

Search to Involve Pilipino Americans

2002–2003 Annual Report



Season's Greetings and Glad Tidings!



“Pagkahaba-haba man ng prusisyon, sa simbahan din ang tuloy!” (a traditional saying in the Philippines, “However long and hard the procession is, it still ends at the church!”).

And a long journey it has been as we celebrate the past year's accomplishments and present Search to Involve Pilipino American's very first ANNUAL REPORT. This milestone production comes in the midst of much dynamic transformation and optimistic growth at SIPA and in Historic Filipinotown.

As the completion of our Capital Improvement Project draws near, construction of SIPA's second affordable family housing development—El Centro Loretto continues, and the work with youth and families progresses ... we cannot help but stop and thank providence for our many blessings as well as look forward to a future ripe with possibilities to enhance the quality of life for Pilipino Americans in Los Angeles and throughout Southern California.

It is our sincerest hope that the following pages bring more light to the many health and human services and community economic development programs that SIPA offers and invite you to join us in the never ending challenge to meet the needs of our community.

Whether it be lending a hand to volunteer as an afterschool tutor to SIPA youth or helping with one of the many tasks for our annual dinner, or making an in-kind or cash donation—know that any and all assistance is welcome and much appreciated.

2004 holds the promise of even bigger achievements and better service to our community. Best wishes for a successful and prosperous new year!

“Sa inyong walang kupas na pagtulong sa SIPA, maraming salamat at MABUHAY PO KAYO!” (“Many thanks for your long lasting support of SIPA!”)

Joel F. Jacinto
Executive Director

Marissa B. Castro-Salvati
President, 2000-2002

Benito M. Miranda
President, 2003-present

Small Business Development Program

To help individuals start and run their own business, SIPA's Small Business Development program provides counseling and workshops in areas such as:

- Business plan development
- Business management
- Permit and license applications
- Credit/Finance sourcing
- Marketing and advertising
- Bookkeeping
- Tax management

Ipugaw is located at 2240 West Temple Street in Historic Filipinotown, (213) 484-4002.



A gifted artisan, Hospicio Dulnuan stands amidst a trove of intricate woodcarvings, delicate hand-woven rataan baskets, colorful blankets and handcrafted, beaded jewelry. These are among the many cultural items for sale at his tribal art and antique store, IPUGAW, which Hospicio named after his homeland in the Philippines. Located in the heart of Historic Filipinotown, the store is the culmination of years of hard work and a desire of Hospicio's to share his heritage.

"I come from generations of wood carvers," said Hospicio. "When I first came to Los Angeles over twenty years ago, I knew I wanted to pass on Ifugao art. But being in a completely new land, I was not sure how to go about it."

Like so many Pilipino immigrants, Hospicio came to Los Angeles with tremendous talent but a lack of what SIPA calls "financial literacy" or training in the language of finance. SIPA's Small Business Development program has provided Hospicio and many other Pilipino Americans with the tools to start and run successful businesses.

"My store is here today because of SIPA's support," said Hospicio. "They helped me with so much...the language of loan applications, marketing, finding a space. I am truly grateful."

Affordable Family Housing

SIPA has already broken ground for its second low-to-moderate-income housing project, El Centro Loretto. Planned to open in the spring of 2004, the 76-unit complex located in Silverlake will offer a mix of one, two, three and four bedroom units. The complex will also include courtyards and a community room.

Currently, SIPA is also actively working with various government and private interests to identify future housing and mixed-use opportunities in Historic Filipinotown.



Los Angeles County ranks as the second most expensive area in the United States when it comes to housing costs. This is true for both renters and owners. One of the most densely populated areas in Los Angeles County is Historic Filipinotown making safe, affordable housing a critical need for many Pilipino Americans.

Determined to help meet this need, in 1998, SIPA built Normandie Village a 16-unit housing project for low-to-moderate income families. Painted beautifully with a courtyard containing a playground and an adjacent community room, Normandie Village won a national special projects award from the Urban Land Institute when it first opened.

One of the many families living in Normandie Village is the Navarro family, Marylou and Joel and their four young children. Joel is a construction worker and Marylou is a stay-at-home mom. "We have worked hard all our lives," says Joel, "but still it has always been a struggle for us to afford a decent, safe place to live."

"This apartment has been such an enormous help to our family," says Marylou. "We were all living in one bedroom in my aunt's house before this. Here the kids have room to play, do their homework, take a nap. It's a big relief."



Community Workshops: Girl Power



SIPA offers a wide variety of workshops in subjects of particular interest to the community. Workshops have included presentations on:

- Immigration
- Child safety
- Proper nutrition
- Women's health
- Domestic violence
- Parenting
- Community social services
- Financial management

Twelve-year-old Ivy confidently raises her hand when the instructor asks the class what beauty means to them. "It's about feeling good inside and out," says Ivy. The others in the Girl Power workshop shake their heads in agreement. It is one of the last days of the workshop, which aims to empower girls ages 12–17 by teaching them how to handle many of life's challenges. The workshop, which parents are encouraged to attend, includes classes on self-esteem and beauty, self-defense, safe sex and cultural identity.

As in many poor neighborhoods, the teen pregnancy rate and percentage of high-school dropouts are problems in Historic Filipinotown. SIPA believes that the more information provided to young people, particularly young girls, the more likely they will be to make smart choices.

"I don't have a boyfriend yet," says Ivy "but I feel like when I do, I won't be worried about how to act." Ivy's mom, Lolita, who also attended the classes, smiles and says, "I've seen all the girls in the class take a big leap in self-esteem. SIPA is building the girls up starting from the inside, where it really matters."

Kali Klub sa SIPA



In 2003 SIPA broke ground on a new multi-purpose auditorium. Part of the half-million dollar Capital Improvement Project, the new facility will allow SIPA to expand its programs and relocate back the many classes, such as Kali Klub and Eskuela Kultura, which now must be conducted at nearby venues. The CIP will be fully completed by the end-of-the-year and will include the following developments:

- Renovated multi-purpose auditorium featuring a portable stage and fully equipped projection and sound system
- Dual athletic courts for basketball, volleyball and other sports
- Two new youth activity rooms including a small gym and a space for arts and crafts

While the need for social services in Historic Filipinotown is great, SIPA is run by just a handful of staff. That is where volunteers step in. A true grassroots organization, more than 150 volunteers help SIPA every year. Though they come to SIPA from diverse backgrounds what the organization's volunteers have in common is their desire to help, their compassion, and recognition of the need to promote Pilipino culture especially amongst the youth.

Information technology executive Arnold Noche volunteers at SIPA two days a week, teaching all age groups the ancient Pilipino martial art of Kali. Arnold travels over 100,000 miles for work each year but he still finds time to teach. "In volunteering I have found a sense of accomplishment that one cannot buy," says Arnold.

As a former successful Kali competitor, Arnold is steeped in the tradition of the sport. His passion for Kali stems from the nobility of the sport's heritage and also from how it provides daily life lessons. "I think of Kali as a vehicle for growth that links the mind, body and spirit. My hope is that my students come away with a deeper understanding of their ancestors and of themselves as Pilipino Americans."

Project ARC: Eskuela Kultura

Over 100 children ages 6–17 attend SIPA's after-school enrichment programs. Classes provide youth with structured, fun activities in a safe environment. Programs include:

- ARC (Arts, Resource & Culture), which includes Eskuela Kultura
- Likha, a hands-on cultural crafts class
- Basketball
- Kali Klub (Pilipino martial arts)
- Reading club
- Tutoring
- Computer lab
- Field trips to museums, the movies, and camping



For a short time, the parking lot across from SIPA is transformed into a stage, and neither the audience of parents nor their performing children notice the noises from the street. The boys and girls are completely focused on getting the dance right, as they flap their arms like giant birds and skip around a sombrero to the beat of a Pilipino folklorico tune.

“I want my children to embrace their Pilipino heritage and still grow up as multi-cultural citizens,” says Eric Tanedo, whose eight-year-old daughter, La-ya, is one of the dancers. “SIPA's culture class is a perfect way to teach this.”

The culture class, or “Eskuela Kultura” as it's called at SIPA, is an after-school program that explores the connections between Pilipinos and other cultures. In addition to dance, the series of 9-week classes includes an oral history component in which the children document the history of their elders as well as a performing arts component where the children develop a play based on what they have learned throughout the class.

“I love that Laiya is learning to be appreciative of other people and cultures,” says Eric. “But it's equally important that she's having fun.” Looking at La-ya as she dances, the huge grin on her face says it all.

Case Management & Counseling

- Evaluated on a case-by-case basis, SIPA evaluates each individual or family's needs and determines what form of assistance will be most effective.
- SIPA's Case Management & Counseling program provides help for problems as varied as cultural isolation, domestic violence, homelessness, teen pregnancy, gang involvement, poor academic performance, suicide and many other issues.
- SIPA also makes referrals to outside agencies if necessary.



For the majority of families living in Historic Filipinotown, the top priority is basic survival. Nearly 40% of area residents live below the poverty line. Fewer than 30% over the age of 25 have a high-school education. Many parents work 2 or 3 jobs. “The result is that families are constantly in crisis mode,” says Director of Programs & Services Teresa Vallente.

“There's little time for communication between parents and children. It can be very confusing because in the Philippines, there is usually an extended family of relatives and neighbors who can help out and nurture the children.”

SIPA's Case Management & Counseling program provides support for those in need, offering free individual, family and group counseling and referrals. Working proactively, SIPA case managers go into area schools to help students who are performing poorly or who have behavioral problems.

Seventeen-year-old Jomar, who plans to go to college and become a nurse, came from the Philippines 2 years ago. For Jomar, without SIPA's counseling he would have been lost. “When I first arrived, I felt so alone and scared. It was my SIPA counselor, Fredrick, who helped me understand the customs and overcome my shyness. My world went from very closed to completely open.”

Audited Financial Statements (Consolidated)

For period ending June 30, 2003

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION	2003	2002
ASSETS		
Current Assets	\$ 525,645	\$ 192,502
Property & Equipment	677,581	608,277
Other Assets	13,493	201,120
TOTAL ASSETS	1,206,719	1,001,899
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS		
Current Liabilities	\$ 68,388	\$ 362,361
Deferred Income	375,720	12,180
Long-Term Debt Payable	426,726	448,499
TOTAL	870,834	823,040
Equity in Property & Equipment	\$ 53,456	\$ 53,456
NET ASSETS, Unrestricted	282,429	125,403
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$ 1,206,719	\$ 1,001,899
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES	2003	2002
GRANTS, PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUES		
Grants		
Government	\$ 365,291	\$ 292,140
Other	285,942	428,327
Public Support		
Contributions	\$ 48,025	25,062
Fund Raising	75,621	87,535
Other Revenues		
Service Fees	\$ 108,063	1,386
Rental Income	95,887	96,262
Interest Income	134	79
Other	25,599	1,153
TOTAL	1,004,562	931,944
EXPENSES		
Salaries and wages	\$ 438,838	\$ 468,965
Payroll Taxes	33,267	62,409
Employee Benefits	80,131	35,184
Total	552,236	566,558
Rent	\$ 73,777	\$ 69,636
Program supplies and events	46,199	45,213
Consultants and professional fees	42,678	84,365
Repairs and maintenance	19,225	15,019
Interest	17,474	18,437
Office expenses and supplies	17,408	15,050
Insurance	15,625	15,989
Utilities	14,020	17,989
Equipment rental and lease	12,538	10,865
Other general and administrative expenses	65,778	42,687
Total	876,958	901,808
Depreciation and amortization	\$ 4,833	\$ 5,703
TOTAL	\$ 881,791	\$ 907,511
EXCESS OF TOTAL REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	\$ 122,771	\$ 24,433

Maraming Salamat Po

Search to Involve Pilipino Americans (SIPA) sends our deepest appreciation to the individuals, corporations, foundations, and government agencies that help us provide health and human services as well as community economic development programs to the residents of Historic Filipinotown and the Los Angeles Pilipino American community in 2002–2003.

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The Ahmanson Foundation
California Community Foundation
Matching Contributions
California Consumer Protection
Foundation
The California Endowment
Matching Gifts
Community Technology Foundation
of California
Development Training Institute
The Entertainment Industry
Foundation
Fannie Mae Foundation Matching Gifts
Los Angeles Times Family Fund
S. Mark Taper Foundation
SBC Foundation
Verizon Foundation
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ORGANIZATIONS

AIDS Healthcare Foundation
Asian American Drug Abuse Program
Asians for Miracle Marrow Matches
Asian Pacific AIDS Intervention Team
Asian Pacific Community Fund
Asian Pacific Islander Small Business
Development Program
Chinatown Service Center
East West Players
El Centro del Pueblo
FAHI/The Filipino American Library
Korean Youth & Community Center
Little Tokyo Service Center
Orange County’s United Way
Pacific Asian Consortium for
Employment
Rogers & Associates
United Way of Greater Los Angeles
United Way, California Capital Region
United Way of Delaware
United Way of Tri-State
University of Medicine & Dentistry
of New Jersey
World Reach, Inc.
WRAP Family Services

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City of LA Community
Development Department, NAP
City of LA, Council District 14
City of LA Department of Water &
Power
Metropolitan Water District
LA County, Dept. of Health Services,
Alcohol and Drug Program
Administration
LA County, Dept. of Health Services,
Tobacco Control & Prevention
Program
LA County, Department of Probation
LA County, Department of Public
Social Services
State of California, Community
Services & Development
The Honorable Eric Garcetti, LA City
Councilmember, 13th District



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