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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,

Last July Mayor Gray set three major priorities in his One City Action Plan. The three top goals in the "One City Action Plan" are to: (1) Grow and Diversify the District Economy; (2) Educate and Prepare the Workforce for the New Economy and (3) Improve the Quality of Life for All. I highly encourage you to view the plan and progress at <http://ocap.dc.gov>.



Each goal in the plan articulates clear strategies and specific actions that will be taken to achieve results. One such action related to growing and diversifying the District's Economy is a new OAPIA initiative that we will be rolling out with Mayor Gray on November 14, 2013. This initiative is called "Connect, Engage & BUILD!" (CEB). CEB's objective is to CONNECT AAPI retail businesses to District government resources and neighbors so that businesses can ENGAGE with the District and community to help BUILD and diversify the District economy.

CEB consists of various projects and programs that contribute to the growth and diversity of the economy. One such project is entitled "Project BUILD," which connects small retail businesses with MBA students to provide them various technical assistance such as develop a personalized business plan. Other programs involve connecting businesses with government programs such as DC Health Link and "Adopt-a-Block."

Mayor Gray and OAPIA will launch the CEB initiative on November 14, 2013 at the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) building located at 1100 4th Street, SW, E200 from 11:00 am - 1:00pm. It will feature a Business Resource Fair where businesses can receive information and answers about affordable health care insurance, businesses incentives, licensing, taxes, and other topics. The fair will be followed by CEB Launching Reception where you will be able to hear a business owner speak about the initiative. You may RSVP for the event here: <http://nov14ceb.eventbrite.com>.

I hope you can join us for the launch and we will continue to roll out a variety of programs and projects throughout the year that fall under CEB. OAPIA will continue to work with other District agencies and community based organizations to ensure the needs of our District's residents are being met.

Sincerely,



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

OAPIA in the Community

The Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (CAPIA) Meet with Mayor Vincent C. Gray



OAPIA Director Soohyun "Julie" Koo (middle of bottom row), Mayor Vincent C. Gray, CAPIA, and AAPI community leaders.

On October 24, 2013, the Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (CAPIA) met with Mayor Vincent C. Gray, OAPIA staff, and several AAPI community leaders to discuss and address important issues related to the AAPI community. CAPIA's newest commissioner, Ada Loo, was also sworn in at the meeting.

For more information on CAPIA, please visit [here](#).

OAPIA Speaks at the Asian/Pacific Islander Domestic Violence Resource Project's Annual Gala



OAPIA Director Koo (right) speaking at DVRP's annual gala.

On October 25, 2013, OAPIA Director Koo gave remarks at the Asian/Pacific Islander Domestic Violence Resource Project's (DVRP) annual gala. DVRP's mission is to address, prevent, and end domestic violence and sexual assault in Asian/Pacific Islander (A/PI) communities while empowering survivors to rebuild their lives after abuse.

For more information on DVRP, please visit [here](#).

OAPIA Attends the Opening Ceremony for the Biggest Painting in the World 2013



The biggest painting in the World 2013.

On October 28, 2013, OAPIA Director Koo attended the opening ceremony for the biggest painting in the World 2013 at Union Station in DC.

OAPIA Announces Partnership with DC Health Link to Promote Affordable Health Plan Coverage within the Asian American and Pacific Islander Community

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) - The Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OAPIA) entered a memorandum of understanding with the DC Health Benefit Exchange Authority (HBX) to bring new affordable healthcare options to the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community by promoting DC Health Link. This is a part of OAPIA's initiative to help improve the AAPI community's accessibility to affordable health insurance.

According to US Census 2011, the American Community Survey 3-year report estimates that 7.1% of the District of Columbia's population is uninsured. In the District's AAPI population, the uninsured percentage is 8.3%.

Under this partnership, OAPIA will recruit bilingual staff members, fluent in Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese languages, and assist HBX with developing culturally appropriate and multilingual outreach materials for the AAPI community. OAPIA will spearhead extensive outreach efforts to the AAPI community via informational workshops, community meetings, events, and door-to-door outreach, as well as an ethnic media campaign to educate residents and business owners on their options and help the uninsured in signing up for insurance.

For the entire press release, please visit [here](#).

Spotlight: Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC)



Founded in 1979 to aid Southeast Asian refugees into the American society, the Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC) is a national organization that advances the interests of Cambodian, Laotian, and Vietnamese Americans. Originally founded to help with the relocation of refugees and to foster the development of nonprofit organizations led by these refugees, SEARAC works to empower communities for social, political and economic justice through advocacy, leadership development, and capacity building. SEARAC is committed to community engagement, leadership and organizational development as well as policy and advocacy. With offices in the Washington D.C. area and in California, SEARAC has grown into a leader among diverse refugee communities, and has turned into an organization that strengthens community-based organizations led by refugees.

SEARAC has recently worked with the Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC) and a number of other organizations to call for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to revisit policies that furthered deportation and detention laws that led to harsh punishment for immigrants. SEARAC has also recently released a policy brief called "Moving Beyond the 'Asian' Check Box" in order to promote data disaggregation in order to better address academic achievement gaps that exist within the Asian American/Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander (AANHPI) communities in the US.

For more information about SEARAC, please visit [here](#).

November is National Child Safety & Protection Month



November is a busy month full of activities and national holidays, but it is also National Child Safety and Protection Month.

The goal of National Child Safety and Protection Month is to increase awareness of things that could potentially harm children in everyday situations. Some important topics include: car safety, emergency and disaster preparedness, food safety, healthy routines and habits, and indoor/outdoor safety. For the Asian and Pacific Islander community, child safety and protection tips also include promoting culturally appropriate safe youth activities, counseling, and family strengthening events.

For more information on Child Safety and Protection Month, please visit:

- [Safe Kids Worldwide](#)
- [Examiner: "Child Safety and Protection Month"](#)
- [Center for Disease Control and Prevention: "Children \(Ages 4-11\) - Safety in the Home & Community"](#)
- [Project Youth Safety: Child Abuse & Neglect in a Southeast Asian Community](#)

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