



FILIPINO-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION
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The Filipino-American Development Foundation (FADF) is excited to announce its new Executive Director, Gayle Romasanta.

Gayle comes to FADF as a longtime community organizer, artist and writer. Her work to successfully mobilize Filipino American communities in the San Francisco Bay Area and the United States spans over two decades. She received a BA in Creative Writing from San Francisco State University, attended University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law and received an MFA, Writing from California College of the Arts. As a writer, her work has appeared in the New York Times, Smithsonian Magazine, Harvard University's Education Next Journal, KQED's *Forum*, ABS-CBN and more. Gayle also co-wrote the book, *Journey for Justice: The Life of Larry Itliong*, with the late and great historian Dr. Dawn Bohulano Mabalon. She also founded Kappa Psi Epsilon, the first and only Filipino American cultural sorority, celebrating its 25th year, with recognized chapters at University of California, Los Angeles, University of California, Davis, California State University, Long Beach, California State University, Sacramento, and San Francisco State University. Gayle is also the former artistic director of San Francisco's Bindlestiff Studio, the only theater space in the U.S. devoted to Filipino American storytelling.

Founded in 1997, FADF is poised to exercise its maturing and powerful regional influence with even more focused vigor in centering the voices of Filipinx/a/o communities in San Francisco. Solidified by the work around racial equity, FADF has strengthened its partnering programs across SOMA and the City of San Francisco and has influenced the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond. For over 20 years, FADF has impacted city and community leaders, engaging the City of San Francisco to build collective power, shift narratives, and practice *kapwa* (shared identity and commitment with each other) through a myriad of organizational pathways. Today, the work culture of FADF has helped cultivate and nurture how the San Francisco Bay Area Filipino American community needs to pace, prioritize and nourish ourselves, each other (especially as a staff predominantly made up of BIPOC), and how to be sustainable in a year filled with losses, illness, and continuing trauma from systemic racism.

As FADF welcomes Gayle, the organization also acknowledges the shift former Executive Director Bernadette Sy will make as FADF's interim Chief Financial Officer. Bernadette is committed to ensuring the continued growth of FADF through her continued service in the community. **Bernadette's transitional farewell statement**

Over the next few months, the FADF Board of Directors and staff will be onboarding and introducing Gayle to the community. Many of you know Gayle through her work as a community activist and artist working in the SOMA since 1997. We are confident that her leadership and lifelong commitment to the Filipino American community will help FADF achieve its goals in the new year and chapter of our growing community neighborhood. As always, FADF is committed to and values *Bayanihan*, most especially in this important transition in our executive positions. FADF knows that it is through the practice of *Bayanihan* that a legacy of community building continues.

Please join the FADF community in welcoming Gayle in this new position with us in the SOMA.

If you want to honor the leadership and gifts that Bernadette and Gayle continue to bring to the community, we invite you to **donate to FADF** on their behalf.

Your donation will contribute to the development of strong leaders who will lead us all towards liberation!