

ANNUAL REPORT

FY15: September 2014 – October 2015

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Executive Office of the Mayor
Office on African Affairs

Mamadou Samba

Director





Dear District of Columbia Residents and Stakeholders:

We are pleased to present to you the FY2015 Mayor's Office on African Affairs' Annual Report. MOAA's mission embodies Mayor Muriel Bowser's vision for the District of Columbia and focuses on three key areas: to support sustainable community development; to strengthen civic and public engagement among African constituents in the District; and to improve the overall quality of life for the District's diverse African residents and their families. Through MOAA's six programmatic areas, we organized and hosted 18 community programs and reached close to 8,000 District residents. Our eight African Community Grantees served over 5,000 clients and connected with over 7,000 community members (an increase of over 55% from last year) through their program activities.

From the first-ever Young African ConneXions Annual Summit and Mandela Day of Service, to community outreach and public safety initiatives, MOAA has successfully strengthened its program areas and launched new initiatives to provide timely information and critical services to the District's African community.

As part of its Youth Engagement Program, MOAA launched the new the Annual Young African ConneXions Summit in July, 2015. Speakers and panelists discussed such topics as youth leadership, public service, technology, community advocacy, and the importance of creating sustained linkages. The summit was attended by over 200 participants and was organized in partnership with President Obama's Washington Mandela Fellows for Young African Leaders at Howard University. Following the summit, MOAA held a city-wide Mandela Day of Service to encourage civic engagement through promoting volunteerism, civic activism, and youth involvement. MOAA staff and program partners, including the Mayor's Office of the Clean City, Serve DC, DC Youth Advisory Council, and over 85 local volunteers and community members participated in the removal of debris and in the street clean-up efforts.

In commemoration of Africa Day on May 25, 2015 and in its Capacity Building program area, MOAA and George Mason University's Institute for Immigration Research (IIR) launched a collaborative research project focused on the African immigrant population in DC. This project marks a significant step forward in documenting demographic information such as age, employment, education, linguistic, and cultural diversity among District's African-born constituents. This project will culminate in a jointly-issued report designed to address the critical gap in information about the African community and provide sufficient data for subsequent policy discussions on the District's African community and its various stakeholders.

In a newly initiated program that supports Mayor Bowser's public safety policy priority, the Mayor's Office on African Affairs conducted a strategic planning meeting to establish an African Community Public Safety Taskforce in July, 2015. District government safety task force agencies, including the Metropolitan Police Department, Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency, as well as DC Public Library and the U.S. Department of Justice were all represented at the first session. MOAA supports the eventual appointment of liaison officers within these public safety agencies who will assess the needs of the District's African communities and strengthen communication channels.

As part of its city-wide celebration of African Heritage Month the 6th annual DC Africa Festival featured a variety of performers, vendors, cultural activities and speakers from all regions of Africa. About 400 attendees partook in the festivities that were held at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center. This year's festival once again provided a visible testament to the unprecedented growth and presence of the District's African residents and reflected the values of MOAA's Multicultural Awareness and Community Building Program –celebrating the varied identities of African people; promoting the different cultures within the District's African community; and encouraging all District residents to learn about African heritage, cultures, and history.

The year ahead will present MOAA with new opportunities to strengthen its reach into the community and better link our constituents with more access to District agency resources. Our commitment to meet our community's varied needs remains steadfast, as does our faith in the achievement potential and the social, cultural, and economic contribution power of the growing African immigrant community in the District.

With warmest regard,

Mamadou Samba
Director, DC Mayor's Office on African Affairs

MOAA BACKGROUND & FY15 HIGHLIGHTS

The mission of the Mayor's Office on African Affairs (MOAA) is to ensure that the full range of health, education, employment, social services, safety, business and economic development information, services and opportunities are accessible to the District's African community.

By serving as the liaison between the Mayor, the District's African community, and District government agencies, MOAA aims to:

- Improve the quality of life of the District's diverse African-born constituencies and their children;
- Increase civic and public engagement in the District's African community, and;
- Support community development.

MOAA accomplishes these goals by providing targeted capacity building, linkages to District government agencies, and access to information, and resources to the District's African constituents through its six core programmatic areas:

- **Constituent Services**

MOAA offers culturally and linguistically targeted consultation and referrals to address constituent needs and requests.

- **Outreach and Education**

Through a broad range of educational outreach programs, MOAA ensures that the District's African communities remain informed on DC government agencies, programs and resources thereby promoting greater civic and public participation.

- **African Community Grant**

MOAA issues funding in a competitive process to community-based organizations that conduct programs and provide services in policy priority areas as determined by the Mayor.

- **Capacity Building**

Through its Business and Nonprofit Development Programs, MOAA strengthens the District's African businesses and community-based organizations by providing technical assistance, organizational development consulting and technical assistance.

- **Multicultural Awareness and Development**

Through its cultural events, dialogues and discussions, MOAA recognizes and respects the broad diversity of the District's African residents, thereby showcasing values of multiculturalism and community-building.

- **Youth Development**

MOAA promotes leadership and participation to strengthen the voice of the African youth in expressing their unique experiences and challenges as District residents.



In FY15, MOAA hosted a total of

17 community events

reaching over

7141 District residents

and participants.

These outreach and engagement activities reflected the **Mayor's key priority goals**, and provided an opportunity for the **Mayor, MOAA, and over 25 District government agencies to interface with the District's African community** in direct and meaningful ways. These activities included;

- City-wide annual multicultural and community-building events such as the 6th annual DC Africa Festival;
- Culturally and linguistically targeted education programs addressing urgent needs and access gaps;
- Technical assistance and consulting services to strengthen businesses and community-based organizations;
- Partnerships with District government and nonprofit agencies, and;
- Delivery of training to build cultural competency for service providers.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

MOAA's Outreach and Education program ensures that the District's African communities access District government services and resources. In FY15, MOAA conducted agency mixers and implemented a robust youth education program, and participated in a variety of outreach efforts through interagency coordination and community-based partnerships.

MOAA's AFRICAN BUSINESS MIXER 2015: On Wednesday, April 22, 2015, MOAA hosted an African Business Mixer at Eté Restaurant, located in the historic Shaw neighborhood at 1942 9th Street, NW. Local small medium business owners, nonprofit organizations, and future entrepreneurs were a few of fifty-five African community members present. The mixer was designed to increase engagement of African businesses and promote dialogue between business owners, as well as support targeted outreach efforts of District government agencies.

Director Samba welcomed the attendees and introduced guest speakers Fred Moosally, Director, Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration (ABRA), William Hager Public Information Officer, ABRA, and Ted Archer, Chief of Staff, Department of Small and Local Business Development (DSLBD). The speakers underscored DC Government's commitment to attract and sustain new businesses. Discussions revolved around business licensing and regulatory processes, the availability of resources, and technical assistance tools for small businesses and entrepreneurs. The interactive setting allowed speakers to engage with the audience and respond to queries about support for the development of local businesses. Two prominent business owners, Henok Tesfaye, owner of the U Street Parking and Eté Restaurant, and Yeshimebet "Mama Tutu" Belay, owner of the Ethiopian Yellow Pages, shared their personal experiences on setting up successful businesses in the District. Henok encouraged African businesses to work together and contribute to the District's thriving economy while Mama Tutu urged them to be inventive and resourceful in surmounting the challenges of establishing an immigrant-owned business.

Flu Vaccination Clinic

AFRICAN UNION AFRICA DAY: On Thursday, May 28, 2015, the African Union held the 2015 Africa Day Gala at the JW Marriott in Washington, DC. In attendance were ambassadors, community and government leaders, business actors, as well as political and civil activists. This year's theme, "Women's Empowerment and Development towards Africa's Agenda 2063," was highlighted by many including keynote speaker Ambassador Donald Teitelbaum, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State at the State Department's Bureau of African Affairs. Women have always played a critical role in the African in the economic, social, and cultural fabric of African society and this theme was addressed by the various speakers.

Special guests to the event included, civil rights activist and Baptist minister and Mathilde Mukantabana, Ambassador of Rwanda and head of African Ambassadors Group in Washington. As part of the program, MOAA Director Mamadou Samba delivered Mayor Bowser's Africa Day Proclamation declaring May 25th as Africa Day in the District. Nigerian-American FOX New Anchor Maureen Umeh served as Mistress of Ceremonies. Chevron, Coca Cola, and Exxon Mobile sponsored a night that included dinner, an art exhibition, and live entertainment and folk dance performances from Egypt, Rwanda and Ivory Coast.

Health Clinic: On Wednesday, September 9, 2015, The Mayor's Office on African Affairs (MOAA), in partnership with the Department of Health (DOH), the Center of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and Health Management Associates (HMA) hosted a health clinic and conducted flu vaccines for underserved and underinsured African immigrants and District residents. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), every year in this country 5 to 20 percent of the population gets the flu, more than 30,000 people die from the flu and 200,000 are hospitalized. The best prevention against influenza is to be vaccinated. MOAA in partnership with DOH, HMA and CDC held the health clinic in September ahead of the flu season which occurs from October through April. The event was open to the public and was held in the lobby of The Franklin D. Reeves Center.

Indices: In June, The Mayor's Office on African Affairs participated in the 2015 Indices which is a Statistical Index of District of Columbia Government Services. Since its inception in 1984, INDICES continues to be the major reference tool on District government programs and includes information and data on a wide range of areas such as economic development, health and human services, citywide and ward-level land use planning, education, transportation and public safety. MOAA contributed information on the mission of the agency and its core programs and services, as well as pertinent demographic details on the District's African communities.

AFRICAN COMMUNITY GRANT

Grants supported by FY15 funding were awarded to eight community- based organizations who serve the city's most vulnerable community members and offer services and programs in the priority areas of jobs and economic development, linkages to health and human services, youth engagement and education, and the promotion of African arts, culture, and humanities..

BACKGROUND – In FY2014, a Budget Support Act title awarded MOAA grant-making authority for the first time with the ability to issue funding to community-based organizations providing services to the District's African residents. MOAA solicited grant applications from qualified community- and faith-based organizations that provide culturally and linguistically targeted services and programs to the District's African constituents.

Eligibility criteria required that applicants: be a community- or faith-based organization with a 501 (c)(3) status; have an organization or program that serves the District's African residents or business owners; and/or have an organization or program that is located in the District of Columbia.

In FY2014 and FY2015, the African Community Grant Program awarded \$100,000 in funding each year to support projects in priority areas of workforce development, health linkages, youth engagement, and promotion of arts, culture, and

the humanities. MOAA's FY15 grantees were: African Women's Cancer Awareness Association, CitiWide Computer Training Center, Ethiopian Community Center, KanKouran West African Dance Company, Many Languages One Voice, Oromo Community Organization, the Person Center in collaboration with the DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and Hepatitis B Initiative of Washington DC.



The Person Center, MOAA's FY15 African Community Grantee, conducts outreach at Debre Sellassie Mariam Church in Ward 4.

PRE-BIDDERS ORIENTATION - On Tuesday, October 7, 2014, MOAA held its Pre-bidders Grant Orientation meeting at the Edna Cromwell Community Room of the Franklin D. Reeves Center of Municipal Affairs. About 60 participants, mostly community- and faith-based organization representatives, attended the informational session on eligibility criteria and funding priorities. The Request for Applications (RFA) that was distributed on September 12, 2014, was covered in-depth at the Pre-bidders Orientation and the presentation was followed by a question and answer session.

POST-AWARD MEETING - MOAA hosted its FY15 African Community Grant Post-Award Meeting on Wednesday, December 3, 2014 at the Reeves Center. Representatives from the eight grantee organizations attended this informative discussion on grant expectations and the reporting process.

CBO leaders and MOAA staff also shared ideas on future partnerships and collaboration opportunities. A representative from the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education spoke about the 'My School DC Lottery' initiative and provided important outreach materials for the District's African families and school children. Commission on African Affairs Vice-Chair Loide Rosa Jorge, Esq., also shared relevant resources and updates on immigration regulations pertinent to African communities.



MOAA Director Mamadou Samba greets community-based organization leaders and FY15's African Community Grantees

African Community Grant Financials

The chart below provides a breakdown of the \$100,000 used for MOAA's African Community Grant.

GRANTEE FUNDING AMOUNTS	
ORGANIZATION	FUNDING AMOUNT
African Women's Cancer Awareness Association	\$15,000.00
CitiWide Computer Training Center	\$20,000.00
Ethiopian Community Center	\$18,000.00
Hepatitis B Initiative of Washington DC	\$5,000.00
KanKouran West African Dance Company	\$12,000.00
Oromo Community Organization	\$10,000.00
The Person Center	\$15,000.00

FY2015 Grantee Target Measures and Outcomes

ORGANIZATION NAME	FUNDING PRIORITY AREA / AMOUNT	TARGET MEASURE	ACHIEVED MEASURE
African Women's Cancer Awareness Association	Linkages to Health, Wellness and Human Services \$15,000.00	800 clients served 50 uninsured registered	2,000 clients served 65 uninsured registered
CitiWide Computer Training Center	Jobs, Workforce, and Economic Development \$20,000.00	5 students each training in: Computer Literacy Workforce Training Educational Enrichment Health & Safety ESL English Conversation Total: 20 clients served	Computer Literacy (6) Workforce Training (6) Educational Enrichment (3) Health & Safety (0) ESL (3) Total: 18 clients served
Ethiopian Community Center	Youth Education and Engagement \$18,000.00	35 youth served 3 volunteers recruited 60 academic sessions 12 cultural workshops	35 youth served 17 volunteers recruited 60 academic sessions 12 cultural workshops
Hepatitis B Initiative of Washington DC	Linkages to Health, Wellness and Human Services \$5,000.00	250 clients educated 120 clients screened	489 clients served 233 clients screened
KanKouran West African Dance Company	Promotion of arts, culture and the humanities \$12,000.00	1,500 conference attendants 1,500 concert participants	1,284 conference attendants 1,490 concert participants
Many Languages One Voice	Youth Education and Engagement \$5,000.00	One-on-One Interviews Educating Community Community Engagement	Conducted all program activities 37 clients served (21 youth)
Oromo Community Organization	Linkages to Health, Wellness and Human Services \$10,000.00	8 health workshops 300 clients served	8 health workshops 446 clients served
The Person Center	Linkages to Health and Human Services \$15,000.00	9 community outreach events	15 community outreach events 300 clients served

CAPACITY BUILDING

MOAA works to build the capacity of local entrepreneurs, small businesses, community- and faith-based organizations through technical assistance and linkage to resources. In FY15, as part of a concerted effort to spur economic development within the local African business community MOAA worked to connect businesses to opportunities, and provide organizational development consulting to business leaders.

- **Open House** – On Friday, February 13, 2015, the Mayor’s Office on African Affairs (MOAA) hosted its Fresh Start Open House, welcoming members of the DC Commissioner on African Affairs, African leaders of community and faith-based organizations and local business owners. During the event, Mayor Muriel Bowser announced the appointment of Director Mamadou Samba, who is charged with implementing a robust operation and outreach strategy for the agency. Originally from Dakar, Senegal, Director Samba was a former Commissioner of the DC Commission on African Affairs, a role in which he served as a strong advocate for diverse African diaspora communities. His extensive experience in addressing socio-economic and cultural challenges faced by African immigrants include building capacity for African nonprofit organizations, and advocating on behalf of African-born residents locally and nationally. Over 150 people attended this festive event, which featured live African music by Amadou Kouyate (Senegal). Settegn Atanaw and Almaz Getahun (Ethiopia) performed courtesy of MOAA community partners, Little Ethiopia. Charon Hines, incoming Director of Community Affairs, was on hand to welcome senior government officials, District agency directors, African community and media partners, and African Diaspora community members, who extended their well-wishes to the new administration and to OAA staff.
- **USAID AFRICAN DIASPORA MARKETPLACE III** – On Thursday, February 19, 2015, MOAA partnered with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and Western Union for an informational workshop on the African Diaspora Marketplace (ADM) III Business Plan Competition. The event included USAID and Western Union staff including Jeffrey L. Jackson, Senior Private Sector Advisor, USAID; Barbara Span, Vice President, Global Public Affairs, Western Union; and David J. Saunders, ADM III Outreach Coordinator. This workshop was part of MOAA’s Business Development Program, which connects businesses to one another, to technical assistance and capital, and highlights new opportunities for local and international business. The African Diaspora Marketplace aims to encourage sustainable economic growth and employment by supporting African diaspora entrepreneurs. These individuals who have connections and experience in Africa have often established innovative and high impact start-ups or businesses on the continent.
- **FRESHSTART MEDIA MIXER** – On Tuesday, April 7, 2015, MOAA hosted its Fresh Start Media Mixer at Bossa Bistro and Lounge. Invited guests included Director Eric Richardson, Office of Cable Television, OAA Commissioner Loide Rosa Jorge, and Amelia Missieledies, Executive Director of The Person Center. The event served as a platform to address the importance of working together with media outlets to document positive stories of African constituents and organizations. Director Richardson issued an open invitation for community members to learn about available resources at his agency. The guest speakers noted the significance of establishing strong partnerships with African media outlets to help in outreach and education efforts. About 45 members of the African community, including media representatives, DC government officials, and African embassy staff attended the event.
- **AFRICAN BUSINESS MIXER** - On Wednesday, April 22, 2015, MOAA hosted local business owners, non-profit organizations, and upcoming entrepreneurs at its *African Business Mixer*. Guest speakers from government agencies



MOAA's Director Samba welcomes African business community members and invited guests

included Fred Moosally, Director, Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration (ABRA), William Hager, Public Information Officer, ABRA, and Ted Archer, Chief of Staff, Department of Small and Local Business Development (DSLBD). The speakers emphasized DC Government’s commitment to attract and sustain new businesses, support innovative ideas, and convey timely information on licensing and regulatory processes. They also shared available resources, and useful technical assistance tools for small businesses and entrepreneurs. Two prominent business owners and African community leaders, Henok Tesfaye, owner of U Street Parking and Etété Restaurant, and Yeshimebet “Mama Tutu” Belay, owner of the Ethiopian Yellow Pages, also took part in the event sharing their personal experiences in setting up successful businesses in the District. The mixer was designed to increase engagement of African businesses and support targeted outreach efforts of District government agencies.

African Community Grant Writing Workshop - As part of its Capacity Building for Nonprofit Development program, MOAA hosted its first Grant Proposal Writing Workshop and panel discussion to support the growth of community - and faith-based organizations and strengthen their access to the District's grant opportunities. The two-day workshop took place on Friday, May 15, 2015 and Monday, May 18, 2015 and was designed to critically evaluate internal and external organizational factors, including program development, identifying appropriate funding sources, developing proposals, and building collaborative partnerships. The workshop



1Professor Stephen Broyles instructs MOAA's two-day Grant Proposal Writing Workshop

used common grant development formats to provide the basics in proposal writing and discuss other useful resources that will further enable community-based organizations to apply for District and federal grant opportunities. Forty African-serving community leaders participated in the two sessions taught by Stephen Broyles, Adjunct Professor at Howard University's School of Social Work. On Monday afternoon, MOAA's Director Mamadou Samba chaired a panel of discussants including Lafayette Barnes, Director, Office of Partnerships and Grants, Sara Gallagher, Program Officer, International Diaspora Engagement Alliance, and

Anthony Chuukwu, Executive Director, CitiWide Computer Training and African Community Grantee who spoke on the theme "An Overview of Funding Resources for Non-profit Organization"



MOAA staff and African community participants of the Grant Proposal Writing Workshop

Young African ConneXions Annual Summit - On Friday, July 17, 2015, the Mayor's Office on African Affairs (MOAA), launched its first-ever Young African ConneXions Annual Summit titled African Youth Leadership and Linkages at the Howard University School of Business Auditorium. This event was held as part of MOAA's Youth Development program and in honor of Nelson Mandela International Day. The summit was attended by over 200 participants and was organized in partnership with President Obama's Washington Mandela Fellows and Howard University. Speakers and panel discussants engaged audience members in dialogue on topics such as youth leadership, public service, technology, community advocacy, and the importance of creating sustained linkages. Among the speakers and panelists were Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, H. E. Mninwa Mahlangu, Ambassador of the Republic of South Africa (via video message), Pape Samb, Chairman and CEO of the Global Youth Innovation Network, and Naomi Ferguson, 2015 Mandela Fellow at Howard University.

The first International Mandela Day of Service - Following the historical Young African ConneXions Annual Summit, MOAA held a Day of Service at Good Hope Marketplace in Ward 8 to mark the occasion of Nelson Mandela International Day. The first International Mandela Day of Service was held on July 18, 2008 in recognition of the former South African leader's birthday and his 67 years of public service. Similarly, MOAA's Mandela Day of Service was organized to promote community service and civic engagement of the District's African communities by way of promoting volunteerism, civic activism and youth engagement. MOAA partners, Mayor's Office of the Clean City, Serve DC, DC Youth Advisory Council, over 85 local volunteers and community members participated in the removal of debris and in the street clean-up efforts. The summit and Day of Service reflected Mayor Bowser's policy initiatives and focus on youth, namely Empowering Males of Color (EMOC) and Families, Recreation, Education/Employment, Safety and Health Summer (FRESH Summer) initiatives, and the youth engagement campaign #IWishUKnew.



Diaspora in Dialogue Film Project - On Friday, August 14, 2015, MOAA released its documentary film project featured on TALK DCN, one of DC Office of Cable Television's new shows. The project aims to raise the visibility of the growing community of African immigrants in Washington, DC, and to share their personal and professional experiences living and working in the nation's capital. The *Diaspora in Dialogues* film project was produced by MOAA and DC Office of Cable Television (OCT) by interviewing six participants from different walks of life that represent the rich linguistic and cultural diversity of the District's African residents. As community leaders, service providers, business owners, local government officers, artists, and professionals, African immigrants are active and dynamic participants of the communities they live in. *Diaspora in Dialogue* tells the story of Africans contributing to the economic, social, and cultural fabric of city life.



MULTICULTURAL AWARENESS & DEVELOPMENT

MOAA recognizes and respects the diversity of the District's African residents and works to promote awareness and appreciation for the rich multiculturalism within the District's African community. MOAA hosts cultural events showcasing the arts, and facilitates dialogues that encourage understanding among African cultural and linguistic groups and other communities in the District.

AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH: Mayor Muriel Bowser issued a proclamation decreeing September 2015 as "African Heritage Month" in the District of Columbia. The proclamation was issued in commemoration of African Union Day launched on September 9, 1999, with the founding of the African Union, and to celebrate African culture in Washington, DC. The District's celebration highlights local economic and social contributions of Africans and culminates in highly anticipated cultural events that occur throughout the month of September.

SIXTH ANNUAL DC AFRICA FESTIVAL: As part of its city-wide celebration of African Heritage Month and its Multicultural Awareness and Development Program, MOAA hosted its 6th Annual DC Africa Festival on Sunday, September 27, 2015. Over 400 attendees joined the Mayor's Community Affairs Director Charon Hines for festivities that were held indoors at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center. The festival served as the perfect platform to connect African residents to government resources and community-based organizations available in the District and to stress that living in a multicultural city strengthens our



resilience and enriches our resources all around. Festival attendees enjoyed cuisine from all regions of the continent presented by local African food vendors. The Children's Corner section taught young festival goers the art of basket-making and the significance of Ghanaian royal *kente* cloth colors and patterns. Other attractions included a broad selection of African arts and crafts displayed at the Vendors Market and a robust resource center hosting exhibitors from various District government agencies and community-based organizations. At the Wellness Pavilion, experts shared information on health programs and services as well as useful advice on nutritious lifestyle choices. Attendees also participated in the annual Parade of Flags procession which was accompanied by fun facts on each African country and captured the pride

and connection that the District's African Diaspora held for their countries of origin.

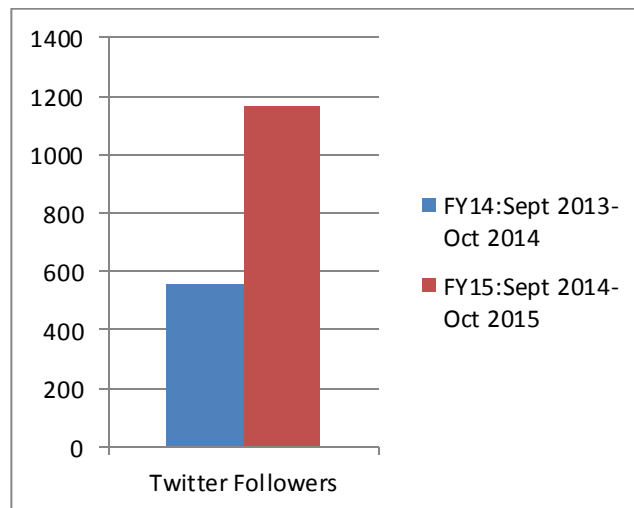
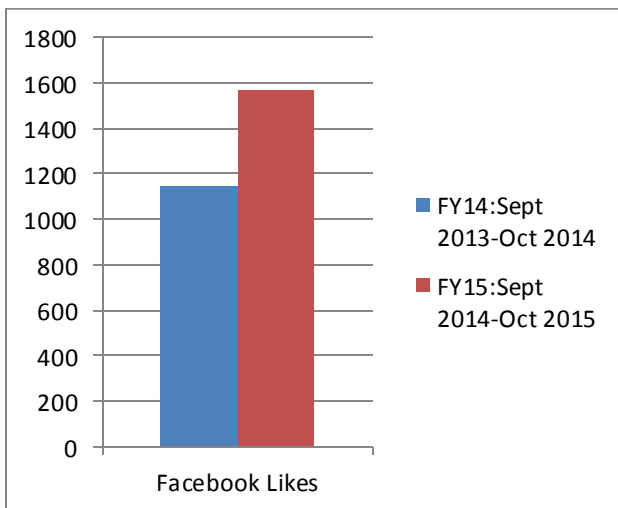
The 6th Annual DC Africa Festival stage featured locally and nationally acclaimed live music and dance performances by KanKouran West African Dance Company, Kignet Traditional Ethiopian Band, and urban dance moves of Jollof Boys. Sahel Band, Moto Moto Marimba, and Emé & Heteru performed a mix of traditional and contemporary *mbalaax*, *marimba* and Afrobeat sounds from around the continent. BBC World Music Award winner and legendary Ethiopian singer Mahmoud Ahmed graced the stage as the festival headliner accompanied by HaHu Band and select Kignet dancers. Acclaimed DJ Underdog represented the continent with African soundscapes while EMCEE Nunu Wako of EBS and KaliTV kept the crowd enthusiastic and engaged. The 6th Annual DC Africa festival drew to a close with a raffle draw for participants in the MOAA/GMU's African Diaspora Demographic Survey, an important initiative that provides much needed disaggregated data on African Diaspora demographics in the District. The three winners, Anita Uwadia, Tsige Makonnen and Brukie Gashaw were awarded round-trip airline tickets to any destination in Africa, courtesy of the festival's corporate donors, Ethiopian Airlines.

COMMUNICATIONS

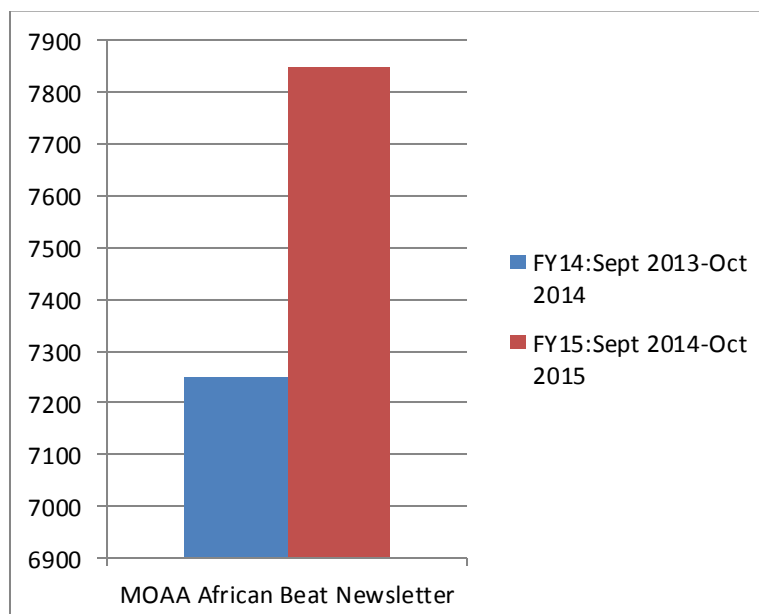
Throughout FY15, MOAA enhanced its visibility through its social media platforms (Twitter & Facebook), the African Beat bi-weekly newsletter, conventional door-to-door outreach, television and radio coverage, as well as distribution of flyers to targeted local businesses and community-based organizations.

Social media platforms such as Twitter and Facebook as well as its bi-weekly *African Beat* electronic newsletter enhance visibility and continue to play an active role in promoting greater civic engagement and participation among the District's African population. In FY15, MOAA recorded an exponential increase in Facebook "likes" marking a record of 1,572 "Likes" that sets it over the half-way goal of reaching its "3000 Likes" Facebook campaign. FY15 generated a 37 percent increase in the number of Facebook Likes, a 110 percent increase in the number of Twitter followers, and readers reached via MOAA's *African Beat* bi-weekly electronic newsletter increased by 9 percent, which provides news, information, and announcements pertinent to a variety of stakeholders in the District's African residents. This increase in visibility was a direct result of innovative programming initiatives and improved outreach efforts by the MOAA team and its community of supporters on social media platforms.

SOCIAL MEDIA



AFRICAN BEAT NEWSLETTER



INTERNSHIPS AND VOLUNTEERING

MOAA's internship program offers hands-on experience and learning opportunities to university students and young professionals seeking to engage in public service. Interns represent a wealth of linguistic and cultural diversity and are actively engaged in supporting MOAA's programs and initiatives for the District's African residents.

MOAA's internship and volunteering program function as a building block for undergraduates, graduate students, and young professionals seeking experience in the public sector, and those particularly interested in servicing the District's African resident. MOAA relies heavily on the passion and motivation of interns and volunteers to help the office achieve its goals. Interns assist the staff and are integrated into the day-to-day work of the office and play an integral role in the implementation of

MOAA's diverse programs.

MOAA'S internship program offers hands-on experience and learning opportunities for university students and young professionals seeking to engage in public service while primarily serving the District's African community.

Interns are involved in various aspects of the agency's day-to-day work as they participate in the implementation of program activities and provide support to the staff, while learning about the District's African community.

MOAA's internship positions include, but are not limited to the following areas:

- *Communications*
- *Grant Writing & Research*
- *Program Intern*
- *Outreach Intern*
- *Specialist Assistant*

In FY15 MOAA had a total of 15 interns who committed at least 30 hours a week for four months to a year and contributed to better serving District's African community.

Among the different home countries represented were Benin, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Guinea, Haiti, Ethiopia, and Nigeria. Each intern brought different experiences, skills, and perspectives which strengthened MOAA's vision and ability to improve service to the District's diverse African population. Collectively, this group's rich linguistic skills included Arabic, Danish, Flemish, Amharic, Ewe, Ga, French, Fulani, Igbo, Lingala, Oromo, Pulhar, Patois, Twi, Yoruba, Fon, Wolof, Twi, Hausa, Busanga, Malinke, Soussou and Bambara.

Volunteers played an important role in expanding and strengthening our work at MOAA. In FY15, the office hosted over 100 volunteers (85 volunteer for the Mandela Day of Service and 60 for the Sixth Annual D.C. African festival) – most of who assisted with program implementation and event logistics. Beyond program implementation, MOAA also built its internal capacity by utilizing volunteers in administrative, communications, publications and data management projects. Interns and volunteers represented a host of colleges, among them: George Washington University, George Mason University, University of Maryland, Syracuse University, Valparaiso University School of Law, University of Baltimore, Luther College Pittsburg State University, Radford University and University Pierre Mendes-Grenoble, France.



Top Row (left-right): Tamar Barolette, Fatoumata Conde, Abdel Maliky, Boluwatife (Tife) A. Adetunji, Yusif Bandaougou; **Middle Row** (left-right): Tanya Donagmaye, Busola Fajolu, Joel Kimona, Isabelle Onoye, Marie Diop; **Bottom Row** (left-right): Goshu Tefera, Behailu Woldeyohannes, and Aly Kaba.

COMMISSION ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS

The Commission on African Affairs was created in 2006, along with the MOAA as mandated by DC Law 16-313. It is made up of 11 of 13 members who are chosen by the Mayor and whose appointments are ratified by the Council.

The Commission on African Affairs has thirteen active members who represent the diverse range and experience of the District's African community. In appointing the Council on African Affairs, representation from public, non-profit, and volunteer community-based organizations that are involved with the District's African community is given due to consideration. Members of the general public are also duly considered for appointment.

The functions of the Commission on African Affairs are to:

- Serve as an advocate for African persons in the District;
- Review and submit to the Mayor, the Council, and the Office, and make available to the public, an annual report that includes an analysis of the needs of the African community in the District;
- Bring to the attention of the Mayor and the MOAA cases of neglect, abuse and incidents of bias against members of the African community in the administration of District and federal laws;
- Review and comment on proposed District and federal legislation, regulations, policies, and programs and make policy recommendations on issues affecting the health, safety, and welfare of the African community;



Top Row: Akua Asare, M.D. (Chair); Loide Jorge, Esq., (Vice-Chair); Kedist Geremaw, Secretary; Chibu E. Anyanwu, Chime O. Asonye; **Middle Row:** Ikenna Udejiofor; Ify Anne Nwabukwu; Kotheid Nicoue; Louisa Buadoo-Amoa; Nana Ama Afari-Dwamena; **Bottom Row:** Willair St. Vil; Lafayette Barnes; Yinusa Yusuff.

MOAA's & COAA's JOINT IMMIGRATION SESSION ON EXECUTIVE ACTIONS: On Saturday, April 25 and Sunday, April 26, 2015, the Commission on African Affairs (COAA) and the Mayor's Office on African Affairs (MOAA) teamed up with federal partner US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and immigration attorneys to conduct two informational sessions on President Obama's Executive Actions on Immigration. The sessions were hosted by the Renaissance Center of Culture and Education at the Lamond-Riggs Library in Ward 5, and by Debre Sellassie Kidist Mariam Ethiopian Orthodox Church (DSK Mariam Church) in Ward 4, respectively. MOAA staff and interns provided French and Amharic interpretation services as both sessions were designed for Low- and Non-English Proficient (LEP/NEP) African constituents.

USCIS representative Mrs. Gloria Williams-Brevard, Commissioner on African Affairs and attorneys Loide Jorge, and volunteer Elinor Tesfamariam briefed members on paths to acquiring legal immigration status and benefits from the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), and the Deferred Actions for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA). Presenters highlighted determinant and critical factors in selecting immigration attorneys in order to protect their rights and avoid fraud and undesirable outcomes.

Session participants were encouraged to use USCIS as their primary source of information on federal immigration laws and processes and were provided with helpful tips and handouts, including a list of pro-bono and affordable legal services. Attendants included constituents from Benin, Cameroon, Congo, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Haiti, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, and Togo. Among the positive outcomes of the workshop were securing pro-bono legal assistance for two seniors with long-standing immigration cases and the creation of a significant relationship between DSK Mariam's board members and the USCIS official for future support with civic education efforts.

PARTNERS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Wardman Court Community Center
Walgreens
Young African Leaders Initiative
Young African Professionals DC
Young African Leaders

PANELISTS AND SPECIAL GUESTS

Mahmoud Ahmed, Ethiopian vocalist and businessman

Semhar Araia, CEO, Semai Consulting, LLC.

Ted Archer, Chief of Staff, Department of Small and Local Business Development (DSLBD)

Tegene Baharu, Chief Technology Officer, DC Office of the Chief Technology Officer

Lafayette Barnes, Director, Office of Partnerships and Grants

Greg Carr, Ph.D., JD, Chair of Afro-American Studies and Adjunct Faculty at School of Law, Howard University

Anthony Chuukwu, Executive Director, CitiWide Computer Training and African Community Grantee

Amadou Daffe, CEO and Co-founder, Coders4Africa

Menna Demessie, Ph.D., Vice President of Policy and Research, Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc.

Naomi Ferguson, Mandela Washington Fellow, Howard University

Sara Gallagher, Program Officer, International Diaspora Engagement Alliance

William Hager, Public Information Officer, Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration (ABRA)

Charon P.W. Hines, Director of the Mayor's Office of Community Affairs

Krista Johnson, Ph.D., Professor of African Studies, Howard University

Nangamso Koza, Mandela Washington Fellow, Howard University

Nowetu Luti, Deputy Chief of Mission, Republic of South Africa

H. E. Mninwa Mahlangu, Ambassador, Republic of South Africa

Allyson Browne McKitchen, Senior Operations Manager, Ronald Reagan Building and Int. Trade Center

Fred Moosally, Director, Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration (ABRA)

Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, Delegate, United States Congress representing the District of Columbia

Youssou N'Dour, Senegalese singer, percussionist, songwriter, composer, businessman and politician

Nina Oduro, Founder and President, AfricanDevJobs.com

Pape Samb, Chairman and CEO, Global Youth Innovation Network

Jeannine Scott, President, US –Angola Chamber of Commerce

Nunu Wako, host Nunu Wako Show, EBS Television

Emira Woods, Director of Social Impact, ThoughtWorks

Anthony K. Wutoh, Ph.D. Provost and Chief Academic Officer, Howard University

