

HiFi Meeting Notes

Date: 1/30/2024

Time: 6:00 P.M.

Chair: Dani de Jesus

Note Taker: Alexander Manglinong

Check-Ins

- Say hi to someone you know.
- Say hi to someone new.

Agreements for Meetings

- Be present and fully engaged.
- Take accountability.
- Take space. Make space.
- Lean into discomfort.
 - Be curious and open to conflict or differing opinions. We are all different—that is what makes us all stronger.
- Learn from the past, evaluate, the present and plan for the future.
 - There is much for us to learn while we are here.

Mission Statement

- The HiFi Coalition's objective is to identify and cultivate opportunities for Filipino Americans through organization, collaboration, and unification.
 - This mission is specific and general enough to think about multiple ways we can engage in our community. Overarching questions are: Who do we serve? Who do we include? Who is not included?

Website and Media

- Website: Hifila.org
 - Event page: <https://www.hifila.org/events>
 - Master calendar with upcoming events.
 - Submission form: <https://forms.gle/yccS6ySphycZTycn9>.
 - Fill this out if you want to share an event with the Coalition.
 - Self-report events so the Coalition and community know what's happening.
 - Be specific with events and ideally upload a visual (flyer, picture, etc.)
 - Example: "Lost LA: Historic Filipinotown" premiering on KCET: <https://www.hifila.org/events/lost-la-historic-filipinotown-premiering-on-kcet>
 - Blog Page: <https://www.hifila.org/blog-1>
 - Send articles about anything to include here.
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/historicfilipinotown.la/>

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/historicfilipinotowninlosangeles>

HiFi Team Building Day (Late 2022)

- All nonprofits in HiFi got together to share with the Coalition what they are all doing. Oftentimes we do things in our individual silos. We all want to collaborate. It's just difficult to know what everyone else is doing. How can we support the needs of organizations in HiFi and determine what their needs are?

Why Are We Here?

- To talk about engagement. How can we create more meaningful engagement with the HiFi community? HiFi is a cultural place. It's a historical place. It's a brand. What does HiFi mean for the people who live here and have business here?

What's in the Works?

- (1) Program/event sharing master calendar
 - We discussed this above. This is how we can share information about what is happening in the community.
 - Can a link to the website indicate outside of coalition? Maybe yes if someone knows how Squarespace coding works.
 - E-blasts come from Dani's personal email. Let Dani know if you are not getting her emails.
 - Sidenote: The Coalition itself is not a nonprofit, but it has members that are nonprofits. SIPA is a physical sponsor—but the Coalition isn't SIPA. The Coalition does not have an accountant, treasurer, or any funds to rely on.
- (2) Membership profiles on website
 - Everyone fill out a membership profile form on the website.
 - We are all HiFi—not just one person or one organization. The form will ask about you and your organization. You should add photos to your profile as well.
- (3) Baryo HiFi 2024
 - Shutting down Beverly Blvd. between the Union and Union. In front of Rideback Ranch.
 - Want to set up food vendors, a Farmer's Market, and a small stage for entertainment/performances.
 - How often? Once a year at first, then quarterly.
 - When? September or August. October is a very busy month in part because of FAHM. September or August will still provide enough time for planning.
 - CD13 (Regina) is on board.
 - This event is important for visibility. This is how we get people here. The idea is to bring everyone here for a major event with all of food vendors, entertainment, etc. so we can continue to collaborate.
 - We need a Chair and Committee members.
 - Updates:
 - New Committee Chair: Miles Canares has agreed to Chair the Baryo HiFi Committee

- Other Members:
 - Jennifer Taylor
 -
 - If you're interested in joining the committee, please reach out to: milescanares@gmail.com and jennifertaylor626@gmail.com
- (4) Volunteer Cohort
 - We need volunteers! People want to get involved but don't know how—particularly the youth and those that are retired in the community. What are their options for volunteering?
 - Instead of volunteering on a case-by-case basis, we should have a recruitment system that might involve socialization among volunteers, and training.
 - And ideas?
 - Identify volunteer coordinators from the different colleges and high schools in the area.
 - Go to church to target the elderly community.
 - Create a link on the website for people to sign up to become volunteers.
 - This will require some thought and organization. We will need a committee (small) to coordinate how to best make this can happen.
 - Update:
 - New Committee Chair:

HiFi Coalition Structure

- Steering Committee
 - Consists of non-profits, members of each committee, and community residents. The Steering Committee meets as needed.
- Committees
 - Arts, Culture, and History (TBD / Ariana Bosco)
 - Goals are cultural placemaking/historical preservation events/activities/archives/documentation. They use One Down for video production.
 - Neighborhood District and Community Economic Development (Caroline / TBD)
 - Joselyn: the Committee is concerned about the displacement of longtime residents in the area and the exponential increase of properties, which makes it hard for young professionals to move into the area and buy property. They are working on a community land trust project with the Beverly Land Trust. Beverly Land Trust is an established entity. They plan to work with the Beverly Land Trust to identify and acquire land in historical downtown and develop permanently affordable housing for first time homebuyers.

- These properties will most likely be condominiums—they are moving away from single family homes to provide more housing for all.
 - Revenue from the ULA “Mansion Tax” is meant to fund affordable housing projects like this one. They are planning on submitting a proposal for funding from the City. A similar program is already active in Oakland, CA.
- Health and Human Services
 - Gennie Samala: They work on informing the community about services available to them in HiFi. They also release information about health and health disparities. They want everybody who is invested in the health of HiFi to be members, including mental health counselors, caregivers, students, etc.
- Communications, Marketing, and Outreach (Dani)
 - There is lot of opportunity and room for this committee to grow. We need to figure out ways to reach out to community members who aren’t here or represented.
- Baryo HiFi
 - Building this now. We need a Chair and Committee members!
- Volunteer Activation (possible new committee)
 - Building this now.

Committee Updates

- Health and Human Services
 - Gennie: They are partnering with the First Congregational Church of LA to host a health fair on May 18. The event will be on the church grounds. The church will provide amenities and refreshments—they went above and beyond to make this event possible. Cynthia Cuidad (spelling?), a new committee member, is championing the whole event. Gennie hopes to get funding for the event from SIPA. If they do not get grant money from SIPA, they will try to lean on support from the community.
- Neighborhood District and Community Economic Development
 - Joselyn: They are meeting via Zoom tomorrow (1/31)—the meeting link is in the agenda. They will talk more about the land trust project during the meeting.

HiFi Happenings/Announcements

- SIPA
 - Isabel Cuevas, Health and Wellness Coordinator
 - Three upcoming events this week:
 - 1/31, 12 pm—Health and wellness event
 - 2/1, 5 pm—Legal Aid clinic on worker’s rights.
 - 2/15—mobile health clinic
 - Jamie Prudencio, Health and Wellness Program Manager

- Recruiting for new program at the end of the month to open a community garden. They are looking for people who are interested.
- Kimmy Maniquis, Executive Director
 - They are partnering with USC to volunteer on March 23 for the day of service.
- Justin Foronda
 - Gabba Gallery (on the corner of Beverly and Dillon)
 - It had a bunch of art, but it is now gone. We should figure out what to replace that art with.
 - Ideally, we should pay and hire Filipino artists come in to beautify the space.
 - Idea: Ryan Estrada (spelling?) got funding to do murals next to Parks Finest. Maybe we can reach out to them?
 - This would be a good project for ACH to take on.
 - Historic Illipinos
 - The plaza with the bagnet is still for sale. If Filipinos buy the space out, then we can pay rent to ourselves.
 - Sidenote: the Gabba Building is also for sale.
 - HiFi Kitchen
 - It's celebrating its 5-year anniversary.
 - The business is currently not sustainable, but Justin does not want to give up the space to something that isn't HiFi (like an Italian restaurant, for example). Justin wants to have a discussion with people in the community about who can help figure out next steps for the kitchen and the space.
 - Maybe the Neighborhood Committee can talk about this too?