Vietnamese American Community Center hosts 4th annual “A Little Peace” dessert tasting fundraiser

By Natalie Ornell

The fourth annual “A Little Peace” Dessert Tasting Fundraiser, featuring a Bake-Off Crisahn Challenge, took place at the Vietnamese American Community Center in Dorchester on April 24. Proceeds from the fundraiser went to planning the committee.

Vice President of Boston Korean Adoptees Kerri Johnson and her husband Jamie Wellnitz volunteered at the event. Johnson noted the importance of the fundraiser for her organization. “I’m VP of Boston Korean Adoptees. This fundraiser is an important source of revenue for organizations: Asian American Resource Workshop, Asian Pacific Islander Movement, Coalition for Asian Pacific American Youth, and Boston Korean Adoptees, Inc.

Volunteers and bakers attended the fundraiser. The planning committee coordinates every aspect of the event from organizing bakers to setting up ticket sales. Planning committee member Chris Albrizio said, “Each [organization] sends representatives to serve on the planning committee. Nate Bue Kupal, BKA President, and myself, BKA Treasurer, have served as BKA’s representatives on this planning committee each of the past 3 years. This year, we were also fortunate to have BKA’s events Coordinator, Leah Driska, also helping on the planning committee.”

“A Walk on the Greenway”

By Diana Li

From Boston Chinatown residents to tourists from as close as New York and as far as Texas, joined together on a one hour tour of the Rose Kennedy Fitzgerald Greenway on Saturday April 24th.

The tour started at the Chinatown Park located right in front of the Old Chinatown Gate, continued on to Dewey Square Plaza, and ended at Long Wharf. Following the tour was another event called Junior Ranger Day for families and friends to explore George’s Island. Tickets for the ferry were so high in demand it was sold out. A long line of people waited near the dock in hopes of cancellations so that they


By Rebecca Chang

Renowned British-Chinese journalist and internationally bestselling author Xinran Xue sat down with the Sampan recently to speak about some of her newest projects, women’s rights in China, and the importance of historical awareness among Asian youth.

In 1988, Xinran launched her career as the first female broadcaster to hit China’s airwaves. Though China’s media now features a number of prominent female journalists – such as notorious editor of Caijing Magazine, Hu Shuli – women’s voices were seldom heard on the air only two decades earlier. Xinran’s groundbreaking show, “Words on the Night Breeze,” quite locally helped shelter a long silence by pushing forth the first live call-in show for women in China. Xinran’s first book, The Good Women of China: Hidden Voices (2002) compiled many of the stories aired during the eight years of the show – throughout, hundreds of women of all ages found a forum to speak out about issues such as domestic abuse, female infanticide, and forced marriage. Her most recent book, Mess

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SEE GREENWAY, PAGE 3

Recovering the small voice of China’s history: An interview with author Xinran

By Rebecca Chang

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First Asian-American elected to Harvard Board

Son of Chinese immigrants looks to bring a unique perspective to the table

By Cody Yiu

Harvard University on April 11 announced the election of intellectual property attorney William F. Lee to the Harvard Corporation, making Lee the first Asian-American member ever to join the University’s seven-person board.

In an interview with BusinessWeek, Lee, 60, said his parents were “penniless” when they first arrived in the United States from Shanghai in 1948. Lee also said in attending Harvard; Lee’s two brothers taught at the University’s medical school.

William F. Lee says being a son of immigrants is an unforgettable experience. (Photo courtesy of Harvard University Public Affairs and Communications)

immigrants, Lee told BusinessWeek, also gives him a distinct perspective to bring to Harvard’s top governing body. “The Asian community is an important part of the university,” Lee told BusinessWeek. “I think that the fact that I’m a son of immigrants and grew up when I did and how I did will contribute to my perspective as a member of the corporation,” Lee said.

Several members of the Lee family have passed through the gates of Harvard. Two of Lee’s children followed in his footsteps in attending Harvard; Lee’s two brothers taught at the University’s medical school.

SEE XINRAN, PAGE 3
So, THE breast cancer movement is partnering up with KFC! THE KFC that just unveiled their Double Down "sandwich"!

JOIN THE CAUSE.

Is Susan G. Komen for the Cure that hard up for money that they’d resort to pink buckets of mutant, artery-clogging fried chicken.

for more ah-Lin, check out www.3blletcher.com

Announcements

CHINATOWN

Free health screenings at CCBA

Free health screenings will be offered on Saturday, May 1, 2010, 10 am–2 pm. Location: Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association (CCBA) on the second floor, 90 Tyler St, Boston, MA 02111. Insurance enrollment is not required. Tests include urinalysis, blood sugar, blood pressure, and hepatitis B infection and protection status. Physicians will be available for consultations.

The screenings are part of Community Kidney Disease Detection and the Liver Health Awareness Program at Harvard Medical School.

May is National Hepatitis Awareness Month. Asians are at greatly increased risk for liver cancer and liver disease due to hepatitis B. When detected early, chronic hepatitis B infection can be monitored and treated, improving health outcomes.

Walk through virtual Chinatown

The Asian Community Development Corporation (ACDC) and its partners held a community meeting on April 27 to discuss the development for the area south of the Turnpike in Boston’s Chinatown. While interacting with enhanced virtual environments, attendees of the meeting will learn about land use issues in Chinatown and be asked to give feedback about potential development scenarios for the neighborhood. No prior computer skills required and all ages welcome. Chinese translation will be available and bilingual youth will be present to assist attendees in need of language or technical support.

Where: Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association
90 Tyler Street
Boston, MA 02111

When: Monday, May 3rd
Food and drinks, 6:00–6:30 pm
Meeting, 6:30–8:30 pm
To RSVP, leave e-mail Janelle Chan at janelle.chan@asiancdc.org or call (617) 482-2580 x29

FUNDRAISERS

AACa Gala

The Asian American Civic Association (AACa) Annual Gala 2010 celebrates the “common roots of diversity.” Set at the renowned Harvard Museum of Natural History, the Gala will feature a sumptuous sampling of international cuisines, exotic performances from the four corners of the world, and a Travel and Leisure Raffle.

Where: Harvard Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford Street
Cambridge, MA 02138
When: Friday, May 7, 2010
7:00PM-11:00PM
Tickets: Individual: $150/person if purchased before April 1st
Group: (minimum of 10) $125/person if purchased before April 1st
Parking
Limited validated parking $5.
Early reservation required.
To go to www.nos.harvard.edu
Click “One Day Parking Permit”
For any questions, call (617) 495-3772

Contact to purchase tickets, or if you have any questions, please call Angelina Hong at (617) 426-9492 x212 or e-mail angelina@aacaboston.org.

Teen Empowerment’s 18th Annual Boston Youth Peace Conference

On Saturday, May 8, 2010, some 700 Boston youth will come together at Teen Empowerment’s 18th annual Youth Peace Conference, Think Outside the Block, Change is Around the Corner at the Jeremiah E. Burke High School, 60 Washington St., Dorchester from 11:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Boston youth organizing the conference will call on those in attendance to stop fighting one another and instead focus their energies on fighting to preserve funding for youth jobs, teen programs and quality education. The event will feature speeches and rap by the youth, performances by teens interspersed with an original play. There will be opportunities for youth to offer ideas for solutions to pressing community issues and to sign on to campaigns to take action on those issues.

TO SUBMIT A LISTING
E-MAIL news@sampan.org

www.sampan.org

AADP is New England’s only biweekly bilingual English-Chinese newspaper. It is nonprofit and nonpartisan. Founded in 1972, Sampan is published by the Asian American Civic Association. Sampan is distributed free in Chinatown and the Greater Boston area. All donations to the publication are tax deductible. Subscription: $60/year (1st class mail); $50/year (second class mail).

E-MAIL news@sampan.org

www.sampan.org

April 30, 2010

SAMPAN

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US. I just became active the last few years. It’s a lot of fun and a really good way to support the Asian American Community. As an adoptee, many Asian Americans are not connected to the Asian American community. Korean Adoptees provides opportunities for these connections.

This year’s event featured a Craisin Challenge sponsored by Ocean Spray. Laurence Louie, a grad student at UMass Boston who was volunteering at the Craisin Challenge table said, “I’ve been involved with ARW. I used to be involved with ARW. I run a youth program at CPA and I used to be a member of API. I’m coming out here to support a good cause. This is a competition where bakers have to make something with Craisins and people have a ballot to vote.”

The winners of the Craisin Challenge included Craisin-Pomegranate Cranberry Pecan Tassies by Suzanne Pan (1st place), Craisin-Pomegranate filled Madeleines by Dana Flynn (2nd place), and Craisin-Pomegranate filled Chocolate Trudrops by Benjamin Day (3rd place).

Volunteer Sandra Lee who works for the Asian American Resource Workshop noted that many who attend the fundraiser are “foodies.” “I’ve known about this event since high school. I was always here to eat. This is a social justice fundraiser. A lot of people who are involved in foodies and love cooking and eating,” Lee said.

Suzanne Pan winner of the Craisin Challenge and Janice Wong volunteer at the Raffle Table. (Photo by Natalie Ornell)

XINRAN, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“China Witness” was so well received that the ground is built with ce shreds of the Chinese heritage. The book’s success was an enormous achievement, beautiful art sculptures such the Harbor Fog or the Botanica, a kinetic sculpture and also pass by the Urban Arboretum that consists of multiple species of trees. For more information on the Rose Kennedy Fitzgerald Greenway Conservancy and events or if you are interested in making a donation, please visit their website at www.hellegreenway.org.

Diana Li is a Sampan correspondent.

XINRAN, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

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Suzanne Pan winner of the Craisin Challenge and Janice Wong volunteer at the Raffle Table. (Photo by Natalie Ornell)
Foreclosure reform fight continues

By Sonia Chang-Díaz

The foreclosure crisis is not over. In fact, with over 52,000 foreclosure starts and in Massachusetts during 2008 and 2009 alone, the crisis has not subsided. Massachusetts continues to see thousands of families lose their homes, be displaced from their communities, and suffer major financial setbacks. At the same time, the neighborhoods surrounding those homes are scarred with vacant buildings, decreased property values, and increased crime.

Foreclosure rates also remain as a major weight holding our economy and our neighborhoods back from recovery. That’s why foreclosure reform remains one of my top priorities this year.

As evidence that the foreclosure problem continues, the Warren Group, a Massachusetts research firm, announced earlier this month that foreclosure starts in Massachusetts rose 21.6% in March of this year compared to March in 2009. Media and public attention on this issue may have worn off, but we have not solved the problem yet.

Yet solutions exist to help reduce the number of families and neighborhoods affected by foreclosure. Three weeks ago, the legislature’s Joint Committee on Housing, on which I serve, reported out Senate Bill 1379, An Act to Stabilize Neighborhoods relative to residential foreclosures, with a favorable recommendation. This legislation incorporates a key legislative priority of mine: protecting tenants from unjust eviction from their buildings when a bank forecloses on that building. Currently, tenants who are in perfectly good standing with their rent, but who happen to live in a building that’s getting foreclosed upon, are often thrown out of their homes. This is a problem that particularly affects urban neighborhoods like ours, where there are many multi-family buildings. S.1379 prohibits the lending institution that forecloses on a house from evicting a tenant unless that tenant has otherwise violated their lease.

This is a bill that will help keep thousands of hard-working people in their homes—both here in Boston and across Massachusetts. As a member of the Housing Committee, I’ve been proud to work on this bill and push for its advancement. I’ll be continuing to push for it to the Senate floor for a vote, with the strongest provisions possible, and to build a winning vote count for it.

This step forward, however, is not enough. I’ve filed two additional bills, which attempt to protect homeowners even more. Senate Bill 1613, An Act Relative to Judicial Foreclosure, would amend Massachusetts’ foreclosure law so that we would join 29 other states in requiring court approval of foreclosures. Senate Bill 1612, An Act Protecting Homeowners Facing Foreclosure, would establish a set of procedural protections for homeowners facing foreclosure. Collectively, these pieces of legislation could protect thousands of Massachusetts residents from the plight of foreclosure. And they’re solutions that don’t even come with a big price-tag for the state.

At a time like this—where the state is so constrained in how we can help people due to the budget crisis—these are exactly the kinds of solutions we should be seeking out without a vengeance, and passing without delay.

Sonia Chang-Díaz is a member of the Massachusetts Senate, representing the Second Suffolk District, which includes Chinatown.

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XINRAN, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

seven publishers that they couldn’t publish the book."

The prohibition, Xinran noted, came not from the central government directly, despite persistent issues in the country with media freedom. Official policy at the national level notes that work that touches on history, religion or Tibet should be approached “with caution.” “The documents said something along the lines of, ‘You have to be sure you are publishing fact,’” Xinran said with a faint smile. “But then you get to the city level – with the mayors – and local propaganda offices merely say to be careful if you touch these topics. Then you read the policy from each publishing house, and they simply say “don’t touch any of those topics.”

Another frustration for Xinran has been the fear that younger generations in China fundamentally lack venues to engage with unheard voices and begin creative inquiry. After delivering a lecture at Cambridge two months ago, Xinran sighed as she described how a Chinese PhD student approached her afterwards, asking why she didn’t document the rise of rich, powerful women within China, calling her uneducated subjects of her research and asking why she didn’t write a book about them.

In Xinran’s efforts to bring attention to stories of inequality of grass, one so-called weed living among the rest of the green grass, her uneducated subjects are not only the marginalized, but who happen to live in a building that’s getting foreclosed upon, are often thrown out of their homes. This is a problem that particularly affects urban neighborhoods like ours, where there are many multi-family buildings. S.1379 prohibits the lending institution that forecloses on a house from evicting a tenant unless that tenant has otherwise violated their lease.

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Op-Ed

Chinatown looking at the future of libraries

Amidst the debate over branch library closings, people should remember the experience of Chinatown.

Chinatown once had a library. It opened in 1896 and served the Chinese, Greek, Jewish, Italian, Chinese and other immigrant residents of the neighborhood. The library was located on Tyler Street, and as in every other neighborhood, it was well loved, until it permanently closed its doors in 1956 and was razed during the misguided Urban Renewal process. The library’s demolition signaled the arrival of more grass and neglect for this tight-knit urban community as the nation built highways to benefit the suburban frontier.

In the years that followed, the library closing, the Boston Public Library provided intermittently mobile van services that brought books into Chinatown. Later, the book-mobile program was cut. Many of the library’s public cultural and community-building services were not replaced until the community built new service centers many years after. Today, some sixty years later, Chinatown remains one of the few Boston neighborhoods without a branch library.

For the past decade, as Chinatown gradually increased its political clout, one of the community’s top priorities has been to re-establish a branch library. This need has been particularly highlighted by the youth, who kicked off the most recent decade-long campaign for a Chinatown library in 2003.

Now, the Friends of the Chinatown Library are in the difficult position of advocating for a new branch library at a time when the talk is all about closings. Boston Public Library head Amy Ryan has the unenviable job of making a plan to serve the entire city with not enough dollars. But the people who are impacted most by the decisions need to be part of the process from the beginning.

Boston launched the first public high school and the nation’s first public library. As former principal of the Josiah Quincy School, I understand the importance of the role that education plays in shaping young people’s future. Today, we are closing branch libraries and opening casinos; spending as much on prisons—and more on war—than we do on public higher education.

What does that say about our society and the future of our children? As people who know what it means to have a library closed, the Friends of the Chinatown Library cannot in good conscience support the closure of any neighborhood’s branch library.

As Chinatown looks toward the future, far beyond the current budget crisis, we are not giving up our demand for a permanent branch library in the meantime, we are working to create a community-led pilot library, out of which we will continue our campaign, and offer to partner with the Boston Public Library as a way to experiment with new library models.

Libraries are changing, but all we need to work together to figure out the right mix to move forward. The city that launched the first public library in the nation should be the city that figures out how to continue to bring library services to every neighborhood in the midst of changeful times.

Suzanne Lee is a former principal of Josiah Quincy School and a member of Friends of the Chinatown Library.

By Amy Zhao

“Nothing sickens me more than a closed door of a library,” said Barbara Tuchman, a renowned author and historian. This quote essentially symbolizes what is happening to the Boston Public Library.

The Board of Trustees of the Boston Public Library approved the proposal of a $38.9 million budget for 2011. There were three options that were on the table. The first of the three options was to have all branches open but with hour reductions. Eighteen branches would be closed and the hired and nine lead branch library hours will remain at current levels, which would have less services for reserved materials, homework help and summer reading activities for youth.

The second of three options will close seven libraries and the remaining nineteen will remain open. There would be activities that could potentially be expanded for example more public community

By Alex Chang

Harvard College ’10

Nightmarket is the big event of the Harvard Taiwanese Cultural Society each year. Students from around Boston come each year not only to enjoy authentic Taiwanese food, but also to play games and learn about Taiwanese culture.

This winter, the Chinatown Storefront Library, located at 640 Washington Street, sang its swan song this January. (Photo by Samuel Tsai)

Students waited in line for food. Most of the dishes were prepared by students. (Photo by Danni Xu, The Harvard Crimson)

Kids of Harvard’s nightmarket games such as “Ring Toss,” “Balloon Darts,” “Bean Bag Toss,” “Mandala Rings” and “Bottle Pick-up” to make nightmarket more like, well, nightmarket.

Despite the multiple events happening on campus the same evening, Nightmarket managed to draw a great crowd of at least 200 people, perhaps nearing 300.

“It was very tiring to prepare for this huge event,” said Christine Hu ’13, the point person of this year’s Nightmarket. “However, when we saw students having so much fun, it was all worth it!”

Hu also thanked the Nightmarket Board members Shelen Tsai ’13 (Food Chair), Allen Shih ’13 (Activities Chair), Liren Tsoung ’13 (Publicity Chair), Joseph Lin ’13 (TCS Club Chair), the rest of the TCS board (Alex Chang ’10 and Peter Hung ’12, Co-President; Carol Lin ’13, Social/Outreach Chair; Jean Shiao ’13, Education/Culture Chair), and the more than 40 volunteers from all over Boston for making this event possible.

Alex Chang is the co-president of the Harvard Taiwanese Cultural Society.

By Alex Chang

Harvard College ’10

Nightmarket is the big event of the Harvard Taiwanese Cultural Society each year. Students from around Boston come each year not only to enjoy authentic Taiwanese food, but also to play games and learn about Taiwanese culture.

What makes Harvard’s Nightmarket stand out from other campus nightmarkets is that most of the dishes are prepared by students themselves.

In the previous years, more than 40 volunteers from Harvard, Wellesley, M.I.T., Tufts, BU, and Northeastern, the crew cooked up a very tasty 13-course menu that included

ed scallion pancakes, Taiwanese sausage fried rice, ro tin fun (rice with minced pork), san bei ji (chicken with bees wax, eggs, and mango). In addition, we prepared drinks and desserts such as shaved ice, bubble tea, nian gao (rice cake), almond jelly, and egg custards. People loved them.

In the previous years, cultural stations such as calligraphy and paper folding were set up to entertain participants. Although these activities are part of the Taiwanese culture, they don’t accurately portray what goes on in a typical nightmarket in Taiwan.

Therefore, this year, the event featured traditional

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Chinatown, one of the few neighborhoods without Boston Public Library services, saw the closing of the Tyler Street Branch for highway development in the 1950s. (Photo by Samuel Tsai)
By Jubeo Lee

Allergic rhinitis is one of the most common illnesses in the US, affecting more than 40 million people. The condition affects up to 40% of children and accounts for millions of missed school days each year.

Allergic rhinitis is caused by allergens that we breathe in. Common allergens are found both outdoors and indoors and include tree, grass, and pollen, mold, animal dander, dust mite droppings, and cockroach particles. Although these substances are usually harmless, allergens can be mistakenly recognized by the immune system as foreign intruders, causing symptoms such as sneezing, itching, and nasal congestion.

Understanding Allergy

Allergy is a reaction that results in the immune system responding to substances that are usually harmless. Allergens can include tree, grass, or pollen, mold, animal dander, dust mite droppings, and cockroach particles. Although these substances are usually harmless, allergens can be mistakenly recognized by the immune system as foreign intruders, causing symptoms such as sneezing, itching, and nasal congestion.

Common Allergens

Common allergens include tree, grass, or pollen, mold, animal dander, dust mite droppings, and cockroach particles. Although these substances are usually harmless, allergens can be mistakenly recognized by the immune system as foreign intruders, causing symptoms such as sneezing, itching, and nasal congestion.

Symptoms of Allergic Rhinitis

Symptoms of allergic rhinitis can include:
- Sneezing
- Itching in the nose, throat, or eyes
- Runny nose
- Nasal congestion and a feeling of being stuffed up
- Watery, itchy eyes
- Dark circles under the eyes
- Headache
- Fatigue

You may experience one or more of these symptoms at any time, and they may vary from person to person and from day to day.

Preventing Allergic Rhinitis

Preventing allergic rhinitis involves identifying and avoiding allergens as much as possible. This can be done by:
- Avoiding exposure to known allergens
- Cleaning the home to reduce allergens
- Using air purifiers and humidifiers
- Taking antihistamines or other medications prescribed by a healthcare provider

Treatment of Allergic Rhinitis

Treatment options for allergic rhinitis include antihistamines, decongestants, and nasal steroids. In severe cases, other treatments such as immunotherapy may be recommended.

Conclusion

Understanding and managing allergic rhinitis is crucial for maintaining a healthy and comfortable lifestyle. By identifying and avoiding allergens, keeping your home clean, and using medications as prescribed, you can reduce your symptoms and improve your quality of life.

For more information and resources, visit the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology website at www.aaaai.org.
MASSACHUSETTS BAY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
TRANSPORTATION BUILDING
10 PARK PLAZA
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02116-3975

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed bids for MBTA Contract No A40CN03, PARK STREET STATION VERTICAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, (CLASS 1, GENERAL TRANSIT CONSTRUCTION AND PROJECT VALUE - $13,150,000.00) will be received by the Director of Contract Administration at the Contract Administration Office, 6th Floor, Room 6720, Transportation Building, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, Massachusetts, 02116-3975, until two o’clock (2:00 p.m.) on May 27, 2010. Immediately thereafter, in a designated room, the Bids will be opened and read publicly.

The Work includes but is not limited to two new elevators. One connects the Boston Common to the Green Line Westbound Platform. The second connects the Green Line Westbound Platform to the Red Line Center Platform. In order to accommodate the Red Line elevator, the existing stair #2 to the Red Line Center Platform is to be demolished and rebuilt in a new configuration. Between the two elevators at the Green Line level, there will be a new elevator machine room. Included is mechanical, electrical, communications and plumbing work to support the design. Electrical work will include bringing power from the South Station substation. Site work includes replacing paving adjacent to Tremont Street as shown on the drawings.

This Contract is subject to a financial assistance Contract between the MBTA and the Federal Transit Administration of U.S. Department of Transportation. FTA Participation 80 percent.

Each prospective bidder proposing to bid on this project must be prequalified in accordance with the Authority’s “Procedures Governing Classification and Rating of Prospective Bidders.” Copies may be obtained from the Contract Administration Office at the above address. Requests for prequalification for this Project will not be accepted by the Authority after the tenth (10th) day preceding the date set for the opening of bids.

Prequalified bidders may obtain from the Contract Administration Office a “Request for Bid Form” which must be properly filled out and submitted for approval.

Bidding documents may be obtained from the Contract Administration Office at the address above from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., beginning on April 23, 2010, Monday through Friday, at no charge. Electronic copies of the Bidding Documents will be available in electronic format (CD), Contract Specifications shall be available in portable data file (.pdf) file format and Contract Drawings shall be available in Tagged Image File (.tif) file format, at no charge. Bidding documents will be sent upon request and receipt of a fee of $25.00, payable by check. Bidding documents will be forwarded by U.S. Mail, at the expense of the plan holder. NONE OF THESE CHARGES ARE REFUNDABLE.

Bidders attention is directed to Appendix 1, Notice of Requirement for Affirmative Action to Insure Equal Employment Opportunity; and to Appendix 2, Supplemental Equal Employment Opportunity, Anti-Discrimination, and Affirmative Action Program in the specifications. In addition, pursuant to the requirements of Appendix 3, Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Participation Provision, Bidders must submit an assurance with their Bids that they will make sufficient and reasonable efforts to meet the stated DBE goal of 20 percent.

Bidders will affirmatively ensure that in regard to any contract entered into pursuant to this solicitation, minority and female construction contractors will be afforded full opportunity to submit Bids and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, age, or national origin in consideration for an award.

Bidders will be required to comply with Federal Equal Employment Opportunity Regulations and the President’s Executive Order No. 11246 and any amendments or supplements thereto. Bidders will also be required to comply with the Governor’s Executive Order No. 481, prohibiting the use of undocumented workers on State Contracts and any amendments and supplements thereto.

Authorization for the Bidders to view the site of the work on the MBTA's property shall be obtained from the Project Manager, Desiree Patrice, 500 Arborway, Jamaica Plain, MA 617-222-4479. The Authority will conduct an inspection tour of the site on May 4, 2010. Bidders are requested to be present in front of the West Headhouse Entrance to Park Street Station at Tremont Street and Park Street, Boston, Massachusetts, at 10:00 a.m. to participate in the tour. Bidders are advised that they should have representation at this tour as no extra visits are planned.

A prebid conference will be held on May 5, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. at the MBTA Offices, 500 Arborway, Jamaica Plain, MA, Conference Room #1, First Floor; Project Manager, Desiree Patrice, 617-222-4479. Any request for interpretation of the Plans and Specifications should be submitted in writing at the same time.

Bidders will be required to certify as part of their bids that they are able to furnish labor that can work in harmony with all other elements of labor employed or to be employed on the work.

This Contract is subject to Federal wage and hourly laws and minimum State wage rates as well as all other applicable labor laws.

Bidders are advised that the “Buy America” provisions of the Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1982 (Pub. L. 97-424) as amended, apply to any Contract, procurement or agreement which results from this solicitation.

Bid Guaranty shall consist of a bid deposit in the amount of five (5) percent of the value of the bid, in the form of a bid bond, cash, certified check, treasurer’s or cashier’s check.

The successful Bidder shall be required to furnish a Performance Bond and a Labor and Materials Payment Bond each for the full amount of the Contract price.

The Authority reserves the right to reject any or all Bids, to waive informalities, to advertise for new Bids or proceed to do the work otherwise, as may be deemed to be in the best interests of the Authority.

This information may be viewed at the MBTA website:
http://www.mbta.com/business_center/bidding_solicitations/current_solicitations/

MASSACHUSETTS BAY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

Date: April 20, 2010
By: Jeffrey B. Mullan
Secretary and Chief Executive Officer of MassDOT
Richard A. Davey
General Manager of the MBTA & Rail & Transit Administrator of MassDOT
huge signs loom on balconies and string on banners across street intersections proclaiming the names of restaurants, jewelry stores, markets and bakeries. Like leftovers from last century, the signs’ faded colors, peeling paint and old neon give off an air of the 1950s, of old movies and of history. Dumped into the middle of Chinatown, it wouldn’t be difficult to mistake the neighborhood for some version of Hong Kong.

The United States’ largest Chinatown, this San Francisco neighborhood has always been a center of Asian culture, community and life. But as the city has grown into a major attraction for Asian and American tourists alike, though small markets and family restaurants still line the streets, larger stores have occupied the ground floors of many buildings and hip outlets hawking Chinese products attract some of the largest crowds of wandering families.

Still, what are most interesting to encounter in Chinatown are the business- nesses that have already passed the test of time and mingle urban identities with authentic Chinese products. The Wok Shop, found at 739 Grant Avenue, has been selling traditional Chinese cooking supplies for over 35 years. The store is a crowded chaos of woks, steamers, rice cookers and chopsticks that seems to spill out onto the street itself, threatening to break through the front plate-glass windows.

The Wok Shop’s proprietors are quick to offer tips to use any of the store’s hundreds of different culinary devices. Steamers might be used for vegetables or dumplings, one can choose between bamboo and metal, each different material has its own advantages and downsides. Need a new wooden spoon? A single display is filled with baskets full of different types, some for scooping, some for tossing and others for straining oil out of a deep fryer. Need a mug? Enamelled and embossed in every different color, the Wok Shop’s displays present an overwhelming variety of choices.

Customers range from older Chinese women jok- ing in Cantonese with the owners to a gentleman looking for a new wok for his apartment or an diplomat speaking fluent Mandarin. The store truly brings together a diverse audience, just like the neighborhood itself.

In the center of San Francisco’s Chinatown is Portsmouth Square, a gray cement structure rising among the taller buildings outside Chinatown. A thin sign on the structure’s lower levels marks it as the Chinese Culture Center, home to civic associations, meetings places and exhibition halls.

The Cultural Center was currently hosting an exhibition of contemporary art by artists reflecting on Chinese and Chinese-American identity. Not limited to ethnically Chinese artists, the exhibition challenged what it is to be Chinese, expressing China today “as a humanist concern,” according to the exhibition’s wall text, “not based in ethnic or national- istic concerns.” ‘Chinese’, in this sense, is less a con- crete identity and more an idea to be challenged.

Places in the exhibition included an impressive col- lection of photographs by Patrick Tsai exploring the cultural conflict between China and Japan. The pho- tos, taken in both countries, show that what brings young people together are much more important than the divide between the two cultures. Bombastic, punchy and funny, the photos show two countries as one place, a place that mingle humor and trag- edy, youth and history, all united under the photogra- pher’s lens.

Tsai’s photographs make me feel the excite- ment of exploring some- where unknown but knowable, the feeling of going to a place that feels unfamiliar, but something like home at the same time. Wandering around San Francisco brings up the same sense of wonder. Boston’s Chinatown is more and more a place that I feel close to, a place I feel at home. Here in San Fran- cisco, the neighborhood is vastly bigger, vastly more complicated than back in Boston. And yet, at the same time, there is some- thing familiar here, some- thing friendly, something exciting.

Kyle Chayka is a Sampan correspondent.

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Alvarez Hall, Resilience Campus
321 River Frontalume
Boston, MA 02215
5:30 pm - 6:00 pm networking/ information gathering

Panelists:

JOSEFINA BONILLA - Managing Director of Color Media Group, LLC and Editor-in-Chief/Publisher of Color Magazine

TRISH KARTER - Founder and CEO, Dancing Deer Baking Company

COLLETTE PHILIPS - President and CEO, Collette Phillips Communications, Inc.

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