

For The Young, By The Young

adobo picks four fellows from British Council and DTI-Design Center of the Philippines' Creative Innovators Programme.

One trouble that plagues creatives is the lack of networks. Be it reluctance to self-promote or simply not knowing the right people, artists and designers are more likely to focus on honing their talent if they did not have to worry about places of convergence.

"You know when you're talking about an artist outside Manila looking for opportunities, the network would really be quite limited so being able to provide a platform that would enable artists and creative entrepreneurs to build networks is quite precious,"

said Malaya Del Rosario, Head of Arts and Creative Industries at British Council in the Philippines during the Arangkada Fora at Fairmont Makati on November 26.

Despite the density of galleries and museums in Manila, the need of creative incubation outside the Metro has been on the back of the minds of creative enthusiasts. In 2018, with the British Council and DTI-Design Center of the Philippines, four fellows from different cities found the support they need to sustain and grow their creative hubs.

ASPACE • Cebu City

ASPACE founder Matthew Morrison thinks of hubs as signals to gather creatives together. He said, "You don't have to import everything in and that's given a whole generation of entrepreneurs now confidence to build on their ideas, attract other people to support them and that's given us a flourishing market here."

True to his statement, Morrison entrusted Cebu's ASPACE branch to a young entrepreneur: **Regil Kent Cadavos**. As the Community Engagement Lead, Cadavos working towards making ASPACE the go-to hub for creative, innovative, forward-thinking, go-getter locals who aim to make an impact in the city and help elevate the local scene.



Photo by The Backbone Company



Regil Kent Cadavos
Community Engagement Lead,
ASPACE Cebu City

Karaw Craftventures • Naga City

From a simple school project, Karaw Craftventures grew into a social enterprise targeted at uplifting the marginalized sectors. The primary community of the hub are inmates of the Naga City Jail—they are enabled to practice craft by upcycling scrap textiles into plush toys, key chains, and shoes.

Artist and social entrepreneur **Paul Orpiada** founded Karaw Craftventures out of conversations he had with the inmates during an outreach in college. Currently, he wants to be more adept in managing a creative hub that constantly introduces human-centered product designs that can effectively cater the ever-changing needs of the market.



Photo by Paul Andrew Orpiada



Paul Andrew Orpiada
Founder, Karaw Craftventures
Naga City

Artisanal Heritage Studies and Creative Enterprise Center

• Davao City

The Artisanal Heritage Studies and Creative Enterprise Center (AHSCEC) aims to open new dialogues and fresh entrepreneurial platform for established and up and coming artists, artisan crafters and designers to converge and converse.

As the Project Leader whose passion includes multidisciplinary design education, **Emi Englis** would like his hub to become a venue for culture-based design ideation and business incubation, moving up from a school-based to a community-wired creative entrepreneurship hub.



Photo by Emi Englis



Emi Englis
Project Leader, Artisanal Heritage
Studies and Creative Enterprise Center
Davao City

ANTHILL Fabric Gallery

• Cebu City

ANTHILL is an abbreviation of Alternative Nest and Trading/ Training Hub for Ingenious/ Indigenous Little Livelihood Seekers. They promote social and cultural enterprise to preserve local weaves through contemporary and zero waste design for sustainable livelihood.

Formerly Anthill's Creative Operations Officer, Cherame Lopez wants to set up and formalise a PRD (Product Research & Design) Center where continuous innovation and creativity flourish along with designers, thinkers and artisans.



Photo by ANTHILL Fabric Gallery



Cherame Lopez
Former Creative Operations Officer / Designer,
ANTHILL Fabric Gallery
Cebu City

As opposed to the traditional business model where growth is measured solely by financial success, creative hubs are unique in their ability to tolerate and embrace making mistakes.

“When we talk about business, it’s all about success and I think hubs are places where you can fail. These are places where you can experiment, prototype and refine your ideas and products, so they are really incubators,” added British Council’s Malaya del Rosario. ●