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OAPIA Update

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

Dear Community Members,

OAPIA truly believes in the Mayor's priorities of improving the quality of life to create a stronger city. To do this, there needs to be a focus on accessibility and resources; thus, more opportunities need to be created in every sector. OAPIA advocates this as we provide similar resources and assistance to the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community in DC.



In the last couple weeks, we have been reaching out to AAPI business owners in the DC metro area, educating them on the One City One Hire initiative, a program that encourages business owners to engage and coordinate with the Mayor's goals of economic development. It has turned out quite successful and we reached our goal of registering 100 business owners. We believe that adding a variety of businesses will sustain the economy in the long run and help our city become more vibrant and successful.

OAPIA continues to work with local residents in the areas of housing and employment. Through the help of agency coordination, OAPIA continues to service our walk-in clients within 24 hours. Over the last month, we have provided direct support on a wide range of issues dealing with low income housing.

We have also just finalized the Fiscal Year 2013 AAPI community grant funding of \$230,000 and have awarded eight grantees. For every dollar given to our community based organizations, they are able to provide crucial services and programs to our residents. We are very proud to be part of such a strong network of service providers and look forward to collaborating with them on future projects.

As always, OAPIA wants to thank the many agencies and community members who work with us daily. We hope that you will continue to visit our website for recent updates and future events.

Warm Regards,

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

OAPIA Awards \$230,000 in Community Grants

OAPIA Awarded \$230,000 in Community Grants to Provide Grassroots Services for the City's Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Residents

Washington, DC - The Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OAPIA) awarded \$230,000 in community grants to provide grassroots services for the city's Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) residents, especially culturally and linguistically isolated residents.

"These community grants are important to maintaining the high level of supplemental services provided by community-based organizations (CBOs)," said OAPIA Director Soohyun Koo.

Eight CBOs received the community grants ranging from \$17,500 - \$50,000 in funding. The CBOs that received awards include:

- Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center
- Asian American Leadership Empowerment and Development
- Asian/Pacific Islander Domestic Violence Resource Project
- Chinatown Service Center
- Hepatitis B Initiative
- Many Languages One Voice
- Moving Forward
- Vietnamese American Community Service Center

Some of the services that will be provided by the CBOs include job preparedness and training to increase and improve workforce development skills, education services that complement public school curriculum, and other supportive social services.

This is the sixth time OAPIA gave funding. OAPIA believes this funding will enable CBOs to continue to provide crucial services to the District's AAPI residents.

"We are excited to fund these organizations as they will play a significant role in improving the lives of low-income DC residents," Koo added.

OAPIA Coordinates Voter Registration Drives

Local Asian American and Pacific Islander Residents Reminded of Importance of Voting



Washington, DC - The Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OAPIA) coordinated three voter

registration drive events at which staff and volunteers conducted voter outreach in the District. Bilingual staff, interns, and volunteers also canvassed areas that had historically high Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) populations.

On Thursday, October 4, OAPIA visited both the Gibson Plaza Apartments and the Asian Service Center and registered 36 District residents, including 27 Chinese and Korean residents. OAPIA also held a registration drive at Bancroft Elementary School, and partnered with Asian American LEAD and the Vietnamese American Community Service Center to register 25 Vietnamese District residents.

"OAPIA has always believed that getting involved in the political process is an important way that one can be counted and heard. The District's many AAPI residents have a significant impact on elections, specifically local elections. We will continue to register AAPIs to vote throughout the year because we know that educating people in democracy is the fastest way to make our voices heard," said Soohyun "Julie" Koo, Executive Director of OAPIA.

OAPIA will continue to promote voter registration activities throughout the year and work with the Board of Elections to help ensure the AAPI community experience at the polls includes language support. To this effort, OAPIA is helping to translate signage and recruit bilingual poll workers who can assist limited and non-English proficient AAPI residents.

The deadline to register to vote in the District of Columbia is October 9th, 2012.

OAPIA in the News



09/25/2012: Director Koo promoted "National Voter Registration Day" on the radio.



09/25/2012: OAPIA along with Chris Murphy, Chief of Staff to Mayor Gray, honored Rosetta Lai, a community activist and outgoing Executive Director of Asian American LEAD, with a Certificate of Appreciation at the September Bimonthly Community Meeting.

OAPIA sponsored and attended the Rainbow Dragon Fund Giving Party held on Wednesday, September 26, 2012. The giving party was hosted by the [Rainbow Dragon Fund](#), a fund that aims to increase social justice philanthropy supporting queer Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities in the DC metropolitan area.



9/29/2012: At the 2012 Washington Chinese Culture Festival - Guizhou, Director Koo delivered opening remarks.



10/01/2012: Director Koo delivered remarks at the 63rd Anniversary of the People's Republic of China celebration.



10/02/2012: A Korean National Day Celebration was held at the Korean Ambassador's residence, with Director Koo in attendance.



10/03/2012: Director Koo attended the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States reception to celebrate the National Day of the Republic of China.



10/04/2012: Seoul foreign language high school teachers visited OAPIA and met with Director Koo.

Spotlight: National Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and Breast Cancer

The month of October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Breast cancer occurs when abnormal cells in the breast grow out of control. Untreated cancer, breast cancer can cause serious illness and even death. Breast cancers can be found during a series of tests performed by health care professionals. Generally, a provider will do a clinical breast examination followed by a mammogram. Further tests may be done if anything abnormal is found. Women age 40 and older should have mammograms every 1 to 2 years. Women who are at higher than average risk of breast cancer should talk with their health care providers about whether to have mammograms before age 40 and how often to have them.*

Asian-American women have the lowest death rates from breast cancer compared to other groups of women. But breast cancer is still a very real health threat to Asian-American women. It is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among Asian-American women. For Filipino women, it is the leading cause of death. Japanese-American women have the highest breast cancer rate among Asian-American women. Many experts think that the Western lifestyle might play a role in this high rate.**

Asian-American women have the same breast cancer screening needs as all women. Yet, compared to all other women in the United States, Asian-American women are the least likely to have ever had a mammogram. Getting a mammogram regularly is the best way to find breast cancer early, when it's easiest to treat.**

Community Resources

The District provides free breast and cervical cancer screening and diagnostic follow-up for eligible women through

Project Women Into Staying Healthy (WISH). Project WISH also provides patient navigation, transportation assistance, and cancer education to all women enrolled in the project. District of Columbia women who are uninsured and underinsured and between the ages of 21 and 64 are eligible for Project WISH. Call (202) 442-5900 for more information. For more information about free prevention, screening, and health services please call the Comprehensive Cancer Control Program (CCCP) at (202) 442-9170.*

The Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF) influences policy, mobilizes communities, and strengthens programs and organizations to improve the health of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders at a national level. APIAHF has two offices; one in San Francisco, CA and one in Washington, DC.**

*Source: DC Department of Health. *Breast and Cervical Cancer Program - Project Wish.*

<http://doh.dc.gov/service/breast-and-cervical-cancer-program-project-wish>

**Source: *Womenshealth.gov. Asian-American women and breast cancer (May 18, 2010).*

<http://www.womenshealth.gov/minority-health/asian-americans/breast-cancer.cfm>

***Source: *Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum.* <http://www.apiahf.org/>

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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