



**Associated Students, SJSU, Board of Directors' Resolution 24/25-02
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF "FILIPINO AMERICAN HISTORY MURAL
PROJECT"**

- Whereas,** It is the mission of Associated Students at San José State University to support and represent the students of San José State University by continuing the organization's legacy of student advocacy and leadership; to enhance SJSU students' education through high-quality programs and services and to prepare students as they move towards a thoughtful and purposeful life after graduation; and
- Whereas,** Associated Students (A.S.) is the official voice of over 36,000 students at San José State University (SJSU); and
- Whereas,** "Filipino Americans are the second-largest Asian American ethnic group in the U.S. and the first documented Asian people to arrive in the country¹"; and
- Whereas,** Roughly 38% of Filipino Americans live in California²; and
- Whereas,** Filipino Americans make up about 10% of San José's population³; and
- Whereas,** In the 1920s⁴ to 1950s, San José had a Pinoytown in present-day Japantown where Filipino families and Filipino-owned businesses could find a community and thrive⁵; and
- Whereas,** SJSU identifies as an Asian American Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institution (AANAPISI)⁶, with approximately 36.1% of San José State students identifying as Asian⁷; and

¹ Celebrating Filipino American History Month
<https://hr.uw.edu/cfd/2023/09/26/filipino-american-history-month/>

² Filipino Americans: A Survey Data Snapshot
<https://www.pewresearch.org/race-and-ethnicity/2024/08/06/filipino-americans-a-survey-data-snapshot/>

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<https://www.pewresearch.org/race-and-ethnicity/2024/08/06/filipino-americans-a-survey-data-snapshot/>

³ Top 10 U.S. metropolitan areas by Filipino population, 2019
<https://www.pewresearch.org/chart/top-10-u-s-metropolitan-areas-by-filipino-population-2019/>

⁴ Looking Back: Filipino American History Month
<https://www.sjpl.org/blogs/post/looking-back-filipino-american-history-month/>

⁵ Pinoytown | Filipino American National Historical Society Santa Clara Valley
<https://www.fanhs-scv.org/pinoy-town>

⁶ AANAPISI Serving Institution
<https://www.sjsu.edu/aanapisi/>

⁷ San Jose State Student Demographics
<https://www.sjsu.edu/facts-and-accomplishments/facts.php>



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- Whereas,** San José State University has several recognized student organizations such as AkbayanSJSU, Alpha Kappa Omicron, and the League of Filipino Students, among others, that create a community for students to embrace their Filipino/a/x culture and heritage; and
- Whereas,** Filipino student activists played a crucial role in organizing the Third World Liberation Front, the longest student strike in history which resulted in the creation of the first College of Ethnic Studies at San Francisco State University⁸; and
- Whereas,** U.S. imperialism has led to the erasure of Filipino American contributions throughout much of U.S. history⁹; and
- Whereas,** Larry Itliong was a Filipino activist who led the Filipino- American farmworkers, called the "Manongs," or respected elder workers. He organized groups such as the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee (AWOC), a union that was largely Filipino but also included Black, Latino, and Arab workers¹⁰; and
- Whereas,** Larry Itliong worked alongside Philip Vera Cruz, another Filipino labor leader and farmworker, to lead the Delano Grape Strike. They collectively convinced César Chávez and Dolores Huerta to have the Filipino and Latino farmworkers join forces¹¹; and
- Whereas,** As a symbol of unity at the end of group meetings, the farmworkers would participate in a unity clap entitled, "Isang Bagsak," which symbolized solidarity amongst the Filipino and Latino farmworkers.¹² The strike was successful, improving conditions for farmworkers and creating a merged labor union, the United Farm Workers (UFW)¹³; and

⁸ A Forgotten Fil-Am Activist Helped Shape Today's Social Movements

<https://www.positivelyfilipino.com/magazine/a-forgotten-fil-am-activist-helped-shape-todays-social-movements>

⁹ Filipino Americans remain underrepresented – even during AAPI Heritage Month

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/made-by-history/2023/05/25/filipino-americans-remain-underrepresented-even-du-ring-aapi-month/>

¹⁰ Larry Itliong National Park Service Profile

<https://www.nps.gov/people/larry-itliong.htm>

¹¹ Larry Itliong National Park Service Profile

<https://www.nps.gov/people/larry-itliong.htm>

¹² Untold History: Filipino Movement and Cesar Chavez

<https://lib.asu.edu/news/untold-history-filipino-movement-and-cesar-chavez-denise-mosso-ruiz>

¹³ Filipino American History Month: Lessons from the Delano Grape Strike & Boycott

<https://celleducation.org/blog/filipino-american-history-month-remembering-the-delano-grape-strike-boycott/>



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- Whereas,** The Arch of Dignity, Equality, and Justice was created in 2008 by Judith Baca to honor César Chávez and Dolores Huerta, who were influential figures in the United Farm Workers Movement¹⁴; and
- Whereas,** The Arch of Dignity only commemorates the Mexican-American contributions to the United Farm Workers Movement; and
- Whereas,** In April 2023, Students for Filipino Farmworkers organized a rally in front of the Arch of Dignity, demanding that the contributions of Filipino farmworkers in the United Farm Workers Movement do not go unrecognized¹⁵; and
- Whereas,** University President, Dr. Cynthia Teniente-Matson, met with the students spearheading the protest efforts and committed \$25,000 from the Diaz Compean Fund for the Filipino American History Mural Project; and
- Whereas,** Convened in July 2024, SJSU's Filipino American History Mural Committee (FAHMC) is organizing to unveil the Filipino American History Mural by October 2025. This coalition is comprised of students, alumni, SJSU staff, and community members who are advocating for the recognition of Filipino contributions throughout American history, especially those in the United Farmworkers Movement; and
- Whereas,** On September 4, 2024, ABC7 News published a press release to publicize the committee's efforts and raise awareness about the significance of acknowledging Filipino American History with interviews from A.S. President Ariana Lacson, SJSU's Filipino Alumni Network (FAN) Founder & Board Chair Alan Gouig, Asian American Studies Assistant Professor Dr. Wayne Jopanda, and the Founder of Pinoytown San José, Manong Robert Ragsac Sr.¹⁶; and be it
- Resolved,** That SJSU Associated Students stands in support of the Filipino American History Mural Project; and be it further
- Resolved,** That SJSU Associated Students Student Government urges Associated Students to donate money for the mural; and be it further

¹⁴Arch of Dignity, Equality, and Justice

<https://www.sjsu.edu/ha-public-art-tour/public-art/arch-dignity.php>

¹⁵ San Jose State students want recognition for Filipino farmworkers

<https://sanjosespotlight.com/san-jose-state-students-want-recognition-for-filipino-farmworkers/>

¹⁶ Future SJSU mural to honor legacy of Filipino American farmworkers

<https://abc7news.com/post/san-jose-state-university-mural-filipino-american-farmworkers/15268668/>



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- Resolved,** That SJSU Associated Students stands in solidarity with the movement to acknowledge and recognize Filipino farmworkers' contributions to the United Farmworkers Movement; and be it further
- Resolved,** That SJSU Associated Students stands in solidarity with highlighting and commemorating Filipino contributions throughout American history that have been lost due to U.S. imperialism; and be it finally
- Resolved,** That Associated Students will make this document public and will forward this resolution to all affected parties, including, but not limited to: all board members of the **CSU Board of Trustees, Mildred Garcia (Chancellor, CSU), Cynthia Teniente-Matson (President of San José State University), Members of the President's Cabinet, Shawn Whalen (Chief of Staff), Mari Fuentes-Martin (Vice President for Student Affairs), Dawn Lee (Associate Vice President and Dean of Students), Jahmal Williams (Director of Advocacy for Racial Justice), Patience Bryant (Interim Deputy Diversity Officer), Kristin Dukes (Chief Diversity Officer), Vincent Del Casino (Provost of San José State University), Charlie Faas (Vice President and Chief Financial Officer), California State Student Association Board of Directors, Ro Khanna (U.S. Congressman, 17th District), Zoe Lofgren (U.S. Congresswoman, 18th District), Alex Padilla (CA Senator), Laphonza Butler (U.S. Senator), Ash Kalra (CA State Assemblyman, 25th District), Alex Lee (CA State Assemblyman, 24th District), Evan Low (CA State Assemblyman, 26th District), Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, Susan Ellenberg (Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors President, District 4), Omar Torres (San José Councilmember, District 3), Matt Mahan (Mayor, San José), New Student and Family Programs, Mercury News, San José Spotlight, and The Spartan Daily.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Ariana Lacson
President

Geoffrey Agustin
Director of Communications

Katelyn Gambarin
Director of Legislative Affairs



**ASSOCIATED STUDENTS
SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY**

Supported by:

Alan Gouig

Filipino Alumni Network SJSU, Founder & President

Tiffany Unarce Barry

Larry Itliong Way Project, Founder

FANHS Museum, Board Member

Marc Sanna

AkbayanSJSU, President

Alpha Kappa Omicron Sorority Inc.

AkbayanSJSU

**Passed and Adopted by the Associated Students of San José State
University Board of Directors at a regular meeting held October 9, 2024 by a
vote of 12-Yea 0-Nay 0-Absention 0-Absent**

DocuSigned by:

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Chima Nwokolo, Vice President
Associated Students, SJSU

10/14/2024

Date



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Student Government
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