

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 17, 2007

CONTACT:

Chelsea Sullivan, Administrative Officer
415-777-1130 or mhf@manilatown.org

**MANILATOWN HERITAGE FOUNDATION
APPOINTS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

SAN FRANCISCO, CA – The Manilatown Heritage Foundation proudly announces its new Executive Director Mr. Ron Muriera. Manilatown is a nonprofit organization that was formed to preserve the heritage and legacy of the International Hotel housing struggle on Kearny Street. Its mission is dedicated to preserving and fostering the rich cultural and artistic traditions of San Francisco's Filipino American community.

Mr. Muriera brings a repertoire of talent to his new job: educator, a performing artist, a community activist, and advocate for children, youth development and empowerment, media relations, governmental legislation, community collaboration and the performing arts.

Mr. Muriera was the former Executive Director of Vision New America, Inc. a San Jose based nonprofit organization focused on promoting civic engagement and leadership development among young people. Previous to that, he was a director of the pre-college federal TRIO Program called Upward Bound with the San Francisco Japanese Community Youth Council/AACE.

Over 15 years of integrated experience and knowledge of community non-profit service spanning the Bay Area, California and nation-wide where he attained a reputation highly regarded among his peers in the Filipino, Asian Pacific Islander and youth communities.

“Ron Muriera possesses extraordinary credentials suited for the Manilatown Heritage Foundation’s vision in the 21st century. We are confident under his leadership the programs and services will expand and flourish as we chart our direction in the Filipino American community,” said Emil De Guzman, President of Manilatown Heritage Foundation.

About Manilatown Heritage Foundation

The Manilatown Heritage Foundation (MHF) is a nonprofit organization founded in 1996 by former tenants evicted from San Francisco’s International Hotel in 1977 and community supporters who fought with them. Since 1994, they have collaborated with the leadership of the International Hotel Citizens Advisory Committee, the Kearny Street Housing Corporation in partnership with the Chinatown Community Development Center, the Mayor’s Office of Housing, the San Francisco Archdiocese to develop the land of the former I-Hotel to build the new International Hotel on Kearny Street.

###