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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,**

While the summer may be a slow time for some, the Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OAPIA) continues to push forth on its major initiatives. Two of these major initiatives consist of working on a tenant rights awareness campaign and supporting the DC Health Benefit Exchange Authority (HBX)'s outreach efforts.



OAPIA is currently in the process of developing a tenant rights awareness campaign geared towards educating the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community on housing issues, in areas such as safety and compliance. OAPIA plans to partner with the Office of the Tenant Advocate (OTA) and the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) for this campaign.

In addition, the DC Health Benefit Exchange Authority is hosting community town halls on DC Health Link. DC Health Link is a new online marketplace where DC residents and small employers will be able to shop for health coverage. OAPIA is working with HBX to promote these DC Health Link town halls to members of the AAPI community through multilingual outreach.

These are just a few examples of the initiatives OAPIA has planned; I encourage you to visit our website at [www.apia.dc.gov](http://www.apia.dc.gov) for up to date information on ongoing and forthcoming initiatives.

Sincerely,

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

OAPIA in the Community

**OAPIA Interns Visit OCA - Asian Pacific American Advocates (OCA) and an Exhibition from the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center**



*OAPIA interns meet with OCA Executive Director Tom Hayashi (far right) and OCA staff.*



*OAPIA interns in front of the OCA National Center building.*



*The Smithsonian exhibition, I Want the Wide American Earth: An Asian Pacific American Story, is seen by OAPIA interns.*



*OAPIA interns in front of the Smithsonian exhibition.*

OAPIA interns visited OCA - Asian Pacific American Advocates (OCA), a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing the social, political, and economic well-being of Asian Pacific Americans, on Tuesday, July 9, 2013. Afterward, the interns visited the *I Want the Wide American Earth: An Asian Pacific American Story* exhibition presented by the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center at the National Museum of American History.

### **Mayor Vincent C. Gray and OAPIA Participate in Ward 8 Community Forum on K2/Scooby Snacks & Drug Paraphernalia**



*Panelists at the Ward 8 community forum.*

Mayor Vincent C. Gray was the special guest speaker at the Ward 8 Community Forum on K2/Scooby Snacks & Drug Paraphernalia held on Thursday, July 11, 2013 at the St. Elizabeth's Hospital Auditorium. Community members and leaders gathered to educate everyone about the harmful effects of synthetic drugs, especially on youth. OAPIA Director Soohyun "Julie" Koo also shared with the community the agency's Fiscal Year 2014 initiative to collect pledges from AAPI retailers indicating that they will not sell K2 drugs and other drug paraphernalia. Peter Cho of the Korean American Grocers Association of Washington, DC (KAGRO-DC) served as a panelist at the event.

### **OAPIA Speaks at International Leadership Foundation (ILF) Luncheon Roundtable**



*Director Koo shares her experiences with ILF fellows and OAPIA interns.*

OAPIA Director Koo made keynote remarks at a luncheon roundtable hosted by the International Leadership Foundation on Friday, July 12, 2013. She shared her past experiences as a Korean immigrant who marked a career transition from a translator to the director of OAPIA, and provided career advice to the ILF fellows and OAPIA interns in attendance.

### **OAPIA Fiscal Year 2014 Pre-Bidders Grant Meeting**



*OAPIA meets with interested pre-bidders.*

On Monday, July 15, 2013, OAPIA held a pre-bidders meeting to address the Fiscal Year 2014 Asian American and Pacific Islander Community Grant and answer questions. The deadline for submission is Thursday, August 1, 2013 at 12:00 noon. OAPIA expects to award up to 10 grants, and eligible CBOs can be funded up to \$50,000. To find out more information about this grant, please visit [www.apia.dc.gov](http://www.apia.dc.gov) or contact Neel Saxena at [neel.saxena@dc.gov](mailto:neel.saxena@dc.gov) or 202-727-3120.

### **OAPIA Welcomes Additional Summer Interns**



Tanita Yates is a rising senior at the Parkside campus of the Cesar Chavez Public Charter School for Public Policy in Washington, DC. She has one younger sister who is entering the 11th grade, and a younger brother entering the 6th grade. After graduating from high school, Tanita would like to attend either Kentucky State University, North Carolina Central University, or Savannah State University. She intends to major in business management and sociology.

After she completes college, Tanita hopes to build her own school to empower the youth of this generation and the next generation, and to also build her own counseling office for individuals who need advice on how to improve their lifestyle. Tanita believes educating youth on these issues is important, and feels there should be guidance on why life is important and how individuals should not give up. Tanita is placed at OAPIA as a Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) intern.

### Tanita Yates

Jasmine Gatten recently graduated from Holton-Arms School in Bethesda, MD. She will be attending Dickinson College this fall to study international business and management with a minor in Japanese. In her free time, Jasmine enjoys cooking and baking, along with sewing. Throughout her high school summers she has participated in the Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP), and has taken on various jobs, from being a camp counselor to being a fashion designer. Jasmine is currently excited to work with OAPIA this summer and hopes to learn more about the diverse local Asian and Asian American and Pacific Islander community.



**Jasmine Gatten**

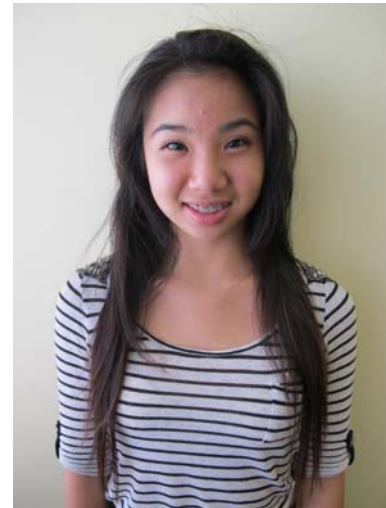


**Erica Chu**

Yueh-Ai Erica Chu was born and raised in Taipei, Taiwan and is a rising senior in the bilingual department of Taipei Fuhsing Private School. With her experiences of having grown up in Taiwan and attended summer programs in the United States, Erica embodies both cultures and is enthusiastic about learning more about Asia and the United States. Erica is active in several school clubs, and serves as the president of both the Model United Nations and the Make a Wish club. Her participation in the Teen Diplomatic Envoy Delegation from the Republic of China (Taiwan) also allowed her to experience the career of a diplomat, and helped to foster a deeper understanding of international and domestic affairs. Erica is interested in studying international relations, communication, and business when she enters college.

Erica believes that she can learn more about the situation of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, the function of organizations and government in the United States, and improve her language abilities while interning at OAPIA. She is looking forward to working with the OAPIA staff and gaining new experiences.

Lily Hoang was born and raised in Oakland, CA. She is the eighth and last child in the Hoang family; Lily has six older brothers and one older sister. Lily is currently attending San Lorenzo High School as a rising senior. She is very passionate about helping others. During the school year, Lily is deeply involved in student government. She has served as a senator for two terms and this fall she will be serving as the Commissioner of Spirit. Lily also organizes events as a volunteer of the Alameda Youth Committee of the city of Alameda in California. On Sunday mornings, she serves at the altar at the Cathedral of Christ the Light. Lily wants to leave behind a legacy of perfectionism and the willingness to serve others.



**Lily Hoang**

Christina Hu is a recent graduate of the Johns Hopkins University (JHU) School of Advanced





**Christina Hu**

International Studies with a Master of Arts in International Relations and International Economics. While at Johns Hopkins, she attended the JHU Bologna campus in her first year and founded the Bologna Campus Consulting Club which helps students familiarize themselves with the consulting industry and prepare for careers in consulting. She worked as an associate consultant at Bain & Company's Shanghai office during the summer of 2012.

Prior to Johns Hopkins, she graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Grinnell College in 2011 with a Bachelor of Arts in International Political Economy. She studied in-depth the history and structure of the European Union during a study abroad program in Freiburg, Germany, and worked as a policy assistant at the European Parliament in Brussels for a Romanian Member of the European Parliament (MEP), Mr. Csaba Sogor. Christina's interests include management consulting, marketing & strategy, as well as public policy. She is currently interning at OAPIA through the Project BUILD initiative.

### Spotlight: OCA - Asian Pacific American Advocates (OCA) & OCA-DC



OCA - Asian Pacific American Advocates, or simply OCA, is a national membership driven organization dedicated to advancing the social, political, and economic well-being of Asian Pacific Americans, touching tens of thousands of individuals each year through its extensive network of over 100 chapters, affiliates, and partners from around the country. In addition, the organization strives to foster development, leadership, and engagement through its various programs.

As one of the oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization in the country, OCA works with its local and national partners on a variety of issues including, but not limited to, affirmative action, bullying, immigration, military hazing, voter rights, and xenophobia. With the ardent support of its members, advocates, and colleagues, OCA will continue to ensure that Asian Pacific Americans have a strong voice at the policy making table in pursuit of equity and equality for all.

OCA-DC is one of the founding chapters of OCA. OCA-DC is an inclusive community of Chinese and Asian Americans, both immigrant and native born, who care about the long-term collective well-being of Asian Americans in this country. OCA-DC serves as a bridge between Americans of Chinese descent and the Chinese immigrants, and between Asian and non-Asian Americans, and is a voice that advances the collective interests of the community for the common good. OCA-DC promotes civic engagement and political involvement of Asian Americans at all levels, and informs and educates Asians and non-Asians alike about Asian American issues.

For more information about OCA, please visit [here](#). For information about the local OCA-DC chapter, please visit [here](#).

## July is Social Wellness Month



July is Social Wellness Month. Social wellness refers to one's ability to interact with people around them. It involves using good communications skills, having meaningful relationships, respecting yourself and others, and creating a support system that includes family members and friends. A person engaged in the process of social wellness sees the value in living in harmony with nature and others in the community, while actively seeks out ways to preserve the beauty and balance of life.

For more information or resources concerning social wellness, please visit:

- [Live Well DC! sponsored by the DC Department of Health](#)

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