



[Filipino American Historical Society of Chicago](#)

---

## Official Executive Director Profile and Statement

**Amando Respicio Boncales, BA, MSED, MA, PhDc**  
**Executive Director, Filipino American Historical Society of Chicago (FAHSC) Museum**

Amando Respicio Boncales, BA, MSED, MA, PhDc, is a historian, educator, and museum professional devoted to the preservation and interpretation of Filipino American history and heritage in Chicago and the greater Midwest. His leadership is rooted in a profound belief that history—when preserved and shared through museums—serves as the living memory of a community.

Mr. Boncales holds a **Bachelor of Arts in History** with a focus on **Global History** and a **Master of Arts in History** specializing in **U.S. Foreign Policy in Southeast Asia**. He also earned a **Graduate Certificate in Museum Studies** from **Northern Illinois University (NIU)**, where he gained hands-on experience as a **Graduate Assistant** at the **Blackwell History of Education Museum**. During his time there, he served as a **docent, collections manager, and museum education developer**, creating interpretive materials and public programming for the museum's one-room schoolhouse project.

He further advanced his expertise by completing a **Master of Science in Education (MSED) in Instructional Technology**, which broadened his understanding of digital curation, online learning systems, and the integration of technology in museum education. He is currently a **Ph.D. candidate (PhDc)** completing his dissertation on the adoption of large language models (LLMs) and generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) in instructional design within higher education.

As the **Executive Director of the Filipino American Historical Society of Chicago (FAHSC)**, Mr. Boncales is leading a strategic initiative to strengthen the museum's governance, stewardship, and educational mission. His priorities include:

1. **Developing a comprehensive Museum Collection Policy** to guide the acquisition, documentation, and preservation of artifacts that reflect the Filipino American experience in Chicago and the Midwest.
2. **Conducting a thorough Collection Assessment Report** to understand the extent, condition, and value of the museum's holdings.
3. **Establishing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)** for event management, inter-museum and inter-library loans, research access, and outreach activities—ensuring professionalism, transparency, and community engagement in all museum operations.

Mr. Boncales emphasizes that the **museum's collection is not merely a set of objects, but a collective memory of a people.**

> “The museum is vital because our collection serves as our memory as a community,” he explains. “It plays a crucial role in preserving our artifacts so that future researchers and generations will have something to look into as part of our identity and our contribution to this part of the world.”

As a historian, he regards the museum as the **applied dimension of history—public history in action.**

> “Museum work is not just about theories or the recounting of past events,” he adds. “It is the application of historical methods where the outputs of scholarship—artifacts, stories, exhibitions—are consumed and appreciated by the public. It is both exciting and deeply honorable work.”

Through his leadership, Mr. Boncales envisions FAHSC as a center of scholarship, cultural education, and community pride—where history is not only preserved, but also lived, shared, and celebrated.

Let's welcome Mr Amando Boncales as the Executive Director of the Filipino American Historical Society of Chicago (FAHSC).

Join us to meet Amando on Sunday, October 19 from 10am to 2pm as we celebrate the one year anniversary of the re-opening of the FAHSC Museum at the Mana Contemporary Chicago Suite 316 at 2233 S. Throop St, Chicago, IL 60608.