

## Introducing...The new faces of Folklorama!

**WINNIPEG, MB – January 28th, 2022** – Today Folklorama revealed the 2022 Ambassadors' General - the faces of Folklorama for 2022. The Youth Ambassadors' General representatives are Sudan Parke (Pearl of the Orient Philippine Pavilion) and Nicolas Tamayo (Pearl of the Orient Philippine Pavilion). The 2022 Adult Ambassadors' General are Sarahdelle Galera (Pearl of the Orient Philippine Pavilion) and Karman Sidhu (Punjab Pavilion). The program is presented by Cambrian Credit Union.

"The Ambassador General Program embodies Folklorama's mission of celebrating diversity and promoting cultural understanding", states Teresa Cotroneo, Executive Director, Folklorama. "The program provides networking opportunities, work experience and instills a sense of pride in celebrating heritage and a respect for other cultures."

"Cambrian has been a proud supporter of Folklorama for over 20 years", states Jennifer MacKenzie, Senior Associate, Communications & Community Engagement, Cambrian Credit Union. "Once again, we are proud to come on as the Presenting Sponsor of the Ambassadors' General Program. We are dedicated to making our communities more vibrant, enjoyable places to live, and by supporting, celebrating and promoting Manitoba's cultural diversity, we can do just that. Congratulations, to the new Ambassadors' General! We wish you all the best as you represent Folklorama throughout this New Year."

For the next eight months, these Ambassadors will represent Folklorama at numerous events across Manitoba and internationally, as they volunteer throughout the community educating about the importance of celebrating cultural diversity.

The competition to become an Ambassador General was held in two parts. The first portion was a Zoom interview with intensive questions from a selection committee of Folklorama

peers and community members. Only six finalists moved to the second round (three adults and three youth). The second part was a speech presentation streamed live on YouTube in December. Click to view the final [adult](#) and [youth](#) competitions.

## Meet the Ambassadors' General

### **Sudan Parke – 2022 Youth Ambassador General**

**Bio:** Sudan is a 17-year-old high school student of both Filipino and Jamaican descent who is currently in her graduating year at Gordon Bell High School. Sudan has an intense love of dance, and since the young age of 7 has performed at Folklorama's Pearl of the Orient Philippines Pavilion. Sudan also shares her passion for dance by mentoring and teaching new and younger dancers at her school. After graduation, Sudan plans to pursue higher education in the field of Computer Science, with hopes of joining the tech scene and becoming a software engineer.

**Quote:** "After all this being isolated from the world, we realized we took things for granted. One of them being seeing people. Knowing Folklorama is finally coming back, makes me so happy. To watch a performance live and see the performers right in front of you, to have the smell of food freshly cooked– I know these things aren't much, but after all this time isolated from the world – it's the little things that matter."

### **Nicholas Tamayo – 2022 Youth Ambassador General**

**Bio:**

Nicolas is a first-year student at the University of Manitoba who is currently studying to apply for the Asper School of Business. His involvement with Folklorama and the Pearl of the Orient Philippines Pavilion began even before he was born, as his mother was a dancer for Magdaragat Philippines Inc. while he was still in her belly! Volunteering with Folklorama has helped Nicolas gain a deep appreciation of Filipino culture, and he firmly believes in the preservation of cultures around the world.

**Quote:** "I'm looking forward to going to Pavilions, trying all the food, meeting people, and the V.I.P. treatment. I look forward to meeting people from different backgrounds, joining youth council, and volunteering in the community with Team Folklorama."

### **Sarahdelle Galera – 2022 Adult Ambassador General**

**Bio:** Born in the Philippines, Sarahdelle immigrated to Canada at the age of 11. Through hard work and determination, Sarahdelle earned an undergraduate degree in Statistics with a double-minor in Mathematics and Computer Science from the University of Manitoba. The entire Galera Family has been active members of the Pearl of the Orient Philippines Pavilion since 2014 through performing and coordinating. Sarahdelle is passionate about inspiring other women of colour to find their own path into leadership.

**Quote:** "We have missed Folklorama and it gives our family such a connection to our heritage. We need to have Folklorama happen again to create that community of diversity inclusion so that we can embrace empathy."

### **Karman Sidhu – 2022 Adult Ambassador General**

**Bio:** Karman is an Accounting and Marketing student at the University of Manitoba. After moving to Canada at the age of 6, Karman's parents knew that it was important for him to connect to his culture and language. He began taking part in Bhangra (traditional Punjabi folk dancing), and eventually became a performer at the India Pavilion and Punjab Pavilion. In 2014, Karman became the Youth Male Ambassador for the Punjab Pavilion, and you may have even seen him acting as Emcee for their shows.

**Quote:** "Covid has impacted our communities throughout the Folklorama family. Without the Festival, they are unable to meet their budgets. I'm so excited about this opportunity."

The Ambassador General program started in 1990 with Aidan O'Brien and Sandra Brown achieving the titles. The Youth Ambassador General program commenced the following year with Jason Epp and Elaine Halabus accepting the honour.

Planning is underway for the Folklorama in-person Festival July 31<sup>st</sup>-August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Stay tuned to the social media channels @Folklorama for more details to come.

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Folklorama began in 1970 as a one-time celebration of Manitoba's centennial but has since grown to be the largest and longest-running multicultural festival of its kind in the world. Developing out of the success of the Festival, the organization offers year-round programs: Folklorama at Home, Folklorama at Work, Folklorama at School, Folklorama at Play. All the programs bring to life Folklorama's mission of celebrating diversity and promoting cultural understanding. Learn more at [Folklorama.ca](http://Folklorama.ca).

Folklorama gratefully acknowledges that we create, connect, and celebrate on Treaty One territory – original land of the Anishinaabe, Cree, Ojibway, Dene, Dakota peoples, and homeland of the Métis nation. We are committed to building relationships and sharing knowledge, and cultural understanding of all communities. Understanding our diversity fosters pride and mutual respect.

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