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OAPIA Update

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



VINCENT C. GRAY
MAYOR

Dear Community Members:

Before we enter into the fall months I'd like to take the opportunity to thank every resident, leader, business owner and the many different agencies that have served a vital role in supporting OAPIA's mission to improve the quality of life for the District's Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. Over the last year, OAPIA, with your help, has made significant strides in the areas of job growth, public safety and community building.

In step with the my administration's public safety initiatives, OAPIA has developed and implemented a strategy to improve crime reporting within the Limited English Proficient (LEP) AAPI population. As part of this initiative, OAPIA conducted 317 surveys with AAPI residents and merchants. Using the results of the survey, OAPIA was able to identify the factors that contributed to the underreporting of crime by AAPIs. This was the first safety survey of this kind conducted in the AAPI community.

OAPIA also continues to promote the District's One City One Hire (OCOH) initiative. OCOH is an employer-driven initiative with the goal of putting District residents back to work. Through outreach, OAPIA has been working with the Asian American and Pacific Islander business community to increase job opportunities for District residents and has registered nearly 100 AAPI employers.

I would also like to congratulate the Wah-Luck House for reaching the 30th Anniversary of its founding-this is quite a milestone! For years, the Wah-Luck House has provided low-income housing to many recent immigrants. The Wah-Luck House also continues to promote and preserve the cultural heritage of Chinese immigrants. We are very lucky to be enriched by the cultural diversity in our city and the Wah-Luck House serves as a symbol of this diversity.

I am so proud of what we have accomplished together as a team. Throughout the year I have encouraged residents to take part in the building of "One City". Improving the quality of life for all is our overarching priority. I hope that you will continue to help grow our city by participating in many of the District's events by visiting www.dc.gov and staying involved in OAPIA's events.

Sincerely,

Vincent C. Gray

OAPIA in the Community

"Making it Work" Lessons in Collaboration on Language Access Contracting

On September 19, 2012, the Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs presented its work with creating a citywide translation and interpretation contract via a webinar entitled *Making It Work: Lessons in Collaboration on Language Access Contracting*. The presentation highlighted the history of language services, the process to

get a contract, and how to work across government agencies. OAPIA, along with the Office on Contracting and Procurement, presented lessons learned through the collaboration process. The webinar was hosted by the Migration Policy Institute (MPI); MPI hosts various webinars on a variety of language access issues throughout the year.

You can view the webinar [here](#).



Wah Luck House Turns 30

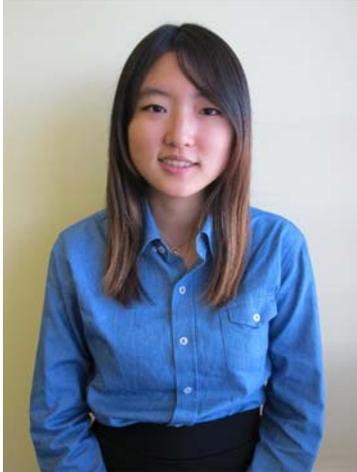


On Sunday, September 23, 2012, OAPIA, Mayor Vincent C. Gray, Dr. John M. Thompson from the DC Office on Aging, and Councilmember Marion Barry were in attendance to help Wah Luck House celebrate its 30 years of existence. OAPIA's Director, Soohyun "Julie" Koo, was on hand to give welcoming remarks followed by a speech from Mayor Gray. The event took place within the Wah Luck House building, which is located in between 6th Street and H Street, NW, and serves low income seniors, many of whom are Chinese immigrants. Refreshments and food were also served as residents took part in an afternoon singing performance.

OAPIA Welcomes Second Set of Fall Interns

OAPIA is pleased to announce the arrival of our second group of fall interns! Interns are provided with the opportunity to work closely with the staff on language access projects, data collection, and research. The 2012 fall interns are comprised of Korean and Bengali speakers.

Hyelin Lee was born and raised in Seoul, South Korea. She is a junior at Yonsei University majoring in business management, and is currently in the United States as an exchange student. Before her internship at OAPIA, Hyelin had participated in many national debate competitions in South Korea, and those experiences have motivated her to develop an appreciation and interest in societal and community issues. She enjoys watching movies and traveling in her spare time. Hyelin is grateful to be given the opportunity to interact with local AAPI community members, especially those from the Korean community, as an intern at OAPIA.



Hyelin Lee

DC AAPI community. Her long term aspiration is to become a foreign ambassador.

Reshma Dabadi was born in Kathmandu, Nepal. She attended an international school there until the age of 11 when her parents moved to Berkeley, California. She is currently a junior at the University of California, Davis, pursuing a double major in international relations and economics, with an emphasis on Asia; Reshma has remarkable research experience in that region. She is also very involved with the Nepalese community in Northern California.

As an OAPIA intern, Reshma hopes to serve the community that she truly cares for, gain valuable work experience, and learn more about the



Reshma Dabadi



Sophia Yang

Sophia Yang was born in Seoul, South Korea and moved to the United States during 2nd grade in 2002. She is currently a senior at McLean High School and is currently planning to apply to college. Through her volunteer work at Jill's House and Milal Wheat Mission, Sophia has experience working with children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Volunteering helped her develop a passion for serving others in need and for her love of working with children.

Just like her role model, Patch Adams, Sophia hopes to become a doctor, specifically, a pediatrician. As an OAPIA intern, Sophia hopes to practice and improve her communication skills and help serve the AAPI community.

Spotlight: Rainbow Dragon Fund



The Rainbow Dragon Fund aims to increase social justice philanthropy supporting queer Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities in the DC metropolitan area. The fund provides a fun, supportive, and engaging space for collective philanthropy by and for queer AAPIs. The Rainbow Dragon Fund also welcomes allies and supporters to work together as associates in these endeavors.

The fund envisions a Washington, D.C. metropolitan area queer Asian American & Pacific Islander (AAPI) community that has achieved social justice and that is empowered, engaged, and resourced.

OAPIA is a sponsor of the [Rainbow Dragon Fund Giving Party](#), to be held on September 26, 2012 at 6:30pm at the Communications Workers of America building. For more information about the Rainbow Dragon Fund, please visit [here](#).

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, October 31, 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.

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