



**MAYOR'S OFFICE on  
ASIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER AFFAIRS**  
2015 Annual Report





# MISSION

The mission of the Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (MOAPIA) is to improve the quality of life for District Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders through advocacy and engagement.

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WE ARE WASHINGTON DC Government of the District of Columbia Muriel Bowser, Mayor  
MOAPIA Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs David Do, Director  
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At MOAPIA, we want to ensure that the AAPI community has easy access to District government services by providing expanded outreach efforts, advocacy, and problem-solving services.

– DAVID DO, Director, Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

## PROGRAMS

MOAPIA acts as the liaison between the District government and the AAPI community by:

- ADVISING the Mayor, Council, and District agencies on the views, needs, and concerns of the District's AAPI community;
- PROVIDING recommendations on District programs and initiatives affecting the AAPI community; and
- HELPING coordinate programs and initiatives within District government that promote the overall welfare of the AAPI community.

MOAPIA accomplishes its mission through the following main focus areas:

- Advocacy
- Community Engagement
- Intergovernmental Affairs
- Policy & Research

### ADVOCACY

MOAPIA aims to increase the involvement of AAPI residents and merchants in the District's community and civic life. MOAPIA also identifies the needs of the community and advocates on their behalf to provide resources to community based organizations.

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

MOAPIA engages with community members through outreach, so that AAPI members can stay educated and informed of policies and services that are available to them through District government.

### INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

MOAPIA provides assistance to District agencies required to provide translated documents and oral language services to limited English proficient (LEP) populations. The office works with over 35 District agencies on language access and provides regular updates on AAPI issues.

### POLICY & RESEARCH

MOAPIA seeks to increase data and information available on the District's AAPI population to ensure that policy makers make informed decisions when developing programs and policies that affect the community.



Government of the District of Columbia

GOVERNMENT OF THE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR



## MESSAGE from the MAYOR

The District of Columbia is home to a rich and vibrant multicultural community. Since 2000, the District has seen over a 60 percent growth for the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community, one of the fastest and most linguistically diverse populations rising in DC. At the beginning of my administration as Mayor, I committed to creating pathways to the middle class for all District residents and that meant engaging with the 31,458 AAPIs who call the District home.

Through this engagement I hope to understand the unique needs of the AAPI community and that is why I have urged MOAPIA and my other constituency offices to find innovative ways to connect with the District's multicultural communities in all eight wards. There are countless opportunities where we can improve the lives of District residents and this is why I've tasked Director Do to lead the Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs.

Director Do shares many of my values and knows the importance of community engagement. The AAPI community is an active and integral part of our economy and government, ranging from AAPI small business owners to police officers, public servants, educators, community leaders, and others

who play significant roles in our society. Now as the District grows, it is more important than ever assess the current issues the AAPI community faces. Under Director Do's leadership, he has already created many opportunities for residents to voice their concerns, among one of the most significant gatherings being the "AAPI Action Forum." From this forum I look forward to learning about the "State of AAPI Affairs" in the District of Columbia and how District government can support the AAPI community.

I thank Director Do and MOAPIA for their efforts in making District government programs and services more accessible to the AAPI community. By working collaboratively, we will continue to find the best and most innovative ways to serve and help our residents.

Sincerely,

Muriel Bowser  
Mayor of the District of Columbia

## MESSAGE from the DIRECTOR

Dear Community Members,

When I became director, I made a commitment to ring in a fresh start for MOAPIA by using my previous experience as a grassroots community organizer to build strong relationships and find creative solutions to benefit the AAPI community. I wanted to make sure that we engage, are inclusive, and outreach to populations and communities that we may not have reached out to in the past. It was important to me that we connect with the District's multicultural communities, including the Latino and African diaspora communities, to build a stronger and better District of Columbia. I am excited to announce that during my first year, MOAPIA has accomplished that and so much more.

We launched the first "Chinatown Park Start FRESH!" series to engage residents in healthier lifestyles and ensure Chinatown is a place where all residents can enjoy culturally sensitive activities.

I hosted office hours sixteen times, in all 8 wards of the District, to ensure District government programs and services were easily accessible to all AAPI residents and businesses.

My outreach team and I met and provided case assistance to over 500 businesses and 900 residents.

Our work is far from over but I am thrilled to share with you our accomplishments from the past year in our annual report. Thank you for your support in helping me make the District a great place to live, work, and play.

Warm Regards,



DAVID DO  
Director





# OUR WALK AND ACHIEVEMENTS

## CHINATOWN PARK START FRESH! SERIES

MOAPIA, in partnership with the Department of Parks and Recreation, launched the “Chinatown Park Start FRESH!” series this summer. In an effort to increase activity in Chinatown Park, promote the Mayor’s City Wide Health and Wellness Initiative, and increase community-government partnerships MOAPIA has been hosting events at Chinatown Park on a regular basis.

Over the summer, MOAPIA hosted a total of 12 Tai Chi classes, 1 Tae Kwon Do class, 2 yoga sessions, 2 movie screenings, as well as a community picnic day, where residents enjoyed music, refreshments, games, and took advantage of free yoga, hula, and volleyball classes.

We in the Chinatown DC community are so grateful to the MOAPIA, DPR, and NPS staff for their labor of love to refresh our local park and its usefulness for community gatherings and connections. There is still work to do to rehab its appearance and neighborhood perception, but we enjoyed a great start in the health and cultural initiatives which brought locals out to embrace their park again.

— PASTOR RICHARD ROSS,  
Chinese Community Church





## AAPI ACTION FORUM

This year, MOAPIA hosted its first citywide “AAPI Action Forum” at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center. The forum examined six different policy areas – health of vulnerable residents, community safety, small business, linguistic and cultural challenges in K-12 education and in job training, and the affordability of housing. Over 200 participants, of various cultures and ethnic backgrounds, collaboratively worked together to develop recommendations that MOAPIA and other government agencies could implement that would benefit the community as a whole.

The team that coordinated this event did a wonderful job. It was the right mix of presentations, group work and even a Tai Chi demonstration to energize us all. I was particularly impressed with the diversity of the attendees - my table had cultural representation from India, DC, West Africa and the Philippines. This type of forum would serve well for more collaboration between residents of different cultures.

— RAMON LLAMAS, AAPI Action Forum Participant



## SYNTHETIC DRUG OUTREACH

MOAPIA has been hard at work to promote and ensure safety within the District. Increasingly, the use and sale of synthetic drugs has been affecting the District, making it a priority concern for the Mayor and MOAPIA.

This year, MOAPIA educated AAPI community members, including youth, through coordinating events with guest speakers and using social media to inform the public on the harmful effects of drugs. MOAPIA received pledges not to sell synthetic drugs from a total of 39 small business owners, who displayed their pledge stickers on the windows of their stores.





# TAKING A STEP CLOSER TO OUR COMMUNITY

# INCLUSION INITIATIVES

MOAPIA remains committed to ensuring District government programs and services are accessible to all AAPI residents and businesses, especially to underrepresented and vulnerable populations.

I am committed to engaging the entire LGBTQ community. The diversity of the LGBTQ community is our greatest strength and our task forces will provide us an opportunity to really engage with folks who have historically been left out of the conversation about LGBTQ rights.

— SHEILA ALEXANDER-REID, Director, Mayor's Office on GLBT Affairs

## AAPI LGBTQ TASK FORCE

MOAPIA partnered with the Mayor's Office on GLBT Affairs to form a community led task force to engage the LGBTQ AAPI community. The task force met on a monthly basis and served to link the community to District government programs and services.





## PRE-K INITIATIVE

MOAPIA developed an informational flyer to educate AAPI parents about the free pre-kindergarten services offered by DC Public Schools, charter schools, and community based organizations (CBOs) so that parents are aware of the various school choice options in the District.

MOAPIA partnered with My Schools DC and connected the organization with Asian American LEAD, Many Languages One Voice, and the Chinatown Service Center in efforts to better promote and implement this new initiative.

Growing up, I was an English language learner (ELL) in public school and my parents were limited English proficient (LEP) speakers. That is why I became a community organizer so that I can help bridge the gap that disadvantaged minority groups may encounter in the realm of education.

– DAVID DO, DIRECTOR, Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs



## BUSINESS LICENSE GUIDE

MOAPIA worked with the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs to create a Business License Guide available in English, Korean, Chinese, Vietnamese, and Urdu to better serve current and potential AAPI business owners. The Business License Guide equips business owners with useful government resources and makes it easier for them to get information on various items related to doing business in the District, such as getting a business license and info on the permit process.

# ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVES

The District of Columbia is comprised of vibrant, diverse communities and it is MOAPIA's goal to engage AAPI residents in important issues while promoting events and initiatives that enrich individuals' civic and social lives.



As we celebrate Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, we recognize the contributions and diversity that the Asian American and Pacific Islander community offers to our city. There are more than 27,000 Asian American and Pacific Islander residents who have woven their traditions and heritages into the ethnic fabric of our world-class city and helped shape the District through their civic engagement, entrepreneurship, and philanthropy.

— MURIEL BOWSER,  
Mayor of the District of Columbia

## ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

Throughout May, MOAPIA celebrated AAPI Heritage Month with various events to showcase the many facets of the District's AAPI community. On May 1, 2015, MOAPIA kicked off the month's celebration with "Fit and Fresh" yoga and Tae Kwon Do classes at the Deanwood Recreation Center. Then on May 8, 2015, MOAPIA hosted "Putting the 'A' in Art," a panel discussion with local AAPI performance artists at the Goethe-Institut. Following on May 21, 2015, MOAPIA held an AAPI LGBTQ Film Screening of "I Am" accompanied by a lively discussion with the film maker and dynamic community leaders. The month's festivities concluded with Mayor Bowser's AAPI Heritage Month Evening Celebration at the Shakespeare Theatre Company's Lansburgh Theatre on May 26, 2015.



## BREAKING BARRIERS in AFFORDABLE HOUSING

On June 27, 2015, MOAPIA hosted a panel discussion on affordable housing at the Department of Housing and Community Development's Annual Housing Expo to share ideas on ways the government can improve services on housing to the immigrant communities. Over 30 community members of various backgrounds attended the panel discussion.



## MOAPIA LAUNCHES HAAPIDC (HEALTHY ASIAN AMERICANS AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS IN DC)

MOAPIA launched HAAPIDC, an initiative promoting culturally & linguistically appropriate information on healthy living to DC's AAPI residents. Through HAAPIDC, MOAPIA provided information on health conditions and risk factors that disproportionately affect AAPIs as a whole and specific AAPI ethnic groups.

David Do and the rest the MOAPIA staff have been an absolute pleasure to work with. We worked with them to plan and execute their MOAPIA Summer Social and it was an absolute success. The diverse variety of programming that David and his team have provided to the DC community has strengthened our community's ability to advocate and has forged strong alliances within our AAPI community.

— DAN LAM, Board Chair, Conference on Asian Pacific American Leadership



## MOAPIA SUMMER SOCIAL

On July 14, 2015, MOAPIA hosted a networking happy hour in Chinatown in partnership with five local CBOs to better connect and engage with AAPI young professionals. MOAPIA was able to reach over 90 people through this networking event.

## CHINATOWN PARK(ING) DAY

On September 18, 2015, the District Department of Transportation hosted PARK(ing) Day to build over 20 pop-up parks in curbside parking spaces. MOAPIA participated in PARK(ing) Day and converted a few parking spots in Chinatown into temporary parks for the community to enjoy. The event facilitated interaction among community members and allowed MOAPIA to engage with more constituents through cultural activities and exhibitions.

Featured in a Greater, Greater Washington article [Park\(ing\) Day highlights the value of green, public space](#)



## OUTREACH INITIATIVES

Outreach is important for building a stronger AAPI community. Strong relationships begin with understanding and cooperation between different groups, including reaching out to other multicultural communities.



## DIRECTOR DO in the COMMUNITY

To ensure that all AAPI community members have an opportunity to voice their concerns, Director David Do initiated hosting office hours in all eight wards across the District. These office hours provided constituents with easy access to District government services and allowed them to get their issues addressed through one-on-one conversations with the Director and his staff.

In addition to office hours, MOAPI's outreach team and Director Do committed two hours each Friday to conduct walkthroughs in the community to meet with business owners, residents, and community based organizations (CBOs) to address concerns and assist in resolving reported issues, such as broken sidewalks and damaged alley surfaces.

Through office hours and weekly outreach visits, MOAPI met with a total of:

**540** BUSINESSES & **903** RESIDENTS

## MOAPIA in the COMMUNITY

As part of a new hands-on approach to reach more constituents, MOAPIA's outreach team attended several community events to promote MOAPIA's programs and services. During 2015, MOAPIA staff participated in:



**4** "National Night Out" community events, hosted by the Metropolitan Police Department



**5** Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) meetings



**7** "Beat the Streets DC" community events, hosted by the Metropolitan Police Department

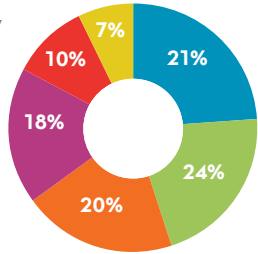


VietFest, a Vietnamese Heritage Festival

## CASE ASSISTANCE\*

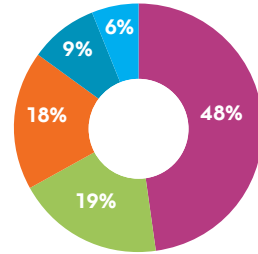
### BY SUBJECT AREA

- Economic opportunity
- Human Services
- Other
- Health
- Housing
- Public Safety



### BY LANGUAGE

- English
- Vietnamese
- Chinese (Mandarin)
- Other
- Korean



\*The data shown was collected during the District's fiscal year calendar.

## Number of Cases Opened/Closed

As of October 15, 345 cases have been closed



Number of Community Members Reached by Outreach Efforts:

**77,125**

Number of Outreach and Capacity Building/Technical Assistance Efforts to AAPI community members and DC agencies:

**3,278**

## ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER GRANT

In FY2015, MOAPIA awarded a total of \$333,550 in grants to various organizations, in support of language, social, health, youth and education, arts and cultural services:

ORGANIZATION NAME	AMOUNT	AREA
Asian American Leadership Empowerment and Development	\$ 97,500.00	Education, Youth Leadership
Moving Forward	\$ 57,500.00	Arts, Cultural Services
Domestic Violence Resource Project	\$ 56,500.00	Social Services
Chinatown Service Center	\$ 51,750.00	Social Services
Hepatitis B Initiative of Washington, DC Inc.	\$ 40,250.00	Health Services
Many Languages One Voice	\$ 17,250.00	Language Access
Asian Pacific American Bar Association Education Fund	\$ 10,000.00	Legal Services
DC Center	\$ 2,800.00	Capacity Building

We have used this assessment [The AAPI Community Grant] to show the dire need for continued outreach in the AAPI community to address, prevent, and end domestic violence.

— TUYET DUONG, Executive Director, Asian/Pacific Islander Domestic Violence Resource Project





A PATH THAT LIES  
AHEAD OF US



Moving forward, MOAPIA will continue to build bridges between the District's Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community and all Washingtonians to create a better, stronger District of Columbia.

— DAVID DO  
Director, Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

## MOVING FORWARD

Based on the findings from the AAPI Action Forum, participants indicated that language access and accessibility to information as the two major areas of concern for the community. As MOAPIA moves forward, it will continue to work with District government agencies to ensure that all District materials, programs, and services are available in a wide variety of languages to accommodate the District's limited English proficient residents and businesses. MOAPIA will also continue to work under the themes of inclusion, engagement, and outreach to find the best channels to disseminate information to the AAPI community.

In 2015, MOAPIA made great strides in fulfilling its mission to improve the quality of life for the District's AAPI community. However, as indicated by the robust discussions at the AAPI Action Forum, there is more work that needs to be done. In the years to come, MOAPIA will continue to work with other District government agencies and the community to find innovative solutions for our District AAPI residents.

## MOAPIA STAFF

DAVID DO, Director

DORY PETERS, Deputy Director

NGOC TRINH, Director of Community Engagement

KANGEUN "KELLY" JEONG, Community Outreach Specialist

NAM DO, Community Outreach Specialist

SOOJIN KU, Community Outreach Assistant

JO PANERO, Community Outreach Assistant

ESTHER KANG, Staff Assistant

MOAPIA gave me valuable insight to the challenges DC AAPI community members and businesses are facing every day, and I have witnessed the impact our office makes to improve their livelihoods.

— PAULENE DE MESA, Summer 2015 Intern (Graduated from University of California, San Diego)

## MOAPIA'S INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Through MOAPIA's internship program, interns have the opportunity to gain public service experience by working on a variety of assignments pertaining to outreach and language access within MOAPIA and with other government agencies. The internship program gives interns a chance to learn first-hand about how the District government operates, in addition to interacting directly with the District's AAPI community and learning about their challenges and stories.

In 2015, MOAPIA hosted 14 interns. Some major projects that interns have worked on include planning the Chinatown Park Start FRESH! series, assisting with outreach to small businesses, and providing support to various MOAPIA hosted events.



**Mayor's Office on Asian & Pacific Islander Affairs**  
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☆☆☆ GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

