



# OUR Voice

Oakland Unified Residents



Summer/Fall  
2013

www.oakha.org

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## The Scoop

### Summer Lunch Savings!!

Once again, OHA will be hosting a Free Summer Lunch program again at three Public Housing sites. Through a partnership with the City of Oakland, OHA will offer free lunch to children ages 1-18 from July 8th through August 16th, 2013. Children are welcome to come from 12noon-1pm each week-day except holidays, in OHA community rooms at the various locations. Children under four years old must be accompanied by an adult.

The nutritious meals are prepared daily at OUSD school sites and delivered to participating locations and distributed to youth at the community centers. So, remind your kids to take a break from playing long enough to come have lunch with OHA this summer!

- Locations:
- Peralta Village Community Center  
935 Union Street  
Oakland, 94607
  - Campbell Village Community Center  
800 Willow Street  
Oakland, CA 94607
  - Lockwood Gardens Community Center  
1365 65th Avenue  
Oakland, 94621

### RAB Newsletter Committee

Henry Flowers  
Lillian Gibson  
Tina Moses

### Staff

Greer McVay, Managing Editor  
Nicole Thompson, Senior Editor  
FCP Staff, Contributors

## Brighter than Blight, the Exhibit

**B**righter than Blight, a multi-media art project funded by California Affordable Housing Initiatives (CAHI), with the cooperation of the Oakland Housing Authority and Councilmember Desley Brooks and presented by interdisciplinary artist, Ise Lyfe, will be installed at their 7509 77th Avenue (at Bancroft) site, formerly known as "Green Side."

*Brighter than Blight* is free and open to all. The two week installation, conceived of and created by Ise Lyfe, a native Oakland social commentator, hip hop artist, educator and activist reflects his views on the

importance of home and provokes deeper thought about the urban experience.

To learn more and for a rare glimpse into how a project like this comes to life, visit the Brighter than Blight Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/BrighterThanBlight>; and check out the YouTube Commercial at <http://youtu.be/RXtmNre2MQI>.

Showing two weekends only

**FREE ADMISSION**

**June 21-23 and**

**June 28-30**

4-9pm (last entrance  
is at 8:30pm).



## Brighter than Blight, Meet the Artist



**W**hen Isaac Brown was growing up in his East Oakland neighborhood, his family and friends didn't use terms like "underprivileged," and "poverty." Instead, they embraced their surroundings and referred to their "hood"

as a source of pride. Yet, as an adult, he views the ways in which his community is portrayed as different from his own experience. Ise Lyfe, as Isaac is now known, recognizes that when phrases like "inner city" and "at-risk" youth are used, it is oftentimes with an intention to categorize an entire group with a label that implies certain negative stereotypes. With his poetry and success as a spoken word artist, Ise hopes to educate his audience about systemic challenges while simultaneously spreading a message of empowerment and personal responsibility.

*continued inside*

## Free Health Clinics at OHA

The Oakland Housing Authority has partnered with the Samuel Merritt Nursing program to bring weekly health clinics to OHA residents, providing blood pressure checks and overall health and wellness screenings.

The clinics are hosted at three public housing sites in Oakland: Lockwood Gardens (1327 65th Ave.), Peralta Village (935 Union St.) and at Campbell Village (800 Willow St.). In addition to these services, Yoga and Zumba fitness class are also provided to help you get fit and healthy. For more information about these services, contact our OHA Family and Community Partnerships resident support line at (510) 587-5115. **Programs start September 16, from 11am - 3pm.**



# Spotlight

## Congratulations to Class of 2013 (OHA Youth)

- Corinthian Criner- College
- Tisha Davis-College
- Amirah Sabir- High School
- Marquis Smith- High School
- Jamani Williams- High School
- Kevin Vaughn- High School
- Ana Romero- High School
- Eva Ngo-High School
- Sarafina Padilla-Newton- High School
- Hoi Chu- High School
- Toyia Banks-High School

### Spotlights for future issues:

Please send names of OHA family and friends who have recent accomplishments you'd like to share with the housing community.

Make sure to include your name, phone number and e-mail address, along with the name of the person you want to recognize and your relationship to that person.

Send entries to:

[ohacommunications@oakha.org](mailto:ohacommunications@oakha.org)

# Celebrate on National Night Out 2013!

On August 2, 2013, many people around the country will be hosting National Night Out events. This is the nation's night out against crime. Sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW), the Oakland Housing Authority (OHA) would like to encourage you to join with your neighbors to have a neighborhood block party, an ice cream social or host an outdoor gathering to build community in your neighborhood, which is the first defense against crime! This is a wonderful opportunity for OHA residents to build positive relationships with local police and establish community partnerships.

Research shows that when neighbors know each other, and look out for one another, crime rates decrease. National Night Out promotes this interaction amongst neighbors to help make your neighborhood safer throughout the year.



If you are interested in hosting an event in your neighborhood, please contact Resident Services Coordinator, Omar Ronquillo, at (510) 535-3165 or email: [omarr@oakha.org](mailto:omarr@oakha.org) by August 1, 2013. OHA staff, City of Oakland elected officials and police officers will be visiting events that have been registered with OHA and at the City of Oakland's website [www2.oaklandnet.com/nno](http://www2.oaklandnet.com/nno).

## Section 3: Calling all OHA Unionized Construction Workers!!

Are you an OHA resident that belongs to a construction trades union? If you answered yes, then we are looking for you! The construction field is a booming industry and with summer and fall seasons approaching the demand for new construction projects is expected to increase. Oakland Housing Authority has contracted with several construction companies to develop new buildings or upgrade existing properties which will bring much needed jobs to Oakland. Under the Section 3 requirement construction vendors must make an effort to hire OHA residents.

Section 3 is a federal regulation established in 1968 to ensure that training, employment and other economic opportunities generated by Housing and Urban Development (HUD) shall, to the greatest extent feasible, be directed to housing authority residents based on their annual income and household size, with priority given to housing authority residents.

Through the Department of Family and Community Partnership's (FCP) Employment Assistance and Referral Program, OHA residents that belong to a construction trades union are being connected to employment opportunities at most construction projects. Many OHA residents in the Carpenters Union Local 713 and Laborers Union Local 304 have been employed at the Cathedral Gardens and St. Joseph Apartment construction sites.

FCP would like to increase access to union jobs for residents who are unionized construction workers and will continue to refer qualified residents for employment opportunities at future construction projects.

If you are an OHA resident and a member of a construction trades union looking for work, please contact the FCP Resident Services Coordinator at 510-587-5107.

## Ise Lyfe...

continued from front

*Brighter than Blight* provides Ise with a forum to tell a story that respects the history of growing up in East Oakland—which is similar to growing up in many of the nation's urban cores. That story comes to life through the use of repurposed materials that transform a condemned housing site into a re-imagined diorama depicting public housing in the 1970s, 80s and 90s. The conceptual exhibit contains photos, poetry, video, murals, and more, that all speak to the phenomenon of thriving.

*Brighter than Blight* is the first time that a public housing site has become a canvas upon which a nationally renowned artist could create a work of art on such a large scale. Ise believes that his work on this project will enlighten, provoke and evoke emotions from which the viewer has no escape.

## SUMMER CAMPS

### Boys and Girls Club

- 920 24th St, Oakland
- (510) 272-9929
- 3300 High St, Oakland
- (510) 842-3722
- 8530 International Blvd, Oakland
- (510) 638-1532

### East Oakland Youth Development Center - EOYDC

- 8200 International Blvd. Oakland
- (510) 569-8088

### City of Oakland Office of Parks & Recreation

- 250 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza
- Suite 3330, Oakland
- (510) 238-PARK
- (510) 238-7275

### YMCA of the East Bay

- 2350 Broadway, Oakland
- (510) 451-9622
- 3265 Market St, Oakland
- (510) 654-9622
- 1612 45th Ave, Oakland
- (510) 534-7441

Contact these local organizations for more information on summer camps.

## Success Stories



Tanisha Cannon, who was in the foster care system most of her life, aged out of the program at 18 years old. With that emancipation, came adult responsibilities. She moved into a 24-month subsidized transitional housing program for young adults with the

assistance of the First Place for Youth program in 2006. At that time Tanisha attended Laney College full-time and worked part-time. When the transitional housing program came to an end, Tanisha had to quit school and work full-time to make ends meet and care for her young son.

In 2011, the Oakland Housing Authority provided Tanisha a fresh opportunity. She was able to move into Peralta Village, where her rent was affordable enough for her to go back to a part-time work schedule and return to school full-time. She completed her AA degree and was accepted to Cal State East Bay from where she will graduate in June 2013 with a BS degree in Sociology. She is scheduled to begin their Master of Social Work (MSW) program this fall as she works toward her dream of becoming a social worker.

Ms. Cannon has overcome a difficult childhood and is on the road to self-sufficiency with the help of OHA's programs. She has enrolled into FCP's supportive services and is taking advantage of the financial literacy and the homeownership programs where she is repairing her credit with the goal of purchasing a home. Tanisha represents the positive outcomes that can occur when you have affordable housing and a supportive environment.

## FAMILY RESOURCES

### FCP Expands Services

The Department of Family and Community Partnerships (FCP) has expanded its services and programs by adding two Resident Services Coordinators at the East District Office located at Lockwood Gardens. The services offered include employment assistance, job training, financial literacy, child care referrals, clothing assistance, transportation and life enrichment services. There is also a computer lab available from 9:00am-4:00pm, Monday through Friday.

For more information on these programs or to learn how to enroll in FCP residents programs please call 587-5115 or visit one of the offices at 1327 65th Avenue (Lockwood Gardens) or 935 Union Street in West Oakland.

## YOUR VOICE

**Q: Given all of the budget cuts, does OHA still offer programs to help families prepare for the future?**

**A:** Yes, the OHA, Department of Family and Community Partnerships operates the Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) program at our East and West district offices. The FSS program is an employment-based program designed to help participants obtain and maintain regular employment, save money and get involved in their community. Anyone listed on the lease as a member of the household is eligible to participate in any of the available supportive services once the Head of household is enrolled into the FSS program.

The objective of the Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) program is to reduce low-income families' dependency on welfare assistance and other Federal, State and local subsidies.

The program links participants to high-quality, comprehensive, supportive services including education, job training, counseling, and other forms of social service assistance necessary to achieve self-sufficiency. The "Success Stories" section of OUR Voice give examples of individuals and families that have successfully taken advantage of the services offered.

E-mail your comments or news to [ohacommunications@oakha.org](mailto:ohacommunications@oakha.org) or drop off content at your management office.

## RAB Blog

Are you a natural leader? Do you want to showcase your leadership skills and be a voice for your community? The Oakland Housing Authority's **Resident Advisory Board (RAB)** provides residents with a forum for sharing information about the OHA's Annual Plan and seeks people like you who want to serve on the board this year.

The RAB is in the process of revising its membership selection criteria to ensure membership is comprised of individuals who reflect and represent the residents assisted by OHA and who will regularly attend the monthly meetings.

Being a RAB member means providing recommendations that may affect OHA residents and staff. It is important for those who participate in the RAB to understand the value of community and how this forum is meant to support OHA in continuing its work to provide stable, affordable housing and services to OHA participants.

RAB meetings are held on the 1st Thursday of each month from 5:00pm to 7:00pm and are open to all OHA residents. If you have any questions about the meeting, please contact Shawn Johnson at 510-587-5129. Complimentary dinner is served.

### RAB'S MISSION STATEMENT

To ensure that OHA Public Housing Residents and Section 8 Participants actively participate in the decision making process regarding OHA policies and procedures and are actively engaged in their community as leaders.

## OHA's Education Initiative

OHA is committed to expanding opportunities for children and young adults by introducing academic supports for those who reside within OHA communities. The Education Initiative was created to “use education as a tool to interrupt intergenerational patterns of poverty and transform OHA communities” through education. This Initiative serves as a catalyst for improving educational outcomes for OHA school-age youth in the following areas: school attendance, literacy and parent engagement.

Studies show that students who have poor school attendance have a more difficult time achieving academic success. This is especially true for Kindergarten and 1st grade children who are at increased risk of perpetual illiteracy if they are not fluent readers by 3rd grade.

Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) considers students “chronically absent” if they miss 18 or more days of school (10% of the school year). Chronic absences and truancy place students at a higher risk of ultimately dropping out of school or becoming involved in the juvenile justice system, which then negatively impacts their future academic and professional opportunities.

With the inclusion of Parent Ambassadors, OHA hosts a variety of programs aimed at providing students the tools they need to attend and succeed in school. The Back to School Campaign reminds parents of important dates and requirements

at the end of summer so that they can prepare for the beginning of the school year. From free backpacks and supplies to reminder phone calls and facilitation of parent-led support meetings, OHA is helping to connect families with the vital resources.

The State of California recognizes reading as a “basic skill” and requires school districts to test students’ reading and comprehension levels on the California Standards Test (CST). Research shows that students who are unable to read by the end of third grade face long-term negative outcomes that may impact their quality of life—measured by the dropout rate, involvement in the juvenile justice system and potential unemployment.

OHA’s Homework Help Club gives students year-long academic support in a variety of subjects. The summer camps and other youth enrichment programs help expand the childhood experiences of school-age children while facilitating personal growth and development in a fun-filled atmosphere. These programs foster the self-confidence that helps a child know that they can achieve anything through hard work, focus and determination.

Research also shows that students who have limited academic success tend to disengage from school at an early age. Obtaining a high school diploma is crucial to earning a college degree, competing in the job market and earning a livable

wage. Students who choose to drop-out (especially without a college or career plan) may have difficulty accessing employment, housing, transportation and other basic needs that contribute to maintaining a quality standard of living. OHA offers services to assist with visiting, applying for and attending college as well as obtaining information about scholarship opportunities. Exploring College Options, Spring Break College Tours, College Information Day, Public Housing Authority Director’s Association (PHADA) Scholarship Program and Summer Youth Employment and Education Program (SEEP) are just a few of the programs available to college-bound students (and adults).

Through OHA’s partnerships with OUSD and community-based organizations, a host of enrichment services can be accessed by OHA residents. 

### Teen Scene

#### The Mayor’s Summer Job Program

OHA has partnered with Mayor Quan to bring 300 summer employment opportunities for OHA resident youth, ages 16-21. For more information, contact FCP at (510) 587-5115 or pick up applications at FCP’s East and West District offices. Applications are due by Friday, June 28, 2013.



### KID’S PLAY



**What do you get when you cross a duck with a flame on the Fourth of July?** A fire quacker.

**Why does Uncle Sam wear red, white, and blue suspenders?** To hold up his pants.

**What would you say if everyone in the U.S. sneezed at the same time?** “God bless America!”

**For questions or comments call (510) 587-5115  
or [ohacommunications@oakha.org](mailto:ohacommunications@oakha.org)**



## Federal Budget Cuts Impact Housing



In the United States federal budget, the **sequester** or **sequestration**, refers to budget cuts to particular categories of federal spending that began on March 1, 2013. The harmful, automatic budget cuts threaten hundreds of thousands of jobs, and cut vital services for children, seniors, people with mental illness and our men and women in uniform. In 2011, Congress passed a law saying that if they couldn't agree on a plan to reduce the nation's deficit by \$4 trillion — including the \$2.5 trillion in deficit reduction lawmakers in both parties had already accomplished since President Obama took office — nearly \$1 trillion in arbitrary and across the board budget cuts would start to take effect in 2013. Those effects are already being felt across the nation as well as in Oakland.

According to the president, “The whole design of these arbitrary cuts was to make them so unattractive and unappealing that Democrats and Republicans would actually get together and find a good compromise of sensible cuts as well as closing tax loopholes and so forth. And so this was all designed to say we can't do these bad cuts; let's do something smarter. That was the whole point of this so-called sequestration.”

When agreement couldn't be reached the automatic cuts kicked in.

The budget cuts that are a result of the sequester are split evenly between the defense and non-defense categories. Some major programs like Social Security, Medicaid, federal pay (including military pay and pensions) and veterans' benefits are exempt or have limited reductions. However, because the budget cuts are so broad, virtually every American is impacted in one way or another. Notably, significant cuts have been experienced by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the agencies that rely on HUD funding. The Oakland Housing Authority is one of those agencies.

Locally, OHA projects the impact of sequestration upon its overall operating and capital budget in the 2013 fiscal year (July 1, 2012-June 30, 2013) to be approximately \$2.1M and in the 2014 fiscal year (July 1, 2013-June 30, 2014) it will be approximately \$9.1M.

OHA has always taken a conservative approach in developing its budgets and as a result, in some areas, the effects of sequestration will be minimized. However, in our largest program, the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program, where OHA uses its MTW funding flexibility to assist Section 8 Households, and support Police Services, resident programs, administration, and boutique programs such as the Sponsor-based Housing Assistance Program, the sequestration impact is more significant.

Staff will continue to monitor the Authority revenue and spending trends and look at a variety of cost saving measures that could be used to mitigate future funding shortfalls.

For now, residents should make efforts to learn about the sequester and the impacts on all the services that effect their household. Take advantage of programs designed to support families through job training, employment services, and financial/money management, among others. Recognize that funding for programs including subsidy for affordable housing remains in jeopardy as long as Congress continues to target them.

Write to your legislators (local, state and federal) and make your voice heard. OHA is doing everything it can to sustain the level of support it has provided in the past but your attention to how Congress does or does not allocate money is critical to your family's long-term security. For more information go to [whitehouse.gov/sequester](http://whitehouse.gov/sequester).

**The Office of Budget Management offers estimates of some sequester impacts. Here are just a few:**

- Military operations across the services are cut by about \$13.5 billion.
- Military research is cut by \$6.3 billion.
- The National Institutes of Health get cut by \$1.6 billion.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are cut by about \$323 million.
- Border security is cut by about \$581 million.
- Immigration enforcement is cut by about \$323 million.
- Airport security is cut by about \$323 million.
- Head Start gets cut by \$406 million, kicking 70,000 kids out of the program.
- FEMA's disaster relief budget is cut by \$375 million.
- **Public housing support is cut by about \$1.94 billion.**
- The FDA is cut by \$206 million.
- NASA gets cut by \$970 million.
- Special education is cut by \$840 million.
- The Energy Department's program for securing our nukes is cut by \$650 million.
- The National Science Foundation gets cut by about \$388 million.

## 15 Ways to have FUN!!

1. Make a mixed CD of your favorite songs and title it "The soundtrack of my life"
2. Tie-Dye a t-shirt or bed sheets with Kool-Aid!
3. Make a collage out of old magazines
4. Plant a community vegetable garden somewhere in the neighborhood
5. Create a new family tradition
6. Recycle bottles and donate the money to a local charity
7. Donate the toys and clothes you no longer use
8. Spend a day volunteering your time
9. Read a book
10. Start exercising
11. Make dinner with your friends and family
12. Create a how-to-video
13. Learn to knit or sew
14. Make your own popsicles
15. Visit a new place



# AT-A-GLANCE • SUMMER/FALL 2013

## JUNE

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	

06/06/13  
Resident Advisory Board Meeting

06/13/13  
OUSD Last Day of School

06/14/13  
Flag Day

06/16/13  
Father's Day

06/19/13  
Juneteenth

## JULY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
28	29	30	31				

07/04/13  
Independence Day

07/09/13  
Ramadan begins

07/15/13  
Hug Your Kids Day

07/28/13  
Parent's Day

## AUGUST

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	

08/01/13  
Resident Advisory Board Meeting

08/06/13  
National Night Out

08/08/13  
Ramadan ends

08/26/13  
OUSD First Day of School

## SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
29	30						

09/02/13  
Labor Day

09/05/13  
Resident Advisory Board Meeting

09/08/13  
Grandparent's Day

09/13/13  
Yom Kippur

09/16/13  
Mexican Independence Day

Visit the Board of Commissioners web page for Board meeting schedule, agendas and minutes at <http://www.oakha.org/boc.html>



June is National Men's Health Month. Find useful information about health screenings, local clinics, and prevention strategies at [menshealthnetwork.org](http://menshealthnetwork.org).

### SAVE THE DATE!

**MONDAY  
AUGUST 26  
FIRST DAY  
OF SCHOOL**

- Update immunizations
- Prepare a list of emergency phone numbers
- Plan lunches or sign up for school lunch program
- Sew labels with child's name into jackets
- Transition to an earlier bedtime
- Set up a study/homework area in your home

For more tips visit [schoolfamily.com](http://schoolfamily.com)



**Oakland Housing  
Authority**

1619 Harrison Street  
Oakland, CA 94612

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Permit #3048

Language translation services are available in 151 languages at all offices at no cost.  
Los servicios de traducción en 151 idiomas están disponibles en todos las oficinas sin ningún costo.  
Truong chình thông dịch đây đủ cho tới 151 tiếng nói miêng phí cho quý vị đang có tại nhiều văng phòng gần đây.

所有辦公地點都會免費提供 151 種的外語翻譯服務。



# OUR Voice

Oakland Unified Residents

ps...



Summer/Fall  
2013

[www.oakha.org](http://www.oakha.org)

## IN THIS ISSUE

Oakland Zoo offer  
USOAC Healthy Living Festival

**OUR Voice ps...** is a supplement to OUR Voice. It contains content that was not available at the time the newsletter went to print. Our goal is provide information that is valuable to residents of the Oakland Housing Authority.

## 4th Annual Senior Summer Free Day at the Oakland Zoo

Oakland residents age 65 and older will receive free admission to the Oakland Zoo on select days during the summer. Seniors must provide valid identification and **must be residents of the City of Oakland**. Oakland Zoo's Senior Summer Free Days are offered in partnership with the Oakland Vice Mayor, Larry Reid.

Senior Summer Free Days will be held on:

- Monday, June 17, 10am-4pm
- Monday, July 15, 10am-4pm
- Monday, August 19, 10am-4pm
- Monday, September 16, 10am- 4pm

### Fees and Parking

Oakland seniors (65+) are free. All other guests must pay regular Zoo Admission.

Parking is \$8.00 for non-members and FREE for members and seniors (65+). Please park in either the Upper Parking Lot or the Lower Parking Lot and proceed to the nearest entrance.

For more information contact Oakland Zoo at [www.oaklandzoo.org](http://www.oaklandzoo.org) or call (510) 632-9525 x100.



Oakland Zoo is located in Knowland Park, 9777 Golf Links Rd., Oakland.

Many thanks to Mr. Reid and staff.



## Healthy Living Festival

The United Seniors of Oakland and Alameda County (USOAC) is hosting its **10th Annual Healthy Living Festival at the Oakland Zoo on Thursday, July 18, from 8am-2pm**. The event, one of the largest senior resource fairs in Alameda County, includes free admission to the zoo, a healthy lunch, fun entertainment, and transportation.

For more information or to register for this event visit [www.USOAC.org](http://www.USOAC.org), call (510) 729-0852, or contact USOAC at the Eastmont Town Center, 6995 Foothill Boulevard, Suite #251, Oakland, CA 94605. The office is on the 2nd floor, across from the library.