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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 Mayor



VINCENT C. GRAY
MAYOR

Dear Community Members:

As the end of the year approaches, I am pleased to share some of the achievements and progress my administration has made in transforming the District's economy.

I launched the District's Five-Year Economic Development Strategy last year with the goal of growing and diversifying the city's economy while also preparing the workforce for new employment opportunities. The economic strategy is a vehicle for achieving my vision to make the District of Columbia more prosperous, equitable, and sustainable for all residents.

In just one year, we have made significant progress in implementing the 52 initiatives outlined in the strategy. More than half have been completed or launched and have already yielded 17,750 new jobs and \$281 million in new tax revenue.

I am delighted that my Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs is doing its part to help build and diversify the District's economy. For example, OAPIA recently launched Connect, Engage and BUILD!, an initiative connecting small businesses with District government resources and community partners to help them thrive.

The District's population is growing and unemployment is declining – factors that contribute to making the city the top place in the nation to live, work, and play. But the success we have achieved could not have happened without community support and partnerships. With the public and private sectors working together, I am confident we can exceed our goals. I look forward to continued progress in the New Year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vincent C. Gray".

Vincent. C. Gray

OAPIA in the Community

OAPIA Shares Smiles by Distributing Toys to District Youth and Recognizing Community Leader Hien Vu for Her Community Services
Annual Toy Giveaway Distributes Over 320 Toys to More Than 200 Children



Hien Vu, Founder and President of the Vietnamese American Community Service Center (VACSC), makes remarks to the audience.

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) - The Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OAPIA) held its annual "Share a Smile, Give a Toy" Toy Giveaway and Year-End Celebration on December 12, 2013 at the Old Council Chambers of One Judiciary Square.

For the past seven years, OAPIA has collected and distributed 2000 toys to over 1800 District children. Toys are donated from local community members, community based organizations, and District government employees for children from infancy to 15 years of age. Activities for children at the event included storytelling from Santa, balloon making, face painting, and cultural performances.

"The best part was the face painting," said Rachel Lee, one of the 210 children in attendance.

OAPIA Director Soohyun "Julie" Koo made warm remarks, and recognized and honored Hien Vu, the Founder and President of the Vietnamese American Community Service Center (VACSC), for all her hard work in the Vietnamese American community in the District. City Administrator Allen Lew, on behalf of Mayor Vincent C. Gray, presented the Mayor's Certificate of Appreciation to Mrs. Vu.

"Through Hien's leadership, VACSC was able to grow and prosper over the years by expanding its programs, servicing more families and individuals in need than ever before. We at OAPIA are sad to see VACSC close its doors, as VACSC and Hien's presence in the community will surely be missed," said Director Koo.

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

Greetings from the Special Assistant

Hello everyone, this is Dory Peters, Special Assistant for the Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs.

How long have you been in DC?

I have been working in DC for 10 years.

What brings you to DC and what do you enjoy most about DC?

The abundance of social activities and diversity attracted me to the area. There are always interesting events going on, so you never get bored. Plus, you get to meet people from diverse backgrounds from around the country and world. I did not have these opportunities before I moved to DC.



How do you stay engaged within the community?

My work at OAPIA keeps me engaged with the AAPI community. I also volunteer whenever possible.

Own Words

Change your thoughts and you will change your world.

If you enjoyed reading profile, please visit [I am AAPI in DC](#) to read additional community member profiles or to submit your own profile!

Spotlight: National Association of Asian American Professionals - DC Chapter (NAAAP-DC)



The National Association of Asian American Professionals - Washington D.C. Chapter (NAAAP-DC) is a non-profit, volunteer based organization that cultivates Asian American leaders by promoting professional advancement and personal development. NAAAP-DC holds many events throughout the year, including leadership and business workshops, networking events, and seminars. NAAAP-DC puts a heavy emphasis on providing professional mentoring and coaching through the organization's large network of professionals. Additionally, NAAAP-DC is also invested in engaging members with community service projects so that members can develop leadership in both their careers and communities. The organization consists of diverse Asian ethnic groups and covers a wide range of industries including finance, consulting, technology, manufacturing, law, and government.

For more information about NAAAP-DC, please visit [here](#).

December is Universal Human Rights Month



Human Rights

In December we raise awareness to the struggle for human rights. More than 60 years ago, the United Nations General Assembly approved the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, declaring the inherent dignity and equal and inalienable rights of all human beings as the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world. It is declared that humans have the right to life, liberty and nationality, to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, to work, to be educated, and to take part in government.

For more information on Universal Human Rights Month or related resources, please visit:

- [DC Office of Human Rights](#)
- [The United Nations: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#)
- [The United Nations: Human Rights Day](#)

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