



Kalayaan Filipino Cultural Organization (KFCO)

Chairperson's Report – KFCO AGM 2026

Good afternoon everyone,

On behalf of the Kalayaan Filipino Cultural Organization, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all of you for taking the time to attend today's Annual General Meeting. Your continued support and participation are what keep our organization strong and meaningful.

At this time, I would like to acknowledge and introduce our Board of Directors, whose dedication and hard work have made our programs and events possible over the past year. (Rodel Meier, Vice Chair, Vilma Castillo, Treasurer, Jean Dacanay, Secretary, Rene Sevilla and Luvim Pampilon, Press Relation Officers, Lourdes Lachica and Tess Filio, Business Managers, Eula Rolluda and Fe Sacayanan,) Directors.

Before I proceed, I would like to outline the four main areas that will be covered in my report today:

1. KFCO Events
2. The Philippine Park
3. The merging of KCCC and KFCO
4. The Constitution and By-laws

Let me begin with our membership. As guided by our Constitution, membership is open to individuals who support the vision and mission of KFCO. This year, we are introducing a new membership application form that we are asking all members to complete. This will help us update and maintain an accurate master list, ensuring better communication and engagement moving forward.

1. Now, I will move on to our KFCO events over the past year.

Our first major event was the **Gala 2025**, held at the Hyatt Place, with an attendance of approximately 300 guests. The venue was very accommodating, and overall, the food quality was good. However, we noted a few areas for improvement. The dance floor space was limited, which affected the flow of the evening program, and there were concerns regarding the buffet service, including insufficient food at times and delays in replenishment. Despite these challenges, the event was still a success and well attended, and we appreciate everyone who supported and participated.

Next, we held our **Independence Day Picnic** at Mississauga Valley Park. This event brought together various community organizations, each contributing to the program and bringing their own food to share. The spirit of camaraderie and community was very evident, as groups connected, shared meals, and celebrated together. (*Monday Line Dancing Group, led by Marilyn and Gerry, Zumba Thursday, Hula Fanatics, Filipino Seniors, Silayan, Golden Circle, Musika, JDL,*

Finally, one of our biggest highlights of the year was the **Philippine Festival** held at the Mississauga Grand. This was a tremendous success, celebrated over three days, with a reported attendance of approximately 65,000 people. The scale of participation and community support truly showcased the vibrancy and unity of the Filipino community.

2. Philippine Park

We conducted a courtesy call on September 16, 2024, together with representatives from KFCO, KCCC, and Philippine Festival Mississauga, to congratulate Mayor Carolyn Parrish on her election and to reaffirm our support for diversity and inclusion in the City of Mississauga.

During the meeting, we presented our proposal to designate a “Philippine Park” in the city, with Max Ward Park identified as a potential location due to its proximity to our community centre and existing event venues. This would provide a central space for cultural activities and community gatherings.

The meeting was very positive, and the Mayor expressed appreciation for the initiative and openness to further explore the proposal through the appropriate channels.

3. Merging of KCCC and KFCO

With regard to the proposed merging of KFCO and KCCC, this has been carefully reviewed, and at this time, we are recommending that the merging be postponed and that we continue with the current setup.

There are several reasons for this. First, KFCO has already established strong recognition with major granting agencies and continues to successfully secure funding for its events. Second, the Philippine Festival has grown significantly, now managing a large-scale event with a substantial budget and attendance, which requires focused management.

In addition, the size of the Festival brings higher liability risks. While KFCO is covered by the City’s insurance program, maintaining the current structure helps manage and contain these risks appropriately.

We also have a strong and effective system in place. Our events are well-organized, with clear roles—dedicated volunteers manage the Festival, while KFCO officers oversee other events. At the same time, collaboration between KFCO and KCCC is very positive, with strong cooperation and unity.

One noted disadvantage is that KFCO is not eligible for HST/GST rebates, which may result in some financial loss. However, overall, the current structure continues to work well.

For these reasons, we believe it is best to maintain the current setup for now and revisit the merging at a later time.

4. Constitution and by Laws.

Finally, with respect to our Constitution and By-laws, the last recorded revision was completed in September 2017 under the leadership of Rodel Meier.

At this time, I made recommendation to revisit the document to ensure compliance with ONCA (Ontario Not for Profit Corporation Act provisions, It's a law in Ontario that governs how **non-profit organizations and charities** are run. It replaced older rules to make things more modern, transparent, and consistent) We may need to review and update any sections that may require rewording or revision. This will require careful study and sufficient time, and may involve forming a dedicated committee to undertake this work.

We welcome the input of members who have knowledge or experience in this area, as your expertise will be valuable in the review process.

In the meantime, we will continue to use the current Constitution and By-laws as our guiding document in the operation of the organization, unless a revision is deemed necessary.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: This year's events

Independence Day Gala, June 13, 2026 @ Mississauga Grand Banquet and Convention Centre

Independence Day Picnic, June 28 @ Mississauga Valley Park

KCCC Induction of Officers, Friday, June 19

Canada Day, July 1, @ Philippine Park

Philippine Festival, September 11, 12, 13

Filipino Literary Voice, September 12

Walkathon, Saturday, September 19

Halloween, Friday, October 30

New Year's Eve, Thursday, December 31

In closing, I would like to thank our Board of Directors, volunteers, and all our members for your continued dedication and support. The success of our organization is a reflection of your commitment, teamwork, and shared vision for our community.

We look forward to another year of meaningful programs, stronger partnerships, and continued growth for KFCO.

Maraming salamat po, and thank you.