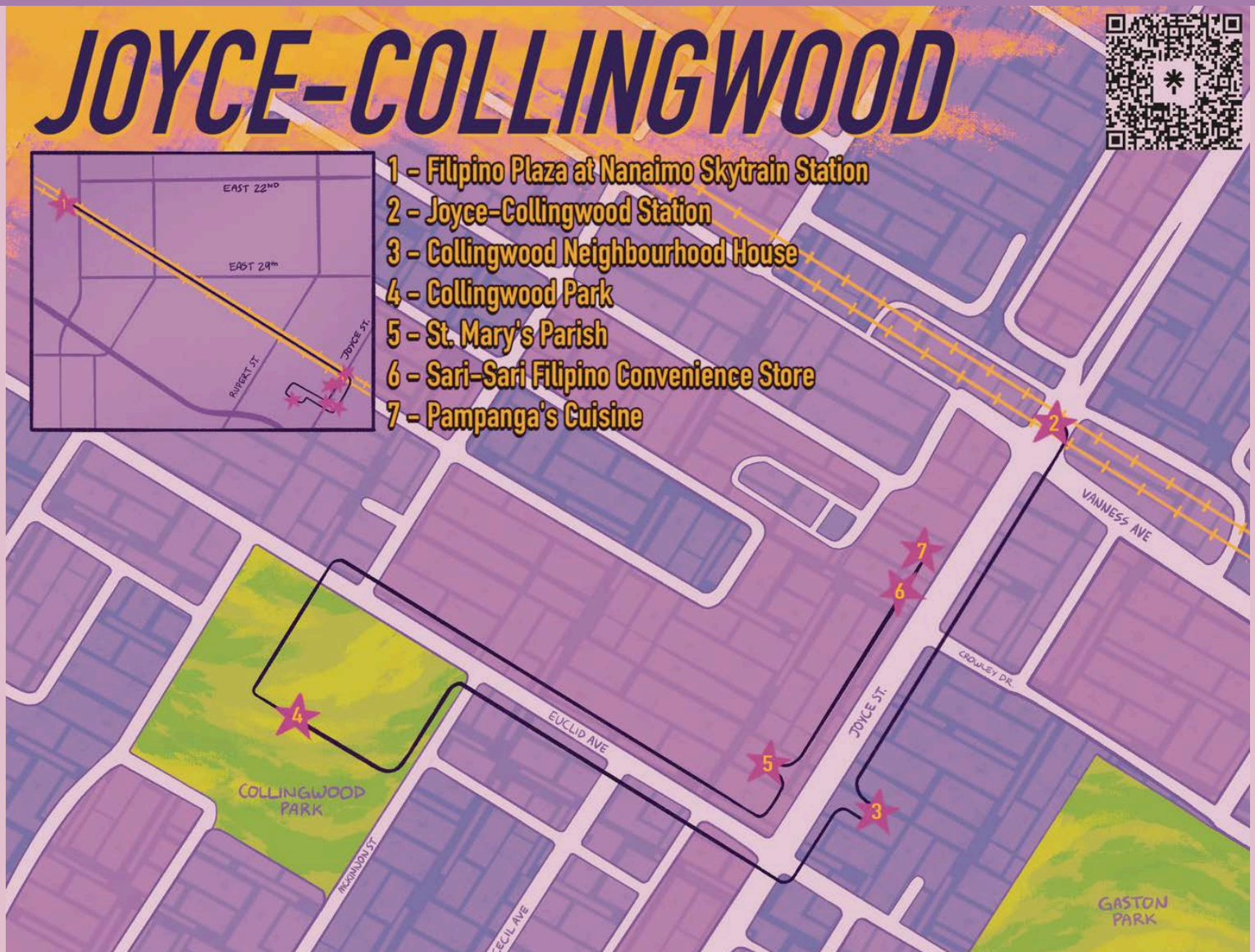


PAUWI WALKING TOUR

A KUWENTONG PAMAMAHAY PROJECT



A list of useful resources for your walking tour can be found on the last page.

<https://kuwentongpamamahay.github.io/>

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to PAUWI, a walking tour presented by Kuwentong Pamamahay and the Heritage Vancouver Society. Our name, PAUWI, means “homeward” in Tagalog, chosen to represent your journey into Joyce-Collingwood, which we will be exploring as a site of Filipino Canadian home and belonging. However, the word also gestures to the ways in which Joyce-Collingwood connects Filipino Canadian diasporas with the Philippines through food, culture, and transnational communication. This tour explores Filipino heritage, history, and experiences of place within the Joyce-Collingwood area, a neighbourhood that is both meaningful to Vancouver’s significant Filipino population and also at risk of rezoning and gentrification. The neighbourhood is also a site of convergence for Filipino Vancouverites on account of its many services, businesses, and institutions that serve the Filipino Canadian community.

Today, you will explore Joyce-Collingwood through a guided tour based upon the multiple interviews conducted for and compiled by the Kuwentong Pamamahay project, as well as the activist and organizing work of the Filipinx youth foundation Sliced Mango Collective. Regardless of if you have a history within Joyce-Collingwood or are new to the area, we encourage you to approach this neighbourhood with an open perspective.

PAUWI is also available as a written transcription on the Kuwentong Pamamahay website, alongside an illustrated map and links to further resources concerning the neighbourhood, at <https://kuwentongpamamahay.github.io/>. If you’d like, you may find it helpful to refer to the map as you proceed with your tour. Our journey begins at Filipino Plaza, near Nanaimo Station on the Expo Line. Once you have arrived, please face the wooden archway and play Audio 1: The Plaza.



FILIPINO PLAZA AT NANAIMO SKYTRAIN STATION

Welcome to Filipino Plaza. A large decorated wooden arch stands by the sidewalk. On the archway: a brightly coloured bird and a small blue fish. Beyond that, red bricks extend slightly out and away from the wooden arch towards a stone pathway surrounded by a bank of grass. Opened in April 2, 1986, Filipino Plaza was originally announced for Expo 86 as part of BC Transit's Parkway Program, an initiative that sought to create several parks and plazas along the route of the Skytrain, each showcasing a different cultural community flourishing in Vancouver. Filipino Plaza was designed by Filipino architect Bert Morelos and completed with the help of Filipino community labour and donations. The bird above you – a Sarimanok – is a mythological bird originating from the Muslim Filipino Maranao Indigenous group in the Southern Philippines. It represents good fortune and prosperity alongside the rich Filipino heritage and its Indigenous mythology.

This plaza is one of the last three Parkway Program plazas still standing.

We start here – away from Joyce-Collingwood – to highlight the quiet presence of Filipino culture and community in innocuous or overlooked places. When arriving at Joyce-Collingwood, there won't be such clear markers as the Filipino flag hanging from an arch. But this plaza also represents the risk of disappearance due to redevelopment or a lack of maintenance that many Filipino cultural spaces face today.

Take a look around again. Why is the plaza so small? Why do the red bricks only extend so far? And most importantly, why does it seem... so empty? These questions are central to our walking tour, which aims not to just offer information about the history of these sites, but also to contextualize these spaces within the communal importance they hold and the challenges they face in the present.

Venture past the arch and examine the red brick wall: you'll notice many names inscribed along the bricks. This wall contains two thousand red bricks bearing the names of donors to honour their contribution to the building of this plaza. They represent the many people who came together to support this plaza and its vision of a communal cultural space. However, the plaza ran out of funding before it



could be completed according to its original design, and it continues to struggle against the rising costs of maintenance. Today, it still thrives quietly below the Skytrain's tracks — unfinished, but perhaps not for forever.

Throughout the walking tour, we would like you to look a little closer at the subtle – and not so subtle – marks of Filipino culture that speckle the streets of Joyce-Collingwood. We ask you to not only take into consideration the history of Filipinos in Vancouver, but also pay special attention to the Filipino community who live in, work in, or visit this neighbourhood today and continue to create a historical legacy in Joyce-Collingwood. Alongside both a past and present of Filipino presence in Joyce-Collingwood, we'd like you to bear in mind the importance of a future: whether that be the creation of new sites of community gatherings or the restoration and reimagination of culturally significant spaces like Filipino Plaza.

Filipino heritage is entwined with the heritage and history of the other cultural groups and peoples who also call these locations home. There are many other communities who share gathering spaces, housing units, and restaurant tables with their Filipino neighbours. Furthermore, each of the spaces you will encounter on this tour are located on the unceded lands of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples. We encourage you to consider how Filipino Canadian subjectivities of place, home, and heritage are shaped and constructed by colonialism both in Vancouver and in the Philippines. We invite you to think about how immigrant communities and cultural spaces benefit from a continued legacy of settler colonialism on Turtle Island, and to further acknowledge how your presence here, at this plaza, is entwined with these realities.

Included in the QR code on both the illustrated map and transcript of this walking tour is an article regarding Filipino and Indigenous solidarity in Joyce-Collingwood. Also contained in the QR code is a photograph of Bert Morelos' original design for the plaza, completed to its entirety: a community space brimming with movement and energy. Take a moment to enjoy the plaza — contemplate what it is now and what it could be, if it was given the time (and funding) to develop fully. When you are ready to depart, walk down Vanness Avenue on BC Parkway on the right of Nanaimo Station for a 35-40 minute walk, or enter Nanaimo Station and board the Expo Line (towards King George) for a eight-minute Skytrain ride to Joyce-Collingwood Station.

Once at the station, walk to the intersection of Joyce St. and Vanness Avenue before playing Audio 2: The Station.



JOYCE-COLLINGWOOD STATION

Welcome to Joyce-Collingwood. It's a busy street whichever way you look. Buses and cars make their way through the roads and people march along the sidewalks, rushing to their destinations. Restaurants stand at each corner of the intersection while small businesses squeeze in between. People peel out of buildings, pigeons crowd along the wires, and bikes cluster around a pole. This is a home away from home for many Filipinos.

Joyce-Collingwood Station is located on what was once known to settlers as Moody Lake, home to ducks, beavers, and fish that no longer make their home here. Settling on the unceded lands of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh nations, European settlers arrived at this neighbourhood in the 1890s and established the same roads and city blocks that you now see before you. Land was cheap, it attracted many ranchers who raised chickens and grew orchards alongside others who took Canada's first Interrurban line into the city. The town was known as the Municipal District of South Vancouver before formally becoming part of Vancouver in 1929.

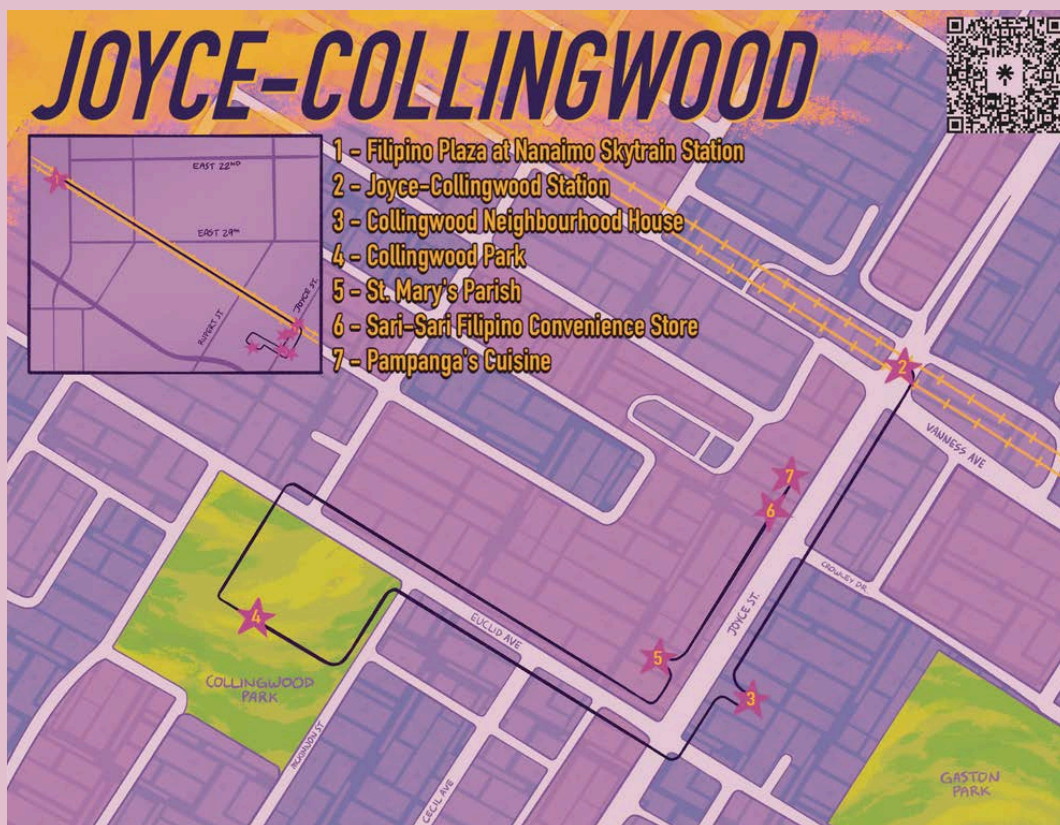
Today, as part of the larger Renfrew-Collingwood neighbourhood, Joyce-Collingwood is one of Vancouver's most diverse areas of residence, with a large immigrant and racialized population. Joyce-Collingwood is where many Filipino immigrants decided to settle, due to the affordable housing, food, religious access, and accessible transit routes. Although Filipinos are not the ethnic majority in this neighbourhood, you might notice the presence of Filipino businesses and restaurants, see a few Tagalog words plastered on nearby storefronts, perhaps even smell a hint of sisig in the air. Joyce-Collingwood has become a cornerstone for Filipino Canadians to navigate their identity and culture in Vancouver – a place to gather and connect with other Filipinos, remember their home in the Philippines, or learn about the Philippines for those who have not been.

Within Kuwentong Pamamahay, multiple interviewees spoke of the Joyce-Collingwood neighbourhood and its restaurants, community centres, and Filipino-owned businesses as a site of cultural connection and heritage. In one interview, Claire Baguio mentions how everything in Joyce-Collingwood was connected to multiple Filipino communities, allowing for constant transmission and community growth. Jothan Villaneuva dubs it in “most Filipinotown area” in Vancouver, and



Derick Gonzales mentions the accessibility of the neighbourhood via the Joyce-Collingwood Skytrain station.

In many ways, Joyce-Collingwood acts as a site of communication between Vancouver, the Philippines, and many other cultures, countries, neighbourhoods, and identities. As you continue on your tour, we ask you to note the different languages, flags, foods, and businesses that crowd the sidewalks before you. Although this tour cannot stop at every business on Joyce St., we encourage you to do some exploration on your own. But, for now, to reach your next stop, Collingwood Neighbourhood House, walk two blocks down the left-hand side of Joyce Street, away from the Skytrain entrance. Once you reach your destination, play Audio 3: Collingwood Neighbourhood House.



COLLINGWOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE



Listen: the slap of a basketball against maple hardwood. The muffled squeals of children. The scrape of cedar shavings peeling away from a log. Somebody yelling BINGO!

These sounds can be found right inside Collingwood Neighbourhood House, a non-profit agency established in the late 80s that is home to senior bingo nights, art classes, cedar carving, youth field trips, Tai Chi, and kundalini yoga, as well as other activities and services available to the Joyce-Collingwood community, largely for free. Services are conducted in a variety of languages including English, Mandarin, Tagalog, and Spanish, and across all age groups, promoting interactions between a diverse range of community members. A chance to meet the regulars, but also to make new connections.

Outside the neighbourhood house, a lending library and a free community fridge provide books and food. The Neighbourhood House also offers childcare, healthcare, scholarships, and advocacy, with specific emphasis on Indigenous and newcomer immigrant communities who may be seeking aid, housing, and employment. This includes Filipino immigrants to the Joyce-Collingwood area, especially Filipinas working as caregivers. In late 2023, Collingwood Neighbourhood House co-founded Kusina, a community kitchen program that specifically caters to live-in caregivers and their families. In addition to meals, Kusina connects live-in caregivers with settlement services, social services, mental health resources, and legal aid.

In 2024, the Neighbourhood House partnered with the Indigenous-owned and operated bookstore Massy Books to host the inaugural Filipino Canadian Book Festival: a chance to represent Filipinos within Vancouver's vibrant literary circles, and also to garner exposure for emerging and established Filipino authors. Informally, the Neighbourhood House has hosted Filipino Canadian dance classes. In an interview conducted by Kuwentong Pamamahay, Filipino Canadian community advocate Sammie Jo Rumbaua cites the Collingwood Neighbourhood House as the place where she first got involved in the Filipino dance scene. Led by her friend's sister, dance lessons in Collingwood Neighborhood House allowed Sammie to connect with her Filipino peers through dance and hip-hop competitions. She went on to perform at Filipino Independence Day celebrations with a hip-hop dance group.

The Neighbourhood House stands at the intersection between Joyce Street and Euclid Avenue, but it also exists at the intersection between community recreation and community aid. On one side of the building, children take art lessons. On the other side, volunteers offer free food and immigrant advocacy. In essence, the Neighbourhood House represents a dual importance of community spaces for both enjoyment and celebration but also mutual aid and support for newcomers. The Neighbourhood House is a reflection of the population of Joyce-Collingwood and their needs, their demographics, and their interests. Simply browsing the events catalogue lends you insight into the people who call this neighbourhood home.

If you'd like, you may take a moment to look around the Neighbourhood House. There are brochures for upcoming activities to explore, or you can walk down the hall and take a look at their mural. We invite you to make note of how many services this site offers, and to consider how each of these services reflects on the people and heritage of Joyce-Collingwood. Once you are finished, our next stop is Collingwood Park. Walk down Joyce St until you hit Euclid Avenue. Here take a right and continue down until you reach the park. You can't miss it. Once you reach your destination, play Audio 4: Collingwood Park.



COLLINGWOOD PARK

This is Collingwood Park, a 1.27 hectare park with a basketball court, playground, field, wading pool, baseball diamond, and a washroom. A wonderful, simple, and serene park that is crowded on sunny days and emptier in Vancouver's worse weather. Take a look around: maybe you can see some people at the basketball court, or kids walking home from school, or families gathered around their picnic spreads. Around the park, you might see people getting ready for dinner through the windows of their home or watching tonight's game. People are what transforms this park into a heritage site, a home, or a space with familial importance. But who is family? Who gets a seat at the picnic and who doesn't? For Filipinos, family is not restricted to simple blood relation. A kid will call their friend's mom, Tita — aunt in Tagalog — while their younger sibling calls their friend Kuya — elder brother in Tagalog. These familiar terms are also used when calling to strangers, such as a waiter or cashier. Words seemingly reserved for family members are used to indicate a communal familiarity that goes beyond the bounds of blood relation.

As of August 2024, Collingwood Park is enclosed in fences and plastic tape. The park is currently under redevelopment as per the Collingwood Park Renewal plan, an initiative by the City of Vancouver to update the park's amenities and public spaces. The renewal plan mentions a high demand for "affordable and accessible recreation" spaces that is not being met by the park's current presence. In particular, the wading pool, playground, and sports court are set to be reconstructed to better suit the needs of the neighbourhood. For a moment, Collingwood Park stands nearly empty: filled with excavators and metal fences rather than children and families. But through the bars of the fence, you might see a hint of new growth and construction. In time, this park might once again support a wide variety of community activities and family ties. It is evolving.

Construction is scheduled to end in late 2024. If you are embarking on this tour after Collingwood Park's redevelopment has concluded, we encourage you to explore the new features of the park. Note what has been changed and what has been left alone to continue aging and developing alongside the neighbourhood. Spend as much time as you like enjoying the park. When you are ready, you may head back to Euclid Ave and Joyce St. once again. At the intersection, take a left. Your next destination will be on the corner of Euclid and Joyce. Once you reach it, play Audio 5: St. Mary's Parish.



ST. MARY'S PARISH



Welcome to our next stop, St. Mary's Parish, a Roman Catholic Church with a large Filipino community. Catholicism runs deep within the Filipino community and is a pillar to many Filipinos' identities, communities, and lifestyles. Large mall complexes in the Philippines, such as Greenhills in Manila, even house church spaces within them. Although Catholicism is the dominant religion in the Philippines and the Philippine diaspora, not all Filipinos are Catholic or associate themselves with organized religion. Here, we focus on the role that churches play in organizing and forming communities of Filipino Catholics within the diaspora.

We invite those who are able and willing to enter St. Mary's Church if it is currently open and Mass is currently not being celebrated. A friendly reminder to remain quiet as this is a religious space and there may be others who are praying. If you like, you may remain outside the doors or on the sidewalk below.

Established in 1923, St. Mary's Parish is an over 100-year-old parish, with the preliminary Masses held inside a nearby storefront at 5330 Joyce Street. The current Church was completed in 1995, providing a larger space for the growing community of parishioners. Inside the building you'll find white walls and light brown pews, all organized to face the elevated altar where a crucifix hangs above. Beside the altar, statues of Joseph and Mary stand above rows of candles. Along the walls, you'll find carved depictions of Jesus' life.

Conveniently positioned on the corner of Joyce and Euclid, St. Mary's provides accessible religious services to both the Catholic members of the neighbourhood and Catholics across Vancouver, but this parish plays an additional role within Joyce-Collingwood. When you arrive at a new place, whether it be a new job,

home, or school, you tend to not know many people. To find friends one has to, well, find people willing to converse and interact with you. You might meet your friends in class, in the break room, beside the coffee machine – common places where people gather.

Yet, you can find a Filipino presence outside of just the congregation. Glance to the right of the altar where microphone stands wait patiently beside a piano, ready for the next choir – many of which are Filipino volunteers – to come and fill the halls. Filipinos are found reading from the lecterns and acting as altar servers, contributing to the church and its warm atmosphere for parish newcomers and regulars alike. Filipino community labour is what transforms the parish into a home. It is through their love and labour that a community such as St. Mary's can offer such a welcoming space for others. But, this passion does not halt once they leave the doors of the Church. Outside of Mass, and even the physical boundaries of the Church, labour continues through other ministries such as Legion of Mary, Knights of Columbus, Couples for Christ, Migrant Ministry, and dozens more making a home in Joyce-Collingwood.

St. Mary's Church is exceptionally special as it is the only church in Metro Vancouver to offer Mass in Tagalog, attracting Filipinos from different municipalities to come celebrate Mass in their mother tongue. St. Mary's Church also boasts a diverse parish community with over eighty nationalities present. In her interview, Claire Baguio mentions that Joyce-Collingwood is not only a Filipino neighbourhood but also importantly an immigrant neighbourhood. She says: "I never felt othered [...] I was surrounded by a bunch of other immigrants, right?". Claire, who attended St. Mary's Parish while she was growing up, describes herself as "very connected to a lot of different [...] Filipino communities". The church, as a site of multicultural gathering, serves to connect new Filipino immigrants with both other Filipino Canadians and also other immigrant communities who might share pews, tables, and neighbourhood blocks with Joyce-Collingwood's Filipino community. It is a place of community-making.

We invite you, if you desire and are able, to donate and light a candle within the Church. Catholics often light candles during non-Mass hours to pray for loved ones. We suggest, for those who are religious and those who are not, to think of your home, wherever or whoever it may be as you light your candle, if you choose.

Our next stop is the Sari Sari Filipino Convenience Store. It will be up the road towards the Skytrain station, located on your left. When you reach your destination, play Audio 6: Sari Sari.



SARI SARI FILIPINO CONVENIENCE STORE

Tucked away in the corner with its navy blue awning is the Sari-Sari Filipino Convenience Store. Sari-Sari in Tagalog means “a variety of things” and is a prototypical name for a convenience store in the Philippines. This Sari Sari store is a small store, filled to the brim with snacks, drinks, and food emblematic of a Filipino’s childhood. There is Boy Bawang, Nagaraya, milkfish, longganisa, suka pinakurat, Choco Nut, Moniegold tamarind candies and many more. It is like stepping into a small little version of Uni-Mart - a common grocery store chain in the Philippines.

In this Sari Sari store, you are also able to buy balikbayan boxes – balikbayan roughly translates to “going home”. However, this term can also be used to describe Filipino people who are overseas, implying – unlike the word immigrant – that a migrated Filipino will eventually return home to the Philippines. Balikbayan boxes are typically cardboard boxes filled with essential items to be sent home to loved ones, oftentimes to the Philippines. They may include gifts for family and dependants abroad – a way to remind them of your presence and love from across the ocean. In her interview with Kuwentong Pamamahay, Claire Baguio remembers visiting Sari Sari to send remittances and a balikbayan box home. Additionally, St. Mary’s parishioners occasionally come together to build their own balikbayan boxes, providing yet another bridge between the church, Sari Sari store, and the greater global Filipino community.

If you like, please go ahead and try one of the snacks or drinks. Many of them you won’t be able to find in other stores, so get yourself a little taste of the Philippines. Once you are ready, proceed next door to Pampanga’s Cuisine, just a bit further down the street from Sari Sari. Then, play Audio 7: Pampanga’s.

PAMPANGA'S CUISINE



Under a yellow awning, trays of hot food sizzle aromatically. A display case offers creamy leche flan and green cups of buko pandan. The restaurant is small but vibrant, with places to sit both inside and outside to enjoy your meal.

Opened in June 2018, this is Pampanga's Cuisine: a Filipino family-owned restaurant that specializes in and serves Kapampangan food from the Pampanga province. Located in the Northern Philippines, the Pampanga province is known as the "food capital", as it is the origin of well-known Filipino dishes such as siopao, pandesal, lechon, and sisig. Open from 9am to 8pm, Pampanga's Cuisine offers food in a turo-turo style, or in other words, food that is pre-cooked and displayed like a buffet.

Although it is the most recent addition to Joyce-Collingwood of all the locations we have visited so far, it has left a profound impact on the community as one of the major Filipino cuisine spots in Vancouver. Food not only allows Filipino people to have a taste of home without the long and expensive flight back to the Philippines, but also opens the door for those unfamiliar to give it a try. It acts as both a cultural hub for Filipinos and as a gateway for non-Filipinos to experience Filipino home cooking.

Derick Gonzales describes Pampanga's as a place of Filipino being – he says "I see Filipinos there a lot. [...] I feel like being a Filipino, [...] you have an eye for Filipinos [...]. It might not even be that there's a lot of Filipinos around, even though there are, it might just be that I am looking for Filipinos when I'm going somewhere."

In his eyes, Pampanga's is not only a place of Filipino culture or cuisine but also a place of Filipino presence: a tangible, noticeable sign of Filipino existence in Joyce-Collingwood. Although Pampanga's may not have a long presence within Vancouver, it marks a present and future history of Filipino Canadian being.

Yet, with the current threat of rezoning, Pampanga's Cuisine's original Vancouver location may not survive. A redevelopment plan proposed by J&S Architects and the City of Vancouver in 2021 intends to build a 32-floor mixed-use building on the land currently occupied by the Filipino restaurants and markets Sari-Sari, Kumare Express, Pampanga's Cuisine, Plato Filipino, & Kay Market.

This would result in a loss of many culturally significant businesses important to the Filipino community, and open up further concerns regarding gentrification, cultural erasure, and inaccessibility in the neighbourhood. Although the rezoning application was halted for re-evaluation, no formal acceptance or rejection of the plan has been announced. However, local Filipino businesses still face the challenges of inaccessibility and rising costs.

In a 2022 interview with CityNews, Edith Malanga, the owner of Pampangas, voiced her concerns: "It's a big loss for me and my workers as well. It's not that easy to find a good location here because almost the whole area is now under (re)zoning". To Malanga, Pampangas is a place where the Filipino residents of Joyce-Collingwood can feel "like they're just at home, just like in the Philippines". The loss of a cultural space like this is also the loss of one small home-away-from-home.

The tour ends here – but your journey doesn't have to. Pampanga's stands before you. Among the writers of this tour, Maibell Ong recommends the beef bulalo soup and the kare-kare, Aiza Bragg recommends the ube halo-halo, and Samira Pourganad recommends the Spring Silog. If you'd like, you may enter Pampanga's and have a meal. Alternatively, gaze at the 32-floor condominium in its place and wonder what could have been.

Thank you for sharing this walk with us. This project is made possible by Kuwentong Pamamahay, Heritage Vancouver Society, and the UBC Arts Amplifier program. If you'd like to learn more about Sliced Mango and other activists responding to the proposed rezoning of Joyce-Collingwood, we encourage you to visit the QR code linked on the illustrated map and walking tour transcript.

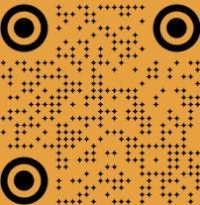


RESOURCES



Linktree

Scan the QR code to access more resources during the walking tour or visit <https://linktr.ee/pauwiwalkingtour>.



Google Map

Scan the QR code to access a Google map, if you would like a GPS-powered experience of your walking tour or visit <https://bit.ly/PAUWI-GMap>.



Youtube Playlist

Scan the QR code to access the Youtube audio playlist of the walking tour, if you would like to listen along as you go or visit <https://bit.ly/PAUWI-YT>.

CREDITS

PAUWI Walking Tour is presented by Kuwentong Pamamahay, Heritage Vancouver Society, and the UBC Arts Amplifier Program. The material is adapted from interviews conducted by Kuwentong Pamamahay with Jocelle Refol, Josh Rasalan, Anne Claire Baguio, Jotham Villanueva, Sammie Jo Rumbaua, and Kathleen Zaragosa. The script is written by Aiza Bragg, Maibell Ong, and Samira Pourghanad, and the audio tour is read by Maibell Ong. The illustrations are by Aiza Bragg. Graphic design by Sydney Lines. Special thanks to Anne Claire Baguio and Dr. John Paul Catungal for their kind feedback on this project.