

For Immediate Release

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Nicole Cajucom, Kapisanan's new Executive Director



Meet Kapisanan's new Executive Director as the organization celebrates it's tenth year, Filipino-Canadian arts and culture continue to flourish in Toronto

(May 7, 2015) Toronto - Kapisanan Philippine Centre for Arts and Culture announced today that it has appointed Nicole Cajucom as its new Executive Director. This is an exciting time for the youth-focused organization as it transitions leadership and continues its vision to collaborate with culturally diverse communities throughout the GTA.

Cajucom said, "My experience at Kapisanan has been so transformative. The community and the youth we serve is full of inspiration and we want to continue to deliver innovative programs for everyone to share their stories through the arts." This reboot does not come without its challenges: "Funding in the non-profit sector is incredibly competitive and we're expected to apply every year. With the number of Fil-Cans

growing larger each year, it is especially pressing that we continue to meet the needs of the community, and at the same time, engage the community for their support. I'm of course still so delighted to have the support of former ED Caroline Mangosing and former Managing Director Kat Estacio."

In her eight years as the co-founder and Executive Director, Mangosing has

grown Kapisanan’s multi-arts, charitable strategy using a very specific youth-for-youth model. Her vision and program development have garnered her awards such as Exceptional Services Rendered to Community in Culture and the Arts (National Ethnic Press & Media Council of Canada) among others. Mangosing will continue to lead VINTA, a social enterprise initiative and exclusive brand of contemporary Filipino cultural fashion that has been in development within Kapisanan since 2009. She also looks forward to taking on consulting work in business development for non-profits, social purpose and traditional SMEs.

“Kapisanan has built me up to take on any aspect of non-profit project management, from strategy to implementation,” says Kat Estacio about the immersive training she received with the organization until she reached her Managing Director position. With all of these in her arsenal, Kat looks forward flexing her project management muscles further in the startup world.

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the organization’s annual event KULTURA Filipino Arts Festival. This once small event from a Kensington Market storefront into a mainstream summer festival with sponsorship, municipal and federal funding, mainstream press coverage, and over 3500 attendees in

2014. This year its finale day on August 9th will be taking place at Yonge and Dundas Square.

“KULTURA is now a catalyst and an important contributor to the current state of Filipino cuisine in the GTA,” says Kat. “Fil-Can chefs and vendors dazzle year after year. This exposure has really built our cultural confidence, since food is so important to our traditions.” Nicole adds, “What makes it even more impressive is that KULTURA is truly an event spearheaded by youth who want to direct their energy and passion toward celebrating and bringing visibility to our culture. We’re reaching more and more people--the broader community especially.”

If you’d like to get involved, learn more here: <http://www.kapisanancentre.com/mission/>

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About Kapisanan

Kapisanan creates a safe space for Filipino-Canadian youth, both second generation and newcomers, to overcome multiple barriers that prevent them from meaningful engagement in society. At Kapisanan, youth activate their creativity to explore identity, fostering pride and self-confidence, inspiring and empowering them to realize their full potential.

L: Outgoing Executive Director, Caroline Mangosing

R: Outgoing Managing Director, Kat Estacio

