



**PRESS RELEASE – For Immediate Release  
July 6th, 2009**



**CAPI SPONSORS A COMMUNITY DIALOGUE ON REFUGEE  
& IMMIGRANT SOCIAL JUSTICE**

**Minneapolis – “Civic Rights & Responsibilities: A Refugee & Immigrant Journey”** is a CAPI event that will be held on Tuesday, July 21, 2009 from 5-7:30 p.m. at the University of Minnesota’s Weisman Art Museum. Bringing together artists, community activists, civic leaders, policy makers, educators and community members, the purpose of

the event is to engage the Twin Cities’ communities in a conversation that broad-based social change is possible and needed through advocacy, civic engagement, and community activism, especially during an economic recession. This landmark community event also celebrates the Weisman Art Museum’s Somali photography exhibit by Abdi Roble, **“Stories of the Somali Diaspora”** which documents a compelling visual Somali refugee experience.

A panel of accomplished Twin Cities and national leaders will share their experiences and vision. Featured are Matt Entenza, Former State Representative, Founder of Minnesota 20/20, and gubernatorial hopeful; Wing Young Huie, an award-winning photographer; Minnesota Senator Patricia Torres Ray; Hussein Samatar, Founder & Executive Director of the African Development Center; and Kao Kalia Yang, author and recipient of the 2009 Minnesota Minnesota Book Awards for “The Latehomecomer: a Hmong Family Memoir.” Peggy Saika, President/Executive Director of the Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy (based in San Francisco), will facilitate a dialogue between panelists and the larger Twin Cities audience.

“The refugee story and the immigrant experience are powerfully moving, telling, and inspiring,” explains Executive Director Pham Thi Hoa. “Our collective voices and strength come from our stories, journeys, and experience as Americans. This event is to steer our focus to social action for equality as we move, as one, participating, shaping, and weaving in the fabric of American democracy.”

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