‘Home Town’ highlights Chinatown’s past and present

BY LING-MEI WONG

The “Home Town: Re-presenting Boston’s Chinatown as a Place of People” art project kicked off Sept. 10 and will continue to Oct. 2 in Chinatown. A total of 12 life-size cut-outs of 17 individuals from historic photographs selected from the archives of Chinese Historical Society of New England (CHSNE) can be found on Beach Street, Harrison Avenue, the Chinatown Park and the Greenway, created by Cambridge artist and activist Wen-ti Tsun. Tsun will take portraits of local residents against a historic backdrop at the Chinatown Gate, to create a community photo album of portraits.

“I went through all of CHSNE’s photos and there were few photos of people looking into the camera,” Tsun said. “I wanted to represent the people of Chinatown and there were not many pictures of people here working.”

Like the project stems from community efforts to counteract the extensive development and gentrification that affects Chinatown’s integrity. The project uses visual art to represent the people of the past and present Chinatown.

“I want to link the past and present,” Tsun said.

The archival images include Chinese laundry workers working in Blue Hills in the 1930s, a pair of young women holding each other, and the late Reggie Wong with his sister Caroline as children on Hudson Street.

“Home Town” was among the first projects awarded a Creative City Grant from the New England Foundation for the Arts. Jaimie Lee worked as Tsun’s assistant, helping with publicity, setup and painting. The Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy helped coordinate locations for some of the archival cut-outs.

AG Healey launches New Americans Advisory Council

BY SARA BROWN

Attorney General Maura Healey launched the New Americans Advisory Council on Sept. 19. (Image courtesy of the AG’s Office.)

The advisory council will aim to meet regularly throughout the year. Others in the community expressed excitement over the new council.

“Immigration is vital to the success and vibrancy of this state. Our organization works day in and day out to improve the lives of immigrants and refugee communities in this state and we are so grateful to the Attorney General’s Office for sharing this priority,” said Eva Millona, MIRA Coalition executive director. “This new advisory council will be the start of a strong partnership between the Attorney General’s Office and immigrants and refugees that will better integrate them linguistically, economically and socially to the fabric of our great Commonwealth.”

‘Home Town’ artist Wen-ti Tsun with an archival cut-out of Reggie and Caroline Wong as children on Sept. 9 at the Chinatown Park. (Image courtesy of Ling-Mei Wong.)

Some of the historic cut-outs from the “Home Town” exhibit at artist Wen-ti Tsun’s studio. (From left) A pair of sisters, a mother with her baby and a dancer with a cane. (Image courtesy of Wen-ti Tsun.)
Event Calendar

Film screening Friday, Sept. 23 6 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. 484 Main Street, Suite 400 Worcester, MA 01608
A screening of “Being Human Being Free” will take place at the Southeast Asian Coalition of Central Massachusetts. Register with Bora Chiem-ruom at bora.chiem-ruom@saacommission.org.

Field. Register at will take place at Adams Presidents 5K Run/Walk Quincy, MA 02170 10 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 25 Run/Walk City of Presidents 5K the Josiah Quincy Elementary School playground.

City of Presidents 5K Run/Walk Sunday, Sept. 25 10 a.m. 1 Merrymount Parkway Quincy, MA 02170 The third annual City of Presidents 5K Run/Walk, bringing family fun to Chinatown at the Josiah Quincy Elementary School playground.

Oak Street Fair Saturday, Sept. 24 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. 885 Washington Street Boston, MA 02111 BCNC will host the 31st Oak Street Fair, bringing family fun to Chinatown.

film screening Saturday, Sept. 24 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. 150 Harrison Avenue Boston, MA 02111 A screening of “Honor and Duty: The Delta Chinese” will take place at Tufts University in the Behrakis Auditorium. Register at http://ow.ly/ibIF304rutZ.

Forum on grassroots po- litical organizations Sunday, Sept. 25 6:15 p.m. to 9 p.m. 111 Davis Road Acton, MA 01720 A forum on American grassroots political organizations hosted by the Acton Chinese American Civic Society will take place at the Bellows Farm Club House. Please register at http://ow.ly/PC7x304ruvx.

Free legal clinic Monday, Sept. 26 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. 1509 Hancock Street, Suite 202 East Boston, MA 02128 QCNC will host a free legal clinic addressing individual concerns over immigration law, landlord/tenant law, family law, personal injury and criminal issues. Please contact QARI at (617) 472-2200 or e-mail info@ qncnicsa.org.

Free yoga class Sept. 13 to Oct. 25 10 a.m. 30 Edgery Road Boston, MA 02125 Free yoga classes will take place on Tuesdays at Symphony Park, with mats and chairs provided. People in wheelchairs and with limited mobility are welcome to join.

Free workshop on bank- ing services Tuesday, Sept. 27 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. 38 Ash Street Boston, MA 02111 Come learn about U.S. banking services and get one-on-one help from Citizens Bank at the Boston Chinatown Neighbor- hood Center (BCNC)!

Diversity forum Tuesday, Sept. 27 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. 45 Union Street Boston, MA 02108 A diversity forum in honor of National Hispanic Month will take place at the Bell in Hand tavern. Register at http://getjink- nected.com/events/gkhhm.

Free health care service Every Tuesday 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. First Church in Malden 184 Pleasant Street Malden, MA 02148 The Shorewood Project offers free, unscheduled health care to the medically underserved populations of the greater Boston area. For more information please call (781) 324-8991 or e-mail sharewood.dio- rctor@gmail.com.

Small business resource fair Wednesday, Sept. 28 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. 1350 Tremont Street Boston, MA 02116 The City of Boston’s Office of Economic Deve- lopment, the Massachu- setts Office of Business Development, in partner- ship with the Small Busi- ness Association, is host- ing a free small business resource fair at the Reggie Lewis Center in Roxbury. To register, please visit http://ow.ly/j2N304qrqU.

AAPI aging listening session Thursday, Sept. 29 9 a.m. to noon 96 Tyfer Street Boston, MA 02111 The White House Initia- tive on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders with the National Asian Pacific Center on Aging invite you to a listening session on Asian American and Pacific Islander aging at the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association. Lunch is provided. To reg- ister, please visit http://ow.ly/5j7304ruaU.

CHSNE ban- quet Friday, Sept. 30 6 p.m. 690 Washington Street Boston, MA 02111 The Chinese Historical Society of New England will hold its an- nual meeting and dinner banquet at Empire Garden. For more infor- mation, call (617) 338- 4339 or email info@chsne. org.

Customer service English class Oct. 3 to Dec. 16 9:30 a.m. to noon 28 Ash Street Boston, MA 02111 A class to help learn English and workplace skills to work in the cus- tomer service field will be held at the Chinese Progressive Association (CPA) on Mondays to Fri- days. Sign up at CPA or call (617) 357-4499.

5th Annual Young Leaders Symposium Saturday, Oct. 15 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. 461 Washington Street Brookline, MA 02445 Students and young profes- sionals are invited to the Asian American Commis- sion’s 5th Annual Young Leaders Symposium.

CelebrAsians fashion show Saturday, Oct. 15 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. 42 Charles Street Boston, MA 02114 Asian Women for Health will host a commu- nity engagement fundrais- er at Viet AID. For more information visit www. asianwomenforhealth.org.

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Advertising: Joe Feng ads@sampan.org Production: Sara Brown Ling-Mei Wong SAMPAN is New England’s only bilingually published English-Chinese newspaper. It is non- profit and nonpartisan. Founded in 1972, Sampan is published by the Asian American Civic Association. Sampan is distributed for free in Chinatown and the Greater Boston area. All donations to the publication are tax deductible. Subscription: $65/year (1st class mail); $35/year (3rd class mail).

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Chinese Women’s Association rings in 76 years

BY LING-MEI WONG

The Chinese Women’s Association celebrated its 76th anniversary on Sept. 10 at the China Pearl in Boston. (Image courtesy of Ling-Mei Wong)

The Chinese Women’s Association celebrated its 76th anniversary and annual banquet on Sept. 10 at the China Pearl in Boston.

The annual celebration honored two members, Hui Fang Li and Sau Ping Lee, for their continued service to the community.

“I am so honored to be here tonight with my wife,” said Scott Lai, director-general of the Taiwan Economic and Cultural Office. “Taiwan recently elected its first female president and we appreciate the association’s continued efforts to empower women.”

The Chinese Women’s Association was founded by Soong May-ling or Madame Chiang Kai-shek in 1940. Chiang was a Wellesley graduate, who organized Chinese women to raise funds to support the Chinese war effort during the Sino-Japanese war.

Women’s Association co-president Fung M. Lee said, “On our 76th anniversary, it brings me great joy to see so many friends gathered here. We welcome and appreciate each one of you.”

The association’s mission is community support, gender equality and civil rights advocacy.

“This association does such meaningful work in promoting gender equality and civic engagement,” said Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association president Paul Chan. “These are still relevant issues today for Chinese Americans and I wish the association all the best.”

Hung-wei Ou, director of the Culture Center of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Boston, said, “This is my first event, since my last post in Boston 15 years ago. I wish good health to all the beautiful women here.”

The Chinese Women’s Association Chorus performed two songs. Hongwei Gao played the saxophone and jinghu, followed by karaoke by guests.

Kung Fu Federation Mid-Autumn Festival

BY DEBRA MEI

The New England Eastern U.S. Kung Fu Federation celebrated Mid-Autumn Festival on Sept. 17 at Hei La Moon. (Image courtesy of Debra Mei)

The New England Eastern U.S. Kung Fu Federation celebrated Mid-Autumn Festival on Sept. 17 at Hei La Moon.

The U.S. Eastern Kung Fu Federation performed a lion dance at the Lantern Festival on Sept. 10 at the Chinatown Gate. (Image courtesy of Eva Loh.)

Third Lantern Festival celebrates traditions and community

BY EVA LOH

The third annual Lantern Festival was hosted by Boston-based nonprofit organization Chinatown Main Street at the Rose Kennedy Greenway in Boston’s Chinatown on Sept. 10.

The Lantern Festival started with vendors near the Chinatown Gate, including arts and crafts, food, mooncakes, potted plants and souvenirs. Many families came out to enjoy the community event.

The entertainment at the stage began with a performance by the Wong Family Association. There were more than 16 performances from the Boston Freemasons Gung Ho Athletic Club, Boston Yu-anji Dance Association, Nam Pai Kung Fu Academy, Boston Chinese Folk and Classical Dance Group, Verge Dance, Wah Lum Kung Fu and Tai Chi Academy, Malden Senior Center, Chiu Mo Kwoon kung fu school of Boston, Best Taekwondo, Calvin Chin Martial Arts, Boston Aikido, Adam Cheung Kung Fu, New England Eastern U.S. Kung-Fu Federation, Woo Ching’s White Crane Kung Fu, and Wong Keung Lion Dance. Woo Ching and Wong Keung ended the Lantern Festival with dragon and lion dances.

The PlayCubes installation at the Rose Kennedy Greenway attracted more children to gather at the park for the stage performances this year.

The U.S. Eastern Kung Fu Federation performed a lion dance at the Lantern Festival on Sept. 10 at the Chinatown Gate. (Image courtesy of Eva Loh.)

The Chinese Women’s Association celebrates its 76th anniversary on Sept. 10 at the China Pearl in Boston. (Image courtesy of Ling-Mei Wong)

The Chinese Women’s Association celebrates its 76th anniversary on Sept. 10 at the China Pearl in Boston. (Image courtesy of Ling-Mei Wong)

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September 23, 2016
Chinatown Resident Association celebrates Mid-Autumn Festival

BY LING-MEI WONG

The Chinatown Resident Association celebrated the Mid-Autumn Festival early on Sept. 9 at the Josiah Quincy Elementary School auditorium. More than 100 seniors and community members attended the event.

Children from the Boston Chinese Folk and Classical Dance Group performed cultural dances, while the Kuong Dong Musical Association played live music.

Best Bar BQ Restaurant donated gifts and fruit for community seniors.

Councilors Wu, Flaherty discuss tax hike for affordable housing

BY LING-MEI WONG

Boston City Council President Michelle Wu held her monthly media meeting on Sept. 9 at City Hall. She was joined by Councilor at-large Michael Flaherty, who discussed his work on the upcoming Community Preservation Act (CPA) ballot measure.

Massachusetts passed the CPA in 2000, which enables adopting communities to raise funds to create a local dedicated fund for open space preservation, preservation of historic resources, development of affordable housing, and the acquisition and development of outdoor recreational facilities. Local legislative bodies must approve adoption of the CPA, which then must pass by a majority when voters go to the polls on Nov. 8. Voters can support a surcharge of up to 3 percent for the fund, which was proposed to be 1 percent for Boston. The state will match funds from the Community Preservation Trust Fund.

Some Bostonians will be exempt from the surcharge, such as seniors and low-income residents, Flaherty said.

The Clean Up Chinatown Committee met Sept. 13 at the Asian American Civic Association.

Inspectional Services Department (ISD) Commissioner William Christopher gave a presentation on Boston’s restaurant grading system. Grades are based on health inspections, which ISD conducts annually. The grade is published online and is either A, B or C, depending on the health inspection score.

“We’re proud of most of our restaurateurs,” Christopher said. “If you don’t know the code, make sure you know safe food-handling practices.”

Posting grades publicly is voluntary for the first year, Christopher said. ISD is translating its materials into Chinese and will go into Chinatown restaurants with interpreters to ensure clear communication.

“If you’re doing business right, you want the world to know,” Christopher said. About 65 percent of Chinatown restaurants would qualify for an A, based on current ISD data.

ISD has done pest control in the neighborhood, particularly at Johnny Court and Maple Place. “We have been systematically baiting all the sewers for rodent activity,” said Leo Boucher, ISD assistant commissioner.

CNC


A presentation on South Station was given by developer Hines, which is working on a project with the Boston Redevelopment Authority. The current bus terminal at South Station is half of its planned size; the project will complete the bus terminal and connect it to the train station, said David Perry, senior managing director. Three buildings will be built over South Station, adding nearly 2 million square feet of space and 895 parking spaces. The project will create about 6,600 construction jobs and 5,300 permanent jobs.

The project will add a loading area for bus terminal passengers within the South Station parking lot, alleviating traffic congestion on Atlantic Avenue, Perry said. Councilors Man Ho Chan and Nick Chau both voiced concerns about cars double- and triple-parking at South Station, causing traffic from the I-90 and I-93 on-ramps to back up. A Greenway update was presented by Mike Nichols, Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy chief of staff. Mary Soo Hoo Park has been transferred to the Greenway’s management since July 2015, improving its cleanliness. It is the most heavily used park of the Greenway.

The rooster-themed public art installation will replace the 12-foot monkey in front of the Townsman restaurant in time for Lunar New Year in January 2017. The Greenway is conducting surveys about keeping the PlayCubes child-friendly structures in Chinatown Park.

The Wynn Boston Harbor project is breaking ground in Everett and hiring for construction jobs. Seven job fairs were held in the greater Boston area for the casino resort, which is slated for opening in June 2019, said Robert DeSalvio, president of Wynn Boston Harbor. There are 4,000 jobs for construction, with an eighth job fair scheduled for Oct. 24.
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Applications can be sent to you via email or mail upon request by calling 781-767-3636. Applications may also be picked up in person Monday—Friday between the hours of 9:00am—5:00pm at:

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Quincy Asian Resources, Inc. executive director to step down after 12 years

BY THE SAMPAN EDITORIAL TEAM

John Brothers, executive director of Quincy Asian Resources, Inc., announced his resignation on Sept. 13. (Image courtesy of QARI.)

John Brothers, executive director of Quincy Asian Resources, Inc. (QARI), will step down after 12 years of service. "Serving at QARI has been an amazingly rewarding experience for me. However, the time has come for my next challenge," Brothers said in a prepared statement. "I plan to explore new directions in a leadership, development or advocacy role while continuing to serve the community."

QARI was founded to serve the Asian American community on the South Shore. It provides English for speakers of other languages, referral services, leadership through the QARI Youth Service Corps and mentoring of immigrant middle schoolers by high school students.

Robert Sheppard, QARI’s senior adult education director and Ophelia Liu, QARI’s finance manager, will step up to be a part of the transition team, ensuring that QARI is well positioned for success while the search for a permanent executive director is carried out.

社区會議通知

塔芙茨大學（Tufts University）和塔芙茨醫療中心生物安全委員會（Tufts Medical Center’s Institutional Biosafety Committee）將於2016年10月20日（星期四）下午5時30分舉行公開會議，地點是波士頓夏洛特街150號Behrakis教學大樓Hooon 130。

該生物安全委員會負責確保，塔芙茨大學或塔芙茨醫療中心進行或由它們資助進行帶有潛在生物危害物品的研究符合國家健康局的指導。我們邀請社區人士出席是次會議，以了解更多有關本會及其監管職能和生物安全風險管理。與會者必須出示有照片的身份證件才可進入大樓。
Smoking causes lung damage and needless death

BY LING-MEI WONG

Smoking kills. Tobacco use causes nearly half a million deaths each year, according to the American Lung Association. It is the leading preventable cause of death in the United States, causing more deaths than HIV, illegal drug use, alcohol use, motor vehicle accidents and firearm-related incidents combined, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Tobacco use has a direct link to lung cancer. Lung cancer was the most common cause of cancer deaths in Boston, accounting for more than 40 percent of all types of cancer deaths from 2008 to 2012, according to the Boston Public Health Commission. Lung cancer was the 11th deadliest cancer for Boston’s Asian residents, ahead of liver and colon cancers.

A U.S. Surgeon General report found smoking harms almost every organ of the body and the effects begin upon inhalation. In 10 seconds, nicotine reaches the brain, inducing cigarette addiction. Soon after, carcinogens bind to cells in the lungs and other organs. Tobacco smoke damages blood vessels, increasing the likelihood of blood clots. Carbon monoxide, another cigarette toxin, binds to red blood cells, preventing them from effectively circulating oxygen throughout the body. Secondhand smoke is just as damaging, as non-smokers breathe in nicotine and toxic chemicals the same way smokers do. Long-term damage from smoking includes chronic inflammation of the lungs, a weakened immune system and DNA damage, all of which can lead to disease and death. The risk of smoking-related illness depends on how long smokers have smoked, according to a 2010 Surgeon General report on how smoking causes disease. Secondhand smoke effects?

Despite documented health risks, youth and young adult smoking rates in the United States have remained un-

‘It’s OK to Talk’ opens up dialogue on emotional pain

BY SARA BROWN

Luke Ambler started the #ItsOkayToTalk campaign. (Image courtesy of Twitter.)

People are taking and posting selfies with the OK sign as part of the #ItsOkayToTalk campaign. These photos encourage conversation about mental health and suicide to help men open up about their struggles with mental illness.

In the United States, the national suicide rate is the highest it has been in 30 years, according to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Men are the highest risk for suicide. White men accounted for seven out of 10 suicides in 2014, and the highest suicide rate was in middle aged men, according to a data analysis from the National Center for Health Statistics.

“This is why Luke Ambler of the United Kingdom created the campaign in July. His brother committed suicide at age 23. “I wanted to give guys a place to reach out, speak to people, tell them how you’re feeling, and never let it get too bad ... because it’s okay to talk, and we all go through struggles in life,” he told The Telegraph.

According to the American Psychological Association, suicide was the eighth leading cause of death for Asian Americans, whereas it was the 11th leading cause of death for all racial groups combined. The group at the highest risk for suicide is men over the age of 85.

Mental health counselor Jen Brown of Boston said men have a difficult time seeking professional help.


“There’s overall stigma with seeking mental health services in general. Some worry they’ll be viewed as crazy and don’t want to believe they have problems. Some worry a physical record of mental health illness may jeopardize certain jobs. Others have fear of the unknown,” she added.

Brown said men in general have a hard time verbalizing their feelings.

“It’s just how they’re wired. Women — not all — are more verbal and are programmed more to problem-solve from talking,” she said.

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Applications: Medford Public Library; Medford Office of Community Development; Housing Resource Group, LLC: 781.820.8797; hrgllc.alwan@yahoo.com

Information meeting: 10/8/2016 at 1:00 p.m. at Medford Fire Station 5, 0 Medford Street

Application Deadline: 11/9/2016

Tufts Medical Center’s Asian Health Initiative, which seeks to address health disparities and improve the health of the Asian community, will fund community programs addressing smoking, lung cancer and related health risks from 2017 to 2019. A request for proposals will be released on Sept. 29, with more information on page 7. Proposals are due on Nov. 1.
Tips for boosting your child’s math success

**BY STATEPOINT**

For many students, math is one of the most challenging school subjects to conquer. However, it doesn’t have to be. There are many ways parents can take an active role in their children’s math success.

“Often students experience a crisis of confidence when it comes to math. If this persists, they may struggle with mastery of the core principles required to progress and grow,” said Shawn Mahoney, chief academic officer of McGraw-Hill Education. “Many parents see the value in educational technology and how it can help to both make math fun for kids, as well as play an important role in helping them master the basic building blocks needed for continued success.”

Mahoney offers parents the following tips to boost students’ math skills.

### Assess your student

Inquire about your child’s strengths and weaknesses as well as their unique needs and preferences. Not all children learn best using the same methods, and what works for your child’s peers may not necessarily work for your young scholar.

Talking to your child’s teacher can help give a complete picture of his or her progress to determine if any additional help is needed.

### Leverage new technologies

Investigate new technologies and digital products that are designed to help children learn and build confidence in their math abilities. For example, McGraw-Hill Education’s tablet-friendly program ALEKS provides a personalized and adaptive learning experience for students based on their strengths and weaknesses.

The program uses research-based adaptive learning technology to determine precisely what each student knows, doesn’t know and is most ready to learn in a given course. ALEKS interacts with students like a personal tutor, helping them study more effectively and efficiently by delivering the exact instruction they need when they need it.

### Make math come alive

Make the subject more interesting by introducing your child to mathematical concepts outside the context of a traditional classroom environment. Whether it’s a day spent at a children’s museum in the math-oriented exhibits or playing digital math games, there are plenty of opportunities to expand the notion of what math is for your child.

Education is a passport to a brighter tomorrow. In the world of today and tomorrow, the importance of numeracy — the ability to understand, work with and communicate effectively with numbers — is essential. It’s never too early or too late to take an active role in getting your child on the path to math success.

### FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT

**Asian Health Initiative Request for Proposals (RFP)**

Tufts Medical Center is seeking innovative programs to promote the health of Boston’s Chinatown and Asian community. The priority health issue to be addressed in a new three year funding cycle for the Asian Health Initiative (AHI) is reducing cigarette smoking, and its related health consequences such as lung cancer, and exacerbation of other chronic illnesses.

Grants will be awarded to individual organizations for up to $50,000 per year, for up to three years. Examples of initiatives may include, but are not limited to clinical and non-clinical outreach, education, prevention efforts, referrals to medical services, smoking cessation programs, and/or support groups.

The Request for Proposals (RFP) will be available electronically on September 29, 2016. The submission deadline for proposals is November 1, 2016. For a copy of the RFP or more information about the Asian Health Initiative, please visit www.tuftsmedicalcenter.org/commhealth. Potential applicants are invited to attend a bidders’ conference to learn more about the RFP and consult with experts on October 11 at 3PM in Proger Room A, Tufts Medical Center. Should you have any questions regarding the RFP, please call the Office of Community Health Improvement Programs at (617) 636-1626.
Chinatown residents oppose hotel proposals at town hall

BY LING-MEI WONG

A Chinatown Master Plan town hall meeting took place Sept. 14 at the Josiah Quincy Elementary School. A report from the 2010 Chinatown Master Plan went over the four-part vision that came out of a two-year community planning effort. Boston’s Chinatown was founded in the late 1800s and is one of the few ethnic enclaves still thriving in the nation.

1. Chinatown will be a diverse residential neighborhood anchored by immigrant and working-class families.
2. Chinatown will be a sustainable, social, economic and cultural hub for a network of Asian American communities in neighboring communities.
3. Chinatown will enhance its history and character as a unique neighborhood and cultural center that is important to the city, state and region.
4. Chinatown will develop and diversify its economy by building on both its cultural identity and strategic location.

As Chinatown has little land available for development, the plan identified five public and community-owned land parcels for potential development: Parcel 12 on Tremont Street; Parcel A basketball court on Washington Street and Marginal Road; Parcel B11 parking lot on Tyler and Hudson Street; 50 Herald Street rented by C-Mart Supermarket; and the South Bay parcels on Kneeland Street.

“Chinatown is so built-out that any development will take place at the edge of Chinatown or on public parcels,” said Debbie Chen, community planner at Asian Community Development Corporation.

Affordable housing development at One Greenway, the Radian, Oxford-Ping On and Hong Lok House has occurred since 2010, but experienced delays due to financing. The next affordable housing project in the neighborhood is 46 units at 48 Boylston Street.

Residents expressed concerns about proposed hotel projects on privately owned land. A resident of Mason Place, a senior home, voiced his opposition to hotel development, as the elderly have lost green space with the nearby Ritz Carlton.

Jonathan Greetley, Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) director of development, said the agency planned to issue a request for proposals for Parcel 12 by the end of 2016. Parcel 12 is owned by the BRA and is a parking lot on Tremont Street.

Boston’s Chief of Housing Sheila Dillon said, “There is more we can do for housing … let’s work it out together.”

BPS Superintendent Chang welcomes service teachers

BY LING-MEI WONG

Boston Public Schools Superintendent Tommy Chang welcomed more than 250 new Boston AmeriCorps members on Sept. 17 at the Curley K-8 School. (Image courtesy of City Year/Elliott Hanny.)

Chinatown residents oppose hotel proposals at town hall

BY LING-MEI WONG

BPS Superintendent Chang welcomes service teachers

BY LING-MEI WONG

Boston Public Schools Superintendent Tommy Chang (top left) welcomed more than 250 new Boston AmeriCorps members on Sept. 17 at the Curley K-8 School. (Image courtesy of City Year/Elliott Hanny.)

Council President Wu attends United Chinese Americans National Convention

BY LING-MEI WONG

Boston City Council President Michelle Wu attended the United Chinese Americans National Convention on Sept. 10 in Washington D.C. (Image courtesy of Gary Yu.)

Retail English program graduates class

BY BOSTON CHINATOWN NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER AND CHINESE PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION

Eight students graduated from the Retail Employment training program organized by the Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center and the Chinese Progressive Association. (Image courtesy of CPA.)

TEAM kickoff highlights mental health

BY SARA BROWN

Together Empowering Asian Minds (TEAM) launched Sept. 20 at Massachusetts General Hospital in an effort to get more Asian Americans talking about mental health.

TEAM is a peer-led coalition to address urgent and unique mental health challenges faced by Asian Americans. TEAM’s mission is to engage, educate and empower Asian Americans with culturally relevant resources and peer support so as to destigmatize seeking help for mental health problems. It envisions a world where Asian Americans with mental illnesses can speak freely, share openly, and experience acceptance and support without shame and judgment.

“I am so excited for the kickoff of TEAM and believe we can do amazing things,” said Chien-Chi Huang, executive director for Asian Women for Health.

Huang said more than 13 percent of Asian Americans have a diagnosable mental illness, which translates to 2.2 million people. That is the entire population of Houston. However, Asian Americans are three times less likely to seek mental health services. At Harvard University, 75 percent of the suicides that occur are committed by Asian American students.

“We are the invisible group suffering inside with the invisible disease,” Huang said.

Huang believes one of the many reasons why Asian Americans don’t seek treatment is because of the stigma that is attached with it.

“Asian American women are supposed to be perfect. We are taught at an early age that only crazy people seek mental health services,” she said.

Huang hopes TEAM will change the dialogue around mental health in the Asian Community. The project has already created a resources section on its website for people who are looking for help. If offers where to seek treatment but also articles and podcasts about various mental health issues that people can relate to.

TEAM will host events about mental health services. For more information, visit www.teamasiaminds.org.