

**Kaisahan of San Jose Dance Co., Inc**  
19 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Suite 102 San Jose, CA 95113  
EMAIL: [Kaisahan@hotmail.com](mailto:Kaisahan@hotmail.com) URL: [www.kaisahan.org](http://www.kaisahan.org) PHONE: (408) 298-3787

***San Jose Dance Company Earns Honors  
Two NEA Awards and A CCP Performance***

San Jose, CA – Kaisahan of San Jose was one of 197 arts groups that received more than \$4.2 million in funding from the National Endowment for the Arts. The announcement was made by the federal arts funding agency which released the results of its 2004 Grant Awards, Of the 197 grantees, 32 were from California, 8 from San Francisco. In San Jose, Kaisahan was one of only two recipients. The other was American Tapestry Alliance; Kaisahan is distinguished as the only Filipino arts group to receive the honors.

The National Endowment for the Arts is an investment in America's living cultural heritage which serves the public good by nurturing the expression of human creativity, supporting the cultivation of community spirit and fostering the recognition and appreciation of the excellence and diversity of America's artistic accomplishments.

This marks the second time that Kaisahan has received the award. In 2001, Kaisahan got its first NEA recognition. Both awards fall under the Heritage Preservation category. Heritage Preservation seeks to honor, assist, encourage, preserve and present those forms of artistic expressions and practices that reflect the many cultural traditions that make up our nation.

Citations for both grants were based on NEA's recognition of Kaisahan's endeavor toward the creation and presentation of artistically excellent works, the preservation of our nation's cultural heritage and its addressing the concerns of the Filipino community through the arts. Specifically, the grants were in support for Kaisahan's popular programs including : the Performing Arts Series (PAS), the California Arts Council Dance Classes (CACDC), and its Master Students Program (MSP).

***PAS Performance Make Us Proud To Be Filipinos***

Established in 1993, the Performing Arts Series is presented by the City of San Jose Arts Commission and the Office of Cultural Affairs. It brings together major ethnic arts organizations to the stage of the historic Montgomery Theater in a showcase of artistic excellence and in celebration of cultural diversity.

Kaisahan joined PAS in 1996 and for the last eight years now has set the record as the only group in the Series to hold multiple box office hit performances. Its artistry and authenticity are of the highest quality. Kaisahan's PAS performances can be best described and summed up as follows: "Through sounds of gongs and kulintang, of bamboo sticks, stomping feet and drums, of chants of mountain tribes, of guitars, Kaisahan captures through authentic dance movements, the rites and rituals, the birth, the struggles and triumphs of a nation that is still finding its

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place under the sun. These are extra moments in one's life when after each performance, when the curtain falls, we can all stand tall and proud to say "I AM A FILIPINO".

### ***CAC Dance Classes Teach Art, Values & Culture***

The California Arts Council Dance classes saw its beginnings in 1998 when Kaisahan Artistic Director Helen Pastor Moreno received the Artist in Residence in the Community grant from the California Arts Council. The grant allowed Moreno to develop a curriculum and classroom presentation of Filipino folk dances. The classes are held at different community centers and American Musical Theater in San Jose every Friday at 6PM on a semestral cycle with a dance recital to cap the sessions, after which, the students in the Beginner's level graduate to become trainees and lead dancers of the dance company.

Now in its 7<sup>th</sup> Year, the dance classes have become Kaisahan's biggest community outreach program, designed to teach the community about Filipino art and culture through dance. The classes main target, however, are the children, who are poised to become future leaders of the community. Kaisahan believes that teaching children Filipino values and culture through dance where discipline, form and responsibility are emphasized will translate into better citizens and leaders of tomorrow.

### ***SAYAW VII Another Success***

Last August 21, 2004, Kaisahan held its 7<sup>th</sup> dance recital. Entitled "SAYAW VII", the presentation was held at the Pavalkis Hall in Milpitas and was witnessed by over four hundred guests led by Milpitas Mayor Joe Esteves and former Mayor Henry Manayan who cheered and applauded in standing ovation some thirty students as they went through the motion of showcasing their talents and with the Kaisahan dance company lending its support. The Haranistas de Manila provided the musical accompaniment.

### ***Master Students Take A Bow***

One of the highlights of Sayaw VII was the presentation of Kaisahan's Master Students. They are: Bengie Fallorina, Rumar Arzadon, Voltaire Villegas, Michelle Huynh and Rachel Moreno. Master Student was a title conferred on them by the California Arts Council by virtue of a grant called the Next Generation grant. The grant enabled Artistic Director Helen Pastor Moreno to train and pass on her dance knowledge and techniques to a selected group of students who will carry on the task and responsibility of teaching the students of Kaisahan CAC Dance Classes.

### ***CAC Funding Abolished, NEA Takes Over***

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Hard economic times which but California Arts Council in recent years forced the state funding agency to shelve its grant programs including Kaisahan's CAC Dance Classes and its Master Students Program. Where the California Arts Council left off, the National Endowment for the Arts took over. Other funders of Kaisahan include the San Jose Arts Commission, Office Of Cultural Affairs, Arts Council Silicon Valley and the Milpitas Cultural Arts Support Program. Kaisahan's greatest asset however are its officers, Board of Director, Dancers, Parents, Volunteers, Supporters, and the Filipino community. All of whom have stood by Kaisahan through thick or thin for the last 22 years.

### ***Philippine Tour in December, Performances At the CCP, LUNETTA, ZAMBALES, Shangri-La, etc.***

Preparations which went underway 2 years ago now shift to high gear as Kaisahan readies itself to perform in the Philippines. The invitations were made by then DOT Secretary Richard Gordon (Now Senator) in conjunction with his *WOW Philippines* program. Today, the contingent of 70 people (composed of 30 dancers, 20 production staff/ BOARD and 20 parents is set to leave for Manila December 25, 2004 for a 2-week Goodwill Tour.

The tour is coordinated by the Department of Tourism with an itinerary that includes: Coutesy Calls to Malacanñang, DOT & Senator Richard Gordon. Performances have been scheduled at the Cultural Center of the Philippiines, Luneta Park and Shangri-La Makati. Other performances are scheduled at Zambales and Nueva Ecija. An important highlight Of the trip is a workshop with noted ethnic researcher and artistic directors Ramon Obusan and Franco Velas of the Philippines Dance Society. Side trips are also scheduled for Villa Escudero, SBMA, Hospicio de San Jose, ABS-CBN and Bantay Bata