

THE MAFFAA JOURNAL



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Message from Editor-in-Chief



Dear MAFFAA Supporters,

As we attempt to return to some sense of normalcy after months of quarantine and lockdown, I do hope all of you are doing well. Personally speaking, I have to come to sincerely appreciate these challenging times and have walked away with a renewed sense of recognition of what really matters most in life - family, friends and the countless others who have supported me in my many endeavors.

In that light, one particular event that I'd like to quickly highlight is the recent online open house hosted by my good friends from the Delegation of the European Union to the United States. It is always a pleasure to join some of my favorite diplomatic colleagues as they virtually showcased a sample of European arts and culture. More importantly and unique to this year, the Delegation also sought to feature local and global leaders such as the world-renowned Spanish-American chef and founder of World Central Kitchen, Mr. José Andrés who is continuously working to give back to the DC community in spite of the challenges presented by the current pandemic. Following the program, each the 27 member states of the European Union also held multiple interactive online activities to further provide audiences the chance to learn more throughout the month of May from the safety of their homes.

Aside from partaking in these important global matters, I also spent this past month by working to create several local climate conversations, most notably through Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL), a non-profit, grassroots advocacy organization focused on developing national policies to address climate change here in the United States and around the globe. As a key member of the steering committee of the DC chapter, I continue to work with its leadership board to help conceptualize and execute public engagement programs. Our chapter's programs have ranged from empowering local citizens to better engage with their local government representatives by proactively giving them the necessary tools to draft effective letters to hosting small group-led conversations on social media platforms to acquire new and innovative ways of sustainable best practices that can be immediately and directly applied in their everyday lives and communities.

In closing, I am most grateful for the chance to continue to serve in all of these various capacities and so much more. Whether it is in the arts, in diplomatic affairs or the environmental movement, it has all granted me such a great sense of purpose and meaning, most especially in these times of uncertainty. Despite the global circumstances presented due to COVID-19, I do believe that each and every one of us can indeed make a difference no matter how small they may seem in our own eyes. Thus, if you haven't already done so, please do consider what you can do with your own skills and talents at the start of this new month! Until next time, please stay safe!

All the best,
Patrick Realiza
Co-Executive Director, Mid Atlantic Foundation for Asian Artists, Inc.

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