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DJ Javier and Mother Dough Bagels Come Together for a Kamayan Feast to Celebrate Their Roots

Filipino Dining Tradition Gathers Supporters to Celebrate Art, Community, and MCASB

By [Leslie Dinaberg](#) | Photos by [Ingrid Bostrom](#)

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D.J. Javier center was honored at the MCASB Supper Club at Mother Dough, October 29, 2025 | Photo: In

Sometimes, fate brings people together in a most delicious way.

Such was the case on Wednesday night when [Mother Dough Bagels](#) owner Jennifer Gonzalez-Neely brought in her brother — Connecticut-based Chef Chris Gonzalez, who likes to bring the family's Asian roots to his dishes — to cook up a Kamayan-style Filipino feast to celebrate the exhibition [DJ Javier: San Milano Drive](#), currently on view at MCASB.

Jennifer and Chris were born in the Philippines, and Javier's Filipino-American heritage also has a big influence on his art, so when MCASB Board President Freddy Janka read in the *Independent* (see George Yatchisin's story [here](#)) about Gonzalez-Neely's incorporation of Asian-fusion flavors into Mother Dough's offerings, he had the idea to bring them together.

As a fundraising effort, Museum of Contemporary Art Santa Barbara (MCASB) has recently been spreading its cultural wings into some artful dining experiences, including an earlier event at Bibi Ji.

Guests at this week's special event at Mother Dough got to experience Kamayan, a Filipino dining tradition where food is served on banana leaves and enjoyed with your hands (after a special hand-washing ceremony).

With wines from [Artiste](#) (featuring artwork by DJ Javier on the limited edited 2024 "Under the Sun" sauvignon blanc, which also celebrates the 50th anniversary of *Santa Barbara Magazine*) and an assortment of dishes including Santa Barbara *uni*, hamachi kinilaw, lumpia, grilled spiny lobster, *lechon kawali*, mushroom *inasal*, *aligé* fried rice, *pancit palabok*, tomato and salted egg ensalada, laing, and peach mango hand pies, it was indeed a feast to be remembered and celebrated. As Gonzalez-Neely shared, "*Mabuhay* (which was stamped on our menu cards) is a word people say to greet Filipinos and it also means to be alive."

This was indeed a lively and worthwhile evening rooted in the celebration of art, culture, and community — all in the name of supporting our local nonprofit contemporary art museum.

For more information, see mcasantabarbara.org.

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