

# ANNUAL REPORT

FY14: October 2013 – September 2014

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

**Ngozi Nmezi, Director**



Dear District of Columbia Residents and Stakeholders:



We are pleased to present to you the FY 2014 Office of African Affairs' Annual Report. OAA's mission embodies Mayor Vincent Gray'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 of the District; and to improve the overall quality of life for the District's diverse African residents and their families. With OAA's first-ever African Community Grant, we have expanded our core programmatic areas from five to six programs this year. Through these programmatic areas, OAA has organized and hosted 25 community programs and trainings and reached over 7,000 participants and District residents. From our annual business symposium and sector-specific business workshops to community building events to youth development programs and public outreach and education, OAA successfully partnered with DC government agencies, federal government, community and faith-based organizations to provide assistance, information, resources and services, to the District's African community.

OAA's mission was made tangible through activities in its core program areas. This year marked a concerted effort to strengthen the capacity of African-owned businesses in the District. OAA hosted its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Business Symposium, From DC to Africa: Growing Local, Going Global which connected over 300 local businesses and aspiring entrepreneurs to resources and opportunities for growing and expanding business domestically while encouraging them to venture into trade and investment in Africa. In response to the needs and growing requests, we hosted two sector-specific workshops that offered targeted technical assistance and resources for District business owners engaged in the food and beverage industry, and in technology. Our long time commitment to providing businesses with more visibility and to expand accessibility to District government resources was realized with the soft-launch of our first-ever African Business Directory. This is an exciting culmination of OAA's efforts to collect important sector-specific data which in turn will increase networking opportunities for African-owned and -serving businesses and enable District government to design targeted capacity building programs in the future.

This year, we launched our first ever African Community Grant which further enabled OAA to provide funding support for projects and programs of community-and faith-based organizations serving African constituents in the District. This too marks a milestone of achievement in OAA's quest to promote institution building and bolster the important initiatives of community based organizations that provide culturally competent services to our most vulnerable constituents and actively respond to the changing needs of the growing African community. Our FY14 grantees conducted successful programs in OAA's priority areas, furthering Mayor Vincent Gray's vision of One City in which all residents thrive on full engagement and continue to enrich the cultural and economic fabric of the District.

Our fifth annual DC Africa Festival was the largest ever with over 1,000 attendees celebrating the theme *From Africa to DC. Showcasing Diasporan Diversity, Building One City*. The festival coincided with President Obama's historic US-Africa Leaders Summit serving as a city-wide welcome to African dignitaries and showcasing the District's best in Diaspora African food, music, culture, and performance. From the festival stage, which presented close to ten artists and musicians, to the variety of programs and range of District government agencies represented, the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center - Woodrow Wilson and Moynihan Plazas were packed with dynamic activities.

The year ahead will present OAA 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 the community's 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ngozi Nmezi'.

Ngozi Nmezi  
Director, DC Mayor's Office on African Affairs



The mission of the Mayor's Office on African Affairs (OAA) 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 District's African community, District government agencies, and the Mayor, OAA 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 by building the institutional capacity of community-based organizations, and the local business sector.

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

- **Capacity Building** – this program aims to strengthen the District's African businesses and community-based organizations through technical assistance and organization development consulting;
- **Outreach & Education** – this program ensures that the District's African communities are aware of District government services and programs;
- **Multicultural Awareness and Development** – this program promotes awareness of the rich cultural and linguistic diversity within the District's African community.
- **Constituent Services** – OAA provides culturally and linguistically targeted one-on-one consultation and service referral to District residents.
- **Youth Engagement** – this program connects the District's African youth to leadership development, civic engagement, and academic enrichment opportunities.
- **African Community Grant** – for the first time in FY 2014, a Budget Support Act title awarded OAA grant-making authority with the ability to issue funding to community-based organizations providing services to the District's African residents.

In FY14, OAA hosted a total of

**25 community events**

reaching over

**7141 District residents**

and participants.

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

These activities combined:

- Large annual celebratory community-building events such as the 5<sup>th</sup> 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 civic institutions;
- Partnership with District government and nonprofit agencies and delivery of training to build cultural competency for service providers.



## CAPACITY BUILDING

OAA works to build the capacity of local entrepreneurs, small businesses, community-based organizations and faith-based organizations through technical assistance and linkage to resources. As part of a concerted effort to further spur economic development within the local African business community in FY14, OAA worked to connect businesses to opportunities, and provide organizational development consulting to business leaders.

- **FROM DC TO AFRICA: GROWING LOCAL GOING GLOBAL BUSINESS SYMPOSIUM** – On Monday, November 25, 2013, OAA partnered with Department of Small and Local Business Development (DSLBD), the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA), the US Department of Commerce and the Office of Community Affairs, to host its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Business Symposium titled, *From DC to Africa: Growing Local, Going Global*. With the aims of (1) advancing the Mayor's top priority of growing and diversifying the District's economy as a vehicle for expanding the tax base and employment opportunities for District residents (2) connecting District entrepreneurs and businesses to resources and opportunities for growing and expanding business domestically, and (3) encouraging District businesses to venture into trade and investment in Africa through local, federal, and nonprofit programs and resources facilitating U.S.-Africa trade; this all-day symposium brought together over 300 local business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs in direct contact with 20 business resource providers from District, Federal and nonprofit agencies, and African embassies.
- **FOOD AND BEVERAGE INDUSTRY WORKSHOP** – On January 27, 2014 OAA hosted its first of a series of "Growing Local" industry-specific workshops as part of its citywide effort to support local African businesses. Over 65 business owners and entrepreneurs attended the Food Industry Workshop at the Reeves Center, with many representing growing African businesses in the Food & Beverage Industry. The workshop, a follow-up to qualitative recommendations made by attendees of OAA's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Business Symposium – *From DC to Africa: Growing Local, Going Global*, provided a comprehensive overview to existing businesses looking to expand and the "how to" for aspiring entrepreneurs seeking to gain perspective on what it takes to run a food and beverage business in the District.
- **TECHNOLOGY SECTOR WORKSHOP** – On February 27, 2014 OAA hosted the second series of industry-specific workshops as part of its District-wide efforts to support African businesses and aspiring entrepreneurs. Over 40 business owners, entrepreneurs, and resource providers attended the Technology Sector workshop. The event drew upon two of the six strategic drivers of Mayor Vincent Gray's Five Year Economic Development Strategy for the District: to create the largest technology center in the East Coast, and to be the destination of choice for international investors and businesses. Participating District and federal agencies included: Office of Technology Chief Office (OCTO), D.C. Chamber of Commerce (DCCC), Deputy Mayor's Office on Planning and Economic Development (DMPED), Office of Contracts & Procurement (OCP), Department of Small Local Business Development (DSLBD), Office of Africa Global Markets- Department of Commerce (DOC), Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), and Enterprise Development Group (EDG).
- **AFRICAN BUSINESS DIRECTORY PROJECT** - On August 3, 2014 OAA introduced the office's first ever African Business Directory designed to serve as a tool for expanding African business networks and educate the larger community on the presence of the city's African businesses. The directory is an expansion of OAA's effort to ensure that District government resources, regulations, and opportunities are accessible to businesses run by Limited English Proficient or Non-English Proficient (LEP/NEP) businesses which resulted in the collection of important sector specific data on African-owned businesses in and around the District. With the assistance of a multilingual team of staff and volunteers, OAA successfully extended the African Business Directory Project to encompass several sectors and DC wards. The African Business Directory is currently available on OAA's website and future plans include online registry features to maintain an up-to-date roster.



## AFRICAN COMMUNITY GRANT

*Grants supported by FY14 funding were awarded to eight community- based organizations who serve the city's most vulnerable community members and offer support and program 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 FY 2014, a Budget Support Act title awarded OAA 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. OAA 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.

The African Community Grant Program awarded \$100,000 in funding to support projects in priority areas of workforce development, health linkages, youth engagement, and promotion of arts and culture. The FY14 grantees were: African Women's Cancer Awareness Association, CitiWide Computer Training Center, Ethiopian Community Center, Ethiopian Community Services and Development Council, KanKouran West African Dance Company, Many Languages One Voice, Oromo Community Organization, and African Diaspora for Change in partnership with Peace Thru Culture.

**PRE-BIDDERS ORIENTATION-** On Wednesday, April 9, 2014, OAA held its Pre-bidders Grant Orientation meeting for the FY14 African Community Grant. About 70 participants, mostly community- and faith-based organization representatives, attended the informational session on eligibility criteria and funding priorities. The meeting took place at the Edna Cromwell Community room at the Franklin D. Reeves Center of Municipal Affairs.

**POST-AWARD MEETING-** OAA hosted its FY14 African Community Grant Post-Award Meeting on Wednesday, June 4, 2014 at the Reeves Center. Representatives from the eight community-based organization grantees attended this informative discussion on grant expectations and evaluation process. CBO leaders and OAA staff also shared ideas on future partnerships and collaboration opportunities. Winta Teferi, Language Access Director, DC Office on Human Rights (OHR), gave a brief presentation on the history of OHR and community outreach efforts for OHR's tenth year anniversary celebrations of the 2004 Language Access Act.



*CBO executives, whose organizations received OAA's first-ever FY14 African Community Grant, with OAA Director and Deputy Director following the office's post-grant award meeting.*

## Grantees Performance Table

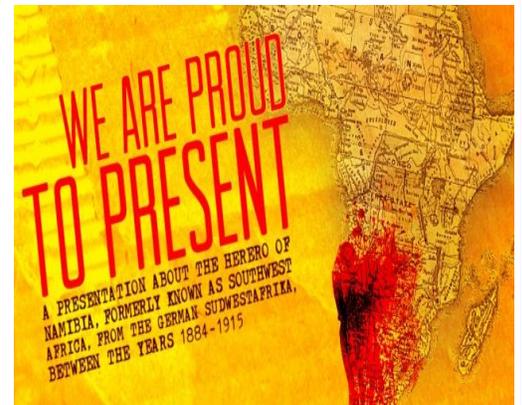
ORGANIZATION NAME	FUNDING PRIORITY AREA / AMOUNT	TARGET MEASURE	ACHIEVED MEASURE
<b>African Women's Cancer Awareness Association</b>	Linkages to Health and Human Services \$10,000.00	400 clients served	475 clients served
<b>African Diaspora for Change/Peace Thru Culture</b>	Youth Engagement/Arts Culture and the Humanities \$8,000.00	20 students	17 students
<b>CitiWide Computer Training Center</b>	Jobs, Workforce, and Economic Development \$20,000.00	25 clients served	21 clients served
<b>Ethiopian Community Center</b>	Youth Education and Engagement \$15,000.00	30 youth	35 participants+ 11 volunteers
<b>Ethiopian Community Services and Development Council</b>	Linkages to Health and Human Services \$15,000.00	625 clients served	487 clients served
<b>KanKouran West African Dance Company</b>	Promotion of arts, culture and the humanities \$12,000.00	3,000 concert and conference participants	2,800 concert and conference participants
<b>Many Languages One Voice</b>	Youth Education and Engagement \$10,000.00	Activities summary see MLOV report	63 clients served
<b>Oromo Community Organization</b>	Linkages to Health and Human Services \$10,000.00	300 clients served	204 clients served



## MULTICULTURAL AWARENESS & DEVELOPMENT

*OAA recognizes and respects the diversity of the District's African residents. It works to promote awareness and appreciation for the rich multiculturalism within the District's African community through cultural events, showcasing the arts, and facilitating dialogues.*

**NAMIBIAN COMMUNITY EVENT-** On February 22, 2014, in commemoration of Black History Month the Office on African Affairs (OAA) collaborated with the Woolly Mammoth Theatre to host a post-show discussion following the performance of *"We are Proud to Present, a Presentation About the Herero of Namibia, Formerly Known as Southwest Africa, From the German Sudwestafrika, Between the Years 1884-1915."* Following the performance, OAA's Deputy Director, Dr. Heran Sereke-Brhan joined Dr. Ngondi Kamatuka, President of the Association of the Ovaherero Genocide, for a discussion about the history of the Herero people. Dr. Kamatuka referenced his own family history to illustrate the complicated nature of German-Namibian relations. He emphasized the importance of remembering the past and working towards the present-day solution for historical conflicts that have resulted in lingering tensions on the African continent. The discussion concluded by highlighting the place of African agency in recording and disseminating history and the social value of reconciliation and collective acknowledgement of past missteps.



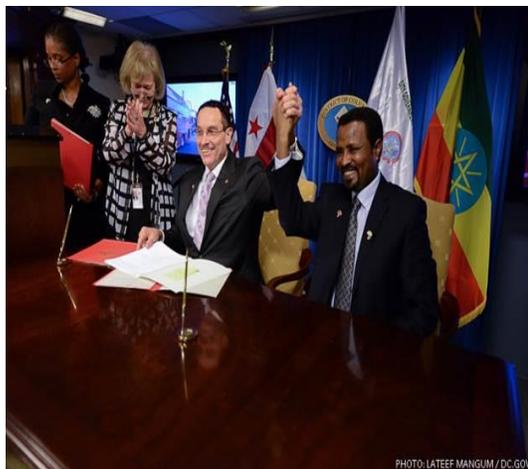
**FIFTH ANNUAL DC AFRICA FESTIVAL-** On Sunday, August 3, 2014, OAA held its 5<sup>th</sup> Annual DC Africa Festival at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center. A record number of people registered to attend the festival, which coincided with President Barack Obama's historic US-Africa Leaders Summit and served as a welcome to the 50 African leaders being hosted in our nation's capital. Over 1,000 attendees joined Mayor Gray and OAA for the festivities which kicked off with remarks from OAA Director Ngozi Nmezi who stressed the importance of the festival theme, *From Africa to DC: Showcasing Diasporan Diversity, Building One City*, highlighting its special focus on the migration of Africans to DC and the rapid growth of the District's African population, which has had a near 70% increase over the past decade. Director Nmezi also introduced the office's first-ever African Business Directory designed to serve as a tool for expanding African businesses. The festival program was packed with music by popular DC-based African music bands and dance performers of international repute. The connectivity of African cultures was difficult to miss at the Woodrow Wilson Plaza and this was matched in intensity with the variety of activities and demonstrations at the Moynihan Plaza. The quiet concentration of children playing African games and learning basket-making activities at the Children's Village; the robust resource corner featuring over 20 District government agencies and community-based organizations who shared resources and information on available programs and services; the Wellness Pavilion where

participants were offered advice on nutrition and healthy lifestyle choices, and the Culture Hut where festival goers witnessed demonstrations on African acoustic instruments and hair braiding styles from east, west, and southern regions of the continent –all enriched the festival's artistic, cultural and informational landscape.

# OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

*OAA's outreach and education program ensures that the District's African communities access District government services and resources. In FY14, OAA implemented a robust youth education program, and participated in a variety of outreach efforts through interagency coordination and community-based partnerships.*

**MAYOR VISIT TO DSK MARIAM ETHIOPIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH-** On Sunday, November 3, 2013, Mayor Vincent C. Gray offered remarks at the Debre Selam Kidist Mariam Ethiopian Orthodox Church to convey his administration's ongoing efforts to engage and improve access to the District's linguistically and ethnically diverse communities. Over 1,200 church members were in attendance as the Mayor announced that DC and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia have agreed to enter into a Sister City agreement and highlighted his administration's accomplishments directly addressing the needs of the District's growing African community. The Mayor underscored landmark policies such as the Mayor's Executive Order on Secure Communities declaring DC as a 'Sanctuary City', and the Driver's License Safety Amendment Act of 2013 granting identity cards to undocumented residents as a testament to the administration's continued commitment to creating a welcoming city that facilitates and welcomes the full engagement of its immigrant residents.



**MAYOR GRAY SIGNS SISTER CITY AGREEMENT BETWEEN ADDIS ABABA & WASHINGTON, DC** – On Dec 11, 2013, Mayor Vincent C. Gray and Mayor Diriba Kuma of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia signed a Sister City Agreement between Addis Ababa and the District. The agreement will facilitate cultural and educational exchanges for the benefit of residents in both cities as well as provide an opportunity for the District and Addis Ababa to share information and collaborate on mutual priorities in various areas, including economic development, public health, urban planning, transportation and youth engagement. This agreement will be in force for a period of five years. The Mayor, who was inspired by the District's vibrant Ethiopian diaspora and by the similarities shared by Washington, DC and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia ties, welcomed Addis Ababa as the District's newest Sister City and expressed his gratitude to the members of the District's Ethiopian community for their contributions to the District. Working with the Office of the Secretary, OAA was instrumental in conducting outreach for this historic event. A record 400 community members attended to witness the ceremonial signing and to participate in post-signature festivities.

**AFRICAN YOUTH SUMMIT-** The DC Mayor's Office on African Affairs (OAA) partnered with the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) to host an African Youth Summit on Friday, November 8, 2013 to engage African high school students in the District. ) Over 50 high school students participated and had the opportunity to discuss their unique experiences and policy concerns, access pertinent resources, and network with young professionals and potential mentors. In her welcome remarks, OAA Director Ngozi Nmezi encouraged the students to always search for opportunities to develop leadership skills. Availability of interpretation services and bilingual counselors in schools, access to enrichment and academic support afterschool programs, smooth transfer of credits from foreign schools, and identity- based teasing and bullying were some of the major issues the students identified as challenges in their schools. Following the interactive discussions, the students engaged with several youth resource providers, and also had an opportunity to cultivate mentorship relationships with over 20 local professionals in attendance representing different career paths.

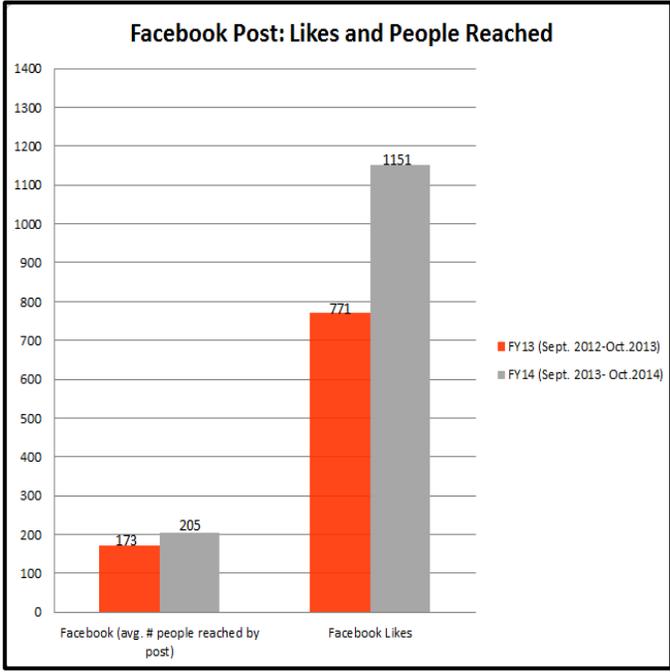


**BLACK MOSAIC SYMPOSIUM-** On September 19, 2014 the Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum in partnership with the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars hosted a full day discussion on race, immigration, gentrification, education, museums, and community in the Washington D.C. metro area. Organized by Dr. Arianna A. Curtis, Curator of Latino Studies, the program reflected on the museum's 1994 landmark exhibition *Black Mosaic*, a multicultural, multilingual exhibition which examined race, nationality, and ethnicity of black immigrants in D.C. metropolitan area. Heran Sereke-Brhan, Deputy Director of OAA, participated in a panel discussion titled "Where International Becomes Local: Immigration in the DC Metro Area" and discussed the growing demographics and the social, economic, and cultural contributions of Africans in the District. Over 150 people attended the symposium which featured six sessions and a keynote speaker, Dr. Audrey Singer, Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institute.

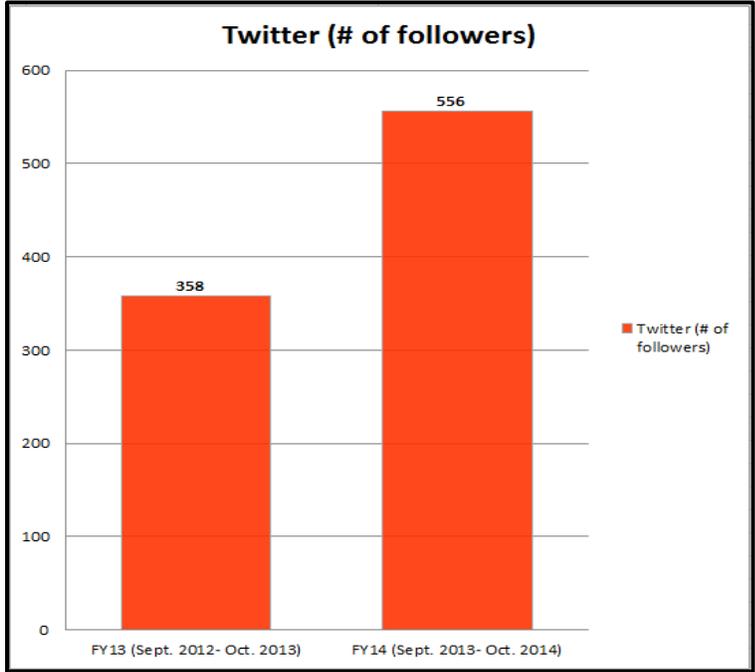
# COMMUNICATIONS

Throughout FY14, OAA has enhanced its visibility through various means, including social media platforms (Twitter & Facebook), The African Beat bi-weekly Newsletter, conventional door-to-door outreach, television and radio programs, as well as the distribution of flyers to targeted local businesses, individual, and blogs. In addition to enhancing OAA's visibility, these means of communication continue to play an active role aiding the promotion of greater civic engagement and participation among the District's African population. In FY14, OAA recorded an exponential increase in Facebook followers marking a record 1000 Facebook followers in June of 2014, ending OAA's "1000 likes" Facebook campaign and kicking off its brand new "3000 likes" Facebook campaign.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

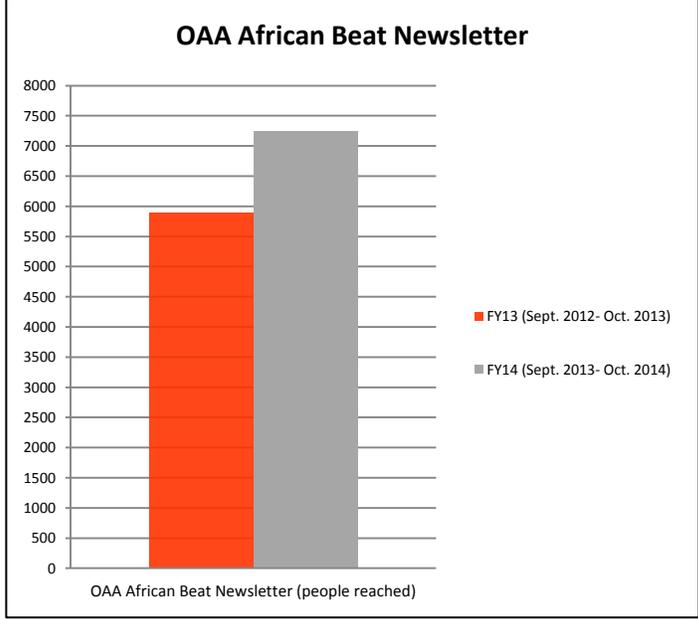


In FY 14, OAA saw a 69% increase in Facebook likes and a 16% increase in the number of people reached by Facebook post in comparison to FY13.



FY14 yielded a 64% increase in OAA's Twitter followership and presence

## AFRICAN BEAT NEWSLETTER



FY14 generated a tremendous increase in the number of people reached via OAA's bi-weekly electronic newsletter which provides news, information, and announcements pertinent to a variety of stakeholders in the District's African residents.



## INTERNSHIPS & VOLUNTEERING

### Description:

*OAA'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. OAA interns are involved in many 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. OAA's internship positions include, but are not limited to the following*

- *Communications Intern*
- *Grant Writing & Research Intern*
- *Policy Intern*
- *Program Intern*
- *Outreach Intern*
- *Special Assistant*

The 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. OAA 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 playing an integral role in the implementation of OAA's diverse programs.

In FY14 OAA had a total of 14 interns, who committed at least 30 hours a week for four months to one year and contributed to better serving District's African community. Among the different nationalities represented were African-American, Burundian, Ethiopian, Ghanaian, Nigerian, Sudanese, and Zimbabwean. Each intern brought different experiences, skills, and perspectives which strengthened OAA's vision and ability to improve service to the District's diverse African population. Collectively, this group's rich linguistic skills included Amharic, Ewe, Ga, French, Igbo, Kiswahili, Kirundi, Ndeble, Oromo, Shona, Somali, Twi, Tigrigna, and Xhosa.

Two external fellows from coordinating programs completed their year of service at OAA – Sherif Elhassan from **Atlas Corps International** and Tsedey Aragie from **Serve DC's AmeriCorps VISTA**. While serving, Sherif successfully oversaw the expansion of OAA's health education programs by seeking new networks and providing technical assistance and cultural competency education to area health agencies and service providers. Tsedey was successful in providing technical support to African Immigrant Small Business Owners and Aspiring Entrepreneurs. She also supported the coordination of OAA's Second Annual African Business Symposium, and two follow-up workshops. Her largest accomplishment was her role in leading the compilation and coordination of OAA's first-ever African business directory.

Volunteers played a critical role in expanding and strengthening our work at OAA. In FY14, the office hosted over 100 volunteers – most of who assisted with program implementation and event logistics. Beyond program implementation, OAA also built its internal capacity by utilizing volunteers in administrative, communications, publications and data management projects.

The interns and volunteers represented a host of colleges. Among them: Howard University, George Washington University, Georgetown University, University of the District of Columbia, American University,, George Mason University, University of Maryland- College Park, University of Maryland, Baltimore County, St. Mary's University of Maryland, Calvin College and Colby-Sawyer College.

### FY 2014 Interns:

*Anuli Mefor  
Aster Mengesha  
Chelsea Brown  
Efrem Ayalew  
Faith Fugar  
Hermella Tekle  
Hermila Yifter  
Jonathan Eigege  
Kaleab Brooks  
Keshia Engwenyi  
Mandisa Sibanda  
Michellina  
Wuddah- Martey  
Samia Ahmed  
Trinitas  
Nsabimana  
(District Leadership  
Program)  
Sherif Elhassan  
(Atlas Corps  
Fellow)  
Tsedey Aragie  
(AmeriCorps VISTA  
Fellow)*



## COMMISSION ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS

### **The Mandate of the Commission on African Affairs is to:**

*- Serve as an advocate for persons in the District*

*- Review and submit to the Mayor, the Council, and the Office and make available to the public an annual report which analyzes the needs of the African community in the District*

*- Alert the Mayor and the OAA on cases of neglect and abuse or incidents of bias against members of the African community in the day-to-day administration of the District and federal laws*

*- Assess 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. It is made up of 11 of 15 members who are chosen by the Mayor and whose appointments are ratified by the Council. Members are knowledgeable, passionate, and dedicated individuals. 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.

- In FY14, the Commission on African Affairs welcomed three new commissioners, Dr. Akua Asare, Kedist Geremaw and Mamadou Samba. Among its FY14 outreach and education efforts, the Commission on African Affairs (COAA) in conjunction with OAA partnered with the DC Department of Health (DOH) to support the District's Ebola preparedness effort and provide content support for DOH's official Ebola website. The website highlights ways that DOH and its partners are taking precaution to ensure that government agencies and residents of the District of Columbia are prepared to deal with potential Ebola cases. In partnership with DOH, Commissioners and OAA staff have conducted outreach through public forums and media outlets to inform African constituents about available resources and important implications regarding the spread of the Ebola virus.

### **COAA Members:**

*Dr. Akua Asare*

*Chime Asonye*

*George Banks*

*Ify Nwabukwu*

*Jean Francis Varre*

*Lafayette Barnes*

*Loide Jorge*

*Dr. Louisa Buadoo-Amoa*

*Dr. Nana Seshibe (Chair)*

*Kedist Geremaw*

*Goungou Tereguebode*

*Yusuff Yinusa*



*(L) On November 13th, Mayor Vincent C. Gray, the Director of Community Affairs Steve Glaude, OAA Director Ngozi Nmezi, Commissioners on African Affairs and 15 community leaders, partook in the monthly Commission on African Affairs meeting. Here, the Commissioners discussed their assessment on the developments, needs, and priorities of the District's African community with the Mayor.*

*(R) Following the swearing in of two newly appointed commissioners, Dr. Akua Asare and Kedist Geremaw on March 7<sup>th</sup> 2014. (L - R) Dr. Akua Asare, Commissioner, Darryl Gorman, Director of Office of Boards and Commissions, Ngozi Nmezi, Director of Office on African Affairs and Kedist Geremaw, Commissioner.*



# PARTNERS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## PARTNERS

COMMISSION ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS  
COMMISSION ON THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
DEPARTMENT OF SECURITIES, INSURANCE AND BANKING  
DEPARTMENT OF SMALL AND LOCAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT  
HIP-HOP CULTURE WORLWIDE ONE MIC FESTIVAL  
MY SCHOOL DC  
OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS  
OFFICE OF HUMAN RIGHTS  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER  
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY MAYOR FOR PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
RONALD REAGAN BUILDING AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTER  
SMITHSONIAN MUSEUM OF AFRICAN ART  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION – DC OFFICE  
U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT- BUREAU OF AFRICAN AFFAIRS  
WOOLLY MAMMOTH THEATRE



## PANELISTS AND SPECIAL GUESTS

ADVANCING TRADE AND INVESTMENT IN AFRICA  
AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC CORPS  
CONGRESSIONAL AFRICAN STAFF ASSOCIATION  
CONGRESSWOMAN KAREN BASS' OFFICE  
CONSTITUENCY FOR AFRICA  
DIASPORA AFRICAN WOMEN'S NETWORK  
OFFICE OF CONTRACTING AND PROCUREMENT  
OFFICE OF TAX AND REVENUE  
OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION  
THE WASHINGTON DC ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP  
U.S. EXPORT ASSISTANCE CENTER  
WOMEN'S NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CLUB  
YOUNG AFRICAN PROFESSIONALS