horror Tale*. Find them at diwatakomiks.com.

Maxie Villavicencio Pulliam, LCSW, (she/her/hers) is Gliceria Marella de Villavicencio's descendant and the daughter of a fallen U.S. Army Green Beret Soldier with the motto, "De Oppresso Liber" or "To Free the Oppressed." Maxie inherited their passion for people and their commitment to elevate those in under-resourced communities. She graduated with a Master of Social Work degree from the University of Southern California and is a longtime public servant with the Federal government. Maxie holds a License in Clinical Social Work with the California Board of Behavioral Sciences. Recently, she partnered with her relatives in the Philippines to bring disaster relief to the hundreds of families affected by the January 2020 Taal Volcano eruption. Maxie currently lives in Los Angeles, CA. Find her at fiercefipilina.com.

Vicente L. Rafael (he/him) is Professor of History and Southeast Asian Studies at the University of Washington in Seattle. His research and teaching have focused mostly on the comparative political and cultural history of the Philippines, the United States and Southeast Asia. He is the author most recently of *The Sovereign Trickster: Death and Laughter in the Age of Duterte* (2022). The rest of his books include *Contracting Colonialism: Translation and Christian Conversion in Tagalog Society Under Early Spanish Rule* (1988/1993), *White Love and Other Events in Filipino Histories* (2000), *The Promise of the Foreign: Nationalism and the Technics of Translation in the Spanish Philippines* (2005), *Motherless Tongues: The Insurgency of Language Amid Wars of Translation* (2016), all published by Duke University and co-published in the Philippines by Ateneo University Press. He's also edited *Discrepant Histories: Translocal Essays in Filipino Cultures* (1995) and *Figures of Criminality in Indonesia, the Philippines and Colonial Vietnam* (1999). Rafael also wrote the Introduction to a collection of Nick Joaquin's stories, *The Woman Who Had Two Navels and Tales of the Tropical Gothic* published by Penguin Classics (2017). Find him on TW @vrafael82.

Mae Respicio (she/her) writes middle grade novels full of heart and hope that center Filipinx American kids including *The House That Lou Built*; *Any Day With You*; *How to Win a Slime War*; and

the forthcoming novel-in-verse *Isabel in Bloom* (out 2023/Random House Kids). Her books have received many accolades such as the Asian/Pacific American Libraries Association Honor Award, NPR's Best Book of the Year, and have been on numerous "best books" and state reading lists. Mae worked with the Filipino American community of Los Angeles to write and edit the nonfiction book, *Images of America: Filipinos in Los Angeles* (Arcadia Publishing). She lives with her family in the suburban wild of Northern California. Find her at maerespicio.com.

Maria Ressa is a journalist, freedom advocate, 2021 Nobel Peace Prize Winner, and author of the forthcoming *How to Stand Up to a Dictator*. She is the co-founder and CEO of Rappler.com, an online news organization in the Philippines. One of *TIME*'s Person of the Year for 2018 and *TIME*'s 100 Most Influential People in 2019, Maria has been honored around the world for her courageous and bold work in fighting disinformation, "fake news," and attempts to silence the free press. She advises organizations and corporations on corporate governance, values, and strategy. Maria was featured in the 2020 Ramona Diaz documentary, *A Thousand Cuts*, which profiles her fearless reporting on the abuses of Duterte's presidency, while also illustrating social media's capacity to deceive and entrench political power. Maria now travels the world speaking to organizations of all kinds on freedom of the press, democracy, and corporate governance. Find her at mariaressa.com.

Barbara Jane Reyes (she/her) was born in Manila, Philippines, raised in the San Francisco Bay Area, and is the author of *Gravities of Center* (Arkipelago Books, 2003), *Poeta en San Francisco* (TinFish Press, 2005), *Diwata* (BOA Editions, Ltd., 2010), *To Love as Aswang* (Philippine American Writers and Artists, Inc., 2015), and *Invocation to Daughters* (City Lights Publishing, 2017), *Letters to a Young Brown Girl* (BOA Editions, Ltd., 2020), and *Wanna Peek Into My Notebook?: Notes on Pinay Liminality* (Paloma Press, 2022). She is also the author of three chapbooks, *For the City That Nearly Broke Me* (Aztlán Libre Press, 2012), *Cherry* (Portable Press at Yo-Yo Labs, 2007), and *Easter Sunday* (Ypolita Press, 2007). She received her BA in Ethnic Studies at UC Berkeley, her MFA at

San Francisco State University, and she teaches in the Yuchengco Philippine Studies Program at University of San Francisco. She lives with her husband, poet and educator Oscar Bermeo, in Oakland. Find her at barbarajanereyes.com.

Randy Ribay was born in the Philippines and raised in the Midwest. He's the author of *An Infinite Number of Parallel Universes*, *After the Shot Drops*, and *Patron Saints of Nothing*, a powerful coming-of-age story about grief, guilt, and the risks a Filipino-American teenager takes to uncover the truth about his cousin's murder. It was selected as a 2019 Freeman Book Award winner, a finalist for the National Book Award, and the winner of the 2022 Spalding Prize. Randy earned his BA in English Literature from the University of Colorado at Boulder and his Master's Degree in Language and Literacy from Harvard Graduate School of Education. He lives in the San Francisco Bay Area with his family..

Dr. Robyn Magalit Rodriguez (she/her/hers) is currently a full professor, former chair and in-coming chair of Asian American Studies at the University of California, Davis. She is also the founding faculty director of the Bulosan Center for Filipinx Studies, the first of its kind in the University of California system focused on the Filipinx experience in the United States and diaspora. Professor Rodriguez is an expert on race and international migration. Her first book, *Migrants for Export: How the Philippines Brokers Labor to the World* (University of Minnesota Press, 2010), won an Honorable Mention for Best Book in Social Science by the Association for Asian American Studies. Alongside her books *Contemporary Asian American Activism*, *Asian America: Sociological and Interdisciplinary Approaches*, *In Lady Liberty's Shadow: Race and Immigration in New Jersey*, and *Filipino American Transnational Activism*, she has published over thirty academic and journalistic articles. For full details on Dr. Rodriguez's publications, teaching, and community work please visit her website drrobynrodriguez.com

Isabel Roxas (she/her) is a storyteller and graphic artist. She loves to draw and write stories about curious misfits, young characters who defy the odds and funny animals. She has illustrated several books for young readers, including *Our Skin: A First Conversation about Race* by Megan Madison

and Jessica Ralli (ALA Notable Book 2021, School Library Journal BEST BOOK 2021), and *Day at the Market* by May Tobias-Papa (2010 winner of the Philippine National Book Award). Her latest book, *The Adventures of Team Pom: Squid Happens* was selected for the Society of Illustrators Original Art Show and is an EGL Award Finalist. Isabel was born in Manila, Philippines, was raised on luscious mangoes, old wives' tales, and monsoon moons. She now resides in New York City with her husband and several adopted plants. Find her at studioroxas.com.

Renee Rutledge is originally from Manila, Philippines, and now lives in California. She received her bachelor of arts in English from UC Berkeley and master of fine arts in English and Creative Writing from Mills College. She was selected as a 35 Over 35 debut author for her novel, *The Hour of Daydreams*, which won an Institute for Immigration Research New American Voices Finalist award, Foreword INDIES Gold, and Powell's Top Five Staff Pick. She is also the author of the children's books *One Hundred Percent Me* (May 2022) and *Buckley the Highland Cow & Ralphie the Goat*, with *The ABCs of Asian American History* releasing in 2023. You can find Renee hiking throughout the San Francisco Bay Area, where she lives with her husband and two daughters. She works as a Senior Managing Editor for Ulysses Press. Find her at reneerutledge.com.

Luna Salaver is a San Francisco native who had long harbored aspirations to be a writer, yet life had other journeys for her: in the 70's she was a student activist and a poet; in the 80's she embraced single motherhood; in the 90's Luna was a labor leader by day and a dancer by night; then, in the 2000's she chose a career path to be a prolific technical writer and spokesperson for two major Bay Area public entities. Throughout her life narratives, she remained mindful of her creative aspirations. In the spring of 2020, writer/director/actor Nicole Maxali, encouraged Luna to submit her poem, "2020/1970/1920" to the editors of *Linawag 3*, the third compilation of creative work by contemporary Fil-am artists. Her poem was accepted, which reignited Luna's creative spirit. In 2021, Luna joined San Francisco's Bindlestiff Theater's Playwriting Workshop and wrote her very first play: *The Masterpiece*—a piece aimed to crush bigotry against the trans community, while also capturing the human desire to be seen and

accepted. Luna is honored to join the wealth of Fil-am artists who help convey our contributions to the San Francisco Bay Area community.

Cynthia Salaysay (she/her/hers) is a registered nurse, Reiki practitioner, and author. She was a food critic for the San Francisco Examiner, and has published articles in the *San Francisco Bay Guardian*, the *East Bay Express*, *Modern Farmer*, and *Civil Eats*. *Private Lessons* is her first novel. Find her at cynthiasalaysay.com.

Ricco Villanueva Siasoco is a writer, educator, and activist. He has served on the board of Kundiman and his story collection, *The Foley Artist* (Gaudy Boy, 2019) was a finalist for the Association of Asian American Studies Award. Find him at riccosiasoco.com.

Lara Stapleton (she/her) was born and raised in East Lansing, Michigan, her maternal family is from the Philippines. New York City is her homeland. She is the author of two short story collections, *The Ruin of Everything* (Paloma Press) and *The Lowest Blue Flame Before Nothing* (Aunt Lute), an Independent Booksellers' Selection, and a Pen Open Book Committee Selection. She edited *The Thirdest World* (Factory School) and co-edited *Juncture* (Soft Skull). Her work has appeared in dozens of periodicals, including *The LA Review of Books*, *Poets and Writers*, *The Brooklyn Rail*, *Ms.*, *Glimmer Train*, and *The Indiana Review*. She was the recipient of a Ludwig Vogelstein Foundation Grant for writers and a two-time winner of the University of Michigan's Hopwood Award for fiction. She was also the winner of the Columbia Journal fiction prize. A graduate of NYU's creative writing program, her greatest pride is for her students at Borough of Manhattan Community College of the City University of New York. Find her at larastapleton.net.

Janet Stickmon is a professor, author, and educator trainer who has been teaching for over 20 years. Stickmon is currently a professor of Humanities, specializing in Ethnic Studies at Napa Valley College. Stickmon is the author of *Crushing Soft Rubies—A Memoir*, *Midnight Peaches*, *Two O'clock Patience—A Collection of Essays, Poems, and Short Stories on Womanhood and the Spirit*, and *To Black Parents Visiting Earth: Raising Black Children in the 21st Century*. Stickmon's essays are

featured in *The Huffington Post*, *Mutha Magazine*, *Read to Write Stories*, *Positively Filipino*, and *Red and Yellow, Black and Brown: Decentering Whiteness in Mixed Race Studies*. She also has 25 years experience practicing meditation and integrating meditative practices throughout all her courses. Janet Stickmon is the founder of CenterJoyPWR™: Strategies for Healing Racial Battle Fatigue—a group coaching program for professionals of color who want to center joy in their lives. Find her at www.janetstickmon.com.

Kenneth Tan (he/him) is a second-generation Filipino American living in his hometown of San Jose. He has shared stories about his grandmother, Crescenciana Tan, on NPR and StoryCorps, and he is a recipient of the Leigh Weimers Emerging Artists Award. Kenneth enjoys boba, board games, and three-item lists. *Crescenciana* is his first book. The Lola and Kenneth Collaboration is a project by Kenneth Tan and his lola, Crescenciana Tan. Lola made watercolor paintings and Kenneth drew her memories on top of them. When Lola passed, she left her paintings with Kenneth, and he decided to finish everything she started. He promised. Find Kenneth on Instagram @lolaxkenneth. Connect with Kenneth and follow the book *Crescenciana* on Goodreads.

Meredith Talusan (she/they) is the author of *Fairest* (Viking Press, 2020), a widely praised memoir which *Kirkus Reviews* called, "captivatingly eloquent." It was excerpted in the New York Times, selected as a most anticipated book of 2020 by *O: The Oprah Magazine*, and is the *People* and *In Style Magazine* Pick for June. Meredith is founding executive editor of them., Condé Nast's first-ever platform devoted to the queer community. An award-winning journalist and author, Meredith has written features, essays, and opinion pieces for many publications including *The Guardian*, *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, *VICE Magazine*, *WIRED*, *The Nation*, *Mic*, *BuzzFeed News*, and *The American Prospect*. She is the recipient of the 2017 GLAAD Media Award for Outstanding Digital Journalism, and has contributed to many books, including the *New York Times* Bestselling *Not That Bad: Dispatches from Rape Culture*. Find her at mtalusan.com.

Jason Tanamor is a Filipino-American writer and author. Named as one of the "5 Best Modern Filipino Writers" by *Pinas Global Newspaper*, Tanamor is

the critically acclaimed author of the dark novels, *Anonymous*, *Drama Dolls*, the supernatural/folklore novel, *Vampires of Portlandia*, and the Filipino YA novel, *Love, Dance & Egg Rolls*. Tanamor also spent a decade as an entertainment writer and interviewer, interviewing the likes of author Chuck Palahniuk; comedian Demetri Martin, musician Billy Corgan, and baseball legend Pete Rose. He has covered everyone from Steve Martin to Jerry Seinfeld and from Evanescence to President Obama. Tanamor is married, has one son, and a family of fur children. He currently lives and works in the Portland, Oregon area. Find him at tanamor.com.

Lysley Tenorio (he/him) is the author of *Monstress*, named a book of the year by *The San Francisco Chronicle*, and *The Son of Good Fortune*, winner of the New American Voices Award from the Institute for Immigration Research. His stories have appeared in *The Atlantic*, *Ploughshares*, *Manoa*, and *Zoetrope: All-Story*, and have been adapted for the stage in San Francisco and New York City. A former Stegner Fellow at Stanford, he has received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, Yaddo, Macdowell, the Bogliasco Foundation, the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University, and has been awarded a Pushcart Prize, a Whiting Award, and the Rome Prize from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Tenorio was recently awarded a 2022 Guggenheim Fellowship in Fiction, and *The Son of Good Fortune* is currently in development for a television series with Amazon. Born in the Philippines and raised in California, he is an Associate Professor in The Writing Seminars at Johns Hopkins University. Find him at lysleytenorio.com.

Dr. Allyson Tintiangco-Cubales (she/siya) was born and raised on Ohlone land by parents who were immigrants from the Philippines—womb (Batangas) and seed (Tarlac). She is an award-winning professor in the College of Ethnic Studies at San Francisco State University. Since 2000, she's been teaching Asian American Studies with a focus on Filipina/x/o (American) Studies. She is the founder and former director of Pln@y Educational Partnerships (PEP). She is also the co-founder and director of Community Responsive Education (CRE), a national firm that supports the development of responsive, equitable, and justice-driven educators. She is the

author of four books of curriculum and numerous articles focused on the applications of critical pedagogy, Ethnic Studies curriculum, Motherscholarship, and Pinayism. She is one of the co-editors of the *Encyclopedia of Filipina/x/o American Studies*. Find her on IG @pinayism.

Angela Narciso Torres (she/her) is the author of *What Happens Is Neither* (Four Way Books 2021), *Blood Orange* (winner of the 2013 Willow Books Literature Award for Poetry) and the chapbook, *To the Bone* (Sundress Publications 2020). Recent work appears or is forthcoming in *POETRY*, *Prairie Schooner*, and *Poetry Northwest*. A graduate of Warren Wilson MFA Program for Writers and Harvard Graduate School of Education, Angela has received fellowships from Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, Illinois Arts Council, and Ragdale Foundation. She received the Yeats Poetry Prize from the W.B. Yeats Society of New York and was named one of Chicago's Lit 50: Who Really Books in Chicago by *NewCity Magazine*. Born in Brooklyn and raised in Manila, she currently resides in San Diego. She serves as a senior and reviews editor for *RHINO Poetry*. Find her at angelanarcisotorres.com.

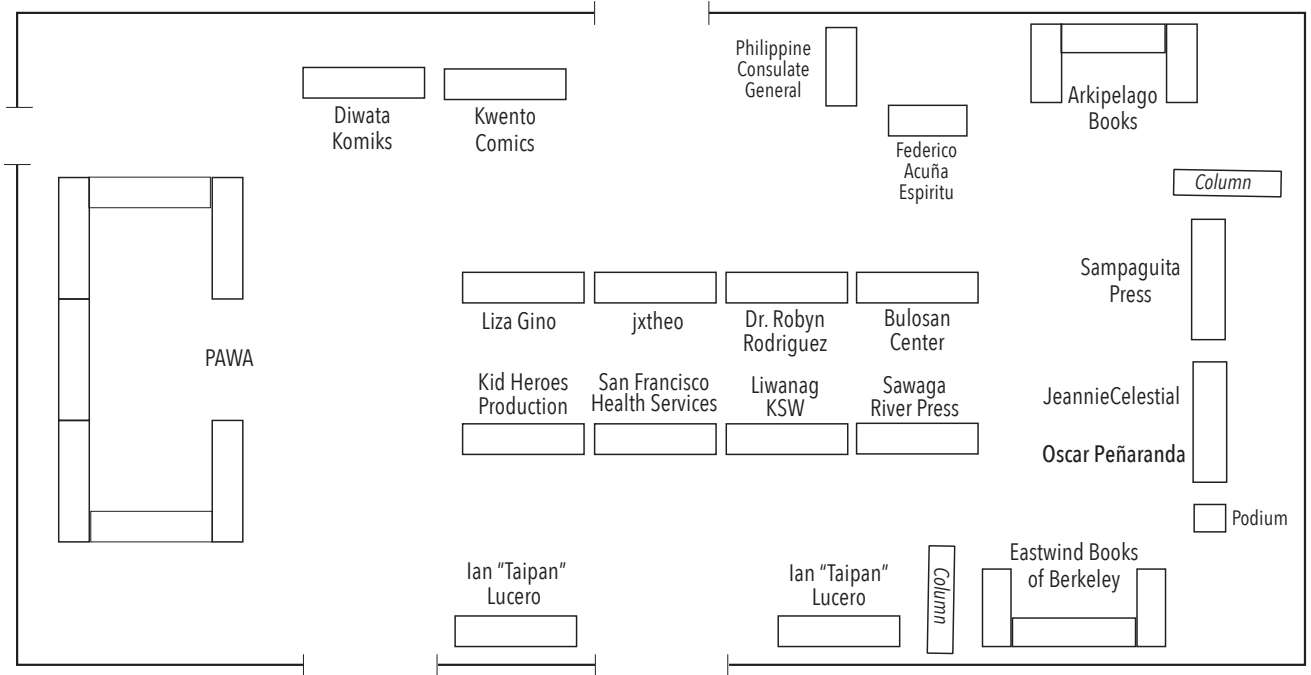
Dr. Lily Ann B. Villaraza has been an avid reader since it all clicked at the age of 7. Books were her escape, her traveling buddies, her window into the world. She continues to collect books and delights in sharing them with her students, nieces and nephews, and inaanaks. A historian by trade but a storyteller by heart, Dr. Villaraza currently serves as the chair of the Philippine Studies Department at the City College of San Francisco and a trustee and national scholar for the Filipino American National Historical Society. She is currently working on a children's book about Vickie Manalo Draves, the Filipina American diver who won the first Olympic gold medals in diving for the United States.

Lorna Velasco is a founding member and former Artistic Director of Bindlestiff Studio. She studied anthropology, dance, and puppetry at UC Berkeley and at the Art Institute of Indonesia in Yogyakarta. She has performed nationally and internationally with Shadowlight Productions and Two Chairs Productions. Currently, she is the owner and operator of Sariwa Farm, Art, and Culture located in Coast Salish territory in Seattle. Find her on IG @sariwafarm.

MAP: FESTIVAL MARKETPLACE

Latino Community Meeting Room

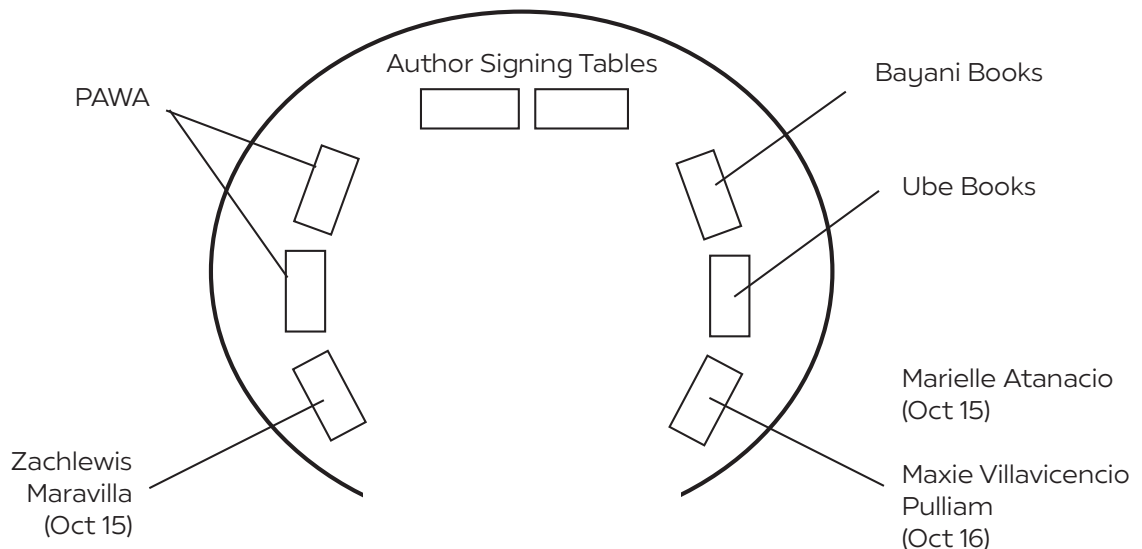
Lower Level



MAP: CHILDREN'S MARKETPLACE

Fischer Children's Center, Reading Room

2nd Floor



San Francisco Filipino Cultural Center

814 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

Mezzanine Level

in
SOMA

in the
Heart of Downtown San Francisco

info@sffilipinoculturalcenter.com



LARRY THE MUSICAL

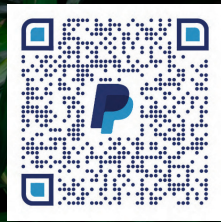
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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21

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