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OAPIA Update

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

NEW YEAR GREETINGS FROM THE OAPIA DIRECTOR

Dear Community Members,

As we welcome the New Year, it's time to think about our future. The coming year will present new challenges, but also new opportunities to continue to work together. Through OAPIA's initiatives, we have been able to help hundreds of residents. OAPIA is the District's primary agency devoted to assisting the Asian American and Pacific Islander population.



Our work in 2013 will build on our progress from 2012. We will continue to work with community leaders and residents to find innovative solutions for our District's residents. Our programs are a product of the changing needs of our constituents.

In 2013, one of OAPIA's initiatives will be to increase the employment prospects of low-income LEP (limited English proficient) and NEP (non English proficient) AAPI residents by promoting awareness of workforce development opportunities to enhance their job, job related, and English language skills. OAPIA will work with the DC Department of Employment Services, existing workforce development centers, existing English language centers and local community based organizations.

In line with OAPIA's technical assistance work, our office will recruit and seek volunteers who may be able to provide in-language support to District agencies. This database will provide agencies additional resources to provide interpretation while they procure professional interpretation.

And to continue our work in safety, OAPIA will assist Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMA) with an emergency communications plans for the AAPI LEP/NEP population.

These are just a few examples of what's in store as we move forward. I am looking forward to embarking on a new year with you. We encourage you to visit our [website](#) for up to date information. We also hope that you will utilize our newly created in -language Facebook pages found in [Korean](#) and [Chinese](#).

Warm Wishes,
Soohyun "Julie" Koo



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

DISTRICT NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service

[Serve DC](#)

Join Serve DC on Saturday, January 19th for "[Unite America in Service](#)"

On Saturday, January 19, 2013, Serve DC, [Points of Light](#) and Target invite you to attend the signature MLK Day national service project, "Unite America in Service," in Washington, DC. In partnership with [Operation Gratitude](#), the [Corporation for National and Community Service](#), Community Blueprint, [HandsOn Greater DC Cares](#), [Volunteer Fairfax](#) and the [George Washington University](#), thousands of volunteers will show appreciation for those who serve our country by packing 100,000 care kits filled with necessities for U.S. service members, wounded warriors, veterans and first responders.

Volunteers ages 12- to 17-years-old are welcome with parents or legal guardians. Large groups are also welcome to join. This event takes place at the DC Armory from 8:30am to 4:30pm, and volunteer shifts will be 2.5 hours each. [Register for "Unite America in Service."](#)

OAPIA NEWS

Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OAPIA) Announces Partnership with the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development (ODMPED) on "Great Streets Small Business Capital Improvement Grant"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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December 28, 2012

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(Washington, DC) - On December 28, 2012, the Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OAPIA) announced that they will partner with ODMPED on the Great Streets Small Business Capital Improvement Grant. OAPIA will assist in promoting this grant opportunity to the District's Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) retail owners through outreach and also provide language assistance to AAPI applicants who have limited English proficiency.

The purpose of the grant is to support existing small businesses, attract new small businesses, increase the District's tax base and create new jobs for District residents.

"Locally owned businesses and business owners are the economic engine of this city," said Deputy Mayor Hoskins. "The District is offering opportunities to competitively apply for business grant offerings for physical improvements to retail spaces and is working in other ways with small business owners to keep their businesses viable in the expanding retail market for years to come..."

According to U.S. Census' 2007 Survey of Business Owners, there are 3,278 Asian owned

businesses in the District. This was an 83 percent increase from 2002 by Asian owned firms. Of the Asian owned, the most were run by Koreans (917), followed by Chinese (806) and Asian Indians (629).

"This is a great opportunity for our District's Asian American retail business owners to improve their retail spaces. We are here to help the store owners with language barriers. Please contact us for assistance," says OAPIA Director Soohyun "Julie" Koo. " We hope to see more store owners who take advantage of this awesome opportunity."

The Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development (ODMPED) allocated \$1.6M for this round of funding and will be awarding individual grants up to a maximum of \$85,000 each to successful applicants.

The targeted corridors that qualify for the grants are: Georgia Avenue NW, Nannie Helen Burroughs Avenue NE, Pennsylvania Avenue SE, 7th Street NW and North Capitol St NW.

The deadline for grant submission is Friday, February 15, 2013.

ODMPED will be holding informational workshops at the following locations and times:

7th & North Capital Street NW
January 7, 2013
Banneker Recreation Center
2500 Georgia Ave. NW

Georgia Avenue NW
January 8, 2013
Fort Stevens Recreation Center
1327 Van Buren Street NW
Nannie Helen Burroughs
January 9, 2013
HD Woodson STEM High School
540 55th Street NE

Pennsylvania Avenue SE
January 10, 2013
6D MPD Substation
2701 Pennsylvania Avenue SE

Georgia Avenue NW
January 14, 2013
Kennedy Recreation Center
1401 7th Street NW

To find out more information about the grant and workshops, please call (202) 727-6365 or emailgreatstreets@dc.gov

You can also find out more information by visiting OAPIAs website [by clicking here](#).

Reservation 72

OAPIA attended the celebration event for the renovation of Reservation 72 (Chinatown Park-Bounded by 5th, 6th, Eye and Massachusetts Avenue, NW.). Many groups contributed to the success of the project, including the District Department of Transportation, the Chinese

Consolidated Benevolent Association, the Edifice Group, Inc., and the surrounding community.

The Chinatown park improvements totalled approximately \$200,000 and included the following: Construction of new dark gray concrete sidewalks and concrete curb sections, which are sympathetic to the park's historic paths, reconfiguration of portions of the existing iron fence to complement the new sidewalk alignment, expansion of the existing irrigation system, installation of ten new or refurbished benches and four new trash cans, planting of 14 new trees and others.

As part of the Chinatown Cultural Development Strategy, OAPIA and the DC Office of Planning organized planning meetings in 2008 with the Chinatown stakeholders to discuss ways to make the park more community friendly. OAPIA is excited to see the improvements made in the Chinatown Park and looks forward to seeing more community members utilize the park.

OAPIA, Metropolitan Police Department and Crime Victim Assistance Partnership Organize Safety Workshop

On December 17, OAPIA along with Crime Victim Assistance Partnership (CVAP) and Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) organized a safety workshop at Asian Service Center. The workshop covered 3 topics: 1) What to expect when calling 911, 2) Crime prevention in light of the holiday season, and 3) Smart 911.

With the first topic, participants were told by Sgt. Kenny Temsupasiri of MPD's Asian Liaison Unit when to call 911, how 911 calls are handled and what kind of information callers will be asked and are expected to provide. The audience were also informed that they have the right to ask for and be provided with interpretation service if they prefer to speak a language other than English.

On the second topic, Sgt. Kenny informed the audience that crimes tend to go up during holiday seasons. He went over the common crimes such as robberies, thefts, and frauds, and the things people should look out for to not become a victim of a crime.

On the third topic, OAPIA staff informed the audience on Smart 911, a free service provided by [DC Office on Unified Communications](#) (OUC). With this service, people can create a profile for their household that includes the vital personal and medical information they want 911 call takers and first responders to have in the event of an emergency. Then if they call 911, their profile will be immediately available to call takers and first responders to provide faster and more effective assistance. People with limited English proficiency may also identify their preferred language. Anyone who would like to get more information or create a profile may go to www.smart911.com.

Before the workshop, OAPIA had worked with OUC to design a smart 911 flyer specifically for the AAPI community and translated the flyers into Chinese, Vietnamese and Korean. Information on how to create a profile was also translated. OAPIA will work with OUC to organize a number of sessions to help AAPI LEPs register and create their profiles.

53 people attended the workshop, the majority of them were Chinese residents from Chinatown.

SPOTLIGHT: January is Cervical Health Awareness Month

The United States Congress Designated January as Cervical Health Awareness Month

According to the [Pearl of Wisdom Campaign](#), cervical cancer is the second most common cancer in women worldwide. In the U.S., the American Cancer Society estimated that in 2009, 11,270 women would be diagnosed with cervical cancer and 4,070 women would die of the disease. Cervical cancer is caused by persistent infections with high-risk types of the human papillomavirus (HPV). HPV is a very common sexually transmitted infection that 3 of 4 adults will have at some time in their lives. Most of these infections go away on their own without treatment. Infections that do not go away on their own can lead to cervical cancer.

*Asian-American women are much less likely to get routine Pap tests than women in other groups. This may be due, in part, to the widespread misconception that Asian-American women are not at risk of cervical cancer. But this is not true. In fact, Laotian, Samoan, and Vietnamese women have the highest cervical cancer rates in the United States. Women who do not get regular Pap tests have higher rates of cervical cancer.

[Click here to find in-language material](#) on cervical cancer screening and find ways on how to live a healthy life.

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.

Who is Eligible for Project WISH?

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 ALL DC RESIDENTS

For more information about free prevention, screening, and health services please call the CCCP at (202) 442-9170

*womenshealth.gov

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, January 23, 2013 @ 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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