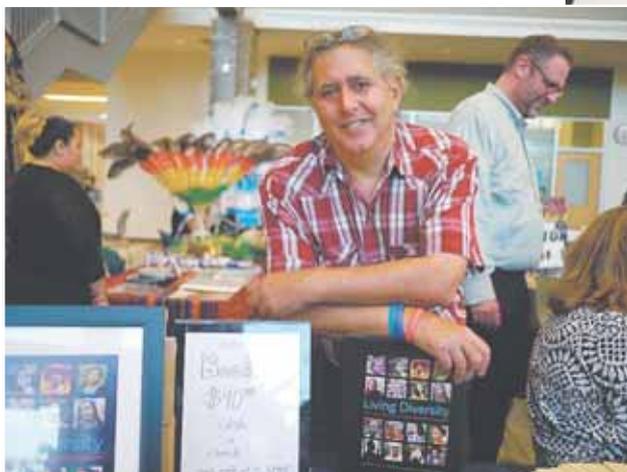


## ‘We Are All Arlington!’ Arlington celebrates its diverse history of 40 years of immigration.

“Arlington’s 22204 zip code used to be the most diverse area code in the entire country,” said photographer Lloyd Wolff. In a project put together by the members of “We are All Arlington!” a volunteer committee of community representatives, artists, educators, and Dream Project scholars, that diversity was on display in at Wakefield High School on the evening of Sept. 23.

The program was part of “Welcoming Week,” an annual series of events in communities across the U.S. that bring together immigrants and U.S. born residents in a spirit of unity.

— EDEN BROWN



Lloyd Wolff talks about the book of photographs, “Living Diversity,” which is a volume of South Arlington photos he did with Duy Tran, Paula Endo, Xang Mimi Ho, and Aleksandra Lagkueva. Wolff is the son of immigrants who escaped the Holocaust in Germany. To see his book in more detail, see [www.lloydwolff.com](http://www.lloydwolff.com)

Kim O’Connell, the daughter of Vietnamese immigrant, has published on history, preservation, education, conservation, and other topics. Her articles and essays have appeared in national and regional publications, and she recently published a book: “Little Echoes of Saigon,” which she presented at the event. The book, about Vietnamese immigration and the changing face of Arlington, talks about a time when the Vietnamese were not greeted warmly by Arlington residents as they first arrived. They found locals were concerned about the changes they brought and the costs incurred with assisting them.



The We Are All Arlington event was sponsored by the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, the National Endowment for the Humanities, Arlington Public Schools, Comite Pro Bolivia, Studio Pause, Urban Alternatives Foundation, Arlington Public Library, Arlington Arts, John Marshall Bank, and the Dream Project.

PHOTOS BY  
EDEN BROWN  
THE CONNECTION

Ezama Teferra and Atakhelti Alemseged man the ECDC/ACC booth at the event. Also speaking at the event was Dr. Tsehaye Teferra, the founder/president of the Ethiopian Community Development Council (ECDC), which is established in Arlington in 1983. ECDC offers cultural, economic, education, and social services through its African Community Center (ACC) with its branch offices in Denver, Las Vegas, and Arlington. For more information, call 703-685-0510.



Susmita Mazumdar, artist and owner of Studio PAUSE, shows visitor Kim Chi a recipe from the wall of recipes collected from all over Columbia Pike. Mazumdar said she would rather people get to know each other through art, and for that reason she runs a studio where people are encouraged to take time to explore creativity and celebrate community. She collected stories of language access from the public and turned them into art, freeing the stories from language and script. See [www.StudioPause.com](http://www.StudioPause.com)



Hareth Andrade-Ayala stands next to her “Dream Project” poster. Andrade is a poet, activist, and the executive director of the Dream Project, Inc. Since her teenage years, Hareth has travelled across the U.S. to speak on the experience of growing up as an undocumented. In 2012, faced with her father’s deportation, Hareth organized a national campaign that came to the attention of policy leaders and pro-immigrant organizations. Mentoring young students in the area is a major part of their work. See [www.dreamproject-va.org](http://www.dreamproject-va.org) for more.