KAYA COLLABORATIVE
2014–2015 Annual Report
How might we accelerate the *balikbayan* movement for change in the Philippines?

*balikbayan*: a repatriate or returnee to one’s country
Dear friend and supporter,

Kaya Collaborative started as just an idea two years ago, inspired by a simple belief in the potential of the global Filipino community to rise and take control of our collective future.

Since then, with the support of our institutional partners and our own inspiring Filipino communities, we’ve grown to be much more than an idea. Over the past two years, Kaya Collaborative has welcomed two classes of young diaspora leaders to the Philippines through our summer fellowship: an 8-week experience that centers on an internship with Filipino social change leaders and a curriculum on identity, impact, and leadership.

Along the way, we’ve come to understand that we are living in a unique and urgent point in history. The Philippines is rising, our diaspora is reaching new heights of community power, and the tools exist now more than ever to bring these pieces together to shape a better future.

Our fellows are the first seeds of a larger shift in how the 12 million Filipinos outside the Philippines connect to our shared homeland. Our partner ventures in the Philippines are the trigger of a new era in our motherland: one that’s defined by strength and innovation in the face of wicked problems. Our global supporters and allies - now over 1000 strong - are the beginning of something much greater.

It takes every one of us to live up to the promise of this moment in time. Thank you for being a part of this journey, for believing in the potential of our work, and moving with us in the spirit of bayanihan*. This is only the beginning, and we look forward to having you with us for the long, winding, and thrilling road ahead.

In solidarity,

Rexy Josh Dorado  
Founder & Chief Executive

*bayanihan: collective power, communal solidarity
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There are over 12 million Filipinos in the diaspora: more than 10% of the global Filipino population living outside their shared homeland. With that diaspora identity comes a sense of detachment and isolation, as invisible minorities in their new lands and prodigal children of their origins.

But with that identity comes power as well: the power to bridge worlds, perspectives, ideas, and resources in a world that’s swiftly becoming defined by diversity, connectivity, and change.

Our summer fellowship program brings a small group of young Filipino diaspora leaders back to the Philippines to work with and learn from local leaders - and afterwards, drive this new connection between diaspora and homeland at global scale.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fellows Connected</th>
<th>% Engaged</th>
<th>% Members</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23 fellows to summer internships in the Philippines out of 78 applicants</td>
<td>91% of fellows continue to be actively engaged as leaders in their diaspora community</td>
<td>78% are now members of the Kaya Co. volunteer team</td>
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WORKING TOWARDS CHANGE

“I’ve learned more on this job than any other internship or classroom experience I’ve ever had.” - Gianina Yumul, 2014 Fellow

During the summer, our fellows take on a project with a social sector organization in Manila. Through hands-on work, they’re introduced to the realities of social issues across the Philippines and the difficult and important work of institutions working to address them.

We craft these projects to both build upon the strengths and interests of the fellow and address the most urgent priorities of the host organization. These projects have involved community-based impact research, global communications strategy, partnership development, and more - all rooted in the systems and stories that define reality in different parts of the Philippines.
DISCOVERING A NEW PHILIPPINES

“There is hope here. I’ve heard a lot about the gap between the rich and the poor, the corruption. But I’ve the learned that Philippines is rising, and I know that this country is still full of people who will move forward and fight for justice. This isn’t the Philippines of years past.” – Stephanie Dofitas, 2015 Fellow

Over the course of 8 weeks, our fellows take concrete steps toward making a tangible impact, building relationships with communities and leaders, and getting to know the capacities that lie within themselves and their local countrymen.

Throughout this journey, fellows are confronted with a vast moving picture of a country mid-evolution, full of problems and potential, tension and hope. They learn about how the problems of the past have led to their own migrations. They learn about their complicity in complex and globally-rooted issues that surround them. They come to know voices of revolution and reform. It’s a journey of People Power from past to present, from Rizal to Rappler, from the Philippines as the country they left behind to the Philippines as a vibrant home where they can now see their own future take shape.
BUILDING A BETTER DIASPORA

“My hope is for all of us to be able to look to this summer spent in the motherland and draw from it the inspiration, strength, and energy to keep building bridges back. As members of the Kaya Co. family, the call will always be to go big and go home.”
- Gabbie Santos, 2015 Fellow

We select fellows for their ability to go from personal awakening to community change. From discovery to movement building. During and after their summer experiences, we guide them through the process of making their learning multiply in the form of new projects, media, events, and tools that connect others to the Philippines.

We are developing agents of exchange - leaders who are able to fully harness their hyphenated identities to create channels of solidarity between the Philippines and the greater world. We train them to be intrapreneurs in their communities, educating and engaging the world around the most pressing issues and solutions taking root the motherland. At heart, we are training the next generation of global leaders and critical innovators that our new, connected world calls for.
Sarah Santos grew up in a suburb of Philadelphia, in the middle of a predominantly white suburban community with few real spaces to explore her heritage.

Despite this, she began to find her voice during her senior year of high school, when she took a trip to the Philippines for a senior project and began to see parts of herself and her narrative in places she never thought she’d find them. In the same year, she took part in Ashoka’s Catapult Incubator for young entrepreneurs, where she became part of the co-founding team of a venture called Everything Origami. Since then, her explorations of her cultural identity and her pursuit of change have been intertwined.

In the summer of 2015, Sarah was selected as a Kaya Co. fellow and placed in a marketing and communications internship with Kalsada, a social venture that’s sourcing third-wave coffee beans from Filipino farms and connecting them to global markets. Today, she continues to tell the story of these farmers and coffee entrepreneurs, at the same time that she leads the editorial strategy of Kaya Collaborative’s storytelling platform.

“The Kaya Co. curriculum showed us where we came from so as to reveal where to go next. It was a gradual process of enlightenment, dotted with fits and bursts of inspiration that turned my world upside down. As I learned about the history of the Philippines, I found myself discovering a fundamental part of who I was.”
Anthony Otadoy Garciano was born in Camotes, an island in the Visayas.

He moved to Missouri when he was eight, where he spent the next twelve years of his life getting acclimated to the American culture before moving to Los Angeles for college. Now, as a student at the University of Southern California, his interests lie in connecting the two worlds in which he grew up.

As Culture & Community Service Chair for Troy Philippines, Anthony has piloted new learning models to ignite a shift in his organization from a social club to one that centers on culture and history. In the spring of 2015, he and 2014 Fellow Alfred Dicioco transformed USC’s annual Filipino festival into a fundraiser for typhoon recovery.

Anthony spent his 2015 Kaya Co. fellowship with Edukasyon.PH, a social enterprise and an online platform that connects young Filipinos to higher education resources. He is now leading outreach to student groups and youth communities in Southern California, connecting them to Kaya Co. and other opportunities to engage with the Philippines.

“I’m not supposed to be back here, in a way. But through Kaya Co, I’ve found an avenue to connect my passion for the Filipino and our culture to support the Philippines.”
Sierra Jamir, Cornell University ‘18

As a young student, Sierra Jamir quickly took the reins of her cultural education.

In high school, she took the initiative to launch her school’s first Southeast Asian Club. She also founded Pinoyjee, the New England region’s first youth-led blog on Filipino issues, through which she empowered other young students to engage with their heritage. Before even setting foot onto college, Sierra had formed relationships with indigenous Aeta communities in the Philippines and worked with her family and local community to fundraise for their needs.

During the 2015 Fellowship, Sierra worked with Food for Hungry Minds, a network of schools for low-income children, in order to kickstart an alumni network of youth leaders and changemakers from their schools. Sierra now leads Kaya Co’s outreach in the US Northeast and is creating a new series of workshops in Cornell that focus on critical discussion of Filipino issues.

“Kaya Co. gives us that platform to do something big, to hopefully influence others here that there is something we can do despite the barriers that we often say hinders us.”
2014 FELLOWS

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Ashoka Philippines

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Unlad Kabayan

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Gifts&Graces

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Bantay.PH

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Teach for the Philippines

Gianina Yumul  
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April Alcantara  
Kythe

2015 FELLOWS

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Bantay.PH

Mae Verano  
Habi Education Lab

Anthony Garciano  
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Jade Verdeflor  
Kythe

Sierra Jamir  
Food for Hungry Minds

Gaby Montinola  
Move.org Foundation

Stephanie Dofitas  
Jooma Jam

Jon Caña  
Ashoka Philippines
“Kaya ko” means “I can.”

In the same spirit, Kaya Co. envisions a global Filipino community that holds power in the collective. We dream of Philippine changemakers empowered in tackling local issues, and a diaspora that’s ready to listen, understand, and act in solidarity as the global hands and voices of home.

We work to achieve this by inspiring, educating, and mobilizing diaspora youth as partners to long-term, locally led social change in the Philippines.

But this kind of change doesn’t happen from just a dozen people connected to the motherland at a time. It takes a ripple effect; it takes a movement of people inspired by stories and moved by a generation of leaders to transform the global Filipino community into one that cares effectively and truly leads on the global stage.

50+ volunteers and advisors  1000+ donors, allies, and collaborators
50,000+ reached through content
After their summer experiences, we support Kaya Co. fellows in engaging their diaspora communities around social change in the Philippines. We also identify other leaders beyond the fellowship who resonate with our vision, and launch them along with the fellows as teams to drive a new kind of diaspora organizing that’s rooted in homeland change. Here are some stories from that network:

In Seattle, Kaya Co. has launched its first regionally-focused team to work with local student groups, community associations, professional networks, and others towards a transnationally engaged Filipino community. The team, spearheaded by Pauline Corporal and Kristen Navaluna, has recently organized their first major event: an arts and performance showcase that’s centered on an exploration of the Philippine story.

In Providence, Danielle Peterson (2014 Fellow) and Dylan Daniels have launched an undergraduate research group focused on mapping social innovation stakeholders and investigating social entrepreneurship trends in the Philippines. 2014 Fellow Julmar Carcedo has created a weekly Tagalog workshop through the Student Language Exchange, and through the lens of language learning, engaged other students in Philippine history and culture.
A CONSTELLATION OF VOICES & PERSPECTIVES

*Constellations* is Kaya Collaborative’s online publication for articles on the young Filipino diaspora and their connection to the Philippines. Through it, we’ve showcased snippets of our fellows’ summer experiences, the bigger themes and questions that surround our work, the profiles of our allies across the diaspora, and the calls to action that come at the intersection of these stories.

We’ve also shared our fellows’ and our network’s stories through other channels in the Filipino community and beyond, including Rappler, Huffington Post, the Inquirer, the Fil-Am, Kababayan Today, and more. Through these platforms, we have reached a combined audience of over 50,000 readers and viewers with stories of Philippine innovation and diaspora leadership.

These stories are the start of a new narrative: of balikbayan as a deeper kind of connection back to home, of the Filipino dream as more than just leaving the Philippines, and of the Filipino nation as one that’s recognized for its power rather than just its problems.

What lasts after the tides

The Philippines is always changing; our people are always moving. Our first class of balikbayan fellows search for something permanent about who we are.

By Gabby Dee, *Kaya Collaborative*
How might we change the way Filipino diaspora youth grow up?

There are currently over 5 million Filipinos in the diaspora under the age of 35. That’s millions of young people who are currently growing into an understanding of the world around them, and who they are within it.

At Kaya Co., we see our mission as transforming that learning journey, embedding this kind of education about the Philippines and changemaking into the rites of passage that young global Filipinos go through as they construct their identities. Turning this kind of education into the new norm for how young people in the diaspora grow up - and moving from there towards action.

Next year, our goal is to scale the learning experience at the heart of the fellowship to more and more people who want to return home; to strengthen the landscape of *balikbayan* opportunities that already exist; and to embed this curriculum into the learning spaces that already exist in student groups, community associations, and university classrooms.

From those foundations, we aim to unlock a new network of global leaders who are equipped to partner with local Philippine changemakers, and together catalyze a stronger global Filipino nation. It starts with a revolution in how we as a diaspora learn about our histories and our future.
**How might we educate and mobilize the next generation of global Filipino leaders at mass scale?**

2016 will be a turning point in Kaya Co’s long-term strategy. We are raising $100,000 and building a full-time team to launch:

100 new opportunities, from one-week immersions to summer internships to one-year placements, for 100 balikbayans to return and work with changemakers in the Philippines

7 new volunteer teams within 7 US cities that connect their surrounding youth communities, cultural associations, professional networks, and learning institutions to the Philippines

1 global Filipino summit that convenes changemakers from both the Philippines and the diaspora to connect, co-create, and collaborate around social issues that affect the Filipino people

All donations are tax deductible, and are processed through our 501(c)3 fiscal sponsor, Ashoka’s Youth Venture.

**HELP MAKE IT HAPPEN.**
We have so many people to thank for their time, their effort, and their financial contributions to our cause. We wouldn’t be where we are without your support.

But more than anything, we thank you all for your faith in this mission, and in the ability of a bunch of idealistic, restless young people to make it happen. We wouldn’t be going where we’re going without your belief in us.

THANK YOU.

$39,864 raised directly for 2014 & 2015 fellows between from January 1, 2014 to November 1, 2015

Major Partners & Sponsors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major Partner &amp; Sponsor</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>youth venture®</td>
<td>92.5%</td>
<td>Fellowship stipends and program expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brown</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Staff travel costs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ayala Foundation</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>Research expenses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Globe</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>Event &amp; fundraising costs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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