



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

PHILIPPINE CONSULATE GENERAL

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA



Press Release
EBB-044-2022

L.A. Historic Filipinotown Eastern Archway Unveiled



(L-R) Los Angeles Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell, Mr. Eliseo Art Silva, Commissioner Jessica Caloza, and Mayor Eric Garcetti in front of the new gateway

01 June 2022, Los Angeles – On May 7, the Philippine Consulate General in Los Angeles joined City officials and the Filipino-American community in Los Angeles at the installation of a 30-foot-tall, 82-foot-wide archway, officially called “Talang Gabay: Our Guiding Star,” at the entrance to Los Angeles’ Historic Filipinotown. According to news releases, the archway is the largest of its kind in the entire United States. It is intended to serve as monument to the Filipino American community, which is one of the largest Asian American groups in California but has never had the visibility of Chinese, Japanese or Korean populations.



The archway stands at the confluence of Beverly Boulevard and Belmont Avenue at the eastern entrance to the Historic Filipinotown in Los Angeles.

LA City Council officials led by Mayor Eric Garcetti and Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell of the county's 13th Council District, which covers the Historic Filipinotown, together with former Commissioner Jessica Caloza of the L.A. Board of Public Works, presided over the installation of the gateway. Joining them were Fil-Am artist Mr. Eliseo Art Silva who designed the archway together with Mr. Celestino Geronimo, Post's Assistant Cultural Officer Ms. Joy France, and members of the Filipino-American community in Los Angeles. In a recent statement, Councilmember O'Farrell said, "The Historic Filipinotown Eastern gateway pays fitting tribute the incredible contributions of the Filipino community in Los Angeles and beyond."

The archway is the realization of a 20-year vision by the Filipino community in Los Angeles. Its design features symbols of Filipino culture, including the *parol* or Christmas lantern, which is associated with love and hope; the *gumamela* (hibiscus) flower, which pays tribute to frontline workers; and the *sarimanok*, a mythological bird from the tradition of the Maranao people in southern Philippines. END.