

**DAK/LA** ▲ACTIVE ▼VISTA▲

# HEROES HUB YOUTH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM 2026





# CALL FOR YOUNG HEROES

The **Heroes Hub Youth Fellowship Program** seeks to cultivate young voices, storytellers, artists, educators, and movement leaders who value creativity, imagination, and innovation in the advocacy for human rights, freedom, democracy, and rights-based governance.

Heroes Hub is looking for brave spirits and open minds who seek to activate their curiosity and idealism to reinvigorate the youth movement toward genuine social transformation.

Heroes Hub is a platform for youth from diverse backgrounds to learn from one another, work together, and engage in the meaningful transformation of their communities and the country. The program shall provide dynamic, open, and safe structured spaces and access to resources and networks for 30 young people to build their capacity and drive for change-making through a **FREE** series of empowering training, mentoring, and solidarity-building sessions.

The selected youth participants shall work with DAKILA and Active Vista's extensive network of youth, artists, advocates, and partners to reimagine the youth movement toward a vision of the Philippines that the youth want, deserve, and will fight for together.

More than just a program, Heroes Hub facilitates the lifelong learning of #LahingDAKILA as a way of life, embracing one's innate heroism, and developing the individual's capacity to make change and involvement in the wider social movement.

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Heroes Hub Program is a youth leadership empowerment and advocacy development program that aims to empower Filipino youth to be agents of social change. The Heroes Hub offers a transformative learning process through the pursuit of knowledge, skills, values, and practices to form the youth's critical thinking, progressive ideas, and creative innovations, which are fuel for their development as citizens and their participation in nation-building.

The Heroes Hub facilitates a learning process where youth are given opportunities to connect, collaborate, and create with their fellow youth. It provides spaces for immersion, discourse, expression, and innovation, and avenues for developing and nurturing ideas into action.



## PROGRAM GOALS

1. Build the capacity and commitment of young leaders to appreciate, defend, and advocate for human rights and democracy toward genuine social development.
2. Empower decentralized yet unified hubs of youth leaders in different regions that will serve as spaces for them to collectively advocate for change in their own communities.
3. Sustain the formation journey by providing avenues, access to resources, and networks for the fellows to continue to engage in activism work.

## PROGRAM DESIGN

The Heroes Hub Youth Fellowship Program is designed to take youth participants on a heroic journey of their own self-transformation toward their empowerment as active agents of social change. Through different batches of learning sessions designed to build the capacity of selected fellows in leadership and advocacy work, participants will deepen their understanding of youth movement-building grounded in human-centered concepts of heroism, human rights, and democratic governance. Guided and mentored by experts from various fields, the fellowship will be decentralized through **DAKILA's collective regional hubs**, ensuring that the advocacy is rooted in local contexts. It shall organize a training series of learning and co-creation sessions across seven (7) key cities nationwide: **Iloilo, Bacolod, Cagayan de Oro, Laguna, Cebu, Metro Manila, and Dumaguete.**

## TRAINING COURSES

### COURSE 1: BAYANI BAYANIHAN BAYAN

The course introduces the concept of modern heroism as an orientational framework for leadership empowerment and advocacy development among youth. The session starts by delving into the uniquely Filipino idea of the **Bayani**, the culture of **Bayanihan** as it relates to our daily experiences and craft, and the **Bayan** in deepening our understanding of social realities through community dialogue.

### COURSE 2: KARAPATAN KALAYAAN KAGINHAWAAN

This course presents the basis of human rights and its relation to the Filipino notion of Kalayaan. In this session, participants will have an overview of the principles and categories of human rights, as well as the indigenous karapatan definition based on a kapwa-oriented philosophy. The session will center on karapatan's connection to dapat and carampatan, which underpins genuine freedom that encompasses the respect for and enjoyment of human rights by oneself and their kapwa. The course will also feature an inquiry on the Timawa and the pre-colonial era, and the Kartilya ng Katipunan's definition of kalayaan, which is based on solidarity, morality, and well-being. Moreover, the course explores societal issues that hinder our freedom from becoming a reality.



### COURSE 3: KILUSAN NG KULTURA NG KABAYANIHAN

This course engages fellows in a dialogue with local activists, artists, educators, and cultural workers to explore **how culture functions as a space of power, creativity, and social transformation**. Through real-life stories and shared experiences, fellows deepen their understanding of how cultural work shapes communities and advances justice. The session fosters reflective exchange and a renewed sense of responsibility to participate in collaborative and community-rooted changemaking.

### COURSE 4: NARRATIVE CHANGEMAKING

Harnessing the power of stories, the course introduces the participants to the Narrative Change approach to social change. Through a workshop designed to create narrative power, the course integrates narrative change practice with other change-making strategies and approaches, and their applications to movement-building work, such as organizing, campaigning, education, and communications. The workshop aims to identify dominant harmful narratives and determine opportunities for interventions that can shift them into desired narratives, while also growing and nourishing the narrative power of change-makers

## SESSION SCHEDULE

SCHEDULE	AREA
April 24-26, 2026	Iloilo
May 8-10, 2026	Bacolod
May 29-31, 2026	Laguna
May 29-31, 2026	Cagayan De Oro
June 5-7, 2026	Cebu
June 12-14, 2026	Metro Manila
June 19-21, 2026	Dumaguete



# ELIGIBILITY AND QUALIFICATIONS

The Heroes Hub Youth Fellowship Program (HHYFP) provides an opportunity for 30 youth leaders from diverse backgrounds in each area to learn from one another, lead local social movements, and later make a meaningful impact on their communities, the country, and society.

- Youth ages 18-35 years old.
- An applicant must be able to participate in the full duration of the program - 3-day live-in learning sessions and immersion in their own local communities.
- An applicant must be based in the areas mentioned above or nearby provinces and/or cities. An applicant must also understand that all transportation expenses should be shouldered by them.
- An applicant must have active engagement or leadership experience in their schools, communities, or among peers (a formal leadership position is not a requirement).
- An applicant values human rights and democracy, demonstrates interest in social issues, and engages fellow youth in rights-based democratic governance.
- An applicant must demonstrate a commitment to engaging their fellow youth in schools and communities, and at the local and national levels, to build a strong citizens' democratic movement towards social transformation.
- An applicant must possess strong collective leadership skills and be able to work with diverse groups of people, contributing their creativity, ideas, and voice.
- **BONUS, but not a requirement:** Applicants must be directly affected by, or have significant direct personal experience of the challenges, policies, and practices of human rights engagement, and are strongly encouraged to apply, especially but not limited to:
  - ▶ Freedom of expression
  - ▶ Good governance & civic participation
  - ▶ Voter education & voters' rights
  - ▶ Labor rights
  - ▶ Digital rights/internet freedom
  - ▶ Climate justice & environmental rights
  - ▶ Right to education/students' rights & welfare
  - ▶ Equity, diversity & inclusion of SOGIE, women, PWDs, IPs, minorities, etc.
  - ▶ Transport & commuter rights
  - ▶ Mental health



# APPLICATION PROCESS

The Heroes Hub Youth Fellows shall be selected through the following process:

## **Heroes Hub - Iloilo**

April 9, 2026

April 9-16, 2026

April 17, 2026

Call for Applications

Participants Screening

Interviews *(depending on the number of applications)*

Announcement of Accepted Fellows

## **Heroes Hub - Bacolod**

April 13, 2026

April 13-22, 2026

April 24, 2026

Call for Applications

Participants Screening

Interviews *(depending on the number of applications)*

Announcement of Accepted Fellows

## **Heroes Hub - Cagayan De Oro**

April 27, 2026

April 27- May 18, 2026

May 18, 2026

Call for Applications

Participants Screening

Interviews *(depending on the number of applications)*

Announcement of Accepted Fellows

## **Heroes Hub - Laguna**

May 4, 2026

May 4-13, 2026

May 15, 2026

Call for Applications

Participants Screening

Interviews *(depending on the number of applications)*

Announcement of Accepted Fellows

## **Heroes Hub - Cebu**

May 11, 2026

May 11-20, 2026

May 22, 2026

Call for Applications

Participants Screening

Interviews *(depending on the number of applications)*

Announcement of Accepted Fellows

## **Heroes Hub - Metro Manila-Rizal**

May 18, 2026

May 18-27, 2026

May 29, 2026

Call for Applications

Participants Screening

Interviews *(depending on the number of applications)*

Announcement of Accepted Fellows

## **Heroes Hub - Dumaguete**

May 25, 2026

May 25-June 3, 2026

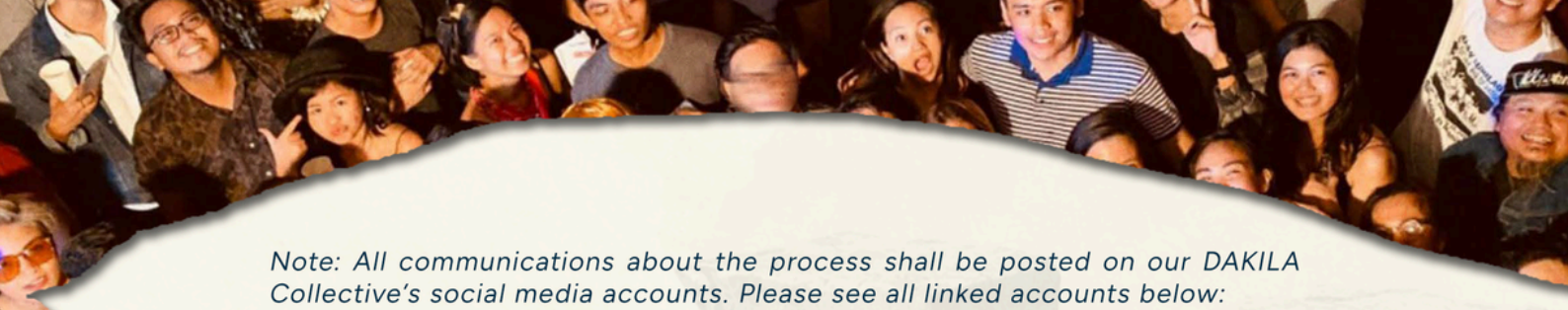
June 5, 2026

Call for Applications

Participants Screening

Interviews *(depending on the number of applications)*

Announcement of Accepted Fellows



*Note: All communications about the process shall be posted on our DAKILA Collective's social media accounts. Please see all linked accounts below:*

[DAKILA](#)

[DAKILA Iloilo](#)

[DAKILA Cebu](#)

[DAKILA Bacolod](#)

[DAKILA Metro Manila-Rizal](#)

[Active Vista](#)

[DAKILA Cagayan De Oro](#)

[DAKILA Dumaguete](#)

[DAKILA San Pablo](#)

[DAKILA Los Baños](#)

## ABOUT THE ORGANIZERS



**DAKILA**

[www.dakila.org.ph](http://www.dakila.org.ph)

DAKILA - Philippine Collective for Modern Heroism is an organization creatively building a movement of heroism towards social transformation. DAKILA cultivates one's innate heroism, organizes communities of heroes, and creatively fosters social involvement by building one's capacity to effect change, influencing individuals and groups to join the movement for change, and taking on advocacies and social concerns to drive strategic actions that deliver real change.

DAKILA was founded in 2005 by multi-awarded writer Lourd de Veyra, musician Noel Cabangon, actor Ronnie Lazaro, Parokya ni Edgar bassist Buhawi Meneses, and the late comedian Tado Jimenez.

**▲ACTIVE ▼VISTA▲**

[www.activevista.ph](http://www.activevista.ph)

Active Vista is an institution established by DAKILA to support its mission of building the movement of heroism toward social transformation. Active Vista facilitates the learning process of empowering citizens to become agents of social change. It uses the arts, media, and popular culture to advance human rights education by providing platforms for citizen engagement. It organizes the annual Active Vista International Human Rights Film Festival.