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OAPIA Update

News Updates from the DC Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

Dear Community Members,

Noticed anything different in the air? It is the sweet smell of spring, and with spring's arrival comes another wonderful observation, one of rich pinkness strewn across the city, cherry blossom petals from the cherry blossom trees.

We hope that you take the time to welcome and enjoy the change in weather and the appearance of the blooming cherry blossom trees.

As for change at our end, OAPIA recently held the first ever Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Youth Town Hall to help address and discuss issues that local AAPI youth face in their schools. We were very proud to have Mayor Vincent C. Gray engage in a healthy, lively conversation with the youth in attendance!



In addition, we are seeking nominations for the 2012 Community Service Awards to recognize agents of change; local individuals who have shown passion and made lasting contributions in serving the AAPI community. We encourage you to submit your nominations today!

Please keep in touch for further opportunities and announcements from the District Government and the Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs. As always, OAPIA is working hard to keep you informed and updated on all of our partnerships and projects.

Join us in creating a better AAPI community within the District!

Warm Regards,

Soohyun "Julie" Koo
Director, DC Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

OAPIA Hosts Asian American and Pacific Islander Youth Town Hall



On Saturday, March 17, 2012, the Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OAPIA) hosted its first Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Youth Town Hall at the Chinatown Community Cultural Center. Over 75 youth and young adults discussed issues facing AAPI youth directly with Mayor Vincent C. Gray. This Youth Town Hall was the first of its kind to specifically address the needs of AAPI youth.

The AAPI Youth Town Hall was open to the public, but allowed AAPI students and young people to openly discuss issues that concern them. Top concerns touched upon language access challenges and language-based discrimination in schools.

To view the full press release, please click [here](#).

Call for 2012 Mayor's Community Service Award Nominations



The Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs of the District of Columbia seeks your help. As May is Asian American and Pacific Islander American Heritage Month, the Commission would like to recognize those unsung heroes who have demonstrated extraordinary dedication to serving Washington DC's Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community.

The Commission is currently seeking nominations for 1) individuals or organizations, and 2) employees from DC government agencies that make significant contributions to the AAPI community.

This contribution can be expressed through a variety of ways: serving AAPI residents, volunteering in the community, promoting awareness of AAPI issues, or organizing projects that strive for the advancement of District AAPIs. While the organizations or individuals need not live in DC, their work must focus on the District's AAPI community.

The Community Service Awards will be presented by Mayor Vincent C. Gray at the Asian American and Pacific Islander American Heritage Month Celebration in May.

Please submit all nominations by 5pm Wednesday, April 11, 2012, to the following address:

D.C. Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs
 Attn: May 2012 Award Nominations
 441 4th St. NW, Suite 721 North
 Washington, DC 20001
 Fax: (202) 727-9655
 Email: andrew.chang@dc.gov

For the application and more information, please click [here](#). If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Andrew Chang at (202) 727-3120 or andrew.chang@dc.gov.

Spotlight: National Cherry Blossom Festival



Each year, the National Cherry Blossom Festival commemorates the 1912 gift of 3,000 cherry trees from Mayor Yukio Ozaki of Tokyo to the city of Washington, DC. The gift and annual celebration honor the lasting friendship between the United States and Japan and the continued close relationship between the two countries.

Today, more than a million people visit Washington, DC each year to admire the blossoming cherry trees and attend events that herald the beginning of spring in the nation's capital.

This year's National Cherry Blossom Festival: Celebrating 100 Years of the Gift of Trees will occur from March, 20 2012 until April 27, 2012.

For more information, please visit <http://www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org/>

DC Mayor's Commission on APIA Community Development

The DC Commission on APIA Community Development convenes monthly meetings to discuss current issues affecting the DC AAPI community.

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 28, 2012 @ 6:30 pm at the OAPIA Office located at 441 4th Street, NW, Suite 721N Washington, DC 20001.

All commission meetings are open to the public. If you have any questions about the commission or its meetings, please contact oapia@dc.gov.

oapia@dc.gov | www.apia.dc.gov | Phone: (202) 727-3120 | Fax: (202) 727-9655



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