

Little Manila Rising

Rooted In History: Our Struggle for Social Justice and Equity



1565

Spain colonized the Philippine islands for 333 years.

1898

The United States occupied the Philippines for 48 years.



1920s-1930s

Labor demands in Hawaii and California led to the immigration of thousands of Filipinos who are today widely recognized as the “manong/manang” generation. Many of them found a home in the community they created, Little Manila in Stockton. Despite their significant contributions to agriculture, they were still met with hostility, anti-miscegenation laws, the Alien Land Law, and race-based violence.

1920s-1960s

Filipinos organized in the fields of California to demand social justice, to be treated with dignity, and to have better working conditions and wages. This would lead to the Delano grape strike and the creation of the United Farm Workers.



1970s

The construction of the crosstown freeway decimated many ethnic neighborhoods in Stockton including Little Manila, displacing people, businesses, and community centers.

2000

Two Stockton natives and childhood friends, Dillon Delvo (Executive Director) and Dr. Dawn Mabalon (Historian), founded Little Manila Rising (LMR) to support the historical preservation of Little Manila as well as education and youth development in South Stockton.



2002

The *Little Manila Historic Site* received its designation and was unveiled in Stockton.

2003

LMR stopped strip mall developers from paving over family homes, businesses, and the historic site.



2008

Dr. Dawn Mabalon, Rico Reyes, the Filipino American National Historic Society Stockton Chapter, and LMR published the book *Filipinos in Stockton*.

2013

Dr. Dawn Mabalon released her book *Little Manila Is In the Heart*.



2016

LMR started the ethnic studies-based “Us History” after-school program at Edison High School in Stockton with the tagline “Putting ‘us’ back into U.S. History.”

2017

The Stockton Unified School District (SUSD) Board of Trustees voted 7–0 in favor of adopting Ethnic Studies at all SUSD high schools as an elective.



2018

LMR lost Dr. Mabalon to an asthma attack caused by chronic exposure to air pollution in South Stockton, a result of problematic public policy, environmental racism, and health inequities suffered by members of historically disenfranchised communities.^{1,2}

Present: Additional programs include **ECHO** (Equity for COVID and Health Outcomes); **Healing PUSO** (Healing Pilipinx Uplifting Self & Others), our mental health initiative; **Youth Advocates**, an extension of our Social Justice & Cultural History work; and **Community Development**, an exploration of LMR’s potential new role as a Community Development Corporation.

These injustices inspired the fight for better air quality in Stockton and spurred LMR’s vigorous commitment to Health Equity and Environmental Justice. LMR launched all-new initiatives such as **Decreasing Asthma Within Neighborhoods** (DAWN) and an air quality monitoring project called **Skywatch**.

Little Manila Rising was originally founded to save the story of the manangs and manongs. Today, our scope has grown to become a fuller expression of our pursuit of equity. We welcome all residents of Stockton and beyond to join us in this important work.

¹ <https://www.kqed.org/news/11749299/asthma-rates-higher-in-californias-historically-redlined-communities-new-study-finds>

² <https://www.lung.org/research/sota/city-rankings/states/california/san-joaquin>