

MAYOR'S OFFICE ON ASIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER AFFAIRS

# Counting Everyone In

## 2019 ANNUAL REPORT





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## ABOUT MOAPIA

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 (AAPI) through advocacy and engagement.

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
- **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:

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

### Community Engagement

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

### 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.

### 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.

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear Community Members,

It is my honor to present to you the exciting and dynamic story of AAPIs in the Washington, DC this past fiscal year. At the end of November 2018, I was humbled and honored to be named as the Director of MOAPIA by Mayor Bowser. It has been a year of learning and growth for me getting settled into my role. I am proud to lead the largest municipal agency serving AAPIs at the local level and that the nation's capital, the city that I have called home for twenty years, recognizes the needs and value contributions of the AAPI community. Some of the key accomplishments of this past fiscal year include:

- Holding twenty-one large-scale events that attracted 33,320 participants
- Supported community-based organizations through our AAPI

Grant Program, which served over 5,320 AAPIs in DC;

- Provided assistance to more than 860 cases on matters that directly affected the lives of District residents; and
- Continued to defend and support our immigrant communities through our work with the Immigrant Justice Legal Services grant program.

Our office is also particularly proud to have been chosen by Mayor Bowser to lead the district wide 2020 Census Outreach grant program to ensure that all residents are counted fairly and accurately. As we move into 2020, the Census will be a key priority for us and for the Mayor's Administration.

In this coming year, I also look forward to continuing specific and intentional outreach to communities that are often

not shown enough attention, including Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders. My staff and I are committed to the DC Values that our city holds and to Mayor Bowser's mission of building a transparent and inclusive government that serves everyone. As you read the report, I hope you will gain insight into the breadth and depth of our activities and work. We look forward to continuing that work with you in the future.

In partnership,

Ben de Guzman

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





OUR WALK AND  
**achievements**



## DIWALI CELEBRATION



The District's 4th Annual Diwali Reception was hosted by MOAPIA at the Freer Gallery of Art. Diwali is an important festival for South Asian cultures, celebrated by over a billion Jains, Sikhs, and Hindus worldwide. The celebration included cultural performances, a lamp lighting ceremony, delicious South Asian food, and community networking. Mayor Bowser joined Priest Kumanduri Sri Venkatacharyulu for the lamp lighting ceremony and presented a proclamation to recognize the Diwali Celebration in Washington, DC. 360 participants gathered for an evening that celebrated the spirit of love and goodness.



## LUNAR NEW YEAR PARADE

MOAPIA hosted the annual Toy Drive and End-of-the-Year Holiday Celebration to celebrate the winter holiday season, provided toys and raffle prizes to the 142 District youth. Agency representatives distributed information about DC government programs and services to parents and families. DC Health Link and DC Public Library were onsite to promote their agencies and to sign up people for their services.

## TOY DRIVE & END OF YEAR HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

Mayor Bowser celebrated the turn of the Lunar calendar to the Year of the Boar at the 2019 Lunar New Year Parade, an event that featured live performances, bright floats, and attracted over 30,000 spectators. The parade through streets of Chinatown is organized annually by the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association (CCBA) and supported by MOAPIA.



## ASIAN AMERICAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH CELEBRATION

On May 7, MOAPIA observed Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month by hosting the Mayor Bowser's celebration, which included cultural performances and an awards ceremony at the historic Lincoln Theatre in Ward 1. The Mayor's Community Service Award was presented to Shige Sakurai

and the Ajay Ojha Volunteer Service Award was given to Wendy Chan. Seven hundred participants attended this event.

On May 22, also as part of the AAPI Heritage month, MOAPIA hosted its fourth Foodelicious Night, which featured cooking demonstrations and tastings from three of DC's renowned AAPI chefs: Chef Conrad Hise from Auntie Gingah's, Chef Noobtsaa Philip Vang from Foodhini, and Chef Pichet Ong from Brothers and Sisters. Over 360 guests got the chance to indulge in this culinary event at Catholic University.



## CHINATOWN PARK SUMMER SERIES

For the fifth consecutive year, MOAPIA hosted events throughout the summer as part of the Chinatown Park Series. As part of MOAPIA's continued efforts to further establish Chinatown as a focal point for the District's entire AAPI community, this successful series has turned the once underutilized Chinatown Park into a social and family-friendly community space.

Events in the Chinatown Park Series accomplish many goals, including:

- Promoting health and wellness in line with the Mayor's FitDC Initiative as part of the City-wide Summer Strong DC
- Provide opportunities for community members to connect with District agencies and learn more about the programs and services offered
- Celebrate the cultural diversity in Washington, DC

The Chinatown Park Series attracted 1,800 community members. MOAPIA partnered with over 37 District agencies and community organizations on these events.

The 2019 events included:

- Movie nights, at which community members enjoyed movies in the park including Crazy Rich Asians, Bend It Like Beckham, and Monkey King: Hero is Back, which was part of our celebration of the Mid-Autumn Festival
- Weekly morning Tai Chi and evening fitness sessions
- The Annual Chinatown Community Festival, an event that included lively cultural performances, fitness demonstrations, health screenings, family-friendly activities and informational booths from community-based organizations and other District agencies



# DC CENSUS 2020 COMMUNITY GRANT

Mayor Bowser understands that an extensive network of trusted community-based partners to engage with the diverse communities across the District is needed to ensure a complete count of the District residents for the 2020 Census. This is especially true for the hard to count communities. That is why she allocated over \$800,000 in grants to local organizations to support engagement for the 2020 Census. The Mayor has entrusted MOAPIA to serve as the grant administrator and monitor for this important grant, in partnership with the Office of Planning. During the summer of 2019, MOAPIA

successfully set up, launched, and administered the District's Census grant program, which has become a model for local jurisdictions in other parts of the country.

Under this grant program, sixteen community partners have been hard at work to organize, inform, and motivate residents around the 2020 Census with a focus on hard-to-count populations in Wards 1, 5, 7 and 8, low income residents, African Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, Asians/Pacific Islanders, Africans, other immigrant communities, seniors, and families with young children.



# SAFETY-RELATED PROJECTS

In partnership with Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), MOAPIA tackled projects to improve community safety for residents and business owners including:

- Promoting MPD's Text Tip Line (50411) to 377 businesses and 65 residents
- Creating flyers to explain the difference between the 911 services (emergency) and 311 services (city services) and distributed them to 654 businesses and residents across all eight wards,

including Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese

- Sharing announcements and updates regarding Mayor Bowser's efforts to improve public safety
- Promoting Private Security Camera Incentive Program The program provides reimbursements for the purchase and installation of outdoor security cameras that are registered with the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD). MOAPIA distributed translated information on the program to over 985 business owners and residents



## ARCADIA MOBILE MARKET

The lack of access to Asian produce and other healthy foods has been one of the concerns brought up by DC AAPI residents. This is especially true among low income AAPIs residents in Chinatown. MOAPIA continues to work with a vendor, Arcadia Food, that can fulfill the need for fresh, accessible, organic, and very affordable Asian produce options on a weekly basis in the summer in DC Chinatown. This service has greatly helped AAPI residents, especially senior citizens who have mobility issues to access healthy and familiar food. The service benefitted 1,347 community members in FY19.

## SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (SYEP)

In support of Mayor Bowser's "Pathways to the Middle Class" initiative, MOAPIA actively promoted the SYEP and encouraged DC's AAPI students to participate in the program. We shared the information about the SYEP with local ethnic media and promoted the program at high schools with the high AAPI student populations, community fairs, as well as AAPI-owned businesses. The number of AAPI youth registered in the SYEP was approximately 110, which was 37% higher than MOAPIA's initial goal.

## FREE/LOW COST JOB TRAINING PROGRAMS

In order to address the unique adult education and job training challenges among AAPIs, MOAPIA updated a list of available job prep and readiness programs for DC residents and continued to promote the resources widely throughout the DC AAPI community, reaching 840 residents at immigrant community/education fairs, public schools, and cultural festivals.



## ARTS AND CULTURE



In order to raise awareness about the AAPI arts as well as to create AAPI cultural events that are beyond just celebrations, MOAPIA made various efforts including:

- Supported Bangladeshi American artist Monica Jahan Bose on her public art project WRAPture: Storytelling with Saris installed in Anacostia (Ward 8)
- Participated in 2019 Asian American Literature Festival hosted by Smithsonian APA Center
- Promoted DC Public Library's Artist Talk with Shani Shi
- Hosted a Book Reading of the children's book "Journey for Justice: The Life of Larry Itliong," written by Gayle Romasanta and Dr. Dawn Bohulano Mabalon.



## RESIDENT/ HOUSING OUTREACH

MOAPIA regularly visited apartment buildings/community centers with a higher AAPI concentration around Chinatown to check in with residents to stay connected, hear about their issues, offer assistance and maintain MOAPIA's visibility. This included educating residents of their tenants' rights and share information for available matching funds and other opportunities for ownership, and other affordable rental opportunities in the District.

## ENGAGING YOUNG AAPI PROFESSIONALS

MOAPIA cosponsored both the opening and closing sessions of the Washington Leadership Program with the Conference on Asian Pacific American Leadership (CAPAL) in the summer of 2019. The Washington Leadership Program introduces the younger generation of AAPIs to veteran advocates in public service to inspire and promote civic engagement. Director Ben de Guzman addressed the participants about the work of MOAPIA and how CAPAL members can get involved to help serve the community. The events combined had over 100 participants.



In keeping with Mayor Bowser's FITDC initiative, MOAPIA supported the Asian and Pacific Islander Queers United for Action (AQUA) team in the 2019 DC Dragon Boat Festival. The team earned the Government Open Champion Gold Cup of which they are the defending champion; they also earned the Silver medal for the 250 meter race and the Bronze medal for the 500 meter race both in the A-Major Division. Go AQUA!

## CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Highlights of our civic engagement activities include Voter registration at our events, which reached 105 residents. MOAPIA also hosted a booth for DC Board of Elections at our Chinatown Community Festival, where BOE registered new voters and educated the public on voting in DC. 1000 people attended the event. MOAPIA also promoted New American Workforce Citizenship Workshops, a joint effort of DC government and National Immigration Forum, which support DC residents' naturalization process.





TAKING A STEP CLOSER TO  
**our community**



## AAPI SMALL BUSINESS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (SBTA) PROJECT

The SBTA Project was established to provide technical assistance and support to AAPI-owned small businesses in the District to help them take advantage of opportunities, overcome challenges, and thrive in a competitive marketplace.

### Small Business Outreach

MOAPIA reached out to 561 businesses during its regular outreach sessions and other outreach events in FY2019. Staff visited AAPI-owned businesses throughout the District to inform owners about new policies and initiatives that are being implemented by the District government. These outreach sessions are a way for staff to connect directly with them about issues or concerns. MOAPIA often invited Metropolitan Police Department to join to foster community policing. Materials in both English and their native

Asian languages were distributed to each business owner. Some of the programs that MOAPIA shared include:

### Wage Theft Prevention

The District of Columbia's Wage Theft Prevention Amendment Act (WTPAA) of 2014 became effective February 26, 2015. Beginning on July 1, 2019, the minimum wage in D.C. increased from \$13.25 to \$14.00. Also, according to the Act, all employees must receive a written copy of Employer Notice upon employment. The Wage Theft Prevention Amendment Act also requires business owners to post copies of the Accrued Sick and Safe Leave Act and the Minimum Wage Revision Act where employees can easily read. MOAPIA staff shared this information and materials with 552 AAPI businesses and 195 residents.

### Façade Improvement Program

DHCD's Façade Improvement Program funds storefront façade improvement projects in low/moderate income retail/commercial areas in the District of Columbia. MOAPIA informed 442 businesses about these funding opportunities and supported 29 AAPI businesses throughout the application process. Charlie's Corner, a Korean owned small business in ward 8, participated in this program through MOAPIA's outreach and was able to successfully improve their wall, lights, signage and door.

### DCRA in Your Neighborhood Sessions

MOAPIA partnered with DCRA to host a "DCRA In Your Neighborhood" session in Chinatown on August 27, and one in NoMa on September 25. MOAPIA translated the flyer and reached out to 302 AAPI small business owners in the District via various outreach methods. The

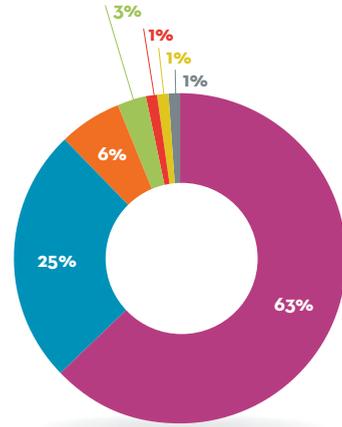
Chinatown session went especially successfully with 47 attendees, which was the biggest turnout among all DCRA In Your Neighborhood sessions. Attendees welcomed the opportunity to directly talk to the licensing team to apply for and renew businesses and licenses. Roadway vendors also had the opportunity to discuss their feedback and concern directly with DCRA's team.

### 2nd annual Ward 4 Small Business Summit

In addition to door-to-door visits, MOAPIA also joined Councilmember Brandon Todd to host a table at the 2nd annual Ward 4 Small Business Summit to connect with AAPI small business owners and share critical business resources and contracting opportunities.

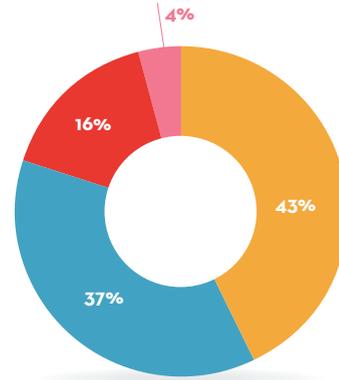


# CASE ASSISTANCE



**CASE ASSISTANCE BY SUBJECT AREA**

- Human services
- Small Business/Economic Opportunity
- Health
- Housing
- Public Safety
- Education/Training
- Others



**CASE ASSISTANCE BY LANGUAGE**

- Vietnamese: 202
- Chinese: 372
- Korean: 127
- English: 25

MOAPIA provides case assistance to residents and small business owners. The data shown here was collected during FY2019.

## TOTAL CASES

867

## OUTREACH EFFORTS

6,202

Outreach efforts geared towards businesses

15,163

Outreach efforts geared towards residents

# COMMUNITY GRANTS

In FY2019, MOAPIA awarded a total of \$323,250 in grants to community-based organizations that support the District's AAPIs. Grantees served a total of 5,320 District residents.

ORGANIZATION NAME	AMOUNT	AREA OF FOCUS
Asian American LEAD	\$ 57,000.00	Education, Youth Leadership
Asian Pacific American Film	\$ 8,000.00	Arts and Creative
Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center	\$ 29,000.00	Legal Services
Asian/Pacific Islander Domestic Violence Resource Project	\$ 45,000.00	Social services
Chinatown Service Center	\$ 45,000.00	Social services
Hepatitis B Initiative of Washington, DC Inc.	\$ 55,000.00	Health Services
Housing Counseling Services Washington English Center	\$ 48,000.00	Housing Services
Metro DC Community Center Inc.	\$ 8,000.00	LGBTQ and Social Services
Washington English Center	\$ 27,250.00	ESL and Workforce Programs

## GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN FILM (APA FILM)

The mission of APA Film is to bring attention to the creative output from AAPI communities and encourage the artistic development of AAPI talent, arts, and films in Washington, DC. In 2019, MOAPIA provided \$8,000 in grant funding to support the annual APA Film Festival, as well as workshops hosted by APA Film throughout the year.

In February 2019, APA Film hosted a writer's workshop for aspiring writers and creatives with Adele Lim, co-screenwriter of *Crazy Rich Asians*.

**We must all continue to support local film festivals in order to improve the diversity of Asian Americans on the big screen. That includes supporting and attending local film festivals that feature persons of color such as Asian American Film.”**

ADELE LIM  
co-screenwriter of *Crazy Rich Asians*

## GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT

ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESOURCE PROJECT (DVRP)

DVRP was founded by AAPI women concerned that local AAPI survivors were unable to access mainstream services due to cultural and language barriers. DVRP's mission is to address, prevent and end domestic violence and sexual assault in A/PI communities while empowering survivors to rebuild their lives after abuse. In 2019, MOAPIA provided \$45,000 in grant funding to support the DVRP to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate case management to AAPI survivors.

DVRP shared a one of their success stories with us:

*V\* is a Vietnamese client who's in an emotionally, financially and verbally abusive relationship with her husband. She still lives with her abuser, and their young daughter.*

*Thanks to MOAPIA connecting her to us, our Vietnamese-speaking Case Manager was able to provide peer support and figure out what V needed. V's motivation for seeking resources was that she feared that the abuse was beginning to affect her daughter. She came to DVRP for help finding low-income house, a counsellor for her daughter, and once she is settled, a lawyer to help her with a divorce case. DVRP is so happy to say that we have found many suitable options for her housing, and are continuing to provide support until V feels ready and empowered to move out and start the next chapter of her life.*

*V\* is used to protect the privacy of our client.*



## LANGUAGE ACCESS AND CULTURAL COMPETENCE

MOAPIA's Language Access Program provides greater access and participation in programs and services for all limited and non-English proficient AAPI residents in DC through technical assistance, policy guidance, and outreach.

This year, as part of its Language Access Program, MOAPIA:

- Provided Cultural Competency training at DC agencies, including MPD, DMV, DCHR, and OPC, to share in-depth information about the AAPI community and recommendations on how to better understand and serve them. A combined 4370 employees received the training.
- Partnered with MPD to arrange a 1-day panel discussion called 'Cultural Awareness Workshop-Improving Our Communities.' At the panel discussion, MOAPIA shared a variety of challenges

AAPI communities face and suggestions on better outreach for police officers and MPD's civilian staff

- As part of Language Access Navigator Program, collected data related to language assistance discrepancies and Asian constituents' experience with DC services. MOAPIA used the data with certain DC agencies to discuss ways to improve their Language Access compliance and community engagement
- Provided quality assurance for 21 DC agencies to ensure accurate and culturally appropriate translations
- Promoted and translated 25 critical DC government program resources to AAPI business owners and community members and informed them about their rights





# the path forward

FROM HERE



# CENSUS 2020

The District receives over \$6 billion annually through Federal spending programs such as Medicaid, SNAP, Housing Vouchers, and education funding based on Census data. A complete and accurate count in the 2020 Census will ensure that the District receives the funding and services our residents are entitled to. MOAPIA sees this as an opportunity for our community to show that the AAPI population in the District is growing and our voice matters. MOAPIA is working diligently with Mayor Bowser, District agencies, and community partners to minimize any obstacles in turning out the count.

For the first time, the Census will be online as the primary response option. This will be an obstacle for

those who lack internet access, particularly our senior residents. And even when the citizenship question debate was settled when the Supreme Court ruled that citizenship question cannot be on the 2020 Census, we know that the damage has already been done and our immigrant communities will be hesitant to participate in the Census. That's why MOAPIA has started our outreach efforts early to raise awareness of the upcoming Census and share information.

MOAPIA hosted a 'Train the Trainer' session for advocates and community leaders on October 9 with the Office of Planning and discussed efficient ways to debunk misconceptions about the 2020 Census and encourage the AAPI community's participation. MOAPIA will be expanding its Census outreach until next April and helping DC's AAPI community to participate in the Census without any fear or challenges.



## INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

MOAPIA's internship program provides interns with an opportunity to gain valuable experience in the public service sector. Interns assist with a variety of different tasks including community outreach, graphic design, language access, event planning, and more. The program allows interns to work directly with the District's AAPI community in order to gain a better understanding of this population's specific needs and concerns.

*"I consider my experience with the DC Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs extremely valuable. Through this internship, I was able to learn about different programs and services that the DC Government offered to its residents; programs and services that I did not know existed before my time at this office. My days at the Office of Asian*

*and Pacific Islander Affairs enabled me to get involved in a broad range of operations, such as, translation, graphic design, event planning, and outreach in the AAPI community.*

**"This internship has let me experience firsthand the direct impact of how public service can improve people's lives and now I definitely want to be involved in public service somewhere in my future career. Thank you to the DC Mayor's Office of Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs for the impact they have on the AAPI community in the District of Columbia."**

SABRINA MAI  
George Washington University



## MEET OUR STAFF

**BEN DE GUZMAN**  
Executive Director

**NGOC TRINH**  
Director of Operations

**HENRY DUONG**  
Public Information Officer

**ELLIE SUNG**  
Program Coordinator

**TRANG DUNOYE**  
Staff Assistant

**ROXANNE CHENG**  
Community Outreach Specialist

**LY LE**  
Community Outreach Specialist

**SARA PARK**  
Community Outreach Specialist

**SHARON PARK**  
Community Outreach Specialist





## MAYOR'S OFFICE ON ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER AFFAIRS

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WE ARE PROUD TO BE DC  
GOVERNMENT OF THE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
DC MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

