



The arts are the sole communicator of the human spirit; through its presentation, we are held captive not only by its impact but by its undeniable beauty unfolding before us as we bear witness to culture, identity, tradition, history, politics and the societal issues of the time. I had the privilege of having mentors of color who instilled in me the need for cultural identity through creative expression; this is important in my work as an artist of color and this continues as I conceive and proudly curate FPAC'S TRADITIONAL DANCE segment through the dynamic performances of three Los Angeles companies - Kayamanan ng Lahi, Malaya and Pakaraguan Kulintang Ensemble.

Strategically selecting a fitting venue for this project was critical; Eliseo Art Silva's beautiful mural in Historic Filipinotown (HiFi) not only symbolizes a cultural "home" for me but also embodies the important history of Southern California's Filipinos and their contributions to the rich tapestry and colorful diversity of American life. I chose Historic Filipinotown as setting for my dance on film project entitled "Halad" (meaning offering) because of its personal significance; this is where I grew up and where my own strong cultural roots were developed and formed. Traditional dance in LA was founded here in HiFi in the late 70's when my mother Sonia began to invite Fil-Am youth into our HiFi home to teach them their culture through songs and dances; little did she know that she would contribute to a significant part of LA's dance history.

"Halad" is an offering of love and remembrance; an offering to celebrate, even in darkness, life's magic through our beautiful dances, music and storytelling; an offering of light to bring hope and meaning in today's world crisis; an offering to our ancestors to invoke aid during this unsettling time of covid, political division and moral injustices; an offering to graciously invite people everywhere to connect to one another, to come into the circle of our Philippine-American community and to embrace our humanity together. "Tuloy po kayo." - Dulce Capadocia 10/8/2020