

PROGRAM AGENDA

HARNESSING THE POWER OF COMMUNITY: STARTING WITH US



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Pre-Conference | Thursday, August 13



- 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Professional's Bootcamp: Resume Writing, Interviewing, Salary Negotiations by **Ryan Namata**
- 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Opening Reception (Cash Bar)
NaFFAA's Got Talent by **Lou Vargas**, Emcee: **Dolly Specht**
Aurora Ballrooms
Karaoke Night by **Joshua Ang Price**

Sponsored by Agile Human Capital and AV Entertainment

Day 1 • Friday, August 14

- 8:00 AM - 8:50 AM Friday Breakfast in the Grand Ballroom
- 8:50 AM - 9:00 AM Welcome Address by **Mariela Fletcher**, National Chair
- 9:00 AM - 9:25 AM Opening Keynote: The Power of Community
Dante Ang II, Secretary of the Commission on Filipinos
- 9:30 AM - 10:25 AM Founders and Trailblazers Roundtable
Rodel Rodis, Loida Lewis, Gloria Caoile, Jon Melegrito, Michael Dadap, Dr. Alexander Africa (Moderator)

FRIDAY 10:30 AM - 11:25 AM		
Our Truth, Our Power: Safeguarding the Filipino Digital Diaspora Leezel Tanglao, Mark Calaguas, TAYO	Medical Mission Panel: Healing Beyond the Mission Donna Lavigne, Edith Pasion, Ryan Namata (Moderator)	Pagkilala Bago Solusyon: Understanding Before Solving : Emerging Leadership Institute (ELI) Introduction Facilitator: Gabriel Young

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FRIDAY 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Nonprofit Governance and Compliance Lauren Schmidt, Special Counsel, Colorado Lawyers Committee	Intimate Conversations with Maestro Michael Dadap: On Storytelling, Folklore, and Music Michael Dadap	Know History, Know Self. No History, No Self: An Ethnic Studies Lecture on the origins of Filipino American Identity Facilitator: Ava Ragasa
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12:30 PM - 1:25 PM Networking Lunch
Advocating for Mental Health by **Wilmar Suan**
Special Awards Presentation with **Brendan Flores**
The Mission of the Consulate by **ConGen Arnel Talisayon**

FRIDAY 1:30 PM - 2:25 PM

On Filipino Identify: "Filipino Enough" Geri Inciso, Giselle Rushford, etc.	Building Bridges Across Oceans: Immigration Panel Dante Ang II, Amie Belmonte, Donna Lavigne, Rodel Rodis, ConGen Arnel Talisayon, Ryan Namata (Moderator)	Kwentuhan: How to Explore & Understand Fil-Am Community Struggles Through Intergenerational Dialogue Facilitator: Gabriel Young/TBA
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FRIDAY 2:30 PM - 3:25PM

The Growing Community of Retired Filipinos and Portable Medicare Eric Lachica	Where We Come From, How We Move Jack Rushford	Bayanihan Under Pressure: A Filipino American Crisis Simulation Facilitator: Gabriel Young/TBA
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3:30 PM - 3:45 PM Merienda and Networking Break
A Message From Our Partner **FANHS**

3:45 PM - 4:10 PM Keynote: Building Community Power
Dr. Michelle Mras, International Keynote Speaker, Coach & Author

FRIDAY 4:15 PM - 5:10 PM

Protecting the Ballot: Voting Rights and the Power of the Filipino Vote in 2026 Joshua Ang Price, Angela Pedrigal (LEAD Filipino), Gloria Caoile	Bayanihan in Business: Pioneering the Future of Filipino Entrepreneurship Riezl Baker, Glenn Mendoza, Charmel Dela Cruz, Agnes Higley	Resourcing Bayanihan: Turning Ideas into Funded Action Facilitator: Joshua Ang Price, NaFFAA Executive Director & Ryan Namata, NaFFAA National President
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5:15 PM - 5:35 PM Closing Keynote
Sara Moore, Executive Director of Colorado Dragon Boat

5:40 PM - 6:30 PM Emerging Leadership Institute Day 1 Conclusion

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Social Event at Adobo Restaurant



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Day 2 • Saturday, August 15

- 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM Saturday Breakfast
- 8:35 AM - 9:00 AM Opening Keynote: Cultural Scripts and Collective Care
Dr. Stacey Litam, Speaker, Health Advisor at Forbes, Author
- 9:00 AM - 9:55 AM Fireside Chat: Women in Community Leadership
Gloria Caoile (Moderator), **Mariela Fletcher**, **Tia Dalupan**,
Jacque de Joya, **Dr. Stacey Litam** (Region and State
Representatives)
Tribute to Luly Esclamado, one of NaFFAA's Founding Leaders
- 10:00 AM - 10:55 AM Movie Viewing and Panel for “A Long March” (20 minutes)
Tammy Botkin, **Mike Simbre**, **Jon Melegrito**, **Nonie Cruzado**,
Giselle Rushford (Moderator)

SATURDAY 11:00 AM - 11:55 AM		
Decolonizing Fil-Am Fashion Lou Vargas	Healthcare Professionals Forum Dr. Rommel Rivera (Moderator), Lester Andrew Uy ; Claire Swartwood , PharmD, BCPS, BCIDP ; Carmeliza dela Paz, DDS ; Alfredo Rivera, MD	From Problema to Plano: Building Community Solutions - ELI Day 2 Introduction Facilitator: Gabriel Young



Photos from 15th National Empowerment
Conference + 2024 Civic Leadership Forum

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11:00 AM - 11:55PM Best Practices Panel for Region Presidents [Internal]

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Networking Lunch and Regional Awards

1:00 PM - 1:25 PM Keynote: The Importance of Representation
Ron Falconi, Mayor of Brunswick, OH

SATURDAY 1:30 PM - 2:25 PM

Run for Office Panel

**Larcy Douglas (Moderator),
Mark Pulido, Ron Falconi,
Steven Raga**

Filipino Authors Panel

**Dr. Michelle Mras,
Dr. Abby Hamilton,
Sheilah Jane Troiano,
Fleur Magbanua,
Ryan Namata (Moderator)**

Lakbay Ng Kabataan (The Journey of the Youth): A NaFFAA Young Professional Career Panel
Facilitator: TBA
Brendan Flores, Jennifer Samuel, Jason Tengco, Tia Dalupan

SATURDAY 2:30 PM – 3:25 PM

Stop Asian Hate Session

Joshua Ang Price (Moderator), Gigi de Gala, George Kuwamura, Sally Balecha

Mental Health First Aid Kit
Co-presented with **Krystle Canare** and **TJ Simba-Medel**
Panelists: **Lester Uy (CYFAM), Dr. Rommel Rivera**

Completing the Lakbay: The ELI Accelerator Solution Showcase

Facilitator: **Gabriel Young**

3:30 PM - 4:00 PM Closing Keynote: Building Community Power Starting With the Family
Sheilah Jane Troiano, Writer, Entrepreneur and Wellness Advocate

4:30 PM - 5:00 PM Emerging Leadership Institute Conclusion (Day 2)

5:00 PM - 5:30 PM Final Keynote for ELI Closing

7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Bayanihan Awards Gala and Fashion Show



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