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BY MIC DIAZ PRESENTS
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Why Invest in the Philippines?

Philippine Consulate in Los Angeles Highlights Business and Investment Opportunities

BY MIC DIAZ | PUBLISHER











The Philippine Consulate General in Los Angeles, in partnership with the Philippine Trade and Investment Center–Los Angeles (PTIC-LA) and the Asian Consulting Group (ACG), hosted the **2026 Philippine Investment Mission** on October 22, 2026, at the Consulate's Community Hall. The seminar, themed **"Building Global Partnerships: Partner, Grow, and Succeed in the Philippines,"** brought together entrepreneurs, investors, and business leaders to explore opportunities for investing and expanding operations in the Philippines. Consul General Adelio Angelito S. Cruz welcomed participants, while Trade Commissioner Anne Marie Kristine Umali-Hilleard discussed the Philippine economy and emerging investment sectors. Raymond "Mon" Abrea, Chief Tax Advisor of the Asian Consulting Group, presented investment strategies, taxation policies, and incentives under the CREATE MORE Act.

The gathering also provided opportunities for networking and exploring potential business partnerships. Among the business personalities associated with the Consulate's investment initiatives is Nathaniel Co of Nathaniel's Food Corporation, known for its popular Nathaniel's Bakeshop brand from Pampanga. Other representatives included Andrei Dizon of Rockwell Land Corporation, Gerard Panga of the Philippine Department of Tourism, and Consul Francis Maynard S. Maleon. The seminar concluded with an open forum addressing investment incentives, business regulations, and opportunities for international collaboration. Through initiatives such as the Philippine Investment Mission, the Consulate continues to strengthen economic connections between the Philippines and the United States while encouraging entrepreneurs to explore the country's growing business opportunities.

COMMUNITY

Long Beach Celebrates Filipino American History Month

BY MIC DIAZ | PUBLISHER

The **City of Long Beach**, in collaboration with the **Long Beach Filipinx Action Network (LBFAN)** and community partners, celebrated its **fifth annual Filipino American History Month** on Saturday, October 17, 2026, at Civic Center Plaza. This year's theme, **"Beyond the Margins: Centering Intersectional Filipino American Histories,"** emphasized the importance of recognizing the diverse experiences and contributions of Filipino-Americans. The celebration featured cultural performances, a community resource fair, a Filipino-owned business marketplace, and an evening reception, bringing together civic leaders, cultural advocates, entrepreneurs, and families.

The celebration was organized through the leadership of Jessica Gillette, founder of LBFAN, alongside planning committee members Catherine Tolentino, Christina Reyes, Clarissa Tolentino, Angelie Samson, and Maria Calimquim Yepez. The event received support from the City of Long Beach, with Mayor Rex Richardson featured in the ceremonial lighting of the Civic Center. Earlier in the month, representatives of LBFAN also addressed the Long Beach City Council, presenting the significance of Filipino American History Month and the organization's continuing efforts to promote cultural representation and civic engagement.

A meaningful part of the celebration was a tribute to the late Dr. Linda España-Maram, a respected historian and educator who taught Asian American and Filipino American studies at California State University, Long Beach, for more than 25 years.



Historians Dr. Constancio Arnaldo and Gerald Gubatan were among those announced to participate in recognizing her contributions to education and historical scholarship. The event also highlighted "Gintong Kasaysayan, Gintong Pamana," the Filipino-American historical mural by artist Eliseo Art Silva, connecting the celebration to the broader history of Filipino-Americans in the United States.

The festivities brought together community organizations, businesses, and cultural performers, with the Philippine Chamber Singers among the announced participants. LBFAN's network includes organizations and institutions such as the Filipino Migrant Center, Filipino American National Historical Society–Los Angeles, KUBO Organizing Project, Filipino Cultural School, Long Beach Public Library, and California State University, Long Beach. The food and crafts marketplace offered opportunities to support Filipino-owned businesses, while the resource fair connected attendees with community services and initiatives. The afternoon's activities were followed by the ceremonial lighting and a dinner reception.



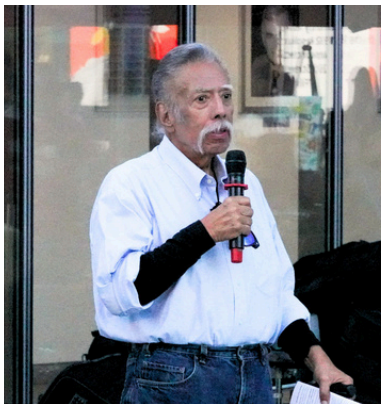


Photos courtesy of Jessica Gillette

COMMUNITY

Long Beach Celebrates Filipino American History Month (*Continued from Page 2)*

Now in its fifth year, Long Beach's Filipino American History Month celebration reflects the continuing collaboration among local government, grassroots organizations, educators, artists, and entrepreneurs. Through historical recognition, cultural performances, and opportunities for community engagement, the annual gathering provides a platform for Filipino American stories and achievements. The celebration reinforced the importance of preserving cultural heritage while encouraging future generations to participate in shaping the Filipino American community's place in Long Beach's history.





















Photos courtesy of Jessica Gillette

COMMUNITY

Red October: San Beda Alumni Celebrate Brotherhood

An Evening of Music, Friendship, and Fundraising for Student Scholarships

BY MIC DIAZ | PUBLISHER



Photo by Romelle Gavin

The **San Beda Alumni Association of Southern California** hosted its **Red October Fundraiser** on Saturday, October 24, 2026, at iVenue LA in Glendale. The evening brought together alumni, their spouses, families, and friends for a celebration of friendship, school pride, and a shared commitment to supporting education. Guests enjoyed dinner, dancing, live entertainment, and raffle prizes while reconnecting with fellow Bedans and their extended community.

Association president Noel Pascual spoke about the organization's scholarship initiatives, highlighting a scholarship awarded to a San Beda student as an example of how alumni contributions can make a difference. The fundraiser reinforced the association's commitment to supporting educational opportunities in the Philippines while strengthening relationships among its members and supporters.

The evening featured a captivating belly dancing performance by Diana “Didi” Caneda, who incorporated fire and sword props into her routine, combining graceful movements with dramatic theatrical elements. Matt Rada entertained guests with a beatboxing performance, while DJ Edge provided music and led a line-dancing session, teaching guests the steps and encouraging everyone to participate. Several ballroom dancers also showcased their moves on the dance floor.

Another memorable moment came when San Beda alumni joined together to sing traditional school songs and pep rally cheers, bringing back memories of their student days. A raffle added excitement to the festivities.

Pascual also announced the association's upcoming Christmas party on December 5, inviting alumni and supporters to gather again for the holiday season. During the program, Mic Diaz and Celeste Friedman invited guests to attend the upcoming Film & Wine gathering, sponsored by the San Beda Alumni Association of Southern California. The film-screening series brings together filmmakers, creatives, professionals, and community members for conversations, networking, and collaboration.

COMMUNITY

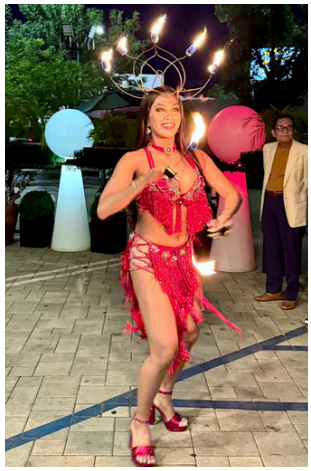
Red October: San Beda Alumni Celebrate Brotherhood (*Continued from Page 4)*

The Red October Fundraiser highlighted the enduring connections among San Beda alumni and their commitment to giving back. Beyond the music, dancing, and festivities, the gathering served as a reminder of how alumni organizations can support education, preserve school traditions, and bring generations of graduates together. Through scholarship initiatives and community events, the San Beda Alumni Association of Southern California continues to celebrate its heritage while creating opportunities for future generations.
















Photos by Romelle Gavin and Mic Diaz

CREATOR SPOTLIGHT

Alvin Del Rosario: Finding His Voice Through Music and Purpose

BY MIC DIAZ | PUBLISHER

For **Alvin Del Rosario**, music has always been part of his life, but pursuing it professionally wasn't initially his priority. Growing up in the Philippines surrounded by artistic family members, he chose a more practical career in physical therapy while raising his family. It wasn't until his children had graduated from college and he and his wife became empty nesters that he rediscovered his passion for singing. During his interview on *Chat With Mic*, Del Rosario shared how practicing karaoke at home eventually led him to record cover songs and, later, original music.

His musical journey became a family collaboration when his nephew, Arvin Del Rosario, a composer with an interest in Christian music, began writing songs for him. While Arvin handles much of the songwriting, Alvin contributes to the arrangements, interpretation, and production alongside musicians and sound engineers. Rather than limiting himself to a particular genre, he embraces different musical styles and believes that creativity extends beyond singing. "I don't want to be defined as a singer," he explained, emphasizing his desire to continue growing as an artist.

Del Rosario also finds meaningful connections between his work as a physical therapist and his musical pursuits. He applies his understanding of breathing, muscle control, and movement to singing, while his experiences with music have influenced how he communicates with patients. For him, both professions offer opportunities to help others and continue learning. He believes that passion must be accompanied by discipline, emphasizing that developed skills can be more important than natural talent.

Faith and personal growth are equally important in his life. Del Rosario spoke openly about how his relationship with Jesus Christ has helped him navigate difficult experiences and develop a more positive outlook. He encourages younger generations to pursue their interests while remaining responsible and maintaining balance in their lives. His advice to aspiring performers is simple: "Go for it. Don't wait too long," followed by his reminder to practice consistently and continue improving.

Looking ahead to the Christmas season, Del Rosario discussed two upcoming original songs: his first Tagalog recording, "Nanog," which explores giving without expecting anything in return, and "Light in Your Window," an English-language song about family, distance, and the longing to reconnect during the holidays. Both were written by his nephew, with Alvin contributing the creative concepts and musical interpretation. His music is available on Spotify and other streaming platforms under Alvin V. Del Rosario, reflecting a journey that continues to evolve through music, faith, and a commitment to lifelong learning.



Photos courtesy of Alvin Del Rosario







***CHAT WITH MIC* Episode 87: Alvin Del Rosario**
Check out the full interview on *Chat With Mic.*

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

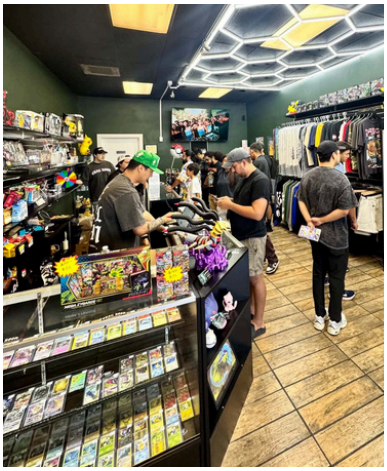
Daniel Arceo Brings Collectibles to Gardena through Grail Room

BY MIC DIAZ | PUBLISHER





Photos by Arceo Family and Mic Diaz









Daniel Arceo, owner of **Grail Room**, recently celebrated the grand opening of his collectible card and streetwear boutique in Gardena, California. The store offers a selection of sought-after trading cards, collectible merchandise, and fashion items, including Chrome Hearts. Arceo wanted to introduce something different to the community by creating a destination where collectors and enthusiasts could discover rare and hard-to-find items.

Grail Room specializes in popular trading card games, including Pokémon, Yu-Gi-Oh!, One Piece, and Riftbound. Unlike traditional card shops that primarily cater to players, Grail Room takes a boutique approach, offering sealed products, individual collectible cards, and streetwear. Arceo and his team bring expertise in different collecting categories, helping customers explore their interests.

For Arceo, collecting Pokémon cards is deeply rooted in childhood memories. Growing up in the 1990s, he enjoyed watching Pokémon cartoons, playing Nintendo games, and collecting trading cards. “I think the nostalgia is what really draws people,” he shared, explaining how adults who grew up with Pokémon are now rediscovering the hobby and purchasing collectibles they once dreamed of owning.

Looking ahead, Arceo hopes to expand Grail Room's involvement in the community by creating a dedicated space for trading card game players and organizing events such as card shows and outdoor markets featuring collectibles and streetwear. His vision extends beyond selling merchandise to bringing together people who share a passion for collecting, gaming, and popular culture.

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