- Sculpture

QC acquires Quezon bust made by national artist

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THE bust of former president and Quezon City's founding father Manuel L. Quezon sculpted by National Artist for Sculpture Guillermo Tolentino has been acquired by the local government, Mayor Joy Belmonte announced on Sunday.

"As a city that takes great pride in its history, we are honored to bring this remarkable piece home. This bust is not only a tribute to our founding father but is also aligned to our goal of preserving our nation's artistic and cultural legacy," Belmonte said.

As the visionary behind the Philippines' former capital, President Quezon's legacy remains deeply woven into Quezon City's identity, she said in a statement.

"The acquisition of the Tolentino masterpiece solidifies QC's commitment to preserving and showcasing its rich cultural and historical heritage," she added.

In a Viber message, the mayor told The Manila Times that the local government purchased the bust at an auction for P55,000.

"The auction was brought to our attention by Liza Nakpil, former chairman of the National Historical Commission of the Philippines," Belmonte said.

Measuring about 22 centimeters (cm) in height, nine cm in width, and 11 cm in length, the sculpture was previously listed at auction under the title "A Bust of a Man" from the Jose Abad Lopez Collection curated by Leon Gallery.

It would soon be added to the city's collection at the Quezon Heritage House, the mayor said.

Recognized as the First National Artist for Sculpture, Tolentino was also the one who created the Andres Bonifacio Monument in Caloocan City and the oblation at the University of the Philippines.

Located inside the Quezon Memorial Circle, the Quezon Heritage House is a museum celebrating President Quezon's life and contributions, according to the city government.

It houses relics, memorabilia, and artifacts related to the late president. The edifice itself is the former president's actual rest house.