



## Fil-Am Youth Showcase Heritage in Filipino Cultural School Graduation



(Clockwise from top left) The “Sanga” class perform the *Kappa Malong Malong*; The “Binhi” class perform the *Gaway-Gaway*; The Filipino Cultural School Class of 2019 sing the FCS theme song.

20 August 2019, Los Angeles – The Philippine Consulate General joined the 54<sup>th</sup> Summer Graduation of the Filipino Cultural School (FCS) on 18 August 2019. Almost a hundred students shared their learnings for the summer through different art forms such as dance, music, and Filipino martial arts in a culmination program at the New Life Community Church in Artesia, California.

The program entitled “*Ating Kwento*” (Our Story) showed the various facets of Filipino culture that the classes have learned throughout the summer. The children were divided into different age groups such as “*Binhi*” (seed), “*Ugat*” (roots), “*Tangkay*” (stem), “*Sanga*” (branch), and “*Sampaguita*” (flower). These names were used to show the growth and development of the Filipino youth as they understand their Filipino heritage more.

The Filipino Cultural School is a summer program geared towards the preservation and promotion of Philippine heritage and culture. The program was established by the Sampaguita Women’s Circle, Inc. of Los Angeles, an organization focused on providing a creative space wherein the Filipino youth in the United States can discover and understand their heritage.



*Vice Consul Joan Macrise C. Corrado representing the Consulate General, (second from left) with (from left) Councilmember Melissa Ramoso, Mr. Jun Aglipay, and FCS Board Ms. Cindy Szendzial, Mr. Christian Torres, Ms. Polly Dela Rosa, and Dr. Mary Lacanlale.*

Among the guests were some members of the original Sampaguita Women's Circle, Councilmember Melissa Ramoso of Artesia, and FCS alumni and parents who have also volunteered on the program. END