

News Release – Digital Storytelling Project

The City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods has approved a grant to Chinese Information and Service Center (CISC) and OneAmerica, both non-profit organizations housed in Seattle's Chinatown/International District, to launch a new educational program in January of 2017: The Chinatown International District Digital Storytelling (CIDDS) Project. The CIDDS project will incorporate an educational model that integrates English language learning and technology with a collaborative, supportive classroom environment and digital tools that enable self-paced learning outside of the classroom. This successful language learning model – *English Innovations* – incorporates three key components: English learning acquisition, digital literacy and community building. The model works to reduce barriers and connect immigrants to the larger community as they build confidence and competence in English and technology.

CISC is honored to collaborate with OneAmerica and to offer this innovative model to the local Asian American community. The CIDDS project will benefit residents of the Chinatown/International District by providing community-based English language classes that integrate digital learning, and empower students to become more engaged in their community as they build confidence and skills in English and computer literacy. Participants will be encouraged to use their voices, forge new connections with others in their neighborhood, and produce a short video telling their own immigration story. Through this project, we hope to build awareness about the barriers and consequences of limited-English proficiency and what we can do locally to support immigrants in making their voices heard.

The 10-week course will be offered free of charge to participants. Classes will be held every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at the CISC Chinatown/International District office. CISC will be hosting two registration events on 12/16-12/17/2017 between 9:30-11:30pm in the

CISC office. The inaugural program for the first quarter will begin on 1/17/2017 through 3/25/2017. The maximum student capacity is 25 and the students will be accepted based on meeting the minimum qualifications described below. Digital tablets will be provided to the students for use during the class as well as performing self-paced learning at home.

Minimum Qualifications: 18 years or older

- Have some basic English skills (high-beginning/low-intermediate level)
- Have basic literacy (can write a sentence or two in English)
- Still need a fair amount English language development (they cannot express themselves clearly in English, have trouble understanding English spoken at natural speed, hesitate and search for words during a conversation in English)