



David Do, Director



Muriel Bowser, Mayor

MOAPIA Newsletter

Agency Updates, Events and Announcements, Career Connections, and more from the DC Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (MOAPIA)

A Message from the Director

Dear Community Members,

Each year, the National Cherry Blossom Festival commemorates the gift of 3,000 cherry trees presented in 1912 from Mayor Yukio Ozaki of Tokyo to the city of Washington, DC. Today, the trees and the annual springtime celebration honor the lasting, close friendship between the United States and Japan.

This gift of friendship reminds me of my own personal experience with Japan through the nation's Kakehashi Project - a weeklong people-to-people exchange experience. Over the years, I have had the opportunity to participate in many programs that aim to bolster the relationships between our city here and the rest of the world. But few have had a more lasting impact than the Kakehashi program, which promotes a deeper mutual understanding among the people of Japan and the United States. This trip brought Asian-American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) leaders from across the country to Japan to learn about its people, policies and culture. I had the unique opportunity to become life-long friends with nine individuals, who include mayors, business leaders, educators and civic leaders.

From the moment that we met at Narita International Airport in Tokyo, I sensed that this group of AAPI leaders would become fast friends. Why? Because the Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE) found the right balance of leaders when they chose us as Kakehashi participants. During our first dinner together, I was comforted by my new friends. And as the week went on, these friendships developed into more than just short-term acquaintances that were created out of necessity. There was a genuine admiration and love for each other.

We were able to learn more from each of the programs and events because it helped us interact more candidly with the Japanese. It allowed us to speak openly with each other and place the things we learned into a deeper context of understanding. It promoted a greater appreciation of the relationship between the Japanese and American people.

However, what is most remarkable is that in the six months since our trip, we remain in



contact almost every day. We follow our wins and losses. We share the big milestones and the small ones too. They are my sounding board when I need a second opinion. They are friends that I will forever cherish because of the Kakehashi Project - friendships that are built to last, like the United States and Japan.

Warm Regards,

David Do

Director of the Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

Upcoming Events

National Cherry Blossom Festival



The 2018 Festival, March 20 - April 15, includes four weeks of events featuring diverse and creative programming promoting traditional and contemporary arts and culture, natural beauty, and community spirit. The 2018 Festival commemorates the 106th anniversary of the gift of the cherry blossom trees and the enduring friendship between the United States and Japan. Explore this year's schedule of events [here](#).

AAPI Leadership Action Forum



JOIN THE MAYOR'S OFFICE ON ASIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER AFFAIRS



AAPI LEADERSHIP ACTION FORUM

TOPICS: *health and human services, public safety, adult education/job training, small business, education, housing, arts and culture, civil liberties, and immigration.*

Saturday, April 21, 2018
9:30 AM - 3:30 PM

REGISTER TODAY!

aapileadership.eventbrite.com

  @DCMOAPIA #DCTakesAction

BREAKFAST AND LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED



GOVERNMENT OF THE
 DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

To request reasonable accommodations, please call (202) 727-3120 seven days in advance of the event.



Old Council Chamber
 441 4th St. NW
 Washington, DC 20001

**Metro: Judiciary Square - F St. exit
 Red Line**

MOAPIA is hosting the AAPI Leadership Action Forum on Saturday, April 21 from 9:30 am - 3:30 pm. Join us for a day of conversation and discussion around issues that matter most to the AAPI community including arts and culture, civil liberties, immigration and public safety. Let your voice be heard by registering [today!](#)

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

ASIAN AMERICAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH



MAYOR MURIEL BOWSER'S AAPI HERITAGE MONTH CELEBRATION



Monday
MAY
7
Lincoln Theatre
1215 U Street NW,
Washington, DC 20009
7:00pm

A celebration of lively cultural performances by renowned Asian and Pacific Islander artists, award ceremony, and more!

FOODELICIOUS NIGHT



**Freer Gallery of Art
- Meyer Auditorium**
1050 Independence Ave SW
Washington DC, 20560
6:30pm

TUESDAY
MAY
22

An evening filled with exciting cooking demonstrations by DC's famous Asian chefs, and an authentic taste of the Asian cuisine!

Stay tuned for more information!

For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, please call (202) 727 3120 seven days in advance.



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MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

Mark your calendars for our upcoming events in celebration of AAPI Heritage Month in May. Stayed tuned for registration information and event specifics.

Sign Up for Mayor Bowser's Newsletter

Want to get updates on new programs, policy, and opportunities to get involved? [Sign up](#) for the Mayor's weekly newsletter!



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