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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,**

Happy New Year! Today marks the beginning of the New Year, and gives us a moment to reflect upon OAPIA's achievements and accomplishments in the past year.

In 2013, OAPIA helped to improve the lives of AAPI District residents by increasing access to the availability of information on District government services. Through over 360 community events and meetings, OAPIA reached over 53,000 individuals and groups on DC government programs.



OAPIA helped to improve economic development in the District by helping to increase the capacity of AAPI merchants. OAPIA connected businesses with grant opportunities through the Connect, Engage, and Build! initiative, hosted business workshops, conducted door to door outreach concerning government programs, and disseminated technical business information to businesses.

With the goal of helping to improve the ability of District agencies to provide services to the AAPI population, OAPIA provided over 600 technical assistance efforts. OAPIA hosted brown bag cultural dialogues for District government employees, disseminated Census reports, distributed informational articles and reports, and created a language bank to connect District agencies with volunteer Asian language interpreters and translators.

As we move forward this year, we will not only continue our work from 2013, but also continue to engage our community and residents to build a more prosperous, safe, and livable city. May everyone have a wonderful and happy 2014!

Warm wishes,

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

**Spotlight: Asian Pacific American Film (APA Film)**



Since 2000, Asian Pacific American Film, Inc. (APA Film), a nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) charity, has produced an annual film festival based in Washington, D.C. devoted to film and media arts made by and/or about Americans of Asian Pacific Islander descent and other Asian Diasporic groups from around the world.

The mission of APA Film is to bring attention to the creative output from Asian Pacific American (APA) communities and encourage the artistic development of APA films in the greater Washington, D.C. metropolitan region.

APA Film's mission embodies the following goals:

- To raise public awareness of APA media arts
- To encourage and promote the artistic development of APA media artists
- To provide arts education opportunities, with particular outreach to APA youth and adults
- To raise awareness and act as a catalyst for the discussion of issues affecting APA communities
- To bring diverse people together, to promote artistic and social interactions
- To sponsor a DC APA Film Festival annually

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

## January is National Mentoring Month



National Mentoring Month is a campaign held each January to promote youth mentoring in the United States. It was inaugurated in 2002, and is spearheaded by the Harvard School of Public Health, MENTOR, and the Corporation for National and Community Service.

Participants in the National Mentoring Month campaign include leading nonprofit organizations and numerous governors and mayors. Designated nonprofit and governmental agencies are responsible for coordinating local campaign activities in communities across the country, including media outreach and volunteer recruitment. Local lead partners include state and local affiliates of MENTOR/National Mentoring Partnership, Corporation for National and Community Service, Points of Light Foundation and Volunteer Center National Network, America's Promise, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, Communities in Schools, and United Way of America.

For more information on National Mentoring Month or related resources in the District, please

visit:

- [Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services \(DYRS\) After-school/Mentoring Programs](#)
- [DC Public Schools \(DCPS\) Mentoring](#)
- [National Mentoring Month - Mentoring Works!](#)
- [Asian American LEAD Mentoring Program](#)
- [OCA Mentoring Asian American Professionals \(MAAP\) Program](#)

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