

We're [Sai Versailles](#) and [Sean Bautista](#) (Duality) and this is our [Rapido Hataw](#) fundraising extravaganza



We recently received exciting opportunities to work on educational initiatives focused on grassroots communities in the Philippines, and we're appealing to our colleagues in the cultural sector to help raise approximately **PHP 295,000** to cover the costs of two projects.

For full transparency, we created [a public Google Sheet](#) so you can track our fundraising progress. Any excess donations will be redirected towards Manila Community Radio's day-to-day operations and future projects.

We'd appreciate your support, no matter how big or small. While cash donations will help us meet the monetary requirements of our projects, we're also open to in-kind, non-monetary donations. For more details, please visit our [donation portal](#).



Aside from our individual practices in music, journalism, and design, we're also volunteer managing partners of Manila Community Radio.

As an independent platform, MCR is focused on decentralising opportunities for underrepresented voices in the Filipino creative economy. Since 2020, our volunteer team has helped over 500 artists from the Philippines and beyond to experiment with radio broadcasting, archiving more than 1,100 shows online.

We believe grassroots culture in the Philippines is at an interesting junction point, but it suffers from a lack of financial and institutional support. We hope you can support this initiative and join us in learning more about grassroots culture in the Philippines.

Read below for more details on the projects we're fundraising for. You can stay updated by following [@rapidohataw](#) on Instagram.



(1) BUDOTS "KNOWLEDGE IS POWER" NON-STOP REMIX



As part of MCR's ongoing effort to document budots, the grassroots dance and electronic music genre from the Bisaya region, we are organizing field research in Cebu and Davao to explore how privilege impacts our understanding of vernacular music.

Earlier this year, our team was awarded Boiler Room's Broadcast Lab grant to mount [a showcase spotlighting budots](#). With the help of our collaborators, MCR platformed Filipino artists across the gender spectrum from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, ranging from ages 18 to 40 with zero to 20 years of performance experience.

In July 2023, MCR also released a 53-track compilation titled '[BUDOTS WORLD: Bawal Umiwas sa Sayawan!](#)', curated by DJ Love and contributed by Filipino producers across Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao.

While these projects were generally successful, many criticized our "imperial Manila" gaze on a Bisayan subculture by packaging budots for western viewers. To address this, we hope to engage with local stakeholders through fieldwork and investigate the debate of cultural appropriation versus appreciation, plus how grassroots artists sustain agency given dance and electronic music's global popularity.

We also hope to unpack underlying systems of privilege within vernacular music, and the tension between globalization and national identity. In doing so, this research asks how stakeholders can address their privilege in a music ecosystem, while offering speculative solutions to systemic issues.

We're looking to fundraise approximately PHP 65,000 to help cover the costs of data collection through interviews and focus group discussions as well as fieldwork in Davao and Cebu, taking place in December 2023.

The trip to Davao will also help us carefully distribute the proceeds from BUDOTS WORLD to the Camusgirlz, a Budots dance troupe from Davao City, in aid of their families, livelihoods, and creative projects.

For cash and in-kind donations, please visit our [donation portal](#).

You can also visit our [public Google Sheet](#) to track our fundraising progress.

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(2) BERLIN 🇵🇭 MANILA RADIO JAM

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We've been invited by [Refuge Worldwide](#) in Berlin to take part in a cultural exchange focused on fostering resilient music ecosystems through community radio.

Titled 'Radio Jam,' it refers to an intervention in a radio frequency, but also the act of improvisation between musicians.

The project aims to foster dialogue with our counterpart in Berlin as MCR pursues organizational restructuring and development plans for a prospective physical space in 2024. Through Radio Jam, we hope to immerse ourselves in the Refuge Worldwide radio station and learn more about how to build sustainable community spaces.

We are also hosting an independent workshop with Refuge Worldwide. Curated for creative practitioners from diaspora communities, the workshop decodes the debate on cultural appreciation versus appropriation where we will present our field research from Cebu and Davao.

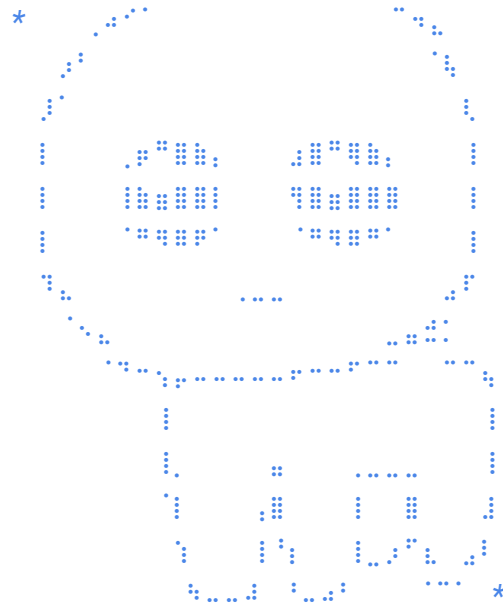
The presentation will be followed by an interactive workshop for attendees to (1) reflect on their own privileges and (2) brainstorm equitable forms of collaboration with grassroots communities.

We're looking to fundraise approximately PHP 230,500 to help cover flight costs, meals, accommodation, and inter-city travel.

For cash and in-kind donations, please visit our [donation portal](#).
You can also visit our [public Google Sheet](#) to track our fundraising progress.

Thank you so much for the support, and for being a part of this journey with us.

Huwag harangan ang daanan! Don't block the way!



♡ Sai and Sean ♡

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Last Updated: 01/17/24