

African Advocate

Voice of African Immigrants & Refugees In Illinois

NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITED AFRICAN ORGANIZATION (UAO)

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OUR MISSION

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

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

ACTION ALERT: Demand "Gang of 8" in the Senate to Protect Black Immigrants in CIR bill!

Debates around comprehensive immigration reform often overlook issues affecting the nation's Black immigrants.

As the Senate deliberates on key elements of a new immigration reform bill, UAO and allies strongly urge Illinois Senators [Dick Durbin](#) and [Mark Kirk](#) to support immigration issues that are of concern to our community.

The **Diversity Immigrant Visa Program** makes 55,000 diversity visas available annually, drawn from a random selection among entries of individuals who are from *countries with low rates of immigration to the United States*.

The program accounts for the most African admission as legal permanent residents apart from refugees and U.S. citizens' petitions for immediate family

members. It came as a real shock to us that there are plans behind closed doors in the Senate to eliminate the program.

Programs like the Diversity Immigrant Visa Program are essential to historically underrepresented nationals who seek to emigrate to the United States.

We call for inclusion of Diversity Visa Program in the immigration reform bill! STAND WITH US as we demand Congress to protect Black immigrants by pledging your support!

[SIGN OUR PETITION](#)



African Youth Forum Round-Up!

The African Youth Forum, held on March 30, 2013, brought together youth to discuss important issues affecting our communities and provided a space for engagement and interaction.

The [Know Your Rights Project](#) led a workshop on Incarceration and the Prison Industrial Complex. Dr. Horace Hall of DePaul University challenged the audience on Racism and Education. The [Immigrant](#)

[Youth Justice League](#) informed attendees about the challenges and fight for Immigration Reform and the work of undocumented youth.

Performances by Umuada Ure dance troupe of [Umu Igbo Alliance](#), the drumming ensemble, W.Side Story/AfriCaribbean Connections of [After School Matters](#), and rapper B1Swagger made the event even more memorable.



The Forum challenged youth from diverse backgrounds, whether native-born or immigrant, to be advocates for change and build bridges through dialogue. UAO would like to extend a special thank you to the volunteers, [Brown Sugar Bakery](#), Bryan Echols, and Chioma Anigbogu for making the event a success! For more information on how to get involved with the African Youth Forum, please contact events@uniteafricans.org.

Learn How to Build Media Relationships!

As a part of our ongoing African Community Leadership Development series, UAO will be hosting a workshop on Effective Communication Strategies!

This workshop will equip you with skills in:

- Communicating your organization's mission
- How to translate community concerns into clear messages and policy recommendations
- Writing Press Releases
- Building Relationships with the Media

About the Facilitator



Gordon Mayer is operations director for National People's Action, a national coalition working for economic and racial justice in the U.S. Previously he was vice president of Community Media Workshop, a Midwest nonprofit whose mission is to diversify voices in the news and public debate, where he trained staff and volunteers from many grassroots groups, including immigrant-rights organizations. A former journalist at the Gary (Ind.) Post-Tribune, Philadelphia Inquirer and Chicago Defender, he holds a master's degree from University of Chicago. Gordon also volunteers on the boards of Jewish Council on Urban Affairs and Woodstock Institute and on the local school council at Ray School in Hyde Park.

Saturday, April 27th
9:00am - 11:00am
IIT Tower Building
10 W. 35th Street
Chicago, IL 60616

U.S. Citizenship & Learning English


**Are you a Green Card holder (Legal Permanent Resident)?
UAO can help!**

You may be eligible to apply for naturalization to become a U.S. citizen after five years or three years, if married to a U.S. citizen.

Having a strong command of English is essential when applying for U.S. Citizenship. Applicants must go through an interview process, where a USCIS officer will test their English speaking, reading, and writing skills during the civics portion of the interview.


To help you prepare for your naturalization interview, UAO offers a FREE English & Computer course that will not only improve your English, but also boost your confidence!

Having trouble with the civics portion of the exam? UAO can work with you to master U.S. history and government!



FREE

United African Organization can help YOU on your road to ***SUCCESS!***



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English & Computer Courses!

*Learn English!
Gain Confidence!*

- ⇒ Boost your resume!
- ⇒ Prepare for Citizenship!
- ⇒ Diversify your client-base!

Don't wait, Register NOW!

Class Schedule:

Monday: 10:00am–1:00pm
Tuesday: 10:00am–1:00pm
Wednesday: 10:00am–1:00pm

Apply for Citizenship now! Attend our FREE Citizenship Workshop:

Saturday, April 27th
9:00am - 11:00am
Budlong Woods Public Library
5630 N. Lincoln Ave
Chicago, IL 60659

Upcoming Events!

Senegalese Independence Celebration

Thursday, April 4, 2013

720 E. 79th Street, Chicago, IL 60619

Black Women's Expo

April 5-7th

McCormick Place, North

Building Hall C1

Tickets at: BlackWomensExpo.com

Citizenship Workshop!

9:00am-11:00am

Budlong Woods Public Library

5630 N. Lincoln Ave

Chicago, IL 60659

Effective Communication Workshop

Saturday, April 27th

9:00am-1:00pm

10 W. 35th St, Chicago, IL 60616

Muslim Women's Resource Center presents:

Mother's Day Fundraiser

May 9, 2013

4:30-6:30pm

6445 N. Western Ave

Chicago, IL 60645

Adults: \$30, Children: \$10

Tickets available until 4/15/13

SAVE THE DATE

7th Annual Chicago African Summit and Resource Fair

Saturday, May 18th

To RSVP to this FREE event,

[click here!](#)

To RSVP a table at the Resource Fair, [click here!](#)

Proverb of the Month

The poorest person in the world is not the one without money but one without vision.



Share Your Story

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

African Voices

March's African Voices Podcast presents: Malian Voices

- Top news stories from Chicago and the African continent
- Upcoming Events
- Advice Box: What is Comprehensive Immigration Reform?
- Kuku Paka Recipe (Kenyan chicken in coconut curry)

Contribute news, events, issues, interviews or music to podcast:

Email: podcasts@uniteafricans.org
Call: (312)-949-9980
Monday-Friday (9am-5pm)



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Advocacy ~ Unity ~ Empowerment

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