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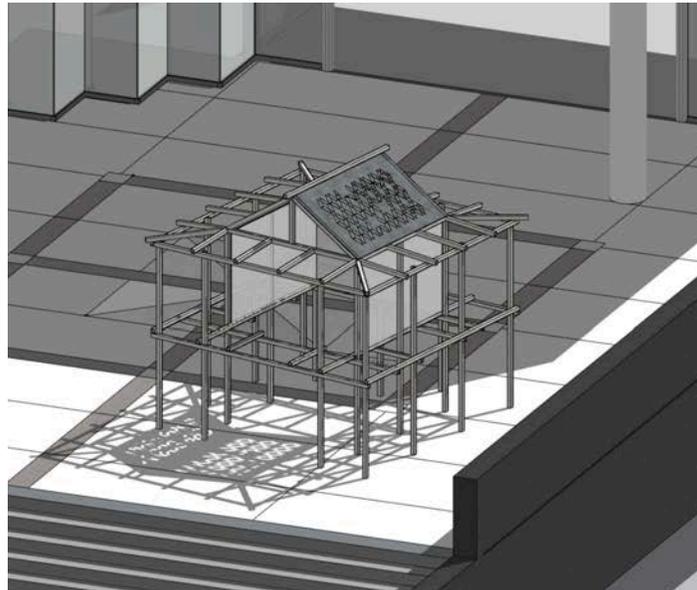
YERBA BUENA
CENTER FOR
THE ARTS

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Free Art Workshop: Mini Bahay Kubo (Nipa Hut)

By Teaching Artist: Joyce Nojima, Teaching Assistants: Kerra Hendrickson & Mariel Paat
Program Support: Rea Lynn de Guzman, Senior Manager of Educational Programs

August 7, 2025



Mark Baugh-Sasaki, *The Bahay Kubo project*, 2025.

DESCRIPTION

In light of the Pistahan Festival, join us in celebrating the essence of “kapwa” - a Filipino ideology emphasizing shared identity and community support, by building a mini bahay kubo (nipa hut). Decorate it with colorful, lush vegetables, plants, or flowers. What would you grow in the garden surrounding your bahay kubo? This workshop is inspired by the Bahay Kubo project led by artist Mark Baugh-Sasaki, as part of the *MAKIBAKA - A Living Legacy* exhibit presented by SOMA Pilipinas at YBCA.

MATERIALS

Cardboard boxes, popsicle sticks, pencils, Posca markers, scissors, glue, tape, pipe cleaners, low-temp mini glue guns, mini glue gun sticks



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About the work

Mark Baugh-Sasaki, The Bahay Kubo project

The Bahay Kubo, or Nipa Hut, is a traditional Filipino vernacular house made from natural materials like bamboo, nipa palm, and cogon grass, designed for the country's tropical climate. Elevated on stilts to prevent flooding and improve airflow, its steep thatched roof and open structure promote natural ventilation, making it both functional and sustainable. More than just a dwelling, the Bahay Kubo represents communal living, adaptability, and harmony with nature, embodying Filipino ingenuity and resilience.

Bayanihan is the Filipino tradition of communal unity and cooperation, historically exemplified by neighbors working together to physically lift and relocate a Bahay Kubo to a new location. This practice symbolizes the deep sense of solidarity and mutual aid within Filipino communities, where collective effort ensures the well-being of all. More than just moving a house, Bayanihan reflects a cultural ethos of shared responsibility, resilience, and generosity, reinforcing the Bahay

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- Have you heard or seen a bahay kubo or nipa hut before?
- If you could design your own nipa hut, what would it look like?
- Can you think of other community traditions similar to the Filipino tradition of building a nipa hut?

STEPS

For this project there are a multitude of ways to build a structure. So, let your imagination run wild and be adventurous with the materials.

1. Think and draw out a general design of your nipa hut on paper!
2. Begin collecting and **experimenting** with the materials that are available to you.
3. Using glue, wire, and tape, you can assemble your pieces together.
4. When you are done building your mini bahay kubo, feel free to add some pizzazz with color markers. You can even create the garden and the area around your nipa hut.

REFLECTION

Consider the following questions in completion of your mini bahay kubo:

- This project is intentionally open ended, did you find this more or less challenging?
- How did your structure stand?
- What environment do you imagine your mini bahay kubo will reside in?
- If you can make a second nipa hut, what would it look like and what materials would you use?