

EXECUTIVE ORDER No. 128

April 17, 2009

ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF IMMIGRANT HERITAGE

WHEREAS, immigrants have had an indelible impact on the growth and development of New York City throughout its history, playing a critical economic and cultural role in making it the greatest and most diverse City in the world;

WHEREAS, New York City has historically served as a major point of entry for new immigrants and is currently home to an immigrant population of more than 3 million people, from more than 192 countries, and who speak more than 200 languages; and,

WHEREAS, New York City recognizes the significant economic impact of immigrants who comprise nearly half of the City's workforce and are responsible for hundreds of billions of dollars in the State's economic output; and,

WHEREAS, New York City Charter Section 18 provides the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs ("MOIA") with the authority to develop appropriate policies and outreach programs related to the City's immigrant population; and,

WHEREAS, since 2004, MOIA and its partners have educated the City's population on shared immigrant histories, diverse cultures and religions, and the role these play in shaping and enriching the life of the City, through a highly successful annual program known as Immigrant Heritage Week; and,

WHEREAS, Immigrant Heritage Week should be an enduring program of Citywide outreach and education celebrating the histories and traditions of the City's diverse immigrant communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, by the power vested in me as Mayor of the City of New York, it is hereby ordered:

Section 1. MOIA shall, consistent with its Charter mandate, be responsible for the coordination of an annual Citywide program of outreach and education celebrating the histories and traditions of the City's diverse immigrant communities. This program shall be known as Immigrant Heritage Week and be held during the month of April.

§ 2. MOIA shall work with appropriate City agencies, educational and community institutions, and private organizations to ensure maximum participation by members of the public in annual Immigrant Heritage Week activities. All City agencies are hereby directed to provide appropriate assistance, as requested by MOIA, in implementing such annual planned activities.

§ 3. This order shall take effect immediately.

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Michael R. Bloomberg  
Mayor