

Uniting Communities with a Red Thread

Venazir, a Filipina muralist and visual anthropreneur, weaves a tapestry of narratives that delve into the complex connections between human traditions and the evolving landscapes that influence them. She intertwines the stories of diverse communities, binding them together with a symbolic **red thread**.

In her early years working as an artist in the Philippines, she established a public art initiative that transforms urban spaces into living stories, interweaving Filipino identities and narratives from around the region. Originating from Baguio City, Philippines, in 2018, **Hilabana, meaning “woven path,”** marks the motif of the red thread connecting the diverse yet cohesive identities of Filipinos. This symbolizes an unbroken lineage of cultural pride and shared history.

The central red thread in each mural signifies the unseen connections that unite individuals, families, and communities over distances, bridging the past with the present, as well as local identities with global perspectives. Through her large-scale, vivid murals, she narrates tales of migration and the continuous quest to uphold cultural roots amidst ever-evolving environments.

Hilabana gained international recognition during Filipino American History Month, with exhibitions in the United States in 2023. Venazir's solo showcase at the John Hope Franklin Center at Duke University and the Philippine Consulate General in San Francisco fostered connections with diasporic Filipino communities.

Her murals, including **Ani – Harvested Hopes** in San Francisco's South of Market District, **Pandanggo sa Ilaw** in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, **Between Memory and Bloom** in Flint, Michigan, reflect her commitment to portraying the hopes, challenges, and aspirations of migrant communities. This mural honors the dreams of various groups who have journeyed to the United States, demonstrating how public art can encapsulate individual stories within a broader, collective narrative.

In December 2024, Venazir received **The Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) award**, a distinguished national recognition for Filipinos aged 18 to 40 who have made remarkable contributions to their fields or communities. Organized by JCI Philippines with the support of the TOYM Foundation, this award celebrates inspiring examples of altruism. This honor underscores Venazir's exceptional contributions to public art and cultural heritage, establishing her as a global ambassador for Arts and culture.

In May 2025, she was awarded the inaugural **Dream Big Award** from the National Mural Awards held in Salt Lake City, Utah, sponsored by Rust-Oleum. This accolade recognizes murals that reflect community identity, promote unity, and create lasting impact, honoring her mural in San Francisco's Filipino Cultural Heritage District, SOMA Pilipinas—dedicated to preserving and celebrating Filipino heritage.

In October 2025, she received the **UP Alumni Award in Art, Culture, and Social Change** from the University of the Philippines Alumni Association in America. This award honors outstanding alumni whose creative vision and cultural leadership have significantly impacted society, celebrating those who embody the values of the University of the Philippines while uplifting communities through art, heritage, and transformative social engagement.

She embarked on a mural tour across Michigan, Pennsylvania, Louisiana, and Virginia, continuing to weave the symbolic red thread, which became a gift for connection among the communities she encountered along her journey. Recently, Venazir completed an international artist residency, where she was selected to create a mural in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for the Hemispheric Conversations Urban Art Project, a program funded by the Andy Warhol Foundation and the University of Pittsburgh.

As Hilabana continues to grow, Venazir envisions a global network of murals, each serving as a unique yet interconnected thread in a tapestry of diverse histories and identities. These murals act as maps of the human experience, linking people across cultures and time. The movement stands as a testament to the power of art in fostering dialogue on identity, migration, and resilience, inviting individuals to explore their roots and reimagine their place within a larger, interconnected world.



Muralist & Visual Anthropreneur

Venazir, a muralist and visual anthropreneur, weaves a tapestry of stories that explore the intricate relationships between human traditions and the shifting landscapes that shape them. Through her dynamic, fragmented, and animated works, she threads the narratives of diverse communities binding them together with a symbolic red thread.

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WORK-RELATED EXPERIENCES

LIVE PAINTING FOR LOGITECH POP-UP

Live Painter | Winter Walk at Union Square San Francisco, CA | December 2025
A two-day live painting activation to design and paint a 3ft x 4ft canvas for Winter Walk at Union Square in collaboration with Logitech, featuring the new MX4 Mouse

OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY ARTIST RESIDENCY

Muralist | Norfolk, Virginia | October 2025
Engaged in a series of artist talks and lectures. Designed and produced a community mural for a Old Dominion University honoring the legacies of Filipino Americans in Hampton Roads.

MARY BIRD PERKINS CLINICAL TRIALS MURAL WITH THE WALLS PROJECT

Muralist | Baton Rouge, Louisiana | September 2025
Designed and produced a community mural for a Mary Bird Perkins initiative encouraging participation in clinical trials.

HEMISPHERIC CONVERSATIONS URBAN ART PROJECT (HCUAP) VISITING ARTIST RESIDENCY

Muralist | Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania | September 2025
Funding is provided by the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, University of Pittsburgh's Global Studies Center and Nationalities Room and International Exchange Program. Housing provided by Pedantic Artist Residency.
The residency aims to create platforms for conversation and education about urban art production (graffiti, street art, and muralism, among other genres) to explore aesthetic and historical connections between post-industrial cities.

FREE CITY MURAL FESTIVAL FLINT PUBLIC ART PROGRAM

Muralist | Flint, Michigan | September 2025
Designed and produced a mural a 38.5 ft by 14ft at the Flint Stool & Chair for Free City Mural Fest.

CULTIVATE CREATIVITY MURAL PROGRAM ROTARY CLUB OF CARO

Muralist | Caro, Michigan | August 2025
Designed and produced a mural at 200 East Frank Street, Caro, Michigan.

GODWIN MERCADO MURAL LIONS & RABBITS CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Muralist | Wyoming, Michigan | August 2025
Designed and produced a 16ft by 36ft mural for Godwin Mercado with an address of 942 Barnum St SW, Wyoming, MI 49509.

ACUGLOBAL ENDEAVORS LLC

Creative Director | San Francisco, California, USA | July, 2024
Project director, lead graphic designer, and artist responsible for events and cultural initiatives, including public art and exhibitions.

LIVE PAINTING FOR RAISING CANES CHICKEN FINGERS

Live Painter | 123 Colma Blvd, Colma, California, USA | November 19, 2024
To create a live painting at the 100th Raising Cane's location in Colma, CA, celebrating the milestone with a unique artwork that captures the essence of Raising Cane's and the Bay Area, specifically highlighting Colma, Daly City, and San Francisco.

LIVE PAINTING FOR PHILDEV GALA AND AWARDS

Live Painter | Westin SFO, Millbrae, California, USA | October 12, 2024
"Luksong Baka" and "Agimat" pieces were sold in a live auction for \$10,000, with all proceeds supporting the PhilDev Foundation's mission to uplift Filipinos through Education, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship.

LIVE PAINTING FOR LOGITECH

Live Painter | Westin SFO, Millbrae, California, USA | October 12, 2024
To create a 4ft x 4ft painting for Filipino American History Month in collaboration with Logitech

DCLA NEW YORK CITY CANVAS PROGRAM

Grantee | New York City, New York, USA | July 2024
The City Canvas program, which DCLA manages in partnership with the Department of Buildings (DOB), transforms the hundreds of miles of protective structures along New York City's streets – sidewalk sheds, construction fences, and scaffolding.

SAN DIEGO FILIPINO FILM FESTIVAL

Festival Illustrator and Muralist | San Diego, California | October 2024
Fourth Annual San Diego Filipino Film Festival, showcasing the vibrant tapestry of global Filipino stories, perspectives, and artistry through art and cinema.

YUBA SUTTER ART & HEALTH MURAL MARATHON

Muralist & Grantee | Yuba City, California | April 2024
A total of five muralists designed 21-foot-by-21-foot murals on the Church Street side of the Sutter Theater Center for the Arts in Yuba City.

WALL STREET MURAL FESTIVAL II 2nd Place

Muralist | Portsmouth, Virginia, USA | MAY, 2025

NOWART LA COMMUNITY MURAL PROGRAM

Muralist | San Jose, California, USA | March, 2025
Design a mural for Walmart in San Jose, California

LINK NYC AND PHILIPPINE CONSULATE GENERAL IN NEW YORK

Grantee | New York City, New York, USA | October 2024
The Link NYC and PCG in New York celebrated Filipino American History Month through art displays across 4,000 digital screens in New York.

PHILIPPINE EMBASSY IN THE UNITED STATES

Designer | Washington, DC, USA | November 2024
Design a Greeting Card for The Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines, Washington D.C.

RENAISSANCE ENTREPRENEUR CENTER MURAL PROJECT

Muralist | Renaissance Entrepreneur Center & SOMA Pilipinas | San Francisco, California, USA
To paint a 2500sqft mural for the exterior of Renaissance's headquarters, 275 Fifth Street at Folsom, in San Francisco's Yerba Buena/South of Market, Filipino Cultural Heritage District.

SINING ESKINITA

Founder & Head Street Artist | Baguio - PH | November - December 2021

Sining Eskinita is a multi-sensorial festival celebrating Filipino's urban art movement. It is a platform of integration, communication, and talent execution for all creative disciplines in one eskinita. It serves as a pathway for creative development of local street artists, muralists, singers, musicians, dancers, theatre performers and other notable artists.

HILABANA: CONNECTING CULTURAL COMMUNITIES THROUGH A STREET ART HUNT

Founder & Head Street Artist | Philippines | 2018 -present

Hila-bana Street Art became internationally recognized since National Commission for Culture and the Arts granted the opportunity to provide mobility for the project. The red string movement became a global catalyst for engaging the locality with interconnected street art using indigenous cultural markers as a democratized learning tool to weave the community's mindset on revitalizing one's cultural identity

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES - BAGUIO I PH

Bachelor of Fine Arts | Cum Laude & Best Thesis Production | June 2018

TARLAC STATE UNIVERSITY LABORATORY HIGH SCHOOL

Math Science Section, Vice President of the Student Council 2015-2016 | Graduated Year 2016

FAIRLANE YOUNG ACHIEVER'S SCHOOL

Elementary School, Graduated Year 2010

AFFILIATIONS

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION IN SAN FRANCISCO(UPAASF)

Board Member | Public Relations Officer 2024 | San Francisco, California

23 SAMPAGUITA ARTIST COLLECTIVE

Founding Member | 2020 - 2023 | Baguio- PH

FILIPINA WOMEN'S NETWORK

Affiliate Member | 2022 - Present | San Francisco, California

UNESCO CREATIVE BAGUIO CITY COUNCIL

Visual Arts Sectoral Representative | 2021 - 2023

Functions as an executive member with regards to the overall planning of the locality's annual Ibagiw festival which gives homage to local artists, artisans, and crafters who are the main reason why the city received its designation as Creative City for Crafts and Folk Arts from UNESCO. Activities and events will center around the creatives and their creations.

HONOR SOCIETY OF PHI KAPPA PHI

Member | Philippine Chapter | June 2019

AWARDS | GRANTS | NOMINATIONS

UPAAA OUTSTANDING UP ALUMNI AWARD | OCTOBER 2025

The UP Alumni Award in Art, Culture, and Social Change honors outstanding alumni whose creative vision and cultural leadership have made a significant impact on society. This recognition celebrates individuals who embody the values of the University of the Philippines while uplifting communities through art, heritage, and transformative social engagement.

THE DREAM BIG AWARD | May 2025

Presented by the board of the National Mural Awards and sponsored by Rust-Oleum Paints. This prestigious accolade recognizes individual artists who excel in public art, using murals to transform communities and rejuvenate neighborhoods across the US.

THE OUTSTANDING YOUNG MEN (TOYM) - ARTS & CULTURE 2024

Prestigious annual national recognition given to Filipinos aged 18 to 40 who have made significant contributions to their field or community. Organized by JCI Philippines with the support of the TOYM Foundation, the award highlights inspiring examples of selfless service to humanity.

NCCA COMPETITIVE GRANTS

Visual Arts Sector Grantee | Manila, Philippines | 2020

DON PAPA RUM ART COMPETITION

Finalist | Art Fair Philippines | 2019

WANDERLAND ARTIST

Grand prize winner | Wanderland Music and Arts Festival | 2019

DARNAY DEMETILLO ARTIST AWARD

Grand Prize Winner | University of the Philippines | 2018

TEACHING AND LEADERSHIP ENGAGEMENTS

DRAW & SIP FIGURE DRAWING LESSONS

Guest Instructor | In collaboration with the Lotus Project San Francisco Community Health Center and UCSF Alliance Health Project | November 2024

UPAASF 11TH FILIPINO CULTURAL IMMERSION SUMMER CAMP

Camp Director | St. Raymond's Church 11557 Shannon Ave., Dublin, CA 94568 | July 22 -26 2024

UPAASF SPEAKER SERIES: SIP & PAINT WITH VENAZIR

Art Teacher | Kalayaan Hall, Philippine Center, 447 Sutter Street, San Francisco | January 26, 2024

CREATED TOGETHER

Grantee | A National Assembly for Artists Working With Communities | Mural Arts Philadelphia | Philadelphia, Pennsylvania | October 2023

SIP N' PAINT

Art Teacher | Sentro Filipino: The San Francisco Filipino Cultural Center | August 2023

LIFEMOVES

Art Teacher for Filipino American History Month | 2550 Great America Way, Santa Clara, CA 95054 | October 2023

RISE VR

Guide | Metaverse Tutoring with Tom Nickel | San Francisco, California | August, 2023

SANG-AT BUGUIAS: BENGUET YOUTH AS CULTURAL BEARERS

Keynote Speaker | Buguias, Benguet, CAR, Philippines | June 2023

AUSTRALIA ALUMNI NETWORK SUMMIT

Keynote Speaker | REGENERATION in PRACTICE | Richmond Hotel, Iloilo City | May 2023

YOUTH INNOVATION CHALLENGE 2023

Speaker | Innovation for Sustainable Development | Virtual Conference | 2023

AFRICA VR CAMPUS AND CENTER

Mentor 6 African Women about the possibilities of VR as an instrument to share their truth with the world | Virtual Mentoring | April 2023

ART IN THE STREETS WEBINAR

Speaker | "Art In The Streets: The Hows & Knows of Filipino Muralists" | iAcademy | 2023

UNIVERSITY SCHOLAR'S CONVOCATION

Speaker | University of the Philippines Baguio | 2023

ART MADE PUBLIC: THE COLOR OF CHANGE

Speaker | In collaboration with Metrobank Foundation & BAYO Foundation | Harvest Community Hub- Baguio City | 2023

CUPAGWAY: SI ISKA AT ANG MALIKHAING SIYUDAD

Plenary Speaker | UP Baguio | Baguio, Philippines | 2022

TEDX TALK | LUCENA CITY @YOUTH

Inspirational Speaker | HOW STREET ART CONNECTS COMMUNITIES THROUGH A SINGULAR RED THREAD | 2022

TEDX TALK | DE LASALLE @YOUTH

Inspirational Speaker | NAVIGATING VERICITY | 2022

REDLINE CONTEMPORARY ART 48 HOURS SUMMIT

Presenter | Online | Denver, Colorado | 2021

PHILIPPINE MILITARY ACADEMY

Art Instructor | Baguio City - Philippines | October 2021

SOLO SHOWS

HILABANA: ESPASYO TEMPORAL II

International Solo Exhibition | Kalayaan Hall, Philippine Center, 447 Sutter Street, San Francisco, USA

HILABANA: ESPASYO TEMPORAL

International Solo Exhibition | John Hope Franklin Center Main Gallery, Duke University, North Carolina, USA October 6, 2023

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

ROAD TO ARTELFEST

Winter Edition of the Road to Artelfest Series
Williamsburg at 119 North 1st Street, New York, New York.
December 22, 2023

SIGAW_____(ECHO)

Collaborative Performance Art with Dr. Anna B. Gatdula |
Pearson Hall, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North
Carolina | October 2023

FESTIVE FIESTA

A Holiday Pop Up Exhibition | FOBBS NYC x Project Barkada
Bushwick Generator, Brooklyn, New York | 2022

HEALING ARTS FOUNDATION

Healing Arts Benefit Weekend | Los Angeles, California | 2022

ALIMUOM CONTEMPORARY ART EXHIBIT

Ibagiw Creative Festival | Baguio, Philippines | 2021

INTERLINKED CONTEMPORARY ART EXHIBIT

Ibagiw Creative Festival | Baguio, Philippines | 2020

SUNLIFE BEYOND LIFETIMES

125th Celebration Exhibit | Sun Life Financial Ph | BGC | 2020

ART FAIR PHILIPPINES

Don Papa Rum Finalist Exhibition | The Link Carpark, Greenbelt,
Makati - Ph | 2019

MANIAM PUKAQUE 2

Museo de Tarlac | Tarlac City | 2018

MULTIMEDIA RELEASES | ARTICLES

VENAZIR MARTINEZ, BAGUIO CITY'S 'ANTHROPRENEUR'

WRITTEN BY EMMA RIVA, UP MAG - STREET ART MAGAZINE
New York, New York, United States | Released February 2023
<https://upmag.com/venazir-martinez/>

PIONEERING STREET ART IN THE PHILIPPINES WITH VENAZIR MARTINEZ

BY STEPHANIE O'BRIEN, ON SPLATRS.COM

Australia - Philippines | Released Dec 5, 2020
<https://medium.com/splatrs/pioneering-street-art-in-the-philippines-with-venazir-martinez-a2146829a31b>

VENAZIR'S PEOPLE & PLACES

LOOKING CAREFULLY AT STREET ART IN VR

BY TOM NICKEL, ON MEDIUM

San Francisco, California, US | Released Dec 5, 2022
<https://tomnickel.medium.com/venazirs-people-places-e6ab8f6eafd1>

CORDILLERA FACES ON BAGUIO WALLS

BY: VALERIE DAMIAN - @INQUIRERDOTNET

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER / 05:54 AM MARCH 31, 2019

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1101552/cordillera-faces-on-baguio-walls>

SUNSTAR YOUNG BLOOD

BRENDA LEE VILLANUEVA | FABULOUS PEOPLE | FEBRUARY 21, 2020

<https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1845403/baguio/lifestyle/villanueva-young-blood>

THESE MURALS PROVE THAT BAGUIO IS INDEED A CITY FOR CREATIVE PEOPLE

MELO VILLAREAL | FEBRUARY 8, 2019

<https://outoftownblog.com/these-murals-prove-that-baguio-is-indeed-a-city-for-creative-people/>

TUP COED TURNS BAGUIO STREET WALLS INTO COLORFUL MURALS

BUSINESSMIRROR | MARCH 18, 2019

<https://outoftownblog.com/these-murals-prove-that-baguio-is-indeed-a-city-for-creative-people/>

STREET ART IN THE PHILIPPINES: 10 SPOTS THAT TELL STORIES AND EXPRESSIONS

TRIPZILLA.PH | JUNE 10, 2022

<https://www.tripzilla.ph/street-art-in-the-philippines/35932/>

HILA-BANA STREET ART

AWESOME WITHOUT BORDERS | SEPTEMBER 28 2020

<https://awesomewithoutborders.org/grant/hila-bana-street-art/>

SOMA'S FILIPINO-AMERICAN COMMUNITY IS TRANSFORMING THE 'HOOD INTO AN URBAN ART GALLERY.

WRITTEN BY SOSHI PARKS

San Francisco California | USA | Released October 2024

<https://www.7x7.com/soma-pilipinas-street-art-transformation-2669327727.html>

A MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT FORD MORTHEL: FILIPINO/X AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

BERKELEYSCHOOLS.NET

Australia - Philippines | Released Dec 5, 2020

<https://www.berkeleyschools.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Family-Guide-for-Filipino-American-History-Month-BUSD-22-23.pdf>

PHILIPPINE STREET ART SCENE

STREETARTNEWS.NET

Released August 31, 2021

<https://streetartnews.net/2021/08/philippine-street-art-scene.html>

ON TURNING THE OTHER WALL

BAGUIO CHRONICLE

Released October 27, 2020

<https://thebaguiochronicle.com/opinion/editorial/on-turning-the-other-wall/>

**IN MANHATTAN, A MAKESHIFT FOREST IS HAUNTED
BY THE GHOSTS OF IMPERIALISM**

HYPERALLERGIC

Released June 20, 2021

<https://hyperallergic.com/657065/manhattan-makeshift-forest-haunted-by-ghosts-of-imperialism/>

**IN SCORCHING NEVADA DESERT, PINOY ARTISTS
SLAYED LIKE THE WIND**

IRIS GONZALES

Released September 23 2022

<https://propertyreport.ph/tourism/2022/09/23/27268/in-scorching-nevada-desert-pinoy-artists-slayed-like-the-wind/>

CULTURAL IDENTITY IN BAGUIO MURAL

ELIZABETH LOLARGA

Released December 6, 2020

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1368467/cultural-identity-in-baguiο-mural>

MAKING BAGUIO A CREATIVE CITY

VINCENT CABREZA

Released December 8, 2019

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1199197/making-baguiο-a-creative-city>

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Released December 8, 2019

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