



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SACRAMENTO

DEPARTMENT OF ETHNIC STUDIES

7 January 2008

To the Film Grant Selection Committee:

I am writing to express my strongest support for Mr. Alex Munoz's documentary film "The Ilonggo Story: Return to Camp Roxas," which narrates the journey and life of Filipino contract labor workers in Guam.

A graduate from the prestigious MFA program at the University of Southern California, Munoz is a highly acclaimed independent filmmaker who has garnered several film awards. His film "Por Vida" was also selected for screening at the Sundance Film Festival. He is currently the creative director of FYI: Films by Youth Inside, which teaches filmmaking to inner-city youth in Los Angeles. Through his work at FYI, Munoz finds a happy medium between his passion for film and helping ethnically diverse communities. In recognition of his important work with FYI, *The Los Angeles* ("Life has its Own Story Line," 10 December 2007) recently featured Munoz's filmmaking contributions and his important work with at-risk youth in Los Angeles.

The "Ilonggo Story" is Munoz's latest project. The film chronicles the story of the thousands of Filipino labor contract workers from the province of Iloilo, Philippines, who came to Guam after World War II to help rebuilt the island's infrastructure. These Filipinos from Iloilo (hence "Ilonggos") were recruited by the US military to alleviate a labor scarcity as the Navy prepared to transform Guam into a major strategic base in Asia and the Pacific. Eventually more than 15,000 Ilonggo labor contract workers would migrate to Guam and live in labor camps, the largest of which was Camp Roxas in the southern part of the Island. Today, Filipinos comprise one out of every four residents in Guam.

Bernadette Provideo Schumann is the project director of the "Ilonggo Story." The daughter of a Camp Roxas labor worker, Ms. Schumann formed the inspiration for the film project. Though conversations with her father, Schumann discovered that she did not know the full story of how and why her father came to Guam, formed a family and eventually came to call the Island "home."

Although she is a health professional by profession, Schumann wrote a proposal to the Guam Humanities Council, which is a branch of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), to record and collect oral histories and create a photography exhibit and film documentary. Through her collaboration with Munoz, they were able to secure partial grant funding from the NEH to start the project. Any additional funding support provided would be very crucial to the project and would go a long way towards finishing the film.

In recommending this funding proposal, I should disclose that I have a personal interest in Munoz and Schumann's film. Although I have never met Mr. Munoz or Ms. Schumann before, I

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