



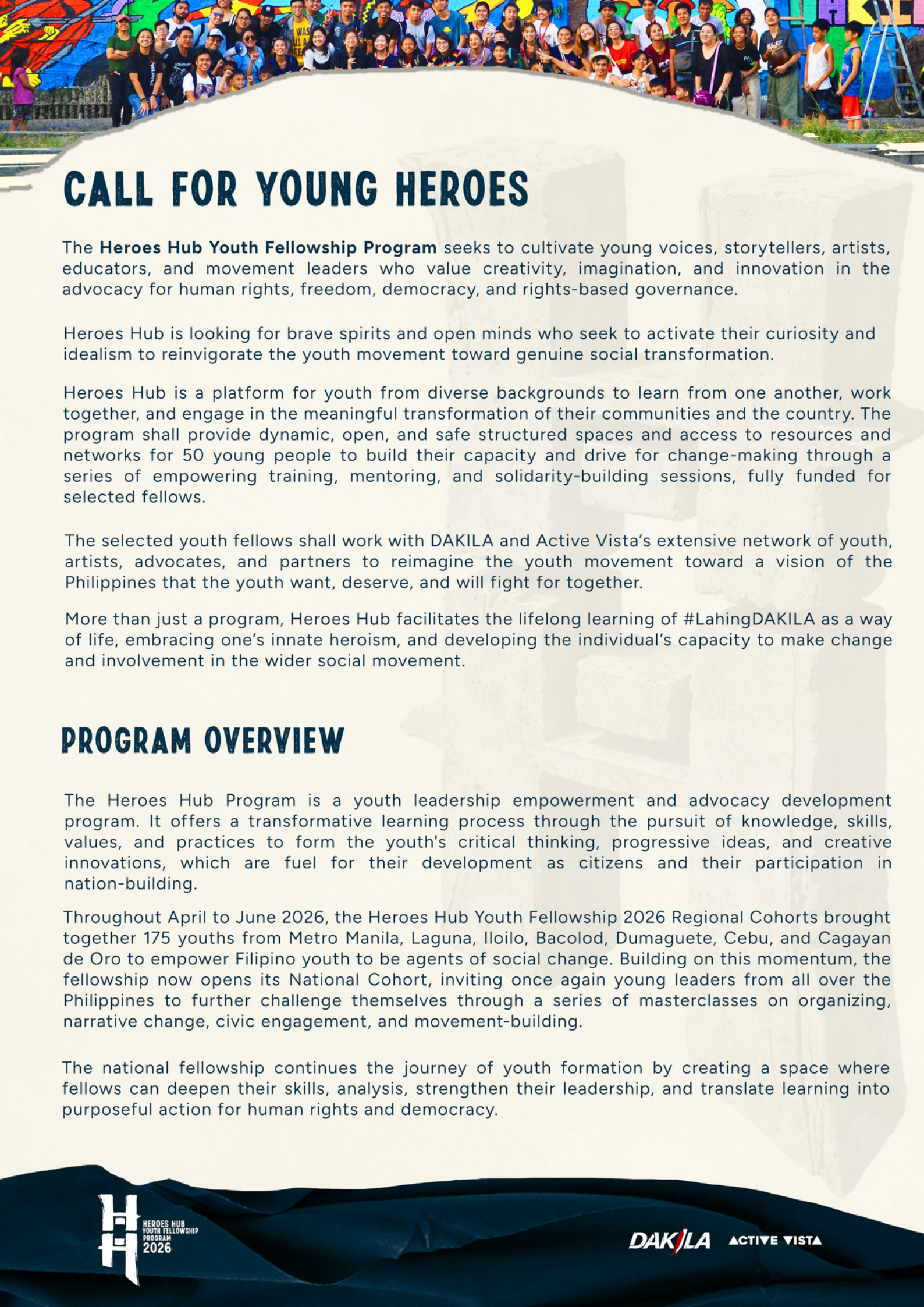
DAKILA ▲ ACTIVE VISTA ▲

HEROES HUB

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM 2026

APPLICATION INFORMATION





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 50 young people to build their capacity and drive for change-making through a series of empowering training, mentoring, and solidarity-building sessions, fully funded for selected fellows.

The selected youth fellows 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. It 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.

Throughout April to June 2026, the Heroes Hub Youth Fellowship 2026 Regional Cohorts brought together 175 youths from Metro Manila, Laguna, Iloilo, Bacolod, Dumaguete, Cebu, and Cagayan de Oro to empower Filipino youth to be agents of social change. Building on this momentum, the fellowship now opens its National Cohort, inviting once again young leaders from all over the Philippines to further challenge themselves through a series of masterclasses on organizing, narrative change, civic engagement, and movement-building.

The national fellowship continues the journey of youth formation by creating a space where fellows can deepen their skills, analysis, strengthen their leadership, and translate learning into purposeful action for human rights and democracy.



PROGRAM GOALS

OBJECTIVE 1:

Strengthen the capacity of core youth - students, young educators, professionals, and creatives to lead advocacies and serve as a formidable force to mobilize broad-based citizen engagement in their local communities towards the promotion and protection of democracy and human rights in the Philippines.

OBJECTIVE 2:

Engage youth communities in contributing to narratives that uphold resilient human rights and democratic values by intensifying civic education initiatives, amplifying the voices of authentic grassroots community narrators, and popularizing human rights and democratic governance issues.

PROGRAM DESIGN

The National Heroes Hub Youth Fellowship Program is designed as the second stage of the Heroes Hub leadership formation pathway.

Building on the Regional Fellowship's emphasis on foundational leadership, human rights education, narrative change, and community engagement, the National Fellowship transitions participants toward strategic movement leadership. It is intended for emerging core youth leaders, educators, professionals, students, and creatives from key regions who are ready to deepen their practice, expand their perspective from local to national contexts, and strengthen their ability to organize people, campaigns, and communities.

The program will convene **50 youth participants** from all over the Philippines for a 3-day comprehensive training organized around three developmental stages:

- **Grounding and Political Analysis** – reflecting on local experiences while examining national realities, systems of power, and opportunities for democratic transformation.
- **Leadership Approaches, Strategies, and Skills** – strengthening fellows' capacities in organizing, campaigning, narrative strategy, civic engagement, and collaborative leadership.
- **Collective Strategy and Action** – translating learning into strategic plans that connect local initiatives with broader movement-building efforts and sustained collaboration among fellows.

The participants will undergo a multidisciplinary approach to social consciousness formation guided by mentors and local experts. Following learning sessions and co-creating workshops, the cohort will gain skills to apply a multi-pronged strategy to their advocacy and organizing work.



TRAINING COURSES

SESSION 1: A JOURNEY TOWARD BECOMING AGENTS OF CHANGE

How can we build the capacity of our fellow youth to make change happen? The session establishes the orientational framework of changemaking.

Building on the Heroes Hub journey, fellows reflect on their leadership experiences since the Regional Fellowship and establish a shared framework for movement leadership. This session includes critical thinking as the foundational framework, analysis formulation, and a pedagogical approach of immersion and expression in the context of social movement praxis for social transformation

SESSION 2: THE STATE OF THE NATION UNDER THE MARCOS DUTERTE REGIME

This panel discussion presents the playbook of the populist-authoritarian regime and its impact on Filipinos' lives, livelihoods, and lifestyles. Moving beyond issue awareness, this session examines the current political, social, and democratic landscape of the Philippines and explores how national trends shape local realities.

SESSION 3: REIMAGINING THE NATION

Building upon their community-rooted analysis developed during the Regional Fellowship, participants deepen their understanding of systems, power, and democratic transformation by identifying the barriers, drivers, and levers of change in the context of their community issues toward the vision of a just, democratic, and progressive future Philippines

SESSION 4: WIELDING POWER TO WIN

How do we move to make a change? This session provides an overview of the theory and practice of successful change-making campaigning anchored in human rights advocacy. It shall identify the types and elements of a campaign, learn how to plan one, and formulate tactics for change. Participants are asked to present their local campaign issues and strategies for winning their community struggles.



SESSION 5: BUILDING PEOPLE POWER

How can change be people-centered and participatory? This session lays the foundation for organizing to empower youth communities to make decisions and take action that create meaningful impact in their lives. This session provides an overview of community mapping, leader identification and development, and community power-building.

SESSION 6: FORGING PEOPLE POWER

This session presents strategies and tactics to create safe, dynamic, and inclusive spaces for civic engagement toward a leaderful citizens' democratic movement. It shall present innovative models and approaches to power building and social changemaking that aim to expand civic spaces

SESSION 7: SHAPING PUBLIC NARRATIVES

Building upon the Narrative Changemaking from the Regional Fellowship, participants deepen their ability to identify dominant and harmful, desired and helpful narratives in the context of their social advocacies; and design narrative interventions that challenge harmful narratives, strengthen democratic values, and support organizing, campaigning, and movement-building efforts..

SESSION 8: COMMUNICATIONS FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

How do we communicate what change needs to happen? The session presents the basics of strategic communications for social change advocacy. The session shall also introduce the use of social behavioral change models to enhance civic engagement.

SESSION 9: PLAYBOOK FOR YOUTH CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

A practical workshop to integrate the knowledge and skills gained from the training session to produce a youth civic engagement playbook that integrates organizing, campaigning, narrative change and maps out a blueprint of strategies and tactics for building, forging, and wielding the power of the youth.

SESSION 10: SUSTAINING THE MOVEMENT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY

In the final session, participants are provided with the knowledge and skills to strengthen their activism by fostering a culture of collective care within their community of practice as program fellows. It will also provide guidelines for the cohort's fieldwork as they implement their strategies and tactics in their communities.



ELIGIBILITY AND QUALIFICATIONS

The Heroes Hub Youth Fellowship Program (HHYFP) provides an opportunity for 50 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 18-30 years old.
- Alumnus of the Heroes Hub Youth Fellowship Program prior to the 2026 regional cohorts are not eligible to participate. While participation in the 2026 regional cohorts is advantageous, this is a public call for applications, and the selection process remains fair and equitable.
- An applicant must participate in the full duration of the program - 3-day live-in learning sessions and immersion.
- 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.
- 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 Youth Fellows shall be selected through a two-level application process: (1) Online Application, and (2) Interview for shortlisted fellows.

Timeline of Application Process

July 31, 2026	-----	Call for Applications
August 12, 2026	-----	Deadline of Applications
August 15, 2026	-----	Participants Screening
August 18, 2026	-----	Emails Sent to Shortlisted Fellows and Scheduling of Online Interviews
August 22, 2026	-----	Announcement of Final Accepted Fellows

ABOUT THE ORGANIZERS



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.



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.