

**REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS  
TANGGAPAN NG SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD  
LUNGSOD NG BAKOLOD  
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**CITY ORDINANCE NO. 1020  
February 8, 2023**

**AN ORDINANCE DECLARING THE MASSKARA FESTIVAL AND MASSKARA  
DANCE AS A CULTURAL PROPERTY OF BACOLOD CITY.**

**WHEREAS**, Article XIV, Section 14 of the 1987 Phil. Constitution provides that the State shall foster the preservation, enrichment, dynamic evolution of the Filipino national culture based on the principle of unity in diversity in the climate of free artistic and intellectual expression;

**WHEREAS**, Section 15 and 16 Article XIV of the 1987 Phil. Constitution likewise mandates the State to converse, promote, and popularize the nation's historical and cultural heritage and resources as well as artistic creations, thus, it shall be under its protection and its disposition regulated;

**WHEREAS**, Section 14 of Republic Act No. 10066 otherwise known as the National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009, established the Philippine Registry of Cultural Property with a mandate to register all important cultural heritage properties of the country;

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to this constitutional mandate, the Local Government Code, particularly Section 16 thereof, mandates that the Local government units ensure and support the preservation and enrichment of culture and preserve the comfort and convenience of their inhabitants;

**WHEREAS**, the MassKara Festival is one the biggest festivals in the Philippines and has been giving domestic and international visitors the chance to experience the local culture, have fun, dance and party on the streets of Bacolod City since 1980 when it first started;

**WHEREAS**, the annual MassKara Festival, which is similar to Brazil's Carnival, literally translates to "many faces", and is celebrated every October in Bacolod City with people dancing on the streets wearing masks with smiling faces;

**WHEREAS**, the MassKara dancers from Bacolod have performed in many cities around the country and in many different countries including Hongkong, Japan, Korea, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia and USA. They have also been featured in numerous international conferences of the International Mask Arts and Culture Organization (IMACO);

**WHEREAS**, last June 2019, the MassKara Festival dancers also made history as the first-ever foreign performing group to have graced the Maduhee Festival in Ulsan City, South Korea;

**WHEREAS**, in May 2019, the MassKara Dance Team was declared Best Foreign Group during the Daegu Colorful Festival in Daegu City, South Korea, after besting 21 other groups in the foreign category;

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**WHEREAS**, on August 2, 2019 the MassKara dancers became the first Filipino group to perform at the Disneyland Park in Anaheim, California, USA, and the first guest performers with masks that were allowed by the Disney Performing Arts;

**WHEREAS**, the MassKara Dancers have also performed at the San Francisco Filipino Cultural Center in San Francisco, California, USA. They were the first group from outside the US to perform at the center after its re-opening in 2019;

**WHEREAS**, the MassKara dancers were featured in the Gala Night of the "MassKara Festival in Long Beach" at the Marriott Hotel, and at the Trade, Travel and Consumer Expo, hosted by the Asian Journal Publications, in South Bay Pavilion of Carson City;

**WHEREAS**, the MassKara Festival is also celebrated in Long Beach, California, USA since 2018, through the initiative of the Long Beach-Bacolod Association (LBBA);

**WHEREAS**, the MassKara Festival has been running annually for the last forty-three years and it is just timely to declare the same as an important cultural property of Bacolod City;

**NOW THEREFORE**, be it **ORDAINED** as it is hereby **ORDAINED** by the Sangguniang Panlungsod in session assembled, that:

**Section 1. TITLE.** This Ordinance shall be known as the MassKara Cultural Property Rights Ordinance.

**Section 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY.** It is the policy of the City Government of Bacolod to preserve and protect its cultural property rights over the MassKara Festival and MassKara Dance which are consistently gaining world recognition and being acknowledged by many countries as a festival or mask dance that originated from Bacolod City.

**Section 3. ROLE OF CITY TOURISM OFFICE.** The Bacolod City Tourism Office (BCTO) shall register MassKara Festival and MassKara Dance to the Philippine Registry of Cultural Property under the National Commission for Culture and Arts as a Local Important Cultural Property.

The BCTO may request any agency or office in the City Government of Bacolod to assist them in the full implementation of the previous paragraph. The BCTO is also required to report any status update of the aforesaid registration to the Sangguniang Panlungsod every three (3) months or if there is an important update whichever comes first.

**Section 4. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE.** If any part of this ordinance is declared as unconstitutional or unlawful, such declaration shall not affect the other parts or the section hereof that are not declared unlawful or unconstitutional.

**Section 5. REPEALING CLAUSE.** All previous ordinances inconsistent with this ordinance shall be deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

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**Section 6. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE.** This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its approval.

**CARRIED BY THE VOTE OF:**

Affirmative:

Councilors : Israel P. Salanga, Cindy T. Rojas, Em L. Ang, Al Victor A. Espino, Vladimir S. Gonzalez, Renecito S. Novero, Jason Isidro S. Villarosa, Claudio Jesus Raymundo A. Puentevella, Simplicia Z. Distrito, Celia Matea R. Flor, Psyche Marie E. Sy, Lady Gles Gonzales-Pallen, Ayesha Joy Y. Villaflor.

Negative : None.

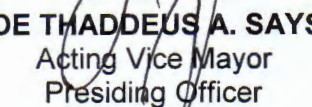
Absent : None.

Author : Councilor Em L. Ang

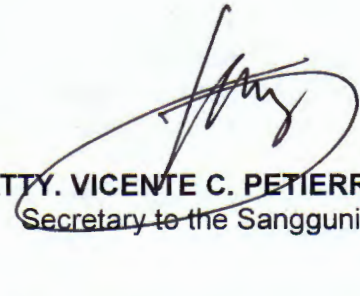
Passed : February 8, 2023 (32<sup>nd</sup> Regular Session of the 11<sup>th</sup> Council).

Comments : Passed.


Vice Mayor El Cid M. Familiaran was designated as Acting City Mayor.

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**JUDE THADDEUS A. SAYSON**  
Acting Vice Mayor  
Presiding Officer

ATTESTED:

  
**ATTY. VICENTE C. PETIERRE III**  
Secretary to the Sanggunian

APPROVED: February 10, 2023.

  
**EL CID M. FAMILIARAN**  
Acting City Mayor

VCP/CGT/jbz

**SP LEGISLATIVE  
SERVICES SECTION**

DATE: Feb. 17, 2023 TIME: 3:20 PM

BY: 