

COUNCIL MEMBERS' MOTION

3. Support for the Filipino Cultural Centre in Vancouver

Submitted by: Councillor Zhou and Councillor Bligh

WHEREAS

1. Vancouver is home to Canada's second largest Filipino community and makes up the third-largest Asian Canadian and visible minority group behind Chinese and South Asian Canadians;
2. According to the 2021 census, there are over 174,000 people of Filipino descent living in British Columbia, most of whom live in the Metro Vancouver area;
3. The Filipino community has made significant contributions to the city of Vancouver in a wide variety of area including arts and entertainment, sports, healthcare, and nursing, and have greatly enriched the cultural fabric and cultural diversity of our city and contributed to the growth and development of its economy;
4. June is Filipino Heritage Month in Canada which gives us the opportunity to celebrate Filipino culture, traditions, and languages, as well as the many contributions this community has made to our city, our province, and our country;
5. British Columbia and Metro Vancouver's Filipino community have long identified the need for a Filipino Cultural Center to enable local celebrations and cultural performances and to help connect Filipinos born in Canada to their heritage and ensure that younger Filipinos remain connected to their roots;
6. The City of Vancouver has been identified by the Filipino community as a desirable place to locate a Filipino Cultural Center to serve all of BC's Filipino community;
7. In December 2022, Premier David Eby presented mandate letters to his newly-appointed Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries, including direction to the Honourable Lana Popham, Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport, to prioritize progress on a number of initiatives including advancing work toward a provincial Filipino cultural centre;
8. Likewise, Parliamentary Secretary for Anti-Racism Initiatives, MLA Mable Elmore, received direction to "Support the Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport in consultation with affected communities" to advance emerging museum programs and proposals including a provincial Filipino cultural centre.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct Mayor Sim to write a letter to Premier David Eby on behalf of Vancouver City Council in support of a Filipino Cultural Center, ideally to be located in the City of Vancouver, with copies of the letter of support to be sent to the Honourable Lana Popham, BC's Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport, MLA Mable Elmore, as BC's Parliamentary Secretary for Anti-Racism Initiatives, and to the federal Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Infrastructure and Communities, The Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, as well as for distribution to the wider Filipino community in BC.

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