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OAPIA Update

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

Dear Community Members,

The month of May commemorates [Asian American and Pacific Islander \(AAPI\) Heritage Month](#), which recognizes the AAPI community's legacy, culture, achievements, and contributions to our nation. In 1978, Congress passed a joint Congressional Resolution to honor Asian American Heritage Week during the first week of May. Mayor Gray issued a proclamation declaring May 2012 Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month and call all District resident to join him in commending the District's Asian American and Pacific Islander population.



In honor and recognition of [AAPI Heritage Month](#), OAPIA is coordinating various cultural, educational, and social events that will celebrate and inform the District community on the diversity, contributions, and struggles of the District's AAPI residents and merchants.

Mayor Vincent C. Gray and the Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OAPIA) are hosting a [AAPI Heritage Month Community Reception](#) on May 17, 2012 and the annual [AAPI Heritage Month Evening Celebration](#) on May 31, 2012, and take advantage of all the [other events](#) being held throughout the District.

We look forward to an exciting May and hope you can join us in celebrating AAPIs in the District!

Warm Regards,

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

Mayor Gray Announces May is Annual Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

(Washington, DC) - Today, Mayor Vincent C. Gray and the Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OAPIA) announced the beginning of the annual celebration of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month.

"Today, we come together to celebrate the outstanding achievements of Asian Americans in our society," said Mayor Gray. "Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders play a significant role in our city's life both professionally and culturally. They are part of the rich tapestry of diversity that makes the District great - and we hope to build on that greatness by continuing to support and embrace the many talents that members of the AAPI community bring to the table."

Throughout the month, OAPIA will pay tribute to the generations of Asian American and Pacific Islander Americans who have enriched the District's history. To find out more information on AAPI Heritage Month's various activities and celebrations, please visit OAPIA's website at www.apia.dc.gov.

"AAPIs are proud to call our Nation's Capital their home and have contributed to the rich fabric of our city," said Soohyun "Julie" Koo, Executive Director of OAPIA. "AAPIs have made a tremendous impact on the city's economy and culture. OAPIA commemorates this month by honoring the sacrifices and contributions of the District's AAPI community. We hope this will provide our residents with an opportunity to learn more about AAPI customs and traditions."

OAPIA continues to promote the Mayor's 'One City' philosophy by asking residents to submit stories to the "I Am AAPI in DC" campaign. The blog showcases the many contributions of AAPI residents and features local AAPI community members who have played a significant role in creating a stronger and more vibrant city. The blog can be viewed at www.iamaapidc.com.

For more information on the Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs, or to submit a story, please contact www.apia.dc.gov.

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
VINCENT C. GRAY, MAYOR

Proclamation



ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

MAY 2012



WHEREAS, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have contributed to the social and economic character of our city and nation; and

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia celebrates the cultural traditions, ancestry, native languages, and unique experiences represented among the more than 30 ethnic groups from Asia and the Pacific Islands; and



WHEREAS, the District of Columbia is home to over 26,000 Asian American and Pacific Islander residents who represent diverse cultural, religious, and political backgrounds, speaking dozens of different languages or dialects, and have interwoven their traditions and heritages into the ethnic fabric of our world-class city; and

WHEREAS, community members, organizations and government agencies will gather to celebrate and recognize the contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders during this month:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, THE MAYOR OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, do hereby proclaim May 2012, as "ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH" in Washington, D.C. and call upon all the residents of this great city to join me in commending the District of Columbia's Asian American and Pacific Islander community.



May is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

NOTE: PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED EVENTS ON 5/15 (AAPIHM CELEBRATION) AND 5/31 (CULTURAL DIALOGUE) HAVE BEEN CANCELED. PLEASE NOTE CHANGES TO EVENTS, DATES, AND TIMES BELOW.

The Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OAPIA) will be hosting the following events in celebration of [Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month](#). We hope that you can join us.

THURS | MAY 17 | 6:30pm

Mayor Gray's Asian American and Pacific Islander Community Reception

Join Mayor Gray and OAPIA to commemorate the many cultural and professional achievements of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in society. Food and refreshments will be served. RSVP required.

John A. Wilson Building
Atrium - Ground Level
1350 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20004

***RSVPs are required for admittance. Please RSVP [here](#).**

MON | MAY 21 | 6:00pm

Asian Americana: Understanding Asian American and Pacific Islander Family Generations Panel Discussion

An insightful panel discussion on the family dynamic and generational ties within Asian American and Pacific Islander families. Food and refreshments will be served. RSVP required.

AARP Headquarters
Brickfield Center
601 E St. NW
Washington, DC 20049

***RSVPs are required for admittance. Please RSVP [here](#).**

THURS | MAY 31 | 5:30pm

Mayor Gray's Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Celebration

Join Mayor Gray for an evening of cultural performances, the Mayor's community service award, refreshments, and more.

The Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS)
Johns Hopkins University
Kenney Auditorium
1740 Massachusetts Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20036

***RSVPs are encouraged. Please RSVP [here](#).**

Please contact OAPIA at (202) 727-3120 for any questions.

A promotional banner for Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. The background is a light, textured beige with faint floral patterns. The main text is in a bold, orange, sans-serif font. Below the main text is a smaller line of text in a red, serif font, flanked by a small blue and red logo on the left and a circular logo on the right. At the bottom, there is a call to action in a red, serif font.

**May is Asian American and
Pacific Islander Heritage Month!**

 *Enriched by Diversity, United as One City* 

**Click here for more information on AAPI
Heritage Month events happening in the city**

SAVE THE DATES!!

Please note that the previously scheduled events on 5/15 (AAPIHM Celebration) and 5/31 (Cultural Dialogue) have been canceled.

****Please note changes to dates & times below.**



THURS | MAY 17 | 6:30 pm

The Wilson Building (Atrium) - 1350 Pennsylvania Ave. NW

Mayor Gray's Asian American and Pacific Islander Community Reception

RSVP required. Join Mayor Gray and OAPIA to commemorate the many cultural and professional achievements of Asian Americans in society.

[RSVP Link: communityreception.eventbrite.com](http://communityreception.eventbrite.com)

MON | MAY 21 | 6:00 pm

AARP Headquarters (Brickfield Center) - 601 E St. NW

Asian Americana: Understanding Asian American and Pacific Islander Family Generations Panel Discussion

RSVP required. An insightful panel discussion on the family dynamic and generational ties within Asian American and Pacific Islander families. Food and refreshments will be served.

[RSVP Link: oapiapanel.eventbrite.com](http://oapiapanel.eventbrite.com)

**THURS | MAY 31 | 5:30 pm

The Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS)

Johns Hopkins University (Kenney Auditorium) - 1740 Massachusetts Ave. NW

Mayor Gray's Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Celebration

Join Mayor Gray for an evening of cultural performances, the Mayor's Community Service Awards, refreshments and more.

[RSVP Link: may31aapi.eventbrite.com](http://may31aapi.eventbrite.com)

For More Information:
Tel: (202) 727-3120
Email: oapia@dc.gov
<http://www.apia.dc.gov>



Reasonable accommodations are provided upon request. Please provide seven days advance notice, call (202)727-3120.

Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs Honors District AAPI First Responders

(Washington, DC) - The Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OAPIA) honored the contributions of the District's Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) officers and first responders by holding an Appreciation Reception at the Chinatown Community Cultural Center on May 2, 2012. The event was the first of its kind to recognize the contributions of the District's AAPI officers and first responders.

The reception highlighted the importance of the establishment of the Asian Liaison Unit and special recognition was given to Detective Joseph Oh, a 27 year veteran of the police force and longest serving AAPI officer in Metropolitan Police Force, and to Captain Dennis Gobantes who recently established his 22 year mark with the first responder unit in Fire and Emergency Medical Services (FEMS).

For the full press release, please visit [here](#).



Spotlight: Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC)



The [Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus \(CAPAC\)](#) is comprised of Members of Congress of Asian and Pacific Islander descent and members who have a strong dedication to promoting the well-being of the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. Currently chaired by Congresswoman Judy Chu, CAPAC has been addressing the needs of the AAPI community in all areas of American life since it was founded in 1994. CAPAC is non-partisan and bi-cameral.

For more information, please visit [here](#).

DC Mayor's Commission on APIA Community Development

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

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, June 27, 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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