



***Strengthening Immigrant Communities!***

**Message from Director Cheng Imm Tan**



Welcome to the premiere edition of MONB Connection, our new monthly e-newsletter, designed to help us keep in touch with you - our partners and constituents - by highlighting events and programs at MONB, other City departments and our community partners. Created by Mayor Thomas Menino in 1998, The Mayor's Office of New Bostonians (MONB) ensures that New Bostonians have access to the civic, economic, social and cultural life of Boston. Our hope is that the newsletter will raise awareness about issues affecting Boston's immigrant communities and enable MONB to continue to build relationships across sectors. Thank you to all for working with us, and happy reading!

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**Upcoming Events**

***Biweekly Immigration Clinics***

**1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays:**

**July 7 & 21**

**August 4 & 18**

**September 1 & 23**

**October 6 & 20**

**November 3 & 17**

**December 1 & 15**

*Boston City Hall, Room 804*

***11<sup>th</sup> Annual New Bostonians  
Community Day***

**September 23, 2010**

**12 p.m. – 2 p.m.**

*Boston City Hall Plaza*

[More...](#)

***2010 We Are Boston Gala,  
Honoring Victoria Kennedy***

**December 10, 2010**

**6 p.m. – 9 p.m.**

*Boston Convention &  
Exhibition Center*

[More...](#)

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**MONB's Response to Disaster in Haiti**

At the request of Mayor Thomas M. Menino, MONB worked in collaboration with other City departments, including the Boston Public Health Commission, the Elderly Commission, the City's Emergency Commission and Boston Public Schools, to name a few, to provide a coordinated response to the City's Haitian population immediately following the massive 7.0 magnitude earthquake that struck the Caribbean island on January 12, 2010. Many constituents affected by the earthquake have contacted MONB seeking assistance with a variety of humanitarian, social and legal needs, especially concerning their immigration status in the wake of this terrible tragedy. MONB has played a critical role in connecting those constituents with the appropriate social and legal service providers.

Working with the Boston Public Health Commission and the Elderly Commission, MONB provided staff support to the City's Haitian Referral & Support Center, set up by Mayor Menino just days after the initial earthquake struck. We also developed a list of resources for Haitian community that included services provided to the community in response to the earthquake, as well as contact information for those legal and social service providers.

MONB also convened the Haitian Immigration Coordination Group, an ad-hoc group of legal service providers and community based organizations serving the Haitian community in the Greater Boston area. This group came together to better coordinate the provision of support services to Haitians and has focus much of its efforts on increasing awareness among Haitians regarding temporary protected status (TPS), a special immigration status available to many Haitians who were already present in the U.S. at the time of the earthquake.

The group produced a series of public service announcements (PSA) in English and Haitian Creole, featuring our beloved Mayor, newly appointed Cabinet Chief of Advocacy and Strategic Investments, Marie St. Fleur and State Representative Linda Dorcena Forry, to air on Haitian television and radio programs. Through Haitian Heritage Month activities in May, the group communicated key important messages about TPS to the Haitian community, by conducting a variety of outreach activities in partnership with representatives from the United States Citizenship & Immigration Service (USCIS).

Participants included USCIS, Massachusetts Office for Refugees & Immigrants, MIRA Coalition, Greater Boston Legal Service, Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Boston/Haitian Multi-Service Center, International Institute of Boston, Irish Immigration Center, Mass Law Reform Institute, Association of Haitian Women in Boston, Haitian Coalition of Somerville, Haitian American Public Health Initiative and Center for Community Health, Education and Research.

Additionally, MONB worked very closely with the Haitian media and conducted live on-air radio and television interviews to only provide more information about the City's support services, but also to help dispel vicious and hurtful rumors that were running rampant in the community immediately after the earthquake.

Finally, MONB has referred many Haitians and other immigrants to legal services, including our own complimentary, bi-weekly immigration clinics. We conduct an immigration clinic the first and 3rd Wednesday of every month in Boston City Hall, where constituents can meet with immigration attorneys who have kindly offered their time and expertise free of charge. As a result of the disaster in Haiti, we've seen a huge surge in the number of constituents served at our immigration clinics, already reaching more than 250, which more than we served all of last year! To learn more about the City's continued support of Boston's Haitian community during this difficult time, contact Kathleen Jeanty at (617) 635-1962 or at [kathleen.jeanty@cityofboston.gov](mailto:kathleen.jeanty@cityofboston.gov).

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## Now is the time! Make Yourself Count!

On February 23, 2010, MONB organized a Census meeting at Action for Boston Community Development, Inc. (ABCD), during which MONB Director Rev. Cheng Imm Tan issued a call to action, urging community partners to join together in an organizing effort to raise awareness of the importance of all New Bostonian communities to be counted in the 2010 Census.

Responding to Rev. Tan's call to action, over 30 organizations representing the diverse New Bostonian communities came together under the umbrella of the Now is the Time: Make Yourself Count coalition and joined Mayor Menino at a press conference to launch this awareness campaign to get all New Bostonians to stand up and be counted. The launch took place on March 17, 2010 at the East Boston Harborside Community Center.

At the press conference, Mayor Menino spoke of the importance of filling out the census and noted that the city's representation in Congress and precious resources are based on these numbers. "For every person we don't count, our city loses \$1,700 dollars of funding per year," said Menino and encouraged all members of the coalition to join in the efforts of the City of Boston's Census 2010 Initiative "Be Counted Boston."

"We've always been a city that welcomes immigrants," Rev. Tan said who emceed the press conference and pointed to the importance of immigrants standing up to be counted. "Stand as a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic coalition. The more we are counted, the more we count."

MONB is proud to have worked with following organizations that joined the coalition and engaged in many inspiring Census activities around the City of Boston from March to July 2010:

- Be Counted Boston
- SEIU Local 615
- Action for Boston Community Development, Inc.
- Agencia ALPHA
- La Alianza Hispana
- Brazilian Women's Group
- Centro Latino, Inc.
- Centro Presente
- La Colaborativa de Chelsea
- Cleghorn Community Center
- Dominican Development Center
- East Boston Ecumenical Community Council
- Gaston Institute
- MIRA Coalition
- ¿Oiste?
- ONE Lowell
- Puerto Rican Cultural Center
- Boston Charter School Alliance
- PAMANA, Inc.
- NAACP Boston Branch
- The Turkish American Cultural Society of New England

- Center for Community Health, Education and Research
- Neighborhood of Affordable Housing
- Neighbors United for a Better East Boston
- Ethos
- ACS English
- St. Vincent & the Grenadines Association of Mass, Inc.
- Boston Housing Authority
- Irish Immigration Center
- Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling
- Catholic Charities Teen Center at St. Peter's
- Consulate of El Salvador
- Massachusetts Alliance for Portuguese Speakers (MAPS)
- Radio Nha-Terra
- Brazilian Women's Group
- Roxbury Tenants of Harvard

Any questions or suggestions regarding the directory, please feel free to call Mayra Canetti at 617-635-1959 or e-mail her at [mayra.canetti@cityofboston.gov](mailto:mayra.canetti@cityofboston.gov).

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## Update on the New Bostonians Summit Initiative

It's hard to believe it has been more than three months since the New Bostonians Summit! The Summit, which was held on March 31st and included over 200 participants, was the culmination of a multi-year planning process to address key issues facing Boston's immigrant communities. In this unprecedented effort, key stakeholders worked across sectors to develop the New Bostonians Agenda, which presents clear strategies for addressing the three most significant challenges facing Boston's immigrants: ESOL, Jobs and K-12 Education. Participants represented 7 different sectors, including immigrant communities, mainstream advocates, businesses, philanthropies, labor, higher education and government.

Now that the event has passed, the time for planning has ended and the time for action is here! MONB and its City and community partners have convened work groups to implement the strategies outlined in the Agenda. MONB will hold a follow-up Summit in 2 years to highlight the work that has been accomplished and examine the current state of the objectives outlined in the Agenda. Those interested in contributing to this effort should contact Agnes Chang at [Agnes.Chang@cityofboston.gov](mailto:Agnes.Chang@cityofboston.gov) or (617) 635-1960.

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## 2010 Community Resource Directory Electronic Version

MONB is in the process of creating an electronic version of the **Community Resource Directory**, listing community agencies and organizations in the Boston area that serve immigrants and refugees. Access to the directory will be on MONB's website located at [www.cityofoston.gov/newbostonians](http://www.cityofoston.gov/newbostonians) and will be searchable by organization, description, services, neighborhood, and language. The directory will continue to be a resource for service providers and community organizations, with convenient accessible search functionalities.

The directory is currently being updated to reflect the latest information. If you serve immigrants and refugees, please enter your organization's information by clicking on this link <http://www.cityofboston.gov/newbostonians/directory/addorganization.aspx>. If you need further assistance, please contact Clara Yi Ren at [clara.ren@cityofboston.gov](mailto:clara.ren@cityofboston.gov). We hope to have the directory ready by the end of August 2010. Any questions or suggestions regarding the directory, please feel free to call Mayra Canetti at 617-635-1959 or e-mail her at [mayra.canetti@cityofboston.gov](mailto:mayra.canetti@cityofboston.gov).

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