



# African Advocate

Voice of African Immigrants & Refugees In Illinois



NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITED AFRICAN ORGANIZATION (UAO)



March/April 2012

Issue 6

## African Youth Forum

The African Youth Forum on Saturday, March 31, brought together African and African-American youth, as well as other immigrant native-born young people in Chicago to dialogue around issues and challenges in their communities.

The Forum focused on three themes: Immigration, Education, and Incarceration. Through dialogue, those who attended built understanding of each others' points of view, and in the process found common ground. We hope that the forum will be a catalyst for sustained youth dialogue and organizing in Chicago, with committed and open engagement from African youth. The forum was an all day affair and included talks, discussions, music and performances (one of the most remarkable performances was a collaboration between Nigerian drumming group Ndi Akporo Dike and the Chicago Bucket Boys).



Jamming at the African Youth Forum: Click to watch

From the forum, participants drew up a "plan of action", which was comprised of their thoughts related to the workshops they attended, and how they wanted us to build on the African Youth Forum in future:

- discuss topics of "colorism" and internal racism
- expand forum to include more participants from different backgrounds and different immigrant communities
- becoming a leader, and being the change
- have diversity without being judgmental

The most striking, and perhaps over-arching theme that our participants came to was that immigrants are everyone; groups of people who come from another country, another root. It was said that "even though we are all different, we all come from one earth".



Your donation is tax-deductable

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### THE MISSION

The United African Organization is a dynamic coalition of African national associations that promotes social and economic justice, civic participation, and empowerment of African immigrants and refugees in Illinois.



A discussion on Immigration with the 13-17 year olds at the African Youth Forum

## Become a proud UAO Member!

Become a Member of UAO today

Renew your Membership

## Community Leadership Workshop



James Thindwa, a veteran of community organizing and political activism facilitated UAO's latest Leadership Workshop on March 24, 2012. Participants were actively engaged in developing strategies for grassroots public advocacy.

The next Leadership Workshop, **on April 28**, will be on **Effective Communication: How to translate community concerns into clear messages and policy recommendations**

### OUR GOALS

- Build the leadership and organizational capacity of the community
- Advance public policies to increase opportunities and support for immigrant and refugee integration
- Ensure that African immigrant and refugees have an active role in multiple civic arenas
- Promote community development and access to social services
- Serve as a viable model of African Unity and Empowerment

Follow us:    

Listen to our Podcast:



Highlights from African Voices:

[Top news stories from Africa](#)

[Interview with Kinobe from the Ugandan based group Kinobe & the African Sensation](#)

[Music from Kinobe & the African Sensation](#)

[Scholarship and Job information for young African and African Americans](#)



**LEADERSHIP  
DEVELOPMENT  
PROGRAM**

Join Our Mailing List!

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

The UAO's African Leadership Development Program is targeted at African community leaders in and around Chicago.

Leadership workshops take place every month and cover a range of topics. **The workshops are free BUT you must register in advance to attend.** The next workshop will be:

**Date:** Saturday, April 28, 2012

**Time:** 9:00am-1:00pm

**Venue:** 6th Floor, 10 West 35th Street, Chicago IL 60616

**Topic:** **Translating Community concerns into clear messages and policy recommendations**

- Write Press Releases
- Build relationship with the media
- Talking to the media

E-mail [training@uniteafricans.org](mailto:training@uniteafricans.org) to register or call [\(312\) 949-9980](tel:3129499980) for more information.

## NEWS ROUND-UP

### African Voices in March

March's African Voices Podcast featured:

- News and events from the African community in Chicago
- News from the African continent
- Scholarship opportunities for young African and African Americans
- Ethiopian Lentil Bowl recipe
- Music and interview from Ugandan based musician and activist, Kinobe from the Kinobe & African Sensation



African Voices Episode 6

To contribute news, events, issues, interviews or music to our podcast:  
Email: [podcasts@uniteafricans.org](mailto:podcasts@uniteafricans.org)  
Call: [\(312\) 949 9980](tel:3129499980) between 9am-5pm, Mon-Fri.

**[Click to listen!](#)**



### FELA! MUSICAL IN CHICAGO

**Date:** March 27-April 15, 2012

**Venue:** Oriental Theater  
Chicago, IL

### CHICAGO AFRICAN SUMMIT & COMMUNITY RESOURCE FAIR

**Date:** Saturday, May 12 2012

**Time:** 9:00am-5:00pm

**Venue:** Schultz Auditorium  
10 W 35th Street  
Chicago, IL 60616

### 7TH US-AFRICA TRADE AND INVESTMENT FORUM

**Date:** Wednesday, May 16-

Friday, May 18 2012

**Time:** 9:00am-5:00pm

**Venue:** IIT, 3300 S. Federal St  
Chicago, IL

and

Six10 at Spertus Center  
610 S. Michigan Ave  
Chicago, IL

### Try a healthy, Ethiopian dish!

*Ethiopian Lentil Bowl Recipe*



#### Ingredients:

- 1 lb lentils
- 2-3 large onions
- 1/2 cup of oil
- 3 tablespoons of tomato paste
- 1/2 teaspoon of paprika
- 1 head of garlic
- 1/2 teaspoon ginger
- 1/4 teaspoon of black pepper
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 3-4 cups of water

## Who's Who in Black Chicago Recognizes Alie Kabba

This year's Who's Who in Black Chicago® publication recognizes Alie Kabba, Executive Director of United African Organization. *Who's Who In Black Chicago* is an opportunity to afford a measure of recognition to the men and women who have made their mark in their specific occupations, professions, or in service to others in the Chicago community.

An unveiling reception was held in honor of all selected in this 4<sup>th</sup> edition on *March 29, 2012* in the Grand Lobby of the famed Merchandise Mart. Copies are available at [www.whoswhopublishing.com](http://www.whoswhopublishing.com)

## Citizenship Program

Deciding to become a U.S. citizen is one of the most important decisions in an individual's life. If you decide to apply to become a U.S. citizen, you will be showing your commitment to the United States and your loyalty to its Constitution. In return, you are rewarded with all the rights and privileges that are part of U.S. citizenship. By becoming a U.S. citizen, you too will have a voice in how this nation is governed.



Every month UAO in collaboration with the New American Initiative holds a workshop to assist eligible applicants with their naturalization application.

UAO promotes citizenship and civic participation to empower the African community.

At these workshops, participants get:

*Free assistance to complete application for naturalization*

*Free legal consultation with an immigration attorney*

*Free study material to prepare for citizenship test and interview*

*Free information on how to qualify for naturalization application fee waiver*

The next workshop will be on

Date: Saturday, April 28, 2012

Time: 9:00am to 12:00PM

Venue: Truman College

1145 W. Wilson Avenue

Chicago, IL 60640

### Directions:

1. Sort the lentils and soak in tap water for 30 minutes
2. Rinse in running water and drain
3. Peel and finely chop the onions. Peel and mash the garlic
4. Heat the oil in large pan and saute the onion until golden
5. Add tomato paste and paprika and mix
6. Add half the water and the garlic, ginger, pepper, and salt
7. Stir well and then add the rest of the water, stir again, cover and bring to a boil
8. When the water boils, add the lentils, lower the flame and cook 20-30 minutes, until the lentils soften
9. Serve hot

**ENJOY!**

**We all have stories about how we, each in our own way, enrich our communities.**

**Tell us how you GIVE BACK to YOUR COMMUNITY...**

**You could be featured in the next issue of African Advocate!**

**Email:**

[editor@uniteafricans.org](mailto:editor@uniteafricans.org)

For more information:

Call [312.949.9980](tel:312.949.9980) or email: [services@uniteafricans.org](mailto:services@uniteafricans.org)

## SAVE THE DATE!



### 6th Annual Chicago Summit on African Immigrants & Refugees + Community Resource Fair

Saturday, May 12, 2012

Schultz

Auditorium

9:00am - 5:00pm

11T Tower Building

10 West 35th Street

Chicago, IL 60616

*The Annual Summit is the premier forum of its kind in the Midwest with a special focus on contemporary African issues, public policy advocacy and community empowerment. It brings together individuals like you, scholars, legislators, community activists, policy analysts and students to engage in constructive dialogue about Africa and the Diaspora.*

For more information, email:

[summit@uniteafricans.org](mailto:summit@uniteafricans.org)

To register online, [click here](#).

## African Community Resource Fair

Saturday, May 12, 2012

9:00am - 5:00pm

10 West 35th Street, Chicago, IL 60616

At the community resource fair you can access:

#### Immigration

One-on-one consultations with experts on  
Petitions for Family Member  
Citizenship  
Asylum  
Marriage, etc.

#### Legal Services

Legal Assistance Foundation  
Ebere N. Ekechukwu & Associates

#### Employment Services

Find Employment Opportunities

#### Health Services

- Family Planning
- Medical Services
- Nutritional Information
- Free Health Screenings

#### Education

Understand the Education System  
Find Elementary & High Schools  
Find Undergrad Programs  
Find Grad Programs  
New Schools for Chicago

#### Financial/Business Services

Find Resources to Develop your Business

- Starting a New Business
- Loans
- Financial Planning
- Banking Options
- Accounting Services

For more information, email: [events@uniteafricans.org](mailto:events@uniteafricans.org)

or call [312.949.9980](tel:312.949.9980)

procrastinating, you risk making mistakes and increase your chances of missing the deadline altogether. Late filings, of course, come along with penalties and interest charges.

But keep in mind, chances are you are due for a refund...

So Happy Filing!

## Chicago Cultural Plan 2012 - Join the Conversation!



The City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE) is asking residents, cultural organizations, community groups and the business and civic community for their input in developing the 2012 Chicago Cultural Plan. The plan will deliver a set of recommendations to further build on Chicago's vast cultural assets and vibrant communities, as

well as to promote economic growth and to strengthen Chicago's reputation as a global cultural destination.

All are welcome and encouraged to participate in a series of Neighborhood Cultural Conversations that will result in the 2012 Chicago Cultural Plan. Each of the neighborhood conversations will have an area devoted to promoting awareness of cultural resources in the area. If you are interested in promoting your organization at a resource table at any of the neighborhood conversations, please contact Lisa McDonald: [lisa@researchexplorers.com](mailto:lisa@researchexplorers.com)

Visit [www.chicagoculturalplan2012.com](http://www.chicagoculturalplan2012.com) for more information or to RSVP for a meeting.