

BAGUIO CITY MEMBERSHIP MONITORING REPORT (2017-2019)

I. Development of five (5) Creative Centers

One of the major commitments of the City of Baguio to the UCCN is the Development of 5 Creative Centers in strategic locations within the City. Ever since the City's designation in 2017, there have been various developments made with the Creative Centers:

a. Cordillera Crafts and Productivity Center

The Cordillera Crafts and Productivity Center is a tripartite property of the City Government of Baguio, Department of Trade and Industry, and the Association of Barangay Captains of Baguio City. The Baguio Crafts and Productivity Center now known as the OTOP Philippines Hub was committed as one of 5 creative centers to be developed by the City in 4 years. The property was underutilized before it was refurbished for the 2018 Baguio Creative Festival.

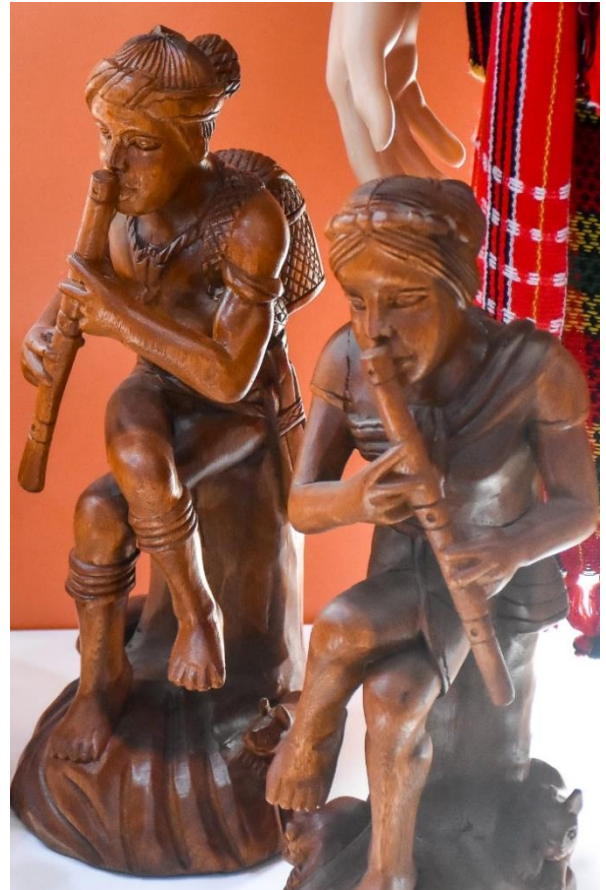
Before the Festival



During the 2018 Baguio Creative Festival



With the initiative of the Department of Trade and Industry CAR and with the support from the City Government of Baguio, the renovation of the Cordillera Crafts and Productivity Center became possible. The renovation and refurbishment of the building was financed by the DTI CAR with the City Government lending some of its resources for the said purpose.



The building is now being utilized for the sale and display of some of the best products of the Cordillera Region. The Cordillera Crafts and Productivity Center also flaunts a 'Kapetirya' (Cafeteria) which serves local coffee to Baguio residents and visitors alike.

b. Diplomat Heritage Hill and Retreat House

The Diplomat Heritage Hill and Retreat House is one of the most famous and visited destination in the City of Pines, it is branded by many as the most haunted place in the country.



Last November 2018, people's long-standing perception of the said building was suddenly changed with the conduct of the ENTACool 2018 Baguio Creative Festival. The building was refurbished and restored to serve as the main venue of the 2018 Baguio Creative Festival. Since then the building has been used to stage various creative activities including the 2019 Creative Festival.



During the 2018 and 2019 Creative Festivals the Diplomat Heritage Hill and Retreat House was, not perceived as a haunted place but rather a creative center for the showcase of various forms of Arts and Crafts in the City.

The Festivals held last 2018 and 2019 was not only able to change people's perception of the old building, it was also able to make people appreciate the cultural and historical significance of the Old Diplomat Heritage Hill and Retreat House.



Now the City Government of Baguio through Mayor Benjamin Magalong has declared the Diplomat Heritage Hill and Retreat House as a permanent creative center dedicated to enhancing aspects of crafts and folk arts that are predominantly present and thriving in the City.



c. **University of the Philippines Baguio Museo Kordilyera**

The Museo Kordilyera of the University of the Philippines Baguio (UPB) is an Ethnographic Museum dedicated to the preservation and enrichment of the indigenous cultures of the Cordillera Administrative Region and its neighboring areas in Northern Luzon. The major indigenous societies- the Bontok, Ibaloy, Ifugao, Kalinga, Kankana-ey- and the smaller groups native to the region provide the University a rich ground for research in the various academic disciplines, and exceptional opportunities for significant social interventions. It is in view of this that the University of the Philippines Baguio has identified Cordillera and indigenous studies as its niche. The Museo Kordilyera accentuates this niche at the same time that it reinforces the role of the University as a premier arts and science institution in Northern Luzon.



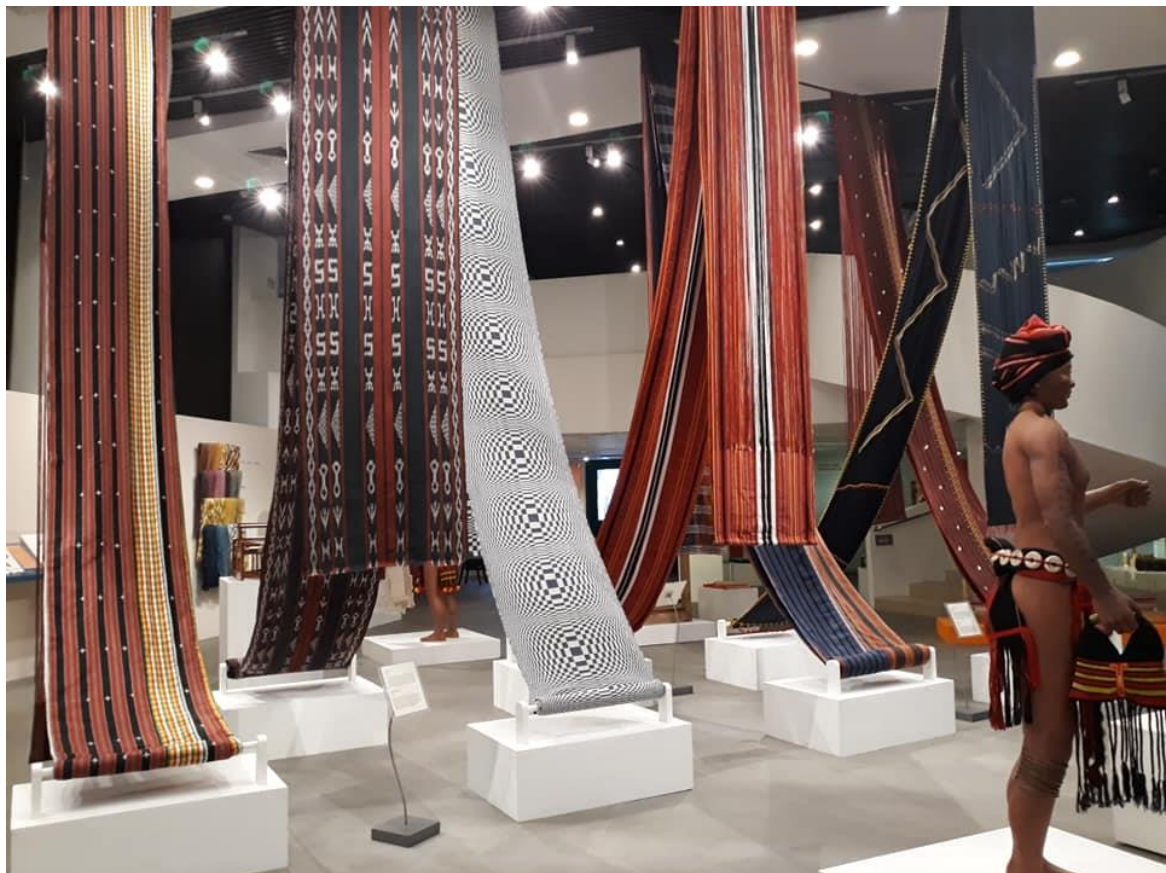
As a museum dedicated to regional culture, the Museo Kordilyera serves as a repository of the tangible and intangible heritage of the Cordillera, and is distinguished by its integral connection to the scholarly work of the faculty from the different colleges of the University. Hence, the museum is a vital learning resource center, a 'living museum', and a venue for disseminating the fruits of faculty research.

As an ethnographic museum, the Museo is focused on the collection, preservation, and display of objects associated with the unique societies and cultures of the Cordillera region. It has an essential connection to anthropology, particularly the mode of anthropological research and

discourse known as ethnography, characterized by detailed and holistic knowledge produced through extended fieldwork and immersion in the culture of the communities that are studied.

The Museo Kordilyera aims to serve as a platform for dialogue with various communities in the wider world through themed exhibitions, symposia, lectures, Internet presence, cultural performances, and demonstration of knowledge and skills of local artisans and cultural bearers from Cordillera and other ethno-linguistic groups.

The museum is part of the emerging “cultural hub” of UP Baguio. The physical structure includes an exhibition space for regularly changing exhibitions, a visible storage area, an audio visual room, a museum shop and café and office space. A quadrangle fronting the museum serves as extension space for outdoor activities like workshops and performances.



Since 2017 the Museo Kordilyera had been holding exhibits and activities showcasing various aspects of the Cordillera culture. Some of the most notable activities of the museum are:

- The Formal opening of the inaugural exhibition featuring three exhibits: “Batok (Tattoos): Body as Archive”, “Jules de Raedt: Life works, Lived

Worlds”, and “The Indigenous, In Flux. Reconfiguring the Ethnographic Photograph.”

- Book launching of “The Vocal Repertoire of the Ibaloi Kabayan” by National Artist for Music Ramon Pagayon Santos
- Launching of the second exhibition “Feasts of Merit: wealth, status and feasting in the Luzon Cordillera.”
- Launching of the third exhibition “Handwoven Tales: the Warp and Weft of Cordillera Textiles”
- Co-curated the “APUNAN Bazaar and Art Exhibit” as part of the International Conference on Southeast Asian Crafts and Folk Art organized by the University of the Philippines Baguio

d. Baguio Convention Center

The Baguio Convention Center was identified as one of the City's Creative Centers that shall hold creative performances, showcases, exhibits and the likes. The Baguio Convention Center has always been a venue for national and international conferences and festivals as well as trade fairs such as the Impakabsat Trade Expo. The Baguio Convention Center has been under renovation since last year, the improvements being made on the said center are necessary to provide a better avenue for the conduct of cultural and creative performances and exhibits.



Now the Refurbished Baguio Convention Center is nearing completion and is expected to be open to the public soon. Once done the newly refurbished Baguio Convention Center shall once again serve as a venue for various creative activities.



e. Maharlika Livelihood Complex



The Maharlika Livelihood Center, established in the late 1970's, has been the center for trade of indigenous arts and crafts such as weaving, woodcarving and silvercraft. The City Government is now planning to convert the building into a creative center to be used for the showcase of craftmaking and display of local arts and crafts.

II. Development of the Baguio Creative Circuit

A Planning Session and Workshop of the Creatives as well as a follow up Planning Session and Workshop was spearheaded by the City Government of Baguio to draft the City's strategic plan and devise future projects and activities in line with its UNESCO Creative Cities designation. The activity was attended by representatives from the Creative Sector, the Local Government Unit, Regional Line Agencies, Academe and the Private Sector.

The Development of the Baguio Creative Circuit was discussed during the Planning Session and Workshop. It was agreed by the body to first do an inventory and assessment of ongoing infrastructure projects and determine their connectivity. After which, the plan and design of the various components of the circuit shall be prepared. The development of the Baguio Creative Circuit is targeted to begin in 2020. The City Government of Baguio have already met and made preparations with the departments that will be involved in the development of the Baguio Creative Circuit.

III. Institutionalization of the Baguio Creative Arts Festival

One major commitment of the City to the UNESCO Creative Cities Network is the institutionalization of the Baguio City Creative Arts Festival that will cater not only to the local scene but will also be implemented at an international level. In line with this commitment the Baguio City Council passed ordinance number 128 series of 2018, "Institutionalizing every month of November of every year as the Baguio City Creative Arts Festival, providing funds therefore and for other purposes".

As a kick off to the first Baguio Creative Arts Festival, the City launched the Baguio Creative City Website on October 2019 to serve as an online presence for the promotion, information and resources dissemination not just for purposes of the festival but also for the pursuit of economic opportunities and aspirations of the city's culture and creative sector as part of the objectives of sustainable urban development.

a. ENTACOOOL...2018 Baguio Creative Festival (November 2018)

In accordance with Ordinance number 128 series of 2018, the First Baguio Creative Arts Festival was held last November 10 – 18, 2018. It was dubbed as the ENTACool...2018 Baguio Creative Festival, entacool being a combination of the words "Enta" derived from the Ilocano word "Entayon" meaning 'to come' and "cool" depicting the Summer Capital's chilly climate.



Activities were held in various creative venues in Baguio City such as the Dominican Heritage Hill and Nature Park, University of the Philippines Baguio Museo Kordilyera, Ili-likha Artists Village, Tam-awan Village, Malcolm Square and more. Some of the Festival's major activities were the Kulay ng Siglo Visual Arts Gallery & Exhibit, Baguio Creative Crawl

Tour, Latag Handicrafts Market and Fair, Cordillera Crafts Exhibit and the Inabe ed Bilig.

The Festival's main activity was the Kulay ng Siglo Visual Arts Gallery & Exhibit held at the Dominican Heritage Hill and Nature Park. It was a weeklong public visual arts gallery and installation exhibits display by local artists. Featured works include visual arts which consist mainly of photography, sculpture, painting and art installations.



The Cordillera Crafts and Productivity Center was utilized during the ENTACOOOL Creative Festival as it was used for the sale and display of



various products from the Cordillera Region for the Cordillera Crafts Exhibit.

Another highlight of the festival was the Baguio Creative Crawl Tour, a city wide guided tour of the different creative spaces of the City of Baguio. The Dominican Heritage Hill and Nature Park, BenCab Museum, Tam-awan Village, Victor Oteyza Community Art Space (VOCAS), Easter Weaving and Narda's Handwoven Arts and Crafts were some of the creative spaces visited by the Creative Crawl buses. This endeavour was spearheaded by the Department of Tourism CAR.



The Latag Handicrafts Market and Fair was also part of the ENTACOOOL Festival. Held at the Malcolm Square or more commonly known as the People's Park, the activity was an offering of small to medium-scale handicraft enterprises by local artisans.

Handicrafts were placed in a mat spread out on the ground, creatively crafted by the participants themselves. The mat or piece of cloth used by the participants is known locally as the "latag", hence the activity's name.



Since the activity was held at the heart of the Baguio's Central Business District, more individuals were able to see and appreciate the handicrafts displayed and sold by the City's small and medium scale enterprises. A wide variety of arts and crafts were shown during the Latag Handicrafts Market and Fair; wire arts, decorative wall hangings, pinsel art, accessories, garments and jars were just some of the many types of handicrafts flaunted during the "Latag" event.



Local weavers meet local fashion designers, featuring indigenous fabric in contemporary wear in the Cordillera Weave Fashion Show or the Inabe Ed Bilig. Local weaves and indigenous fabrics were showcased during the said fashion show. Narda's Handwoven Arts and Crafts, Easter Weaving Room and Topskill handicrafts collaborated with 3 local fashion designers to create exceptional garments using local weaves and indigenous fabrics.

Other activities held during the festival were Silver and Metal Craftsmaking, Entrepreneurial mentorship for creatives, discussions on art and creativity and various exhibits and workshops.

b. IBagiw: The Baguio Creative City Festival 2019

The second Baguio Creative City Festival dubbed as Ibagiw was held in November of 2019. Some of the major activities of the Ibagiw festival were staged at the Dominican Heritage Hill and Nature Park, just like the previous Entacool festival.



Some of the festival highlights were the Made in Baguio Competitions in Crafts and Folk Arts, Creative City Marketplace, the Murals exhibit at Session Road, Jamming on a G-string or the Cordillera Fashion Show, and various other exhibitions.



Aside from these activities the City Government of Baguio has provided support to some creative endeavours of the University of the Philippines Baguio namely the U.P. Baguio Forum on Baguio as a Creative City and U.P. Baguio International Conference on Southeast Asian Crafts and Folk Arts.

IV. Forging Memoranda of Understanding with specific member cities

A general letter of intent was handed over by representatives of Joao Pessoa to the Baguio City delegation during the 2018 Annual Conference in Poland. Then Mayor Mauricio G. Domogan signed the letter of intent last September 18, 2018 to formally establish the partnership between the City of Baguio and the City of Joao Pessoa.

V. Other Activities

Aside from the abovementioned accomplishments the City of Baguio have also been attending the UCCN Annual Meeting and Subnetwork Meetings, we have also been sending representatives to various arts and crafts related assemblies of our fellow creative cities and even non-creative cities.