

The content in this preview is based on the last saved version of your email - any changes made to your email that have not been saved will not be shown in this preview.



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

May 8, 2014

Dear Community Members,

Early last year, my administration released the Sustainable DC plan, which proposed ambitious goals for the next 20 years to make the District of Columbia the healthiest, greenest, and most livable city in the nation. I was pleased to release our Sustainable DC First-Year Progress Report last month, and even more pleased by the great progress we have made.

The First-Year Progress Report identified progress across the four key challenges of the Sustainable DC Plan: growing jobs and the economy; improving health and wellness; ensuring equity and diversity; and protecting the climate and our local environment. With 83 percent of the Sustainable DC plan's actions already underway, my administration has constructed 24 new playgrounds, planted 9,280 trees, opened 10 new green schools, and created five new community gardens.

Furthermore, my Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OAPIA) has been involved in sustainability efforts and engagement by promoting the Adopt-A-Block program to Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community members and business leaders, and registering 25 AAPI owned businesses, with the goal to register an additional 50 businesses. The Adopt-A-Block program allows participants to adopt nearby neighborhood blocks to reduce litter and waste, beautify the community, and help protect the environment as a means of sustaining a clean and healthy environment in the District of Columbia.

Overall, we have seen tremendous progress and are leading the nation on a number of fronts. Across District agencies and our many community partners, there is a collective effort to create a more sustainable city today and for generations to come; however, there is still much more work to do. It will require the input and active participation of everyone to take action to promote local economic development, community equity and opportunity, and environmental protection, to further advance the goals of the Sustainable DC Plan. I encourage everyone to get involved or learn more about the Sustainable DC Plan at www.sustainable.dc.gov.

Sincerely,

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

Vincent C. Gray

OAPIA in the Community

Mayor Gray and OAPIA Celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Language Access Act



Panelists of the GroundBroken panel discuss the history of the Language Access Act and its effects on the Asian American and Pacific Islander community.



A participant of the I Got a Story to Tell exhibit poses with a community member in front of her photo at the GroundBroken reception.



Mayor Gray samples Korean cuisine at the GroundBroken reception.

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) - Mayor Vincent C. Gray and the Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OAPIA) celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Language Access Act with the GroundBroken policy panel and reception, and the launching of the *I Got a Story to Tell* photo exhibit, on April 23, 2014 at the historic John A. Wilson Building. Over 100 limited English proficient residents and merchants, community leaders, community members, and District government officials attended the event.

"We want to continue ensuring that all residents, including Asian American and Pacific Islander residents, are able to access government resources and programs regardless of their background or language ability, as we are 'One City' that values and protects all of our residents," said Mayor Gray.

GroundBroken and *I Got a Story to Tell* are part of OAPIA's 10 for 10 initiative to celebrate ten years of language access with ten different activities and events throughout the year. The purpose of the panel and reception was to educate the public about the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community and the effects of language access on the AAPI community. *I Got a Story to Tell* is a photo exhibit that highlights images and stories from the AAPI community on how language affects their lives.

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

OAPIA Participates in Arirang World Heritage Exhibition Opening



OAPIA Director Koo with program participants and Korean Cultural Center staff.

On April 24, 2014, OAPIA Director Soohyun "Julie" Koo made remarks at the Arirang World Heritage Exhibition Opening at the Korean Cultural Center of Washington, DC. Arirang is a Korean folk song, and was inscribed on the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in December 2012.

OAPIA Receives Award at 2014 Interpreters' Professional Development Workshop



OAPIA Director Koo receives an award at the workshop.

OAPIA Director Koo received an award at the 2014 Interpreters' Professional Development Workshop at the Inter-American Development Bank on April 25, 2014. The event was hosted by Multicultural Community Service in partnership with the Office on Latino Affairs and in collaboration with the Inter-American Development Bank. The workshop provided new trends in interpretation training, and information on the state of interpretation and translation in the current economy.

OAPIA Participates in Citizenship Day 2014



*A volunteer at Citizenship Day 2014.
Image courtesy of: AILA*

On Saturday, April 26, 2014, OAPIA, along with the Chinatown Service Center and the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), sponsored Citizenship Day 2014, a single-day workshop in Chinatown. At the event, volunteer attorneys from AILA assisted lawful permanent residents eligible for naturalization by helping to prepare application packets for U.S. citizenship, as well as assisting low-income individuals requesting fee waivers in their application process.

Over 30 individuals, including Chinese, Vietnamese and Korean residents, attended the event and received free assistance services. Bilingual volunteers were on site to help individuals with limited or no-English level proficiency.

Mayor Vincent C. Gray Designates May as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

The Month will Highlight the 10-Year Anniversary of the Language Access Act

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
VINCENT C. GRAY, MAYOR

Proclamation



ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

MAY 2014



WHEREAS, the District of Columbia celebrates cultural traditions, ancestry, native languages, and unique experiences represented among more than 30 ethnic groups from Asia to the Pacific Islands; and

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia is home to over 27,000 Asian American and Pacific Islander residents who represent diverse cultural, religious, and political backgrounds, speaking dozens of different languages or dialects, and have interwoven their traditions and heritages into the ethnic fabric of our world-class city; and



WHEREAS, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have helped to shape the social and economic character of our city and nation; and

WHEREAS, community members, organizations and government agencies will gather to celebrate and recognize the contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders during this month:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, THE MAYOR OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, do hereby proclaim May 2014, as "ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH" in Washington, D.C. and call upon all the residents of this great city to join me in commending the District of Columbia's Asian American and Pacific Islander community.



Vincent C. Gray

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) - Mayor Vincent C. Gray and the Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OAPIA) designated May as Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month in the District and announced a series of events to commemorate the observance.

"The Asian American and Pacific Islander population remains the fastest growing and most linguistically diverse community in the District," said Mayor Gray. "Let us celebrate the achievements and contributions of the Asian American and Pacific Islander community, and continue to ensure that they, like every other District resident, are able to reap the benefits of living in our great city."

"I welcome everyone, from long-term residents to newcomers, to celebrate AAPI Heritage Month

with OAPIA and to experience the rich culture and diversity the community has to offer, in activities ranging from the arts to the philanthropic," said Soohyun "Julie" Koo, OAPIA Director.

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

Spotlight: DC Mayor's Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (CAPIA)



The DC Mayor's Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (CAPIA) advises the Mayor and advocates for the interests of the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community in the District.

CAPIA consists of at least 15 members appointed by the Mayor. Commissioners must be DC residents. They reflect the demographic, geographic, and ethnic diversity of the API community. A chairperson is appointed by the Mayor. If needed, the Mayor may appoint other government representatives to the Commission.

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

May is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month



Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month is celebrated in May to commemorate the contributions of people of Asian and Pacific Islander descent. During the month, AAPIs around the nation celebrate with community festivals, and various educational and government activities.

This year, the DC Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OAPIA) will host and participate in three major events throughout the month of May. On May 8, 2014, OAPIA will host a [panel discussion with AAPI fashion designers](#). On May 15, 2014, in collaboration with the American Psychological Association, OAPIA will co-host a [panel discussion on substance abuse and addiction in the AAPI community](#). Finally, Mayor Gray and OAPIA will close out the month with their annual [AAPI Heritage Month Celebration](#) on May 30, 2014. The celebration will include various cultural performances, recognize the pioneers of the Language Access Act, and highlight individuals who have been instrumental in helping the District's limited English proficient and non-English proficient speakers.

For more information on Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, or related resources in the District, please visit:

- [OAPIA: Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month](#)
- [OAPIA: Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month 2014](#)
- [OAPIA: Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Calendar of Events 2014](#)

oapia@dc.gov | www.apia.dc.gov | Phone: (202) 727-3120 | Fax: (202) 727-9655



[Forward email](#)

SafeUnsubscribe™

Trusted Email from
Constant Contact
Try it FREE today.

This email was sent to oapia@dc.gov by oapia@dc.gov |
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

OAPIA | 441 4th St NW | Suite 721 North | Washington | DC | 20001