2022 Year in Review

What a difference a year makes! At the start of 2022, the world was still in COVID protocol. We were still masking, some schools were still remote and there was still a line to buy “toilet paper”. Through it all, one thing never changes and continues to thrive despite many challenges, it is the Filipino American Community of Colorado. Our mission is to celebrate our Filipino Heritage and Culture; to be an active and positive community through volunteerism and philanthropy.

“Here we are at the last 1/3 of our chapter in life, I am the point where it does not matter what you have or what you have accomplished. It is really about who you helped, who you have lifted up, who you made to be better, the positive memory you created, your strong relationships and it is about what you have done to give back.” FACC Board Member

In 2020, the FACC had a greater calling to assist our community through the pandemic. Since then, we have added on to our mission to help our community. To continue our positive and active community work in 2022 the FACC held 3 Covid Vaccination Clinics, One Flu Vaccination Clinic and well attended 9 News Health Fair. Every year the need to help our Un-Home continues to be of greater concern for the Denver Metro Community. Your FACC has delivered groceries to more than 500 Coloradans, handed out 300 backpacks filled with personal hygiene and hats/gloves to the homeless, and donated more than 400 lbs. of winter clothing and served 250 hot plates to our un-home.

Our FACC Cultural Dance Ensemble has performed throughout the year. Highlights of their performances included AAPI nights at Colorado History Museum, Asian American Pacific Heritage Month at Denver Zoo organized by your FACC, Dragon Boat Festival, Edgewater Hometown Festival, Wheatridge Rose Festival, Asian Pacific Heritage Celebration at Far East Center, Glendale 4th of July and several events at the FACC. The Cultural Dance Ensemble has been a major bright spot for our community lead by Cultural Chair Zoe Whitefield, President Vivian Egonio-Norman, Treasurer Nelle Strasheim and Mariza Firmantes. All the dancers have put in the work, practicing once a week and rehearsing through the year.

The FACC has always been a proud supporter of social justice. The fight against Asian Hate continues in 2022. This year we have partnered with Denver Asian Roundtable and Asian Chamber of Commerce to support an Asian Hate Hotline. The hotline provided resources by those affected by Asian Hate, but also document cases against hate which has gone under reported prior to the Pandemic. The Data collected from the hotline would provide hard data for our Political and Law Enforcement Leaders to provide resources and support to the Asian American Community. In 2022, the FACC had the honor to play host to an intimate discussion of the challenges with newly re-elected Attorney General Phil Weiser and Moderated by Judge Don Toussaint. The FACC also had a chance to Partner with State Representative Leslie Herod and deliver our Special FACC Back Packs filled with personal hygiene products, beanies, gloves and water prof blankets.

We should be all proud of the hard work we produced together in 2022. We want to thank each and everyone of you who have participated, help us drive staff and family members, monetarily contributed and supported what we do.

Salamat Po
In 2023 we have several events that we have hosting annually. However, in 2023 there are a few events and workshops that we want you to take special note of. Starting on January 10 and occurring every Tuesday and Thursday from 6-8 PM, FACC Member Coach J will be teaching Filipino Martial Arts. The cost of the class is $100 and deep discount for our community members. Martial Arts Classes will continue throughout the year as long as there is a strong interest in the community.

Dance workshop with Parangal. If you have seen our dance “Singkil” and a few other pieces, we can thank Parangal Dance Corporation. On April 7-9, Eric Solano Artistic Director for Parangal Dance Corporation will be teaching several new dances for our Philippine Festival and our 70th Anniversary Performance in 2024. The FACC are looking for committed dancers who can practice once or twice a week for our upcoming season. The FACC needs 6 Male Dancers, 4 percussionists and women dancers of all ages. Please message our Cultural Dance Board of Director Zoe Whitefield@FACCorg.onmicrosoft.com. More information on Parangal Dance Company, go to: https://www.parangal.org/.

Our FACC Auditor, Guro Jonabelle Mwamba, who will be your Conversational Tagalog and Bisaya Language teacher will start classes on April 23. Course Description – Tagalog classes are designed to give practice in speaking, listening, reading and writing the language which will emphasize culture. The course is designed to build your vocabulary, familiarization with everyday expressions, communication with an appreciation for Philippine Culture. Classes are $25 for Members and $50 for Non-Members.

The FACC Board will be gearing up throughout the year to celebrate our 70th Anniversary with the Denver Metro Community. This event will replace our Annual Gala, however we will have a Winter Celebration together in December. We need passionate individuals who can assist in Event Planning, creation of the 70th Anniversary FACC Book/Collection that will be published (photographers, editors, creative artist...) and Fundraising (corporations, charities). Please email Domingo.Belen@faccorg.onmicrosoft.org if you can help. This will be a Major Project throughout the Year.

**Major 2023 Events**

- **2/11 – Valentine’s Party – Scholarship Fundraiser.** $25
- **3/18 – Volunteer, Un-home Drive**
- **4/7-4/9 – Philippine Dance Workshop, committed dancers**
- **4/9 – Easter Celebration**
- **5/6- 5/7 – Asian Pacific Heritage Month Celebration @ Denver Zoo (tentative)**
- **5/14 – Mother’s Day Celebration**
- **6/10-6/11 – Philippine Festival**
- **7/8 – Volunteer, Un-home Drive**
- **8/3 – 8/6 – Southeast Asian Pacific Islander heritage Camp**
- **October Weekends – Filipino History Month**
- **10/28 – Halloween**
- **11/11 – Thanksgiving**
- **12/9 – Holiday Event**
FACC Recognition

The FACC Board of Directors and Executive Team would like to Recognize our President, Vivian Egonio-Norman for her leadership in 2022. President Viv or Ate Viv, is the Heart of the Organization. I know many on the Board would agree, without her leadership starting in 2020 the FACC would not be here today. Here is the list of her accomplishments, leadership duties and projects she has taken on in 2022:

- Grant Writer for the United Way Mile High Grant, FACC won the Grant
- Grant Writer for SCFD, FACC won the Grant
- Concession Manager for the Rockies, Broncos and Mile High Special Events
- Teaches the FACC Dance Ensemble
- Represented the FACC on Denver 7 and 9 News
- Project leader for the Fight against Asian Hate
- Current Board Member for AAPI Commission for Aurora
- Organizes all of our Volunteers for 2022
- Lead Organizer for the Philippine Festival
- Handles Rental Agreements for the FACC
- Visual and Artistic Director for all Events at the FACC

We don't know how she does it, but it seems that she is always constantly working for our FACC community. While she has done the “Big Things” to lead our community, she is fostering a relationship with other Non-Profits and members, leading large scale events and of course leading our Board of Directors and leadership team. It’s the little things that truly set her apart—shopping for groceries, buying prizes and gift cards, printing, cooking for events, getting the banner, accounting of our expenses, replying to emails, making sure our volunteers our always fed and tying up many of our loose ends.

While volunteering for the FACC full-time, Vivian also works full-time for RG-Tech as the Sales, Sales Support, Office Manager and Business Relationship Manager for RG-Tech. Vivian is also a loving and supportive wife and mother. Thank you, President Vivian, for all you do for the FACC and championing our Community!

FACC GALA Notes

After 3 Long Years, the FACC made a triumphant return. It was a great night to celebrate our hard work for and on behalf of the FACC. There were smiles and laughter all around, where we saw old and new members celebrate the new year together. During the event we chomped down on baked chicken, salmon and of course drinks were flowing all away around. We had a chance to recognize our volunteers who have given 1000s of hours to the FACC.

A few major highlights at the Gala was our guest speaker, Elaine Bordeaux esq. Ms. Bordeaux is an immigration lawyer in our community who relocated to Denver from Houston a few years ago. Ms. Bordeaux talked about her journey as an immigration lawyer career and her talented Bronze Sculpture work. Thank you to Elaine and Family for your donation to our Gala and your Wonderful Keynote address. For all your immigration needs, please send Ms. Bordeaux an email: eb@ebordlaw.com and visit her website at www.eboardlaw.com.

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Family for your donation to our Gala and your Keynote address. For all your immigration needs, please send
Ms. Bordeaux an email: eb@ebordlaw.com and visit her website at www.eboardlaw.com.

Happy Birthday FACC Members

November Birthdays
David Carlson, Lettie Taylor, Emy Hackenberg, Virgit Grauberger, Elnora Mercardo, Emily
Tupaz, Jennifer Minoza, Carlita Anema, Mercy Fischer and Tricia Bonman

December Birthdays
Ed Arnick, Arsenio Obsenares, Roderic Minoza, Tony Sangchompuphen, Jay Lavigne, Vivian Egonio-
Norman, Jaime Alonso Yrastorza, Nila Adkins, Virgie Bailey, Lani Wall and Susan Ventura

January Birthdays
Joel Pollack, Pepper Sanchez, Manuel Avante, Claire Brooker, Aaron Brooker, Paul Hemschoot, Kevin
Grinstead, Nathan Schmitt, Paige Heidman, Carrey Arnick, Roderic Lewis, Robert Ault, Courtney
Samuel, domingo Belen, Joy Romero-Meyers, John Rushford, Nora Niblo, Ronald Heideman, Kayla
Ceniceros, Michael Bland, and Quentin Norman