

Government of the District of Columbia Executive Office of the Mayor Office on African Affairs



ANNUAL REPORT

October 2011 – September 2012



Government of the District of Columbia
Vincent C. Gray, Mayor



Mayor's Office on African Affairs
Ngozi Nmezi, Director

CAPACITY BUILDING

OAA works to support local entrepreneurs, small businesses, community and faith-based organizations. OAA's capacity building program provides a platform for continued engagement, exchange, and linkage to resources both within and beyond District government agencies; provides targeted organizational development and consulting, and organizes and facilitates workshops, trainings and seminars to support institution development and sustainability.

ACCOMPLISHMENT HIGHLIGHTS IN FY12

Engagement of Diverse African Businesses – OAA conducted one-on-one outreach to 20+ African businesses to determine priorities, unique needs and challenges to inform programmatic direction for supporting the growth and vitality of the African business community.

Outreach and Technical Assistance Support for African Diaspora Marketplace

– OAA provided outreach and Technical Assistance support for USAID's African Diaspora Marketplace (January-March) program which provided a competitive seed grant for African entrepreneurs interested in investing in Africa.

Business Engagement, Development and Support Program

OAA's Business Engagement and Development Support Program provides a platform through which the District's African businesses can grow and continue to contribute to the city's economic development and vitality. This program aims to strengthen the African business community by connecting businesses to one another and to technical assistance, capital, and to create new opportunities for local & international business.

IDENTIFYING KEY PRIORITIES & CHALLENGES FOR AFRICAN BUSINESSES - On February 7th, 2012, the OAA, in partnership with the Small Business Administration, invited local African business owners to participate in an interactive "African Business Roundtable." The



purpose of this convening was to provide a space for businesses to explore their shared experiences and challenges, and learn about policies and regulations – both federal and local – that affect them. Eleven African small business owners – representing a mix of ethnic backgrounds and sectors – attended the two-hour session. They collectively highlighted the following issues as key areas of need

currently limiting their growth and potential for greater success: **access to capital, access to quality information on contracting & procurement opportunities, cumbersome certification process for doing business with local and federal government, perceptions that African entrepreneurship is limited to the restaurant industry, and lack of effective networking opportunities.**

DC TO AFRICA: GROWING LOCAL, GOING GLOBAL – On April 6, 2012, OAA hosted a symposium titled "From DC to Africa: Growing Local, Going Global," as a direct response to the priorities identified by the business community, to connect businesses to local &



international resources and new opportunities for business and trade. This event brought over 250 business owners, entrepreneurs, government officials, and nonprofit leaders together, providing a powerful visual of the dynamism and entrepreneurial spirit of the District's business community. OAA played a vital convening & intermediary role through this seminar by connecting business owners and

aspiring entrepreneurs with the following local/federal government agencies, financial institutions that administer programs, and grants and technical assistance for businesses wishing to expand or go global: Department of Small and Local Business Development (DSLBD), Office of Contracting and Procurement (OCP); Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA), US Small Business Administration District Office (SBA); Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU); DC Chamber of Commerce (DCCC) & DCC Foundation (DCCCF), the Washington DC Economic Partnership (WDCEP); DC Women's Business Center (DCWBC); Washington Area Community Investment Fund (WACIF); DSLBD's Export DC program; SBA's International Trade Office; Department of Commerce's US Export Assistance Center (USEAC); Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), and Ex-Im Bank.

CAPACITY BUILDING

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ACCOMPLISHMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Engagement of African Community-Based Leaders -

Conducted one-on-one engagement of +15 African community-based leaders, established organizations, ethnic associations and aspiring nonprofit leaders through site visits and introductory meetings.

Strategic Planning Sessions Held with Start-Up Organizations –

OAA has facilitated over 10 strategic planning sessions with start-up organization, ethnic community-based organizations and individuals seeking resources to develop institutions that can effectively deliver needed services and programs to the District's diverse African immigrant community.

Linkage to the DC Office of Partnership and Grants Services

Through its biweekly newsletter "The African Beat", OAA routinely highlights training, funding, and partnership opportunities available through the Office of Partnership and Grants Services (OPGS). OAA also refers constituents to OPGS for one-on-one support and technical assistance.

Non-Profit Engagement, Development and Support Series

OAA recognizes the indispensable contribution of local community and faith-based organizations in strengthening the District's African immigrant communities and the local civic infrastructure by providing culturally competent services and spaces of support & worship. OAA seeks to support the growth and institutional development of these vital pillars of community by ensuring that they have the tools and resources to respond to community needs and continue serving vulnerable constituent & families.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR AFRICAN COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

- **Community Assessment: Growing Need for Culturally & Linguistically Targeted Services:** On March 1st, the OAA met with the DC-based Ethiopian Community Service and Development Council (ECSDC) to discuss emerging needs and issues in the community, programmatic direction, and long term goals of the organization. ECSDC leaders highlighted a growing Limited and Non-English Proficient client base; higher demand for services; and their efforts to shore up their capacity in order to respond to the influx of new African immigrants needing linkage to a variety of services.



- **Strategic Planning Support: Connecting African Diaspora Communities:**

On February 19th and March 17th, the OAA conducted two 2-hour Strategic Planning sessions with the African League for Human Rights and Democracy (ALHRD or the African League) to help them sharpen the focus and scope of the organization and to determine an effective organizational membership structure. ALHRD is an emerging African-led non-profit organization whose mission is to link African diaspora communities and associations in an effort to "provide community services that will advance and consolidate democratic values and human rights for the sustainable development of Africa."

- **Collective Capacity Building: Birthing the African Health Consortium:** On August 21st, the OAA conducted a strategic planning session with African-led community-based organizations who work to improve health outcomes for the District's African immigrant community. This initiative connected organizations to one another, and engaged them in a collective assessment of their strengths and weaknesses as community-based organizations, opportunities and threats and evaluation of internal organizational capacities strategic programmatic direction. Participating organizations included the African Women's Cancer Awareness Association, the Mignon Inniss Ford Foundation, Native Sol, the Cameroon American Council, and the Ethiopian Community Center - all organizations engaged in improving health outcomes and access for the District's African immigrant community through culturally and linguistically targeted programs. The Consortium committed to forging a strategic partnership to partner on health education and outreach project engaging the District's African community, continue to explore capacity building opportunities, and collectively advocate for greater funding and support for African health organizations.

- In August, OAA, along with the DC Office on Aging, conducted a needs assessment survey to provide appropriate programs for African Seniors. A relationship was brokered between the DC Office on Aging, a community leader, and an African faith-based organization serving seniors to conduct a needs assessment for examining gaps in services as it relates to providing culturally and linguistically appropriate programs and alternatives for African seniors.

MULTICULTURAL AWARENESS & DEVELOPMENT

OAA recognizes and respects the diversity of the District's African residents. It works to promote awareness and encourage an appreciation of the rich multiculturalism present within the District's African community. OAA organizes and facilitates cultural events, dialogues, and discussions that explore the identity of African peoples, showcases the value of multiculturalism and supports community building.

ACCOMPLISHMENT HIGHLIGHTS

African Dialogue Series Launched -

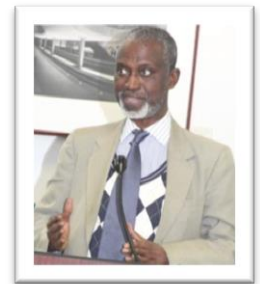
Launched the African Dialogue Series, a programmatic response to requests for a continuous conceptual discussion space with aims to create opportunities for community building and awareness through dialogues that explore identity, connections, and showcase the diverse African communities of the District of Columbia (February)

BLACK HISTORY MONTH PROGRAM: CELEBRATING AFRICAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO AMERICA

- In celebration of Black History Month, OAA partnered with the Mignon Lorraine Inniss Ford Foundation (MLIFF) to host on February 12, 2012 a program titled, "Celebration of African Contributions to America: Forging a Bond among the People of the Diaspora for the Betterment of All." Over 150 people from the African Diaspora attended, reflecting the District's rich history, cultural and linguistic diversity. Two panels: one on **Civic Participation and Public Engagement of the African Diaspora** and the



other on **US-Africa Trade and Economic Development**, featured representatives from OAA, the Diaspora African Women's Network (DAWN), the Congressional African Staff Association, the Montgomery County Office of Community Partnerships, Export DC, Congressman Bobby Rush's Office, DC Economic Partnership, Constituency for Africa, Corporate Council on Africa, Africa Trade Office and Blessed Coffee. Panelists and special guests discussed both timeless and timely issues such as the African identity, opportunities for greater civic engagement, partnership among people of African descent, and the role of the African Diaspora in US-Africa trade.

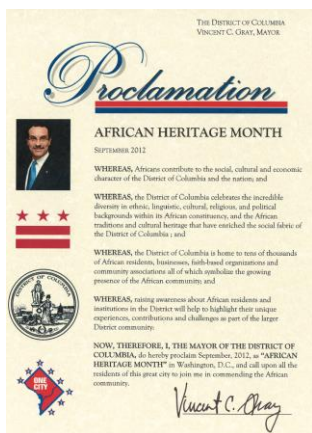


THIRD ANNUAL DC AFRICA FESTIVAL AND MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION OF SEPTEMBER AS AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH

- On September 29, 2012, Mayor Gray and the Office on African Affairs (OAA) held the 3rd Annual DC Africa Festival at the Banneker Recreation Center. Mayor Gray, members of his Cabinet and administration, special guests from the African Diplomatic Corps, and hundreds of District residents attended this lively festival held for the first time on Georgia Avenue. This year's DC Africa Festival marked an important milestone for the District's African community: the



Mayor's first-ever proclamation of September as "African Heritage Month." With an overarching theme of "Building One City - Showcasing Africa's History, Heritage & Interconnectedness," the 3rd Annual DC Africa Festival successfully shone a bright light on African immigrants!



OUTREACH AND EDUCATION: Civic Engagement

OAA 's outreach and education program ensures that the District's African communities remain informed on District government services and programs such as health, social services, public safety, jobs, education etc.; and promotes greater civic and public participation of African communities in District government affairs. OAA organizes, facilitates and participates in a wide range of educational outreach programs designed to ensure that community members are aware of, and gain access to District services, initiatives and resources.

ACCOMPLISHMENT HIGHLIGHTS

100 Community Members Registered to Participate in Mayor's One City Summit –In February, 2012, OAA registered 100 community members to participate in the Mayor's One City Summit and facilitated an Amharic and French speaking table during the Summit for LEP and NEP District residents.



ONE CITY, ONE FUTURE

FIRST EVER AFRICAN TOWN HALL WITH MAYOR VINCENT C. GRAY



On Tuesday, October 25th, 2011, the OAA in partnership with WPFW 89.3 FM held the first African Town hall with Mayor Vincent C. Gray. The town hall, attended by over 120 community members, was held at the John A. Wilson Building. After expressing his commitment to governing in close partnership with the community, Mayor Gray went on to note the fast-growing African immigrant population in the District and stressed the need for everyone to unify around the cause of self-determination, autonomy and statehood for the District of Columbia. In the first segment of the town hall, Mayor Gray answered questions submitted by community members via WPFW 89.3 FM. The second segment was a direct Q&A between Mayor Gray and community members. Questions spanned around a wide range of topics, primarily around access to social services for African immigrants, support and visibility of African businesses in the District. Students from the African Cultural Club at the School

without Walls noted the large population of students of African descent in the city and suggested an expansion of teachings on continental African history in the DCPS curriculum.

DC FULL DEMOCRACY MARCH & RALLY

The OAA joined the Commission on African Affairs, Africans for DC Statehood, Cameroon American Council, Nigerians in the Diaspora Organization and hundreds of other District residents and organizations in the MLK Memorial Dedication and Full Democracy Freedom March and Rally at Freedom Plaza on October 15, 2011. The intent of the march was to fulfill Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream of freedom and democracy for the then 601,000 residents who call the District of Columbia home. The event featured remarks by Mayor Gray; members of the Council; former presidential candidate Ralph Nader; and many other strong advocates for freedom and justice in the District. Mayor Gray made it clear that the time to bring freedom and justice to the District is now. The Gray Administration will continue draw attention to the District's quest for self-determination, autonomy and statehood.



OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT: Health

OAA PARTNERED WITH ETHIOPIAN COMMUNITY CENTER AND HAHSTA TO HOST DISCUSSION ON HIV/AIDS



On December 4, 2011, in commemoration of World AIDS DAY 2011, the DC Mayor's Office on African Affairs partnered with the Ethiopian Community Center, and the Department of Health's HIV, AIDS, Hepatitis, STD, and Tuberculosis Administration (HAHSTA) to host a discussion on HIV/AIDS and its impact on Africans in the District. The event highlighted the efforts of Hirut Gedlu, a single person on a bicycle, who has engaged thousands in the last ten

years through her HIV/AIDS education and awareness efforts in Ethiopia. Through the screening of a documentary film chronicling Hirut's work entitled: "It is not too late for me, how about you?" this event was a call to individuals, community organizations and government to be proactive & vocal in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Mrs. Hermela Kebede, Executive Director of the Ethiopian Community Center welcomed the crowd, praised Hirut's exemplary work, and expressed her organization's commitment to working on HIV/AIDS alongside District Government and other community organizations. OAA Director Ngozi Nmezi stressed the need for data collection that includes country of origin in order to understand the full extent to which the African immigrant community is affected. She cited a 2008 study which indicates that only 360 foreign-born Africans were reported to be living with HIV/AIDS in the District, a number that is likely an undercount. She further highlighted the importance of partnering with various District agencies, community groups, and nonprofit organizations to promote HIV/AIDS awareness.

OAA HOSTS AFRICAN LIBERATION DAY DISCUSSION ON AFRICANS IN DC AND ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

OAA partnered with the Office of Minority Health to host a roundtable discussion on Africans in DC and Access to Health Care in commemoration of African Liberation Day. The discussion provided attendees with data and key trends in the District of Columbia's African community related to health, in addition to raising questions about access and opportunity for the immigrant and foreign born communities in the District who struggle with health disparities. Held at the John A. Wilson Building on Friday, March 25th 2012, the three-hour event was attended by 70 community members and representatives from various organizations, with a total of ten panelists. Among them were District government agencies such as the Department of Health, Department of Mental Health, Department of Health Care Finance, and federal agencies such as the Office of Minority Health Resource Center. All panelists provided an overview of DC government health programs and services, and the efforts they make, through the



Language Access and other initiatives to eliminate barriers to access. Two major themes that emerged as a result of the roundtable discussion event were: **the absence of usable data or official research on health care access among Africans in the District**, and **the need for culturally competent health care services that take into account the cultural norms among Africans** when it comes to health and care.



OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT: Social Services

IMMIGRATION WORKSHOP AT OMEGA GOSPEL MISSION AFRICAN CHURCH

On Sunday, January 22, 2012, the DC Mayor's Office on African Affairs partnered with a local African church, Omega Gospel Mission, as well as Immigration Attorney Loide Jorge and the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to bring quality information on immigration law to over 90 District residents. This workshop, hailed by attendees as a huge success, is consistent with Mayor Vincent C. Gray's top priority of public safety. It was also a direct follow-up to OAA's "One City, Safe City" Public Safety Forum held in September 2011, where immigration was identified as a topic of interest and priority within the African community.

During this two-hour workshop, Attorney Jorge and USCIS representatives shared valuable information on pathways to legal status. They covered an overview of US immigration law, status categories and stratifications, and resources available for those who seek to adjust their status.



ACCOMPLISHMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Representatives of African Diaspora Media Promoted Dialogue to Further Actualize One City Philosophy – In January 2012, OAA convened a Media Mixer with 20 representatives of African Diaspora media representatives to brief them on the Mayor's vision, goals, and priority issues; and to solicit their participation and partnership in ensuring that the District's African communities are fully informed and kept abreast of programs, policies and initiatives that affect their quality of life as District residents.



OAA HOSTS 3 WORKSHOPS ON CHANGES TO TANF

OAA hosted 3 information sessions on the changes to Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) workshops attended by a total of over 220 members of the District's African community. OAA partnered with District government agencies and key community-based partners - the Oromo Community Organization, the Ethiopian Community Center, and the Carlos Rosario International Public Charter School - to host these sessions. (November 2011-February 2012)

OROMO COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION: On Wednesday, November 30, 2011, OAA, in collaboration with the Oromo Community Organization (OCO), the DC Department of Human Services (DHS), and the DC Department of Healthcare Finance (DCHF) hosted a dynamic and well-attended information session to notify the African



immigrant community on upcoming changes to the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and to introduce the DC Healthcare Alliance program. Over 90 individuals attended this session held in the OCO community room on 6212 3rd St. NW. OAA Director, Ngozi Nmezi, offered opening remarks in which she stressed the importance of being counted as residents of the District and encouraged participants to fill out the "We Count Initiative" survey designed to collect general demographics on the foreign-born African population in the District of Columbia. Chief David Ross from DHS highlighted changes to the TANF program: a) the mandatory requirement to attend orientation to receive or maintain

TANF benefits; b) the mandatory assessment by DHS staff to help customers identify needs and goals based on their personal situations, skills, and career objectives; and finally c) the new 5-year time limit to receiving benefits. Chief Ross also explained the rationale behind the changes, their potential impact, and TANF eligibility requirements. Associate Director of the DC Healthcare Finance Division of Eligibility Policy, Mrs. Lucy Wilson-Kear, elaborated on the DC Healthcare Alliance program, including eligibility requirements, and where and how to apply. In a 1-hour long Q&A segment, participants inquired about access to services: eligibility requirements, resources on jobs and opportunities for vocational training, and resource and capacity development opportunities for community organizations.



CARLOS ROSARIO INTERNATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOL: On February 7, OAA partnered with the Department of Human Services (DHS) and worked with the Carlos Rosario International Public Charter School, to host a third information session in order to inform the District’s diverse African communities on changes to the TANF program (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families). The hour-long interactive session, held on February 7, 2012, was attended by over 60 African immigrants, all adult students of the Carlos Rosario International Public School. Chief David Ross of DHS’ Income Maintenance Administration – Office of Performance gave a presentation on the TANF changes and its implications on current and future applicants. He also discussed several social services available to all DC residents such as burial assistance and the DC Healthcare Alliance. The entire session was translated simultaneously into Amharic, French, and Arabic, making it accessible to a diverse audience; a majority of whom were of Limited or Non-English Proficiency (LEP/NEP) community members.



ETHIOPIAN COMMUNITY CENTER: As part of its ongoing outreach efforts to inform the District’s diverse African communities on upcoming changes to the TANF program (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families), OAA collaborated with the Department of Human Services (DHS), and the Ethiopian Community Center Inc. (ECC) to host an hour-long interactive session, held on Saturday, December 17, 2012. The event was attended by 70 individuals, most of who were graduating that day from ECC’s English as a Second Language (ESOL) course. Over six countries were represented at the information session, including individuals from Nigeria, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Puerto Rico and El Salvador. Following the presentation on the TANF changes, participants shared their stories and experiences accessing services through DHS. They asked questions about TANF changes, healthcare services and the District’s Rental Assistance Program. The crowd was highly engaged, and several participants expressed their appreciation for having an opportunity to directly engage representatives of DC government face-to-face. They conveyed their hope that the session would be the beginning of a stronger relationship and continued direct communication between DC government and the District’s African community.



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

OAA is committed to strengthening African youth voice and youth partnership by encouraging civic engagement and participation, by promoting leadership, and by creating a platform for youth to express their unique experiences, issues and challenges as District residents.

ACCOMPLISHMENT HIGHLIGHTS

African Youth Leadership Roundtable Gave Young Africans Opportunity to Share Experiences-

OAA hosted an African Youth Leadership Roundtable where students were given the opportunity to recount a story significant to their unique experience as a young African growing up in DC in an interactive and intimate youth dialogue (February)

4 African Youth Focus Groups in DCPS & Charter Schools – OAA conducted 4 focus group with engaging a total of 100 African students at the Columbia Heights Education Campus, Brightwood Education Campus & Howard Middle School for Math & Sciences to discuss their experiences within DCPS and at home. Students requested that OAA continue to convene them to support their vision of creating an African Club.

Four DC students opened the discussion with a skit highlighting three common experiences of African immigrant youth: **linguistic and cultural barriers, bullying and discrimination in diverse schools, and balancing home & school cultures**. An 11th Grader at School Without Walls, and a Cameroonian-American student leader of the African Club at her school, Elmina Bell introduced the Mayor and spoke of her efforts to actively build bridges among African youth of diverse backgrounds and African Americans in her school and community. In his remarks, Mayor Gray touched on his administration's education-related priorities such as early education, the cradle-to-career initiative, and the Summer Youth Employment program aimed at ensuring that all District students thrive both academically and socially.

YOUTH FOCUS GROUP & MIXER DISCUSSES EXPERIENCES & POLICY

On Friday, March 9, 2012, over forty students and advocates attended the African Youth Focus Group and Mixer, hosted by OAA as part of its youth engagement program. Participants in the event were diverse in terms of age and ethnicity as well as in the representation of DCPS schools, private schools and area colleges.



Both newly arrived immigrant youth with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) and first generation African youth also attended the event and eagerly added to the discourse. The two main topics of discussion were the **“African Immigrant Experience and Identity”** and **“Local Education Policy Issues”**.

MAYOR'S FIRST EVER AFRICAN YOUTH TOWN HALL!



Mayor' Gray's first ever African Youth Town Hall was held on Saturday, April 28th from 12-2pm at Howard University Middle School for Math and Science located on the Howard University campus. Over 85 youth from elementary, middle and high schools and colleges in the District attended this forum, uniquely designed to provide African youth with an opportunity to voice their ideas, concerns, and recommendations directly to the Mayor. In her opening remarks, OAA Director, Ngozi Nmezi thanked the Mayor for his vision and leadership in creating intentional opportunities for all of the District's diverse communities to engage with him directly and express their views and concerns.

Communication

OAA has developed and adopted a strategic communications plan in FY12 to increase visibility and support for the agency, to promote greater civic engagement and participation, and to effectively promote its programs and District government services to its constituency.

ACCOMPLISHMENT HIGHLIGHTS

OAA Has Compiled a Comprehensive Report entitled **“The State of Africans in the District”**- OAA has compiled a thorough and comprehensive report: “The State of Africans in the District”. This report draws from the agency’s experience and institutional knowledge as well as demographic data, research and news to document the unique experiences, contributions, needs and characteristics of the District’s African-born population.

FULLY REVAMPED AND REDESIGNED WEBSITE

On March 22nd, OAA launched a new – fully revamped and redesigned – website! This new website is a clearinghouse for all of the communication strategies used by the office (social media, press releases, and bi-weekly e-newsletter).



NEW FORMAT AND LAYOUT FOR THE BI-WEEKLY OAA NEWSLETTER

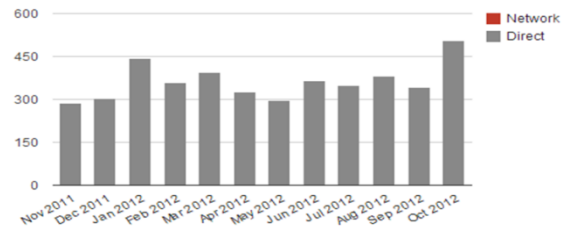
OAA launched a new format and layout for the bi-weekly OAA newsletter which incorporates OAA news, updates on the Mayor’s initiatives, community events and targeted resources for businesses, CBOs, and youth. OAA’s list serve is now **4500+** people strong and growing.

FACEBOOK SUCCESS

From its conception to the close of FY12, OAA’s Facebook page entitled, “DC Mayor’s Office on African Affairs,” has seen much success in the number of followers as well as the number of individuals talking about it.

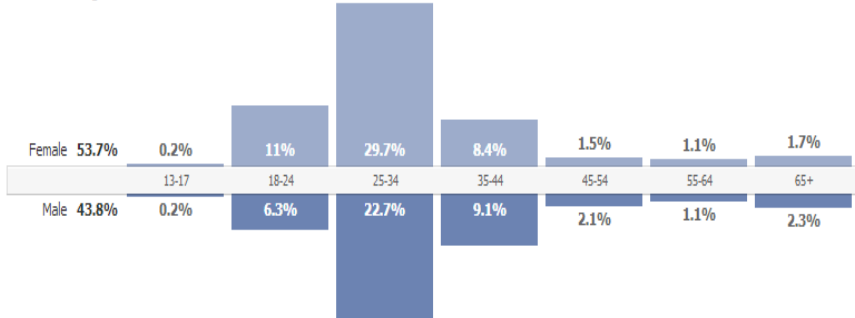
African Beat: OAA’s Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Source of New Subscribers - Past 12 Months
* excludes uploaded subscribers

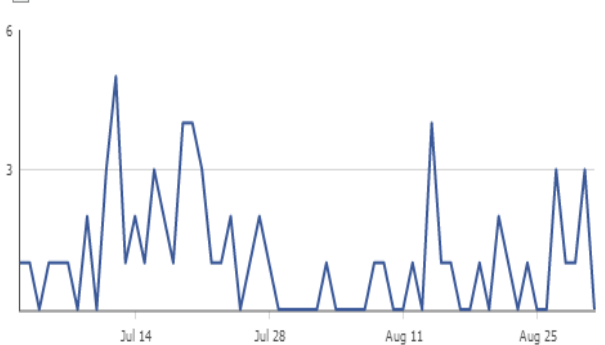


Who You Reached (Demographics and Location)

Gender and Age²



New Likes²



INTERNSHIPS AND VOLUNTEERING

OAA's internship program offers hands-on experience and learning opportunities to University students, and young professionals seeking to engage in public service, while primarily serving the District's African community. OAA interns are involved in many aspects of the agency's day-to-day work, participate in the implementation of program activities, and provide support to the staff, while learning about the District's African community.

OAA's internship positions as follows:

- *Program Assistant*
- *Communications Assistant*
- *Grant Writer*
- *Outreach Coordinator*
- *Research Assistant*
- *Special Assistant*

The OAA's Internship program provides undergraduate and graduate students, as well as young professionals, with a wide variety of work opportunities. OAA Internships are also an opportunity to absorb one's self in public service and serve the District's diverse African communities. Interns have an opportunity to take an active role in the office's day-to-day work tasks, engage in the operation of program activities, and assist staff members. Typical intern recruitment caters to five different internship positions; Program Intern, Communications Intern, Special Assistant Intern, Grants and Research Intern, and Outreach Intern.



OAA relies heavily on the dedication and willingness of our interns and volunteers. During the FY12, the OAA had a total of fifteen interns from the fall, spring, and summer semesters. These interns brought a wide variety of backgrounds, languages, and experiences to the office. Some of the languages spoken by the interns included French, Amharic, Tigrinya, Arabic, Yoruba, and Igbo. Along with the

fortuitous wealth of linguistic with representation, there was also a wealth of collegiate representation. These included; Bowie State University, University of Maryland College Park, Prince Georges Community College, Trinity University, The University of the District of Columbia, Howard University, Cornell University, Lynn University Boca Raton, American University, George Washington University, and Emory University. The OAA has also welcomed students through programs such as The Fund for American Studies (TFAS), the South Africa- Washington International Programme (SAWIP), and The Washington Institute.

FY12 Interns:

Aliou Keita
Ezekiel Jalloh
Mariama Jalloh
Michael Jones
Mitik Zegeye
Phiwe Ndinisa
Rekik Tesfaye
Salome Odera
Siye Ghebreyohannes
Tadai Abilla
Teibe Kifle Mesfin
Timi Mustapha
Waameeka AheVonderae
Yvonne Eseonu
Olamide Oluwadipe
Frances Udukwu
Chioma Dike



COMMISSION ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS

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 OAA 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*

The Commission on African Affairs was created in 2006 along with the OAA as mandated by DC Law 16-313.

The commission is composed of fifteen (15) members appointed by the Mayor with consent of the Council. Members of the Commission on African Affairs who have shown dedication to, and knowledge of the African community, are appointed with due consideration for representation from established public, nonprofit and volunteer community organizations concerned with the African community, and members of the public.



MAYOR VINCENT C. GRAY SWEARS IN COMMISSION ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS

On Wednesday, April 11, 2012 over 100 community members representing the broad diversity of the District's African community filled the Mayor's Briefing room (G-9) at the John A. Wilson Building on Pennsylvania Avenue to usher in 11 new appointees to the Commission on African Affairs sworn in by Mayor Gray.



COAA APPOINTEES & REAPPOINTEES:

Chime Asonye
Gladys Kamau
George Banks
Goungou Tereguebode
Ify Nwabukwu
Jean-Francais Varre
Lafayette Barnes
Loide Jorge
Nana Seshibe
Sefanit Befekadu
Sharon Asonganyi

PARTNERS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

PARTNERS

ADMINISTRATION (HAHSTA)
AFRICANS FOR DC STATEHOOD
AFRICAN WOMEN'S CANCER AWARENESS ASSOCIATION (AWCAA)
AFRICAN LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND
DEMOCRACY (ALHRD)
CAMEROON AMERICAN COUCIL
CARLOS ROSARIO INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL
COMMISSION ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S HIV, AIDS, HEPATITIS, STD, AND TERBULOSIS (DHHAHST)
DC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTHCARE FINANCE (DCHF)
DC DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES (DHS)
ETHIOPIAN COMMUNITY CENTER
IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY LOIDE JORGE
MIGNON LORRAIN INNIS FOR DOUNDATION (MLIFF)
NATIVE SOL
NIGERIANS IN THE DIASPORA
ORGANIZATIONS
OROMO COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION (OC)
OFFICE OF MINORITY HEALTH
OMEGA GOSPEL MISSION
U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES (USCIS)
WPFW 89.3



PANELISTS AND SPECIAL GUESTS

AFRICAN DIASPORA MEDIA
AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC CORPS
COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP
CONGRESSIONAL AFRICAN STAFF ASSOCIATION
CONGRESSMAN BOBBY RUSH'S OFFICE
CONSTITUENCY FOR AFRICA
CORPORATE COUNCIL ON AFRICA
DCDC ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIPAFRICA TRADE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
DIASPORA AFRICAN WOMEN'S NETWORK (DAWN)
MONTGOMERY COUNTY OFFICE OF EXPORT
MRS. HERMELA KEBEDE
OFFICE AND BLESSED COFFEE
SCHOOL WITHOUT WALLS'S AFRICAN CULTURAL CLUB