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A Message from the Director

Dear Community Members:

I hope everyone had an enjoyable time celebrating and participating in Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month thus far.

From relaxing yoga and taekwondo classes to enlightening performances and discussion by local AAPI artists to deeper understanding of the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) individuals during last night's film screening, OAPIA provided a variety of events that featured something educational and enlightening for anyone.

And May is not just AAPI Heritage Month, but also the month for innoMAYtion in the District. Simply put, innoMAYtion is Mayor Muriel Bowser's pioneering month-long initiative highlighting innovative programs that create

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jobs, engage residents, position the District as a hub of innovative activity and open pathways to the middle class.

Come participate and learn more about innoMAYtion, as well as submit ideas that will help grow the District's innovation economy.

Warm regards,

David Do
Director, DC Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

OAPIA News

OAPIA Bids Farewell to Grant Manager/Program Coordinator Neel Saxena and Community Outreach Specialist/Public Information Officer Andrew Chang

The OAPIA staff saying farewell to Grant Manager/Program Coordinator Neel Saxena (second from the left) and Community Outreach Specialist/Public Information Officer Andrew Chang (third from the left).

OAPIA Grant Manager/Program Coordinator Neel Saxena will be stepping down from his duties after serving for over a decade in District government by May 25, 2015.

OAPIA Community Outreach Specialist/Public Information Officer Andrew Chang will be departing from his position by the same date after serving for three years and eight months with the agency.

The OAPIA staff would like to thank Neel and Andrew for their years of hard work, dedication, and excellence at the agency and in helping to address the views, needs, and concerns of the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community in the District of Columbia. OAPIA would like to wish them the very best in any future endeavors.

Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

Office Hours
Monday - Friday
8:30 am - 6:00 pm

How to Reach Us
441 4th St NW
Suite 721 North
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 727-3120
oapia@dc.gov

The DC Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs hopes to create a more cohesive Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community in the District of Columbia.

To submit events or announcements for the website, please contact oapia@dc.gov.

All listings will be on the website until the end date of the program/event/posting

deadline or up to one month.

A listing will only be added to the website if it is no more than one month out in advance; certain exceptions apply at OAPIA's discretion.

OAPIA Welcomes Bilingual Community Outreach Specialist Tim Hoang

Tim Hoang

Tim Hoang recently joined as the Bilingual (Vietnamese) Community Outreach Specialist for OAPIA and the DC Department of Human Services (DHS). He is a candidate for the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) in Business Psychology and holds a master's degree in industrial and organizational psychology. Tim has dedicated over three and a half years of his doctoral work to pioneer cultural research and develop theories to empower marginalized minority groups.

Prior to joining OAPIA, Tim served as the President and Chairman to the Advisory Board of the Vietnamese Student Organization at George Mason University. Furthermore, he co-founded the Mid-Atlantic Union of Vietnamese Student Associations (MAUVSA), a non-profit alliance of college-based Vietnamese cultural organizations. MAUVSA's mission reflects the values and ideals of Tim, which is to unify the Vietnamese American community, empower and develop young leaders, foster cultural awareness and education, and promote social justice. Outside of community engagement, Tim is a coin and card collecting enthusiast; he has amassed a large collection of coins and X-Men trading cards since childhood.

OAPIA Director Do Featured as One of 40 Influential Asian Americans in Washington, DC

Asian Fortune has named OAPIA Director Do as one of 40 influential Asian Americans in Washington, DC.

Please click here to view the article.

OAPIA in the Community

OAPIA Hosts Fit and Fresh: Yoga and Taekwondo Classes

Participants relieve stress by practicing yoga.

On Friday, May 1, 2015, twenty-three community members from Ward 7 participated in OAPIA's Fit and Fresh: Yoga and Taekwondo classes at the Deanwood Recreation Center. Yoga class participants learned meditation skills to calm the mind and body for good health. The children who participated in the Korean taekwondo class learned new self-defense skills, discipline, respect for others, and received a white belt for completing the class.

The Fit and Fresh event kicked off a fresh and healthy start to Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month in the District of Columbia.

For more photos, please visit here.

OAPIA Attends the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) AAPI Heritage Month Celebration

OAPIA Director David Do making keynote remarks to the audience.

OAPIA Director David Do celebrated AAPI Heritage Month with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) at their celebration, with the theme of "Many Cultures, One Voice: Promote Equality and Inclusion," in Riverdale, Maryland on May 7, 2015. As the guest speaker, Director Do gave a keynote presentation on the history of AAPIs in DC, the diversity of the AAPI population, the role of OAPIA in the District community, and the future of OAPIA. The event was attended by over 200 USDA employees.

OAPIA Hosts Putting the "A" in Art: AAPI Artists Panel Discussion

Rick Lee performing for the audience.

On May 8, 2015, OAPIA hosted *Putting the 'A' in Art*, a panel discussion with local Asian American performance artists at the Goethe-Institut Washington. The event featured riveting performances and discussions on identity, race, and societal expectations with the following speakers: Adriel Luis, Gowri Koneswaran, and Rick Lee. The panel was moderated by Sunu Chandy from the Office of Human Rights. Approximately 40 community members attended the panel discussion.

For more photos, please visit here.

OAPIA Participates in the DC Dragon Boat Festival

The DC Crew team with OAPIA Director Do as captain.

OAPIA participated in the 2015 Washington DC Dragon Boat Festival on May 16, 2015. DC Crew, with OAPIA Director Do as the captain, competed in the mixed 250 meter races. Among many professional and experienced teams, DC Crew did very well with its best time of one minute and forty-one seconds.

The DC Crew team was composed of five OAPIA staff members and 14 District government employees and community members. From college students and non-profit staff to DC and federal government employees, DC Crew represented the diversity of Washington, DC. OAPIA's longtime partner, the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the US (TECRO) helped OAPIA to participate in this event.

For more photos, please visit here.

Events and Announcements

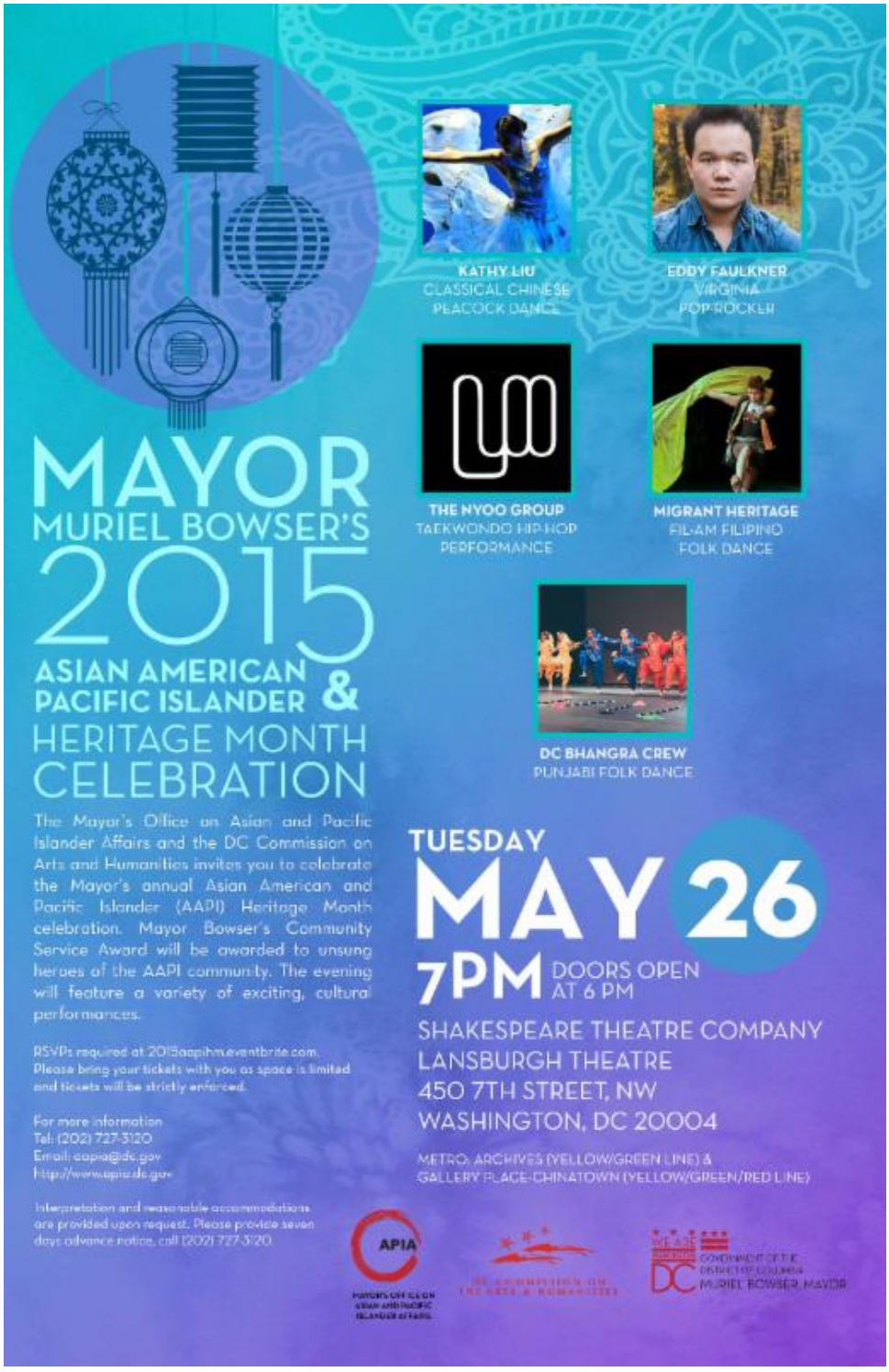
Community Calendar

The OAPIA Community Calendar page promotes, engages, and serves the AAPI community in the District of Columbia by sharing OAPIA, District of Columbia government agency, and community events. Please check the Community Calendar page regularly for updates.

To submit events or announcements for the website, please contact oapia@dc.gov. All listings will be on the website until the end date of the program/event or up to

one month. A listing will only be added if it is no more than one month out in advance; certain exceptions apply at OAPIA's discretion.

5/26 - Mayor Muriel Bowser's 2015 Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Celebration



The Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs and the DC Commission on Arts and Humanities invites you to celebrate the Mayor's annual Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month celebration. Mayor Bowser's Community Service Award will be awarded to unsung heroes of the AAPI community. The evening will feature a variety of exciting, cultural performances.

Performances:

- Kathy Liu, Classical Chinese Peacock Dance
- Eddy Faulkner, Virginia Pop-Rocker
- The Nyoo Group, Taekwondo Hip-Hop Performance
- Migrant Heritage, Fil-Am Filipino Folk Dance
- DC Bhangra Crew, Punjabi Folk Dance

When: Tuesday, May 26, 2015
7:00 pm (Doors Open at 6:00 pm)

Where: Shakespeare Theatre Company, Lansburgh Theatre
450 7th St NW
Washington, DC 20004

Metro: Archives (Yellow/Green Line) & Gallery Place-Chinatown (Red/Yellow/Green Line)

Tickets for the event are sold out. For those who have RSVPed - please bring your tickets with you as space is limited and tickets will be strictly enforced.

For reasonable accommodations for a disability, please call (202) 727-3120 seven days in advance. For more information, please visit here.

5/28 - Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) Ward 4 Check-In

DHCD is conducting a three month community meeting series in all eight wards. These meetings are designed to seek feedback and suggestions from community members to help shape the future of affordable housing throughout the District. Additionally, the agency seeks to inform residents, business owners, and other community members of the agency's programs and services, current and future projects, and the Fiscal year (FY) 2016 affordable housing budget.

Ward 4
When: May 28, 2015
6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Where: Coolidge Sr. High School
6315 5th St NW
Washington, DC 20011

For a complete list of check-ins at other wards, please visit here.

Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) Notice: Scholarship Scam Warning

The Washington Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) recently received a case in which a student received a call from an individual who imposed as government employee (scammer). The scammer told the student she/he was selected for a $7,000 scholarship, as long as she/he gave $270 to the scammer. The student never received the said $7,000.

Advance fee fraud scenarios are constantly evolving, it could be lottery winning

scam, it could be international financial scam, and it exists in so many different forms. It may come by phone or email.

Key warning signs of scams include but not limited to below:

- The scammer asks an advanced fee is needed for "processing" the reward.
- The scammer asks to receive money in an untraceable method, such as buying money packs or asking the victims to use western union.

Remember:

1. No scholarship is offered without any application. If you didn't apply, you won't get the scholarship.
2. Never give away your home address, financial information and/or social security number to unknown individuals, whether it is over the phone or in person.
3. When a deal is too good to be true, it is not true.
4. If you experienced a scam, please call 911 to file a police report.

The Office of Consumer Protection (OCP) Asks: Did You Get What You Paid For?

Government of the District of Columbia
Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA)
Office of Consumer Protection

Did you receive products or services from a business for personal purposes?
Did you get what you paid for?

If you suspect a business is taking unfair advantage of you and would like to complain about a business-to-consumer transaction, please call the Office of Consumer Protection (OCP) at 202-442-8930.

1) OCP will investigate your complaint!
2) OCP will try to resolve the case through mediation!
3) OCP will educate you on your rights and inform you of any potential scams.
4) OCP will assist you in your language.

To learn more, visit www.dcra.dc.gov.

Employment Opportunities

Career Connections

The OAPIA Career Connections page promotes, engages, and serves the AAPI community in the District of Columbia by sharing OAPIA, District of Columbia government agency, and community employment opportunities, internships, scholarships, grants, and more. Please check the Career Connections page regularly for updates.

To submit announcements for the website, please contact oapia@dc.gov. All listings will be on the website until the end date of the posting deadline or up to one month.

Volunteers Needed for OAPIA Language Bank

The Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs offers a Language Bank that will connect volunteers with Asian language abilities with District Agencies. The purpose of this Language Bank is to supplement the efforts of Agencies in providing language services. When and while professional services are being procured there are often language services that need to still be addressed. The Language Bank is one way this gap can be fulfilled.

How it works:
OAPIA will solicit and maintain a database of individuals who express interest in

providing their language skill to the District. The individuals will self-identify their language qualifications. District Agencies will register with OAPIA in order to have access to the database. Once registered, they will be able to submit Jobs to OAPIA who will send the jobs out to the list of registered volunteers. If there is a match, OAPIA will connect the two parties and the Agency can provide additional details and logistics as needed.

For Volunteers:
Individuals who have a language specialty interested in volunteering their time will complete a registration and language self-assessment questionnaire with OAPIA. If a volunteer find an assignment they are interested in, OAPIA will make the connection by only providing the name and email or phone of the volunteer. All other information will not be shared and be protected by OAPIA.

To register, please visit here.

Online Registration for the DC Fire and Emergency Medical Services (FEMS) Department Entrance Exam

Online registration has begun for the June 13th Firefighter EMT Entrance Exam to join the DC Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department (FEMS). Prospective candidates must complete the online application to register for the exam. Registration is required and the first qualified 1500 applicants will be accepted. The exam will take place on Saturday, June 13, 2015 at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center.

Applicants must:

- Be a US citizen;
- Possess a valid driver's license;
- Have a high school diploma/GED; and
- Be 19 years of age at the time of applying

Online registration is mandatory. No one will be allowed to take the exam without completing the online registration. Candidates selected to take the exam will be notified via email of the time, date, and location for the exam. Qualified DC residents and veterans will be awarded a 10-point hiring preference with a passing score.

Interested applicants can visit www.careers.dc.gov or call (202) 673-7580.

The Washington Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) is Recruiting Bilingual Police Officers

The Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) is looking for individuals who are problem-solvers, who enjoy working with others in all types of settings and circumstances, and ultimately, people who want to make a difference in the lives of others. MPD offers a very competitive starting salary, with police officers who are certified as fluent in any language other than English receiving additional pay, as well as a plethora of benefits. So if you think you have what it takes to be a part of one of the top police departments in the country, apply today!

According to the Census Bureau figures, the Washington, D.C. population is growing at its fastest pace in decades. As our Asian American and Pacific Islander community also continues to grow, the need for new police officers who are bilingual increases. MPD is therefore reaching out to all of our ethnic communities as we expand to meet the changing needs of our city. In Fiscal Year 2014 and beyond, MPD will be hiring approximately 300 new police officers annually.

To find out more about MPD police officer careers, call the Recruiting Division toll free at 1-800-994-MPDC (6732), or if you are in the Washington area at (202) 645-0445. The office is located at 101 M Street Southwest, Washington, D.C. 20024. MPD invites you to please visit the website for more detailed information on this exciting career opportunity.

For more information, or to apply, please visit:

- http://mpdc.dc.gov/page/join-metropolitan-police-department
- http://mpdc.dc.gov/page/salary-and-benefits
- http://mpdc.dc.gov/page/police-officer-selection-process

DC Department of Employment Services (DOES) Resources

The District of Columbia Department of Employment Services (DOES) was created to develop "Jobs for People and People for Jobs."

DOES provides job-seekers with a number of employment opportunities through its American Job Centers. Each center provides career counseling, career planning, resume assistance, direct job placement, classroom and on-the-job training, access to America's Job Bank (both online and via the phone), information about local and national labor markets, unemployment compensation and much more.

DOES also offers Project Empowerment, a transitional employment program that provides job readiness training and subsidized employment to District residents. Participants attend an intensive three-week training course and are then placed in a subsidized employment opportunity for up to six months, all while working towards securing permanent, unsubsidized employment.

Return to the top.

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