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## OAPIA Bi-Weekly Newsletter

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

A Message from the Director

**Dear Community Members,**

Mayor Gray's 2013 AAPI Heritage Month Evening Celebration was a wonderful way to close out Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month last month. There was an amazing turnout as community members, government officials, and friends came out to celebrate and recognize excellence in community service with the AAPI community.



Even though the festivities may have ended, there is still plenty happening within the District of Columbia. OAPIA recently launched Project BUILD (Business University Partnership to Innovate, Link, and Develop Retail Businesses), a pilot program designed to help improve existing small retail businesses in the District by connecting them with local Master of Business Administration (MBA) graduate students for free business consulting services.

OAPIA is seeking small retail business owners to join Project BUILD. Selected small retail businesses will be paired with MBA students to develop personalized business plans. The business plans will help small retail business owners apply for funding opportunities, improve their marketing strategy, and provide them with guidance in long-term business planning. Any interested parties should apply by June 21, 2013. For more information and to register for Project BUILD, please contact Dory Peters at 202-727-3120 or [dory.peters@dc.gov](mailto:dory.peters@dc.gov).

In addition, OAPIA has reached over 500 Facebook Likes on our [Facebook fanpage](#). Please encourage your neighbors, friends, and community members to Facebook "Like" us to receive the latest updates regarding the AAPI community in DC. As always, you may also visit us at our [website](#) and join our [mailing list](#) for future announcements and OAPIA updates.

Sincerely,

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

## OAPIA in the Community

### Mayor Vincent C. Gray and OAPIA Speak at the AYT Graduation Ceremony and Open House



Mayor Gray delivered keynote remarks at the AYT graduation ceremony and open house on June 5, 2013. OAPIA Director Koo made welcoming remarks.

AYT comprises of: 1) the AYT Auto Group, a full service, ASE certified automotive shop qualified to perform scheduled maintenance and repairs on all European, Asian and Domestic vehicles, as well as installation of performance parts; and 2) the AYT Institute, an institute that encourages active student participation, hands-on and individualized faculty-student interaction and conducts programs with a conscious focus on high-quality training in the automotive repair industry.

### Mayor Vincent C. Gray and OAPIA Participate in the 2013 Capital Pride Parade



Mayor Gray and OAPIA Director Koo marched in the 2013 Capital Pride Parade on Saturday, June 8, 2013.

### **OAPIA Honors District's AAPI Teachers**



(WASHINGTON, D.C.) - The Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OAPIA) honored the efforts of the District's Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) teachers by holding an appreciation reception in Chinatown on Tuesday, June 18, 2013. OAPIA helped to promote the diversity of the teachers in District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) and highlighted the contributions made by AAPI teachers within the community.

"We hope this event will inspire and encourage individuals to consider a career in teaching, especially within the AAPI community," said Soohyun "Julie" Koo, Director of OAPIA. "AAPI teachers can serve as powerful role models for students in the classroom."

Surjeet Ahluwalia, Director of Asian American LEAD, Kaya Henderson, Chancellor of DCPS, and Maria Angala, DCPS teacher, also offered welcoming remarks to the attendees at the reception. Over 60 community leaders, professionals, government officials, and individuals, including 26 teachers, attended the reception.

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

### Spotlight: The Asian American Literary Review (AALR)



The Asian American Literary Review (AALR) is a space for writers who consider the designation

"Asian American" a fruitful starting point for artistic vision and community. In showcasing the work of established and emerging writers, the journal aims to incubate dialogues and, just as importantly, open those dialogues to regional, national, and international audiences of all constituencies. We select work that is, as Marianne Moore once put it, "an expression of our needs...[and] feeling, modified by the writer's moral and technical insights." Published biannually, AALR features fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, translations, comic art, interviews, and book reviews.

For information about the AALR, please visit [here](#).

## June is Men's Health Month



June is Men's Health Month, a Congressional health education program that is devoted to heighten the awareness of preventable health problems and encourage early detection and treatment of disease among men and boys. This month gives health care providers, public policy makers, the media, and individuals an opportunity to encourage men and boys to seek regular medical advice and early treatment for disease and injury.

According to the Asian American Health Initiative, cancer and cardiovascular disease are the two leading causes of death for Asian Americans in the U.S., of which men constitute a larger percentage; Hepatitis B is a close third. Asian Americans also have a higher prevalence of tuberculosis (TB) than all other racial and ethnic groups. Punishingly strong work ethics and the pressure it brings, too, contribute to rising health concerns among Asian American men. Many seek stress relief by smoking, and thus become especially vulnerable to lung cancer; some, suffering from depression, even attempt suicide. Now, it is the perfect time to address these grave health concerns and to adopt a healthier lifestyle.

For more information or resources concerning men's health, please visit:

- [DC Department of Health: 10 Tips to Improve Men's Health](#)
- [The Asian American Health Initiative](#)
- [The National Center for Reducing Asian American Cancer Health Disparities](#)
- [Men's Health Month](#)

## DC Mayor's Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

The DC Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs usually convenes monthly meetings to discuss current issues affecting the DC AAPI community.

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, June 26, 2013 at 6:30 pm in Conference Room 1114 at One Judiciary Square, 441 4th Street NW, 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](mailto:oapia@dc.gov).

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