



Fatima Shama
Commissioner

October 2009

Dear Community Leader,

Please allow me to introduce myself; my name is Fatima Shama, and I was recently appointed as Commissioner of the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs. On behalf of Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, I cordially invite you to join with other innovative arts organizations, community-based groups, public and private institutions of all sizes and missions, as well as many city agencies in submitting an event proposal for the Seventh Annual ***Immigrant Heritage Week***, to be celebrated this year from April 15th through April 21st, 2010.

Declared an official, annual celebration by Mayor Bloomberg, *Immigrant Heritage Week* (IHW) honors the experiences and contributions of immigrants in New York City. With programs designed to build cross-cultural bridges of communication, understanding, and respect amongst all New Yorkers, *Immigrant Heritage Week* is a unique celebration of vibrant immigrant cultures, heritage and communities found in every corner of the City.

Coordinated by the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, *Immigrant Heritage Week* has grown exponentially each year, generating wide-spread recognition that has resulted in goodwill toward immigrants as well as increased publicity for event partners. Last year's city-wide celebration featured over **180** free and low-cost events, including multicultural programs, film screenings, children's readings and more.

To participate in the Seventh Annual *Immigrant Heritage Week*, I invite you to submit an event proposal for consideration. Attached is detailed information, including guidelines and goals for this year's celebration. Preference will be given to those submissions developed specifically for IHW and its mission in mind.

For your convenience, the event proposal form can be completed and submitted online, at www.nyc.gov/immigrants. **The submission deadline is Friday, November 27th, 5pm.**

Thank you for your attention and for your support of *Immigrant Heritage Week*, and I look forward to meeting and working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fatima Shama". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Fatima Shama