Push for change as construction industry wage theft continues

By Carey Lin

On April 15, traditionally known as “Tax Day,” members of the North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters gathered to raise awareness on wage theft and tax fraud in the construction industry. While it is not a new issue in the construction industry, “The pandemic has only exacerbated any and all issues that were existing before,” said Noel Xavier, organizer of the North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters (NASCRC).

In the past year, construction industry layoffs were especially high. According to the 2020 Marcum JOLTS Analysis of construction employment trends reports, in April 2020, a record high of 709,000 workers, or 10.8 percent of the total construction workforce, were laid off or discharged. In addition to the layoffs, they were exposed to even more abuse and injustice on construction worksites as the economy fell into recession. Among the major labor abuses in construction is wage theft. According to the NASCRC, “Each year labor brokers and contractors cheat their workers of $8 billion in wages and $811 million in overtime pay. They avoid tax obligations by misclassifying their hires and paying an estimated 20% of construction workers off the books.”

On a livestream with Senator Eric Lesser, Xavier explained that, “Historically, construction jobs have been solid good paying jobs, [for] those that chose to work with your hands right, and [they offer] a direct pathway into the middle class, providing workers with decent earnings and health care coverage. … Over the decades is a big shift from the model that used to be an employer employee model, and we’re starting to see now, much more of a subcontractor to subcontractor model.”

See page 2, Wage Theft

Local institutions openly discuss increased visible anti-Asian hate in America

By Martin Ma

The spa shootings in Atlanta are perhaps the most visible recent act of anti-Asian discrimination, but it represents a larger disturbing trend. Research released by Stop AAPI Hate reveals that there were 3,800 anti-Asian racist incidents across the U.S. over the last year—a 2,500% increase over the last year—a 2,500% increase over the last year— and Boston has experienced a 133% increase in cases over the last year, while Boston has experienced a 133% increase in cases over the last year. In New York, there has been an astounding 833% increase in anti-Asian hate crimes. Moreover, 68% of this discrimination has been directed towards women.

According to a Boston University (BU) professor, some of these incidents have been attributed to a rise in incidents of hate crimes, particularly against Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities.”

See page 2, Anti-Racism Talks

Sampan publishes every other Friday.

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dents can be attributed to the former president’s Islamophobia and xenophobia about the origins of COVID-19 and the Chinese people. As BU professor Hy'eok Chris Hahn noted, then-President Trump branding COVID-19 as “CH-19 “the China virus” was largely responsible for the rise in discrimination.

One of the individuals who is Korean-American. “I live in Newton, which is a nice community, but even in Newton, there are Asian Slackers. My Asian friends were asked to go back to your country!”

This prejudice, which is shared by many, has now been a long history of anti-Asian discrimination. The country is not a racial minority and has a long history of anti-Asian discrimination in this country and many local academics are doing their best to expose the history that often goes untold in schools. Ericka Lee, Tufts class of 1991 and now the Raphael J. Waller Chair in Immigration History and Director of the Immigration History and Director of the Immigration History and Director of the Immigration History and Director of the Immigration History and Director of the Immigration History and Director of the Immigration History and Director of the Immigration History and Director of the Immigration History and Director of the Immigration History and Director of the Immigration History and Director of the Immigration History and Director of the Immigration History and Director of the Immigration History and Director of the Immigration History and Director of the Immigration History and Director of the Immigration History and Director of the Immigration History and Director of the Immigration History and Director of the Immigration History and Director of the Immigration History and Director of the Immigration History and Director of the Immigration History and Director of the Immigration History and Director of the Immigration History and 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Mayor Janey outlines recovery plans at her first MOIA roundtable

By Shira Laucharoen

Mayor Janey outlines recovery plans at her first MOIA roundtable

Mayor Kim Janey addressed pandemic recovery, racial equity, and job support at a MOIA roundtable.

Mayor Kim Janey spoke at her first Mayor’s Office for Immigrant Advancement (MOIA) Media Roundtable since taking office. Janey addressed the vaccination distribution process and recovery from COVID-19, racial equity work, and investments in jobs and small businesses. The event was held on April 15, also known as One Boston Day, commemorating the lives lost in the Boston Marathon bombings in 2013.

“Coming out of this pandemic, we know that we cannot go back to normal, particularly when ‘normal’ meant that too many residents experienced gun violence or schools that needed improvement to their facility, or playgrounds that needed a little work, or the opportunity to earn a living that would be a living that could sustain you and families, in terms of the high costs of housing,” said Janey. She added, “But when it comes to the vaccine and making sure that we have equitable distribution of the vaccine, that we are lifting up vulnerable communities through a number of ways... the mobile clinics have been one of my favorites, making sure that we are engaging with our faith community, with our community centers... It has been really important to meet people where they are, so that we are closing these disparities, when it comes to who has access to the vaccine.”

Janey said that on April 14, she announced the FY22 Budget, making investments in young people in Boston. The City has expanded the City Sponsored Summer Jobs Program to 5,000 youth and added 1,000 year round jobs for young people. They are also investing in youth mentor-ship programs through My Brother’s Keeper and will be expanding summer programming in parks. The City will make sure membership at the Boston Center for Youth and Families is free, a new change, and it is waving past library fees.

The City is also working to improve the employment situation in Boston, investing $1 million in green jobs, as well as $1 million for job training in hardest hit industries. $1 million will be allocated to job training for artists, and $1 million will also be dedicated towards commercial rent assistance for small business owners.

Janey has invested $1 million in a multi-lingual, all-inclusive Boston campaign, which “lifts up our neighborhood[s], [celebrates] our small business owners, [celebrates] the rich diversity of our small business owners. We know that tourism in Boston is the third largest industry, and it has taken a huge hit due to the pandemic.” The industry is dominated by people of color, many of whom are immigrants and women, and the investment will allow the campaign to be continued, with the hope that world travelers will eventually be able to visit Boston. The City will also be creating a B-Local app that awards points when people shop at businesses of color.

Part of the budget was dedicated towards looking at police reforms and reimagining how to respond to crises. The City dedicated $1 million in racial equity training for police officers and is reducing the overtime spend, so as to have more investments in other areas of the City’s budget.

“There continues to be a lot of work before us, as a city, but I’m really proud that this budget sets the course for more equity in our city,” said Janey. In response to hate crimes against Asian Americans that have occurred across the country, Janey said that she has been proud to stand with the community, long before the recent issues came up.

“There’s a long history. We must first acknowledge that there’s a long history of anti-Asian racism, certainly here in this country,” said Janey. “We saw, certainly at the beginning of this pandemic, a lot of things that re-surfaced. I had the opportunity to visit some small business owners in Chinatown a couple of weeks ago, who also expressed concerns and how this has impacted them, even in subtle ways, in terms of folks not wanting to visit Chinatown and support small businesses... I believe strongly that it is important to call out racism in all of its forms: anti-Asian racism, anti-Black racism – any of the ‘isms’... It is really important that we stand in solidarity.”

Chief of Health and Human Services Marty Martinez said that the City continues to monitor COVID metrics, to monitor cases and hospitalizations, and vaccine efforts, with the intention of making vaccine access more equitable. People interested in getting vaccinated can visit the website: boston.gov/get-vaccinated.

The City is also bringing mobile clinics to locations across Boston and recently held one in the South End, where 180 individuals were vaccinated. The City is currently seeing a 5% positivity rate and a reduction in cases, while the number of people hospitalized has been flat. The government also paused the Johnson & Johnson vaccine because of a rare potential side effect, a blood clot that was found in six individuals out of 7 million shots.

“We have continued to create access for individuals to get vaccinated, which is an important element and key to the mayor’s commitment to ensuring that vaccinations are widely available to those most impacted,” said Martinez.

Katie Ford, acting deputy director of the Office of Housing Stability, said that Janey announced on March 30 that the Rental Relief Fund would be receiving $50 million of federal funds to expand the program. The fund can now offer up to $15,000 of rental assistance for tenants, who can use the money to pay past or future rent as well as to pay for moving costs. Up to $1,500 can be used to pay for past utility bills.
Flour Bakery
Boston & Cambridge

Our Tables Are Set

EAT UP AT ALLINCLUSIVEBOS.COM
Public health COVID-19 messaging projects feature Asian artists to address vaccine hesitancy

By Shira Lauchraoen

The Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) will be collaborating with artists to reach underserved communities with COVID-related public health messages, many of which will emphasize the importance of getting vaccinated. The MAPC chose nine artists out of a pool of over 30 applicants to distribute $45,000 in grant funding. The projects will take the form of posters, videos, postcards, public art, comic strips, and other types of designs. According to a press release, priority was given to projects that "engage diverse ethnic, cultural and BIPOC communities, and many of the completed projects will be available in multiple languages."

"The first inspiration is that we have a public health department at our agency. They were in regular contact with public health departments and folks who were working at health centers in our region. What they were hearing is that a lot of the messaging being put out by the Commonwealth was leading with English as the first primary language, realizing that when that language is translated into other languages, it doesn’t always land the same way,” said MAPC Arts and Culture Director Jennifer Sien Erickson.

“We were thinking about it from an equity perspective – how do we ensure that the folks that are disproportionately impacted by injustice in the medical geography and photography to capture the stories of business owners. “Having photos of these business owners will provide that connection and that level of trust,” said Tang.

“A lot of marginalized communities, they still don’t trust the government in terms of vaccinations and health in general, because they have been betrayed so many times. How can we remedy that? This is sort of our solution to that.”

She added, “For me and other Asian American people, Chinatown is this hub of where you can go and feel comfortable. You see people who look like you. You’re surrounded by food that’s familiar to you. […] Sharpening the business owner’s stories of not only their struggles but also their joy is super important.”

Lillian Lee, a Boston based cartoonist and illustrator of the comic “Empty Bamboo Girl” published by Sampan newspaper, will also be creating artwork for MAPC. She will be developing three pieces of digital art in Chinese, advocating for people to get vaccinated and providing information on how to do that. These will be sent to local community and health centers, where they can be printed out and posted, as well as disseminated through social media. Lee will also make a comic strip intended to dispel vaccine rumors, which she has encountered in her personal experience.

“Promoting equity and representing the people in our community are part of the project,” said Lee. “If people see themselves in the artwork, that’s going to help as well, and I think that’s a big thing about representation.”

She added, “My comics for Sampan mostly talk about the immigrant family experience and celebrating that relationship. But it also touches on things that are happening in the moment. My recent, new comic strips have been talking about that, in terms of stopping Asian hate. My most recent one was talking about the small microaggressions that people don’t think about, that are the building blocks to what happens, how [racism] starts, and how it gets spread. I do weave that into my work, and things that happen in the news affect me, so they definitely affect the work that I put out there.”

According to Erickson, the artists are working on slightly adjusted timelines, with works expected to be released between late May into the month of June. Through the messaging of the projects, Erickson said that artists will convey important themes relating to the vaccination process.

“There are a few artists who are also interested in bringing in some imagery that helps break down what to expect when you do get vaccinated. Some people are feeling a little sick after the first or second vaccine. Helping people understand that is totally normal, people getting sick for the first 24-48 hours – that’s totally a part that you can expect,” said Erickson. “Also addressing hesitancy – it’s real. Some of our artists are themselves experiencing that. So bringing that experience into what they’re producing, to communicate that to the public, is really powerful.”
Biden's push for renewable energy focuses on industry standards and job creation

By Martin Ma

On April 22, president Biden announced a new initiative to aim for the American conservation coalition, mentioned that “Before clearing out the Democratic presidential field, Biden had proposed a climate plan that would spend $1.7 trillion over ten years. His new plan goes much further, calling for $2 trillion in spending over the next four years. This follows the pattern of so-called climate hawks who feel that the only way to solve climate change is to throw as much money at the problem as possible.”

Ever since the inauguration, president Biden has been trying to restore changes made by the former Trump administration. Biden’s goal is to achieve the new U.S. target of cutting climate pollution by 50-52% by 2030 and a target of reducing the carbon footprint of the U.S. building stock 50% by 2035.

Some people are skeptical about the plan, Ronnie Thompson, writer for The Washington Post, mentioned that “Before clearing out the Democratic presidential field, Biden had proposed a climate plan that would spend $1.7 trillion over ten years. His new plan goes much further, calling for $2 trillion in spending over the next four years. This follows the pattern of so-called climate hawks who feel that the only way to solve climate change is to throw as much money at the problem as possible.”

Job Posting

Job Title: Editor, Sampan Newspaper
Reports to: Publisher (AACA COO)
Hours: Full-time position

Asian American Civic Association (AACA) provides limited English speaking and economically disadvantaged people with education, occupational training and social services enabling them to realize lasting economic self-sufficiency. The Sampan Newspaper is the only Chinese/English bilingual newspaper in New England, reporting on issues that impact the Asian American community in the Greater Boston area. AACA is seeking a leader to grow Sampan into the mass media entity that it is poised to become.

Position Summary:
AACA is seeking an Editor for the Sampan Newspaper. The Editor will manage a team of volunteer reporters, as well as paid publication staff, to produce the print version the Sampan Newspaper on a biweekly schedule. The Editor will also be responsible for updating and maintaining the Sampan website and social media. In addition, the Editor will be the lead on expanding the Sampan more into mass media, including but not limited to blogs, video production, etc. Specific responsibilities include:

Primary Duties and Responsibilities:
- Oversee the Sampan team during the design, production and layout of the biweekly print Sampan Newspaper,
- Supervise ad sales to ensure sufficient revenue to support and grow the newspaper,
- Work with the Publisher to select story topics and ensure the thematic and mission appropriateness of each edition,
- Translate articles and ads from English to Chinese, and vice versa,
- Manage the upload of content to the Sampan website,
- Lead the evolution of the website and mass media content,
- Coordinate with AACA communications staff on messaging and campaigns,
- Participate in AACA activities, including organization fundraising,
- Other tasks as assigned.

Qualifications:
Bachelor’s or higher in a related field
Ability to read, write and translate Chinese at a highly proficient level required
Experience with graphics design required
Familiarity with Adobe InDesign preferred
Previous newspaper layout experience preferred
Prior reporting experience desirable, but not required

Compensation: Commensurate with experience

To apply: Send cover letter & resume to hr@aaca-boston.org
AFFORDABLE TOWNSHIP OWNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
- Age 55 AND OVER COMMUNITY

Ten 2 Bedroom Affordable Townhouse Units Offered
$268,000 HOA $200/Month

Lottery Opens April 8, 2021 closes June 10, 2021 @ 6PM
Located at The Enclave @ Avery Way, Norfolk, MA 02056

Open House TBD will notify all applicants of date
Informational Session May 10, 2021 @ 7pm Via Zoom link available on www.norfolk.ma.us
Information Session May 17, 2021 @ 7PM
Norfolk Town Hall if permitted due to COVID
Applications accepted/postmarked June 10, 2021 @ 12:00 PM if dropped off must be by 6PM
Housing Lottery: June 15, 2021 @ 7PM Via Zoom link available at www.norfolk.ma.us

APPLICANT QUALIFICATIONS INCLUDE
2021 INCOME LIMITS
Household of 1 - $70,750 Household of 2 - $80,850,
Household of 3 - $90,950, Household of 4 - $101,050

*Maximum Asset limit of $275,000 for this development*
Mortgage Pre-Approval
Other Restriction Apply
To apply, please contact Susan Jacobson,
Norfolk Affordable Housing Director @ 508-440-2812
Application can be found at www.norfolk.ma.us, or at the Norfolk Town Hall, One Liberty Lane, Norfolk, MA 02056
Municipal Affordable Housing Office, 2nd Floor
and the Town Clerk’s Office 1st Floor
Use and resale restrictions apply

Townhouses for Rent in Fitchburg
32 Crescent Street
Available for $1,700/month

- 2 bed 1.5 bath
- Garage on the lower level
- Stainless Steel Appliances
- Washer/dryer hookups
- New Construction
- 7 units available
- Downtown location
- Off Street Parking

Inquire at inquiry@pelletierprops.com or 978-674-7146

AFFORDABLE CONDOMINIUMS
GRANDVIEW ESTATES
LYNNFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Applications are now available for eight remaining affordable condominiums (4 duplexes) in this new forty-unit condominium development to be sold to eligible buyers through a lottery.

Sales Price: $245,000

ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES AND APPLICATION PROCESS
Applicants must be first-time homebuyers (certain exceptions apply), meet income and asset guidelines and must submit a complete, signed application with all required documentation prior to the application deadline. Maximum Income includes gross annual income from all sources for all members of the household.

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*Maximum Asset limit of $275,000 for this development*

Information Session
Due to Covid-19 restrictions regarding in-person meetings, rather than hold an information session, those with questions may call or email Paula Stuart at 617-388-1331 or paula.stuart@charter.net

Lottery Drawing
May 17, 2021, 6:00 p.m.
(Location to be announced, or Virtual Lottery depending upon Covid-19 limitations in place at the time of the drawing)

Applications will be available at Lynnfield Town Hall and Public Library when these buildings are open, may be downloaded from the Town website, or may be requested by calling Paula Stuart at 617-388-1331 or emailing paula.stuart@charter.net

APPLICATION DEADLINE
May 12, 2021 @ 5:00 p.m.

Developed by Spring-I Realty, LLC
Translation assistance/other reasonable accommodations call 617-388-1331
Asistencia de traducción / otras adaptaciones razonables llame al 617-388-1331

AFFORDABLE HOUSING LOTTERY
Aspen Heights Amherst
408 Northampton Road, Amherst MA

Two 1BRs @ $1,366*, Seven 2BRs @ $1,537*, Two 3BRs @ $1,707*

*Rents subject to change after the lottery. Utilities are included in the rent and there is parking on site.

Aspen Heights Amherst is a brand-new, 88 unit rental apartment community located in Amherst on 408 Northampton Road. There will be 11 affordable apartments ready for occupancy starting in Summer of 2021. All affordable apartments will be rented to households with incomes at or below 80% of the area median income through this application process. Apartments feature stainless steel appliances, granite countertops, and residents will have access to amazing amenities such as a 24-hour fitness center, a clubhouse, and a computer lounge with private meeting spaces. Aspen Heights is conveniently located on Route 8 near University Drive, steps away from shopping and minutes from Amherst Central District.

MAXIMUM Household Income Limits
$47,850 (1 person), $54,650 (2 people), $60,360 (3 people),
$68,300 (4 people), $76,800 (5 people), $84,300 (6 people),
$91,800 (7 people), $99,300 (8 people)

A Public Info Session will be held on May 5th-2021 at 6:00 pm via YouTube at https://youtu.be/loz1vA9VEbk (or just search for SEB Housing in YouTube) and via Conference Call – (425) 436-6280, Code: 86267

Completed Applications and Required Income Documentation must be delivered, or postmarked, by 2 pm on June 2nd, 2021. Applications postmarked by the deadline must be received no later than 5 days from the deadline.

The Lottery for eligible households will be held on June 14th, 2021 at 6:00 pm

For Lottery Information and Applications, or for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, go to www.sebhousing.com or call (417) 782-0000 x1 and leave a message or postal mail SEB Housing, 257 Hillside Ave, Needham MA 02494. For TTY Services dial 711. Free translation available. Traducción gratuita disponible.
JTA hosts mayoral candidate forum to discuss workforce development in post-pandemic economy

By Carey Lin

On April 29, the Job Training Alliance (JTA) hosted a virtual forum wherein five mayoral candidates dis- cussed different aspects of workforce development, job training opportuni- ties, and economic recovery for all Boston workers. The title of the event was “Boston Stronger: Ensuring All Boston Workers Thrive in the New Economy.”

The mayoral candidates present were John Barros (Chief of Economic Development), Andrea Campbell (Councilor, District 4), Annissa Essaibi George (Councilor At-Large), Michelle Wu (Councilor At-Large), and Jon Santiago (State Rep. 9th Suffolk).

Several of the discussed topics were pre-existing concerns and barri- ers exacerbated during the pandemic, now becoming critical ways which may help the post-pandemic economy to recover. The candidates were asked what they would do to address issues ranging from the digital divide to funding workforce training, and from helping immigrants with limited Eng- lish proficiency to those reentering society after incarceration.

Most common solutions proposed by the candidates included universal pre-kindergarten, accessible childcare and education, and providing ac- cessible and potentially free public transportation in order to eliminate barriers of entry and opportunity for the underserved. Below are a list of the questions raised and the highlights of each candidate’s response:

1. Colleen Moran from Massachusetts General Brigham brought up her con- cern about the widening digital di- vide, referring to the means and skills to access job opportunities today and in the future.

   **John Barros**: “Unless we can learn how to share all the technology and opportunities to everyone, that starts with closing the digital divide. It’s a priority for me. If a be a priority for me as mayor, because it’s an eco- nomic competitiveness issue.”

   **Andrea Campbell**: “I have done creative things, pushing for free Wi-Fi including in some of our senior build- ings, pushing for funding for multi- cultural organizations to deliver tech skill development across various com- munities, including those that may be deemed harder to reach.”

   **Annissa Essaibi George**: “We have an opportunity to not only bounce back from the past year, but to prioritize being an economy that works for everyone. It starts by tack- ling the digital divide through cultur- ally relevant and accessible training for all of our residents.”

2. The linkage fees and helping put more funding into workforce development, and helping to continue this work as mayor.

   **Jon Santiago**: “One, exploring and expanding municipal broadband in Boston. Two, I want to appoint a chief information officer that will pri- oritize addressing that digital divide. Three, investment in training and edu- cation, to improve the digital fluency.”

   **Michelle Wu**: “We need to make sure that we’re giving our resi- dents the benefit of access to this digi- tal economy digital world because it does remove some barriers to easier ... and to do this from home.”

3. It’s a priority for me. It’d be a priority... establishing the threshold for which properties... making it lower.

   **Santiago**: “We have an advantage of being the digital divide... and non-smoking Building. Our brand-new 1, 2 and 3 bedroom apartments blend new construction and historic rehabilitation in a convenient location.

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   - Modern designs and quality finishes
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   - Non-smoking Building

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   Priority will be given to complete lottery applications received on or before the

   **APPLICATION DEADLINE:** Tuesday, June 1, 2021
   **THE LOTTERY DRAWING WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY, JUNE 11, 2021**

   **Maximum Gross Annual Income for Eligibility (per Household Size)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Limit</th>
<th>1 Person</th>
<th>2 People</th>
<th>3 People</th>
<th>4 People</th>
<th>5 People</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30%</td>
<td>$20,650</td>
<td>$23,600</td>
<td>$26,550</td>
<td>$29,450</td>
<td>$31,850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60%</td>
<td>$41,280</td>
<td>$47,160</td>
<td>$53,040</td>
<td>$58,920</td>
<td>$63,660</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   *Monthly Rental Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Bedrooms</th>
<th>1 Bed</th>
<th>2 Bed</th>
<th>3 Bed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rent Based on Income</td>
<td>$1,053</td>
<td>$1,260</td>
<td>$1,453</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   **For more information or if you or a family member has a disability or limited English proficiency, and as a result need assistance completing the application and/or require any assistance during the application process, please call (617)209-5442 | Relay 711**

   **Barros**: “We need to address childcare and make sure that we will have affordable and universal access to childcare, […] for every dollar we spend on a child in early childhood years, we save $17 a minute in their teen years on subsidizing interven- tions and other programs.”

   **Campbell**: “[…] closing gaps in Boston Public Schools, universal pre- K and making sure that’s accessible to all in Boston, and since COVID-19, employers want to invest in childcare, working together with employers on caprooling options, and making that free.”

   **Essaibi George** vowed to close the achievement and opportunity gap by establishing equitable base- line standards and resources at every school, making sure that schools have the appropriate resources enough for all students and establishing a structured literacy program.

   **Wu** called for universal Pre-K, af- fordable early education, and moving towards a fair-free public transporta- tion system that is reliable and ac- cessible. Closing the wealth gap and democratizing decision making in the public school system.

   **Santiago** advocated for empower- ing underserved communities, and making sure the budget reflects that

   **3.** Edward Hsieh, COO of the Asian American Civic Association asked “What kind of investments in work- force development will you pledge to make if elected? In what ways will you prioritize community based organizations like AACA and other members of the job training alliance?”

   **Barros** helped attract more than 140,000 jobs to Boston and was part of the previous mayor’s signing of the linkage fees and helping put more funding into workforce development, and being to continue this work as mayor.

   **Campbell**: “… having AACA and other organizations on the JTA at the table informing the work towards bet- ter workforce development and train- ing … Expanding funding for these grounds, and also looking for other ‘creative dollars’ as well. Mobilizing other parts of the ecosystem such as philanthropy, and the private sector to play a bigger role.”

   **Essaibi George**: “… establishing a direct pipeline from Madison Park technical vocational high school to the workforce […] Also using and leveraging existing funding and workforce training programs. To reconvene the Pilot Task Force, and Build an office dedicated to institutional compliance.”

   **Wu**: “… we need to move even further on linkage to increase the rates to make sure that we are lower- ing the threshold for which properties and new developments would qualify to make sure that we are connecting those opportunities to the immediate needs in the community.”

   **Santiago** focuses on investing in job opportunities for citizens reenter- ing society after incarceration and immi- grant families.
A Public Info Session will be held on May 24th, 2021 at 6:00 pm via YouTube livestream and Conference Call. The YouTube link is: https://youtu.be/TAVJIfm4lOI (for just search for SEB Housing). The Conference Call number is (425) 436-6200, Code: 86267

Completely Applications and Required Income Documentation must be delivered, or postmarked, by 2 pm on June 25th, 2021. Applications postmarked by the deadline must be received no later than 5 business days from the deadline.

The Lottery for eligible households will be held on July 8th, 2021 at 6 pm.

For more information, language assistance, or to make a request for reasonable accommodations, please call Maloney Properties, Inc. at 781-992-5306 US Relay 711. Free translation available. Traducción gratuita disponible.
Moy Auk: band leader & famed chef

During the late 1880s, one of the first and most famous restaurants in Boston’s Chinatown was owned by Moy Auk, who also led a famous Chinese musical band. His restaurant was referred to as the “Delmonico’s” of Chinatown. At this time, Delmonico’s, in Manhattan, was considered one of the finest restaurants in the country so this was very high praise.

When Moy Auk traveled from China to the U.S., he first settled in San Francisco and opened a small restaurant. Over time, he also formed a small musical band and found a deep passion for music. He eventually decided to sell his restaurant, and travel across the country, playing with his band, primarily at dime museums, popular entertainment centers during this time period.

In February 1888, Moy and his band, consisting of five fiddlers and banjo players, arrived in Boston, and played for two weeks during the Chinese New Year celebrations. A year later, in January 1889, Moy and his band returned to Boston, from New York City, to play again at the Chinese New Year celebrations. However, Moy apparently was tired of all the traveling with the band, and had saved some money, and decided to settle in Boston’s Chinatown, opening a restaurant once again.

Moy’s opened his restaurant at 36 Harrison Avenue, on the floor below the headquarters of the Chinese Free Masons. The first mention of his culinary skills was in the Boston Globe, June 11, 1889, which noted that Moy had catered a banquet celebration for the Chinese Free Masons for about 500 people, while also leading the band. He certainly must have been a very busy man that evening.

Less than two weeks later, the Boston Globe, June 23, 1889, went into much more detail about Moy’s restaurant, which was one of only six in Chinatown at that time. His restaurant was referred to as the “Delmonico’s of the Celestials in this city.”

And was primarily patronized by other Chinese, including celebrities and dignitaries, although some non-Chinese also dined there, seeking a dish of chop suey. Moy’s great fame apparently arose within a time span of less than six months, which is indicative of his great culinary skills.

The restaurant had about a dozen tables, and you had to walk through part of the kitchen to get to the dining room. The kitchen had a large brick oven as well as an ordinary cooking stove. Also in the kitchen, you could see loins of pork, quarters of lamb, and strings of small pork sausages hanging from the ceiling. The article also claimed that hens, ducks and rabbits were kept in the backyard until needed for use, but Moy later corrected them, noting his poultry was kept in Winter Hill, until they were needed.

In August 1889, Moy Wah, a laundryman who lived outside of Boston, came to Chinatown for the Holiday of the Moon and won a significant amount of money gambling at fan-tan. So, with his winnings, he decided to throw a banquet to celebrate. He hired Moy Auk to cater the incredible banquet, which would be for 12 people and would cost $12 a plate, roughly equivalent to $340 a plate in today’s dollars. Moy and his assistants spent 3 days preparing for this lavish banquet.

The Boston Globe, September 10, 1889, reported that “It is the custom in China for merchants who have been successful in business to give a banquet to their customers and friends once a year.” Moy Auk catered one such banquet on September 9, and the article wrote, “Moy Auk is recognized throughout New England as the crack celestial chef, and his dishes are greatly prized by the Mongolians, who say that they are prepared with a greater delicacy than those of any other Chinese cook.”

Moy Auk, who had operated his restaurant for less than a year, was already quite famous and his culinary future looked extremely promising. However, Moy Auk wasn’t truly happy, and he was growing tired of operating a restaurant. The Globe article also mentioned that Moy was currently awaiting the arrival of his brother who would take over the restaurant, while Moy planned to return to traveling the country with his band.

In general, his band made about $120 a week, with each member receiving $20 and Moy also taking a small commission from the others. Therefore, Moy’s deepest passion appears to have been music, not cooking, despite Moy’s genius in the kitchen.

As 1890 began, Moy Auk’s restaurant finally closed without any fanfare. His brother never showed up so Moy decided simply to shutter the restaurant. He was happiest as a musician and left Chinatown with his band. Moy would return to Chinatown at times, playing for events with his band, and one of the last mentions of his presence in Boston was in April 1897, when his band played at a charity event in Boston. A great loss for Chinatown.

Caregiver Solutions

with Meg Hogan, CEO of Boston Senior Home Care

I am pleased to introduce you to Caregiver Solutions, a free program of Boston Senior Home Care.

When it comes to caregiving, one size does not fit all. Caregivers come in all ages, genders, income levels, and ethnicities. And the people they care for are just as diverse. They are their parents, grandparents, siblings, aunts, uncles, spouses, and children.

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BOSTON SENIOR HOME CARE

NeighborWorks Housing Solutions with a main office in Kingston will open the waiting list for the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program at 9:00 AM (EST) on Monday May 3rd, 2021 and will remain open through Friday May 17, 2021 at 5:00 PM. All applications not completed online must be mailed and postmarked by May 21, 2021 in order to be added to the list. The Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP) is a mobile, subsidized housing voucher. Participants pay 30%-40% of income in rent and the voucher pays the rest. Applications may be completed online at www.nhsmass.org/MRVP or at www.GoSection8.com.

You may also obtain an application in our office located at 169 Summer St. Kingston, MA 02364. For any questions or reasonable accommodations, please contact us at 781-422-4200.
May 7, 2021

Food for Thought

Noah’s Kitchen is a delightful find in Brookline Village for Sichuan Cuisine

By Anna Ing

Got your 1st shot?
Here are 8 things to know before your second COVID-19 vaccine shot

A rash at the injection site isn’t a reason to skip your second dose
A rash at the injection site after getting the first shot should not deter from getting the second shot.

Temporarily avoid all other vaccines
Avoid other immunizations in the two weeks before and after both doses.

Full immunity is not immediate
It takes 2 weeks after the second dose to build full protection to the virus.

Continue preventative measures
Continue to wear a mask and practice social distancing after vaccination. It's still possible to carry the virus and silently transmit it to others.

AARP is fighting to protect the health of Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders 50+ and their families by providing trusted information and resources surrounding COVID-19.

Learn more about COVID-19 vaccination at aarp.org/vaccineinfo
Boston Reopening Updates

Face Coverings
Effective Friday, April 30 Boston will align with the state’s updated Face Coverings Order.
• Face Coverings will be required at all times at indoor and outdoor venues and events, except when eating or drinking.
• Face coverings are recommended to be worn both inside and outside during small gatherings at private homes.
• Face coverings are not required outside in public spaces when individuals are able to remain at a safe distance from others.

Private Gatherings/Homes
• Effective April 30th: Public gatherings in Boston may increase to 100 people indoors and 150 people outdoors.
• Effective April 30th: In Boston, all private gatherings and events in private residences will remain subject to current capacity limits of 10 people indoors and 25 people outdoors.
• Both public and private gatherings in the Boston area who are not socially disadvantaged, or culturally disadvantaged as defined by women, veterans, or socially and economically disadvantaged individuals.

Socially disadvantaged individuals are defined as “those who have been subjected to racial or ethnic prejudice or cultural bias because of their identity as a member of a group without regard to their individual qualities.” In the climate of anti-Asian hate, Chinese restaurants qualify in this category. This ties into economic disadvantages, which according to the SBA refers to “individuals whose ability to compete in the free enterprise system has been impaired due to diminished capital and credit opportunities as compared to others in the same business area who are not socially disadvantaged.”

SBA Restaurant Revitalization Fund applications open May 3rd

By Carey Lin

On May 3, the United States Small Business Administration (SBA) opened applications for the Restaurant Revitalization Fund (RRF) beginning at noon. According to their website, for the first 21 days they are prioritizing applications for small businesses “by women, veterans, or socially and economically disadvantaged individuals.”

Economically disadvantaged individuals are defined as “those who have been socially and economically disadvantaged because of their race, color, or national origin.” This ties into economic disadvantages, which according to the SBA refers to “individuals whose ability to compete in the free enterprise system has been impaired due to diminished capital and credit opportunities as compared to others in the same business area who are not socially disadvantaged.”

Similar to the Payment Protection Program (PPP), the funds may be used for specific expenses including: business payroll costs, payments on business mortgage obligations, business rent payments, debt service, utility, maintenance expenses, construction of outdoor seating, supplies (including protective equipment and cleaning materials), food and beverage, and operating expenses.

You can download the Application Guide in English, Chinese, or another language at https://www.sba.gov/document/support-restaurant-revitalization-funding-program-guide

Covid Vaccine Study at Mass General Hospital

A clinical trial is underway to determine whether people who are highly allergic or have a mast cell disorder are at increased risk for an immediate, systemic allergic reaction to the Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines.

If you had an allergic reaction that required the use of epinephrine or a visit to the emergency room in the last five years OR you have a history of allergies you may be eligible to participate. Massachusetts General Hospital is an active site for a study with appointments on Fridays and Saturdays.

To learn more: Massachusetts General Hospital study website: https://rally.partners.org/study/sarsvacc

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• Remote Work Environment
By Jacqueline Church

When tragedy strikes on a large scale, we think of large sources of support. For example when an epic weather event strikes, FEMA responds. When the Coronavirus pandemic hit, little help was available for Chinatown restaurant owners here. The government was slow to respond and much of the aid available was hard for this immigrant community to access. Language was only part of the problem.

Private sector leaders and innovative community partners stepped in to fill the funding void. The Social Equity Access Fund was born. The fund was able to support Chinatown suffering from pandemic losses, racism and xenophobia. It was based on the philanthropic model that Elsa Gomes Bondlow and Luisa Peña Lyons found successful in supporting bodegas when LatinX communities suffered.

Many Chinatown restaurants are funded in a traditional way: family pool money to get an enterprise off the ground. Much of these transactions are conducted, not through banks and loans, but through family relationships doing what immigrant families have done throughout history. The funds to launch new businesses come from outside the normal banking system.

This worked fine until an unpredictable crisis like a global pandemic hit. Coming from a different system, traditional banks are unaware of these businesses, and family funders still expected to be repaid. This can carry burdens more toxic than interest rates, or loan penalties; especially when things go south. Supply chain, labor, employees—all still must be paid.

Lyons and Bondlow decided to form a 501(c)3 in order to support the We Love Boone Chinatown Campaign. They chose to focus on the locally owned, family backed restaurants, avoiding the chains with international backing. Local people helping local business at the heart of their model. With the rise of racism and xenophobia, Lyons and Bondlow felt it important to make a public statement. “Number one, it is important to say we value the API community, we are here in solidarity and we are here to be allies.” said Lyons.

Both Lyons and Bondlow noted that the recent Boston Globe coverage could lead people to believe this support happened as a result of the Atlanta shootings and this is not correct. “It happened before that shooting occurred.”

In designing this new model, they intentionally linked local activists within the Chinatown community with the Chinatown restaurant owners. The partners decided that in general, funding support can be transactional and cumbersome. They wanted to promote a model of support that was more relationship-based and models, hoping that this might catch on in the philanthropic space. The Social Equity Access Fund also has at its core the notion that API and BIPOC allies can be in the position of funders, not just recipients, of aid. This is a fundamental value of this model.

Logie Liu, Executive Director of Chinatown’s Asian Community Development Corp., said, “I think Luisa (Lyons) and Elsa’s (Bondlow) funding model is great—it is trust-based and relies on relationships with local communities. It’s a model that upends the adversarial power relationship (between funders and grantees, and places much more autonomy and power with the community organizations by trusting that they know best their community’s needs and the solutions to address them.”

Still, persuading local business owners to participate took some time. “It was slower than we anticipated,” she said. “Elsa (Bondlow) and I visited Latino and Asian community, discussing what we were proposing how this particular form of aid would happen. Vouchers were printed in $50 and $20 amounts, and community organizations like Asian Community Development Corporation and Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center (BCNC) who had the knowledge of which families were in need, were offered $50 vouchers to use in restaur- ants, $20 vouchers to use in other in- stores. A family of four could get four vouchers.

Every restaurant and bakery app- oached to participate said yes. Com- munity organizations drew on their knowledge of the families most likely in need. This food on the table of the families in need, while putting money in the hands of the businesses in.

All vouchers have been distributed as of press time. As Lee canvassed the neighborhood recently, to ensure all were aware of the mobile vaccine clinic at the Wang Center, every establish- ment she visited had seen vouch- ers on the table. Lyons and Bondlow are pleased by the community-store relationships enabled by the Social Equity Access Fund have seeded the beginning of new growth for Chinatown’s suffering businesses.

This represents a significant shift in how support is delivered: from models. Providing direct aid to both families and businesses in the commun- ities in need, building trust in relation- ships rather than forms and docu- ments; this could be a model whose time has come. At least for now, it seems to be working in Chinatown.

Press Release

Building a resilient and inclusive global health system together—Taiwan can help

By Dr. Shih-chung Chen, Minister of Health and Welfare, Republic of China (Taiwan)

The threat that emerging infectious diseases pose to global health and the economy, especially in low- and middle-income countries, has been highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Pandemics can spread rapidly around the world due to international aviation and transport. As of March 1st, 2021, a novel form of pneumonia that first emerged in Wuhan, China, at the beginning of 2020, has caused 11 deaths, in Taiwan. Life and work have continued much as normal for the majority of the population. Taiwan has contained COVID-19 ever since the beginning of the pandemic, including a record 235 days without any case es of community transmission between April and December 2020.

After dealing with SARS, Taiwan established a novel disease healthcare network that is led and overseen by infectious disease experts. More than 100 secondary response hospitals are included in the network and all twenty-two special municipalities, counties and cities have designated their primary response hospitals. The network also provides the legal authority for transferring patients with highly contagious diseases to designated facilities based on public health and clinical needs. This has proven instrumental in protecting health systems and health professionals from being overwhelmed, and allowed most non-COVID-19 health services to continue to operate without disruption during the pandemic. To date, there have been only two hospital-associated COVID-19 outbreaks in Taiwan. Both were well managed resulting a total of 11 new cases and zero death of health profes- sionals.

By introducing public health containment measures early, Taiwan has also mitigated the economic impact of COVID-19. To maintain essential international, social, economic, and public health links, Taiwan has implemented flexible adjustments for related quarantine measures for vessels and aircraft so that fisheries, offshore wind farms, and air transport industries could continue operations. In stark contrast with the global economic contraction, Taiwan’s GDP growth for 2020 was approximately 3.11 percent, with even higher growth of 4.94 percent in the fourth quarter. Taiwan, public trust and cooperation with the government’s response have been key to successfully containing COVID-19. In formulating disease control regulations, the government has adhered to the principles of non-discrimination, minimum damage, and gradual adoption. It has worked hard to maintain the balance between people’s right to know and personal privacy and freedom, actively responding to people’s wishes by upholding the principle of fairness at the same time as prioritizing the protection of disadvantaged groups, including migrant workers. Throughout this pandemic, Taiwan has demonstrated an emphasis on the right to health and associated protections and strong opposition to human rights abuses. Indeed, at no point has Taiwan restricted people’s right to free expression, assembly, or participation in public life.

Although COVID-19 has hit all countries hard, its impact has been harsher among and within marginalized and high-risk communities, as well as those lacking quality health care services and those exposed to the adverse consequences of antimic- demic containment measures. As a respon- sible member of the international community, Taiwan has continued to work with the World Health Orga- nization and global health leaders to ensure that all people enjoy living and working conditions that are conducive to good health. We will also monitor health inequities to advocate more effec- tively for universal access to quality health services.

Thanks to its robust health system, rigorous public health measures, transparency, and public-private-partnerships, Taiwan’s response to COVID-19 has been one of the world’s success stories. This pandemic has proven yet again that Taiwan cannot remain isolated from the world. Taiwan plays an indispensable role in the global monitoring and early warn- ing systems that detect the threat of emerging infectious diseases, and the Taiwan Model has proven consistently capable of containing COVID-19. The pandemic has also highlighted Tai- wan’s capacity to research, develop, produce, and supply therapies and as- sociated tools quickly (including two COVID-19 vaccines that are presently in Phase 2 trials).

Being able to comprehensively participate in and contribute to in- ternational COVID-19 supply chain systems, as well as global diagnostics, vaccine, and therapeutics platforms, would allow Taiwan to work with the rest of the world.

By taking a lead role and related parties to acknowledge Taiwan’s longstand- ing contributions to the international community in the areas of public health, disease prevention, and the human right to health, and to include Taiwan in WHO and its meetings, members and related activities. Taiwan will continue to work with the rest of the world to ensure that all enjoy the fundamental human right to health as stipulated in the WHO Constitution. Echoing the mantra of the United Na- tions’ 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, no one should be left behind.
If you need medical care, do not put it off. Tufts Medical Center has been working hard to make sure our patients, families and employees are protected from COVID-19. Learn more about COVID-19 testing and the latest vaccine information here tuftsmedicalcenter.org/COVIDTesting.

If you are unable to pay, visit our website at tuftsmedicalcenter.org/financialassistance where you can review, download, and print information to learn about available financial assistance programs. Tufts Medical Center’s Financial Assistance Policy and Application are available free of charge on the website and through Financial Coordination. You may request to have one mailed to you. You can email (financialassistance@tuftsmedicalcenter.org) or call (617-636-6013).