Preserving Chinatown, One Row House at A Time

By Lydia Lowe

To afford the average purchase price of a Boston home, a household would need to earn at least $181,000 a year, according to a recent Boston Globe story. In Chinatown, property values have skyrocketed since the early 2000s, with property sales prices taking a leap and rents and property prices rising. While the real estate market in the city as a whole has continued to boom, Chinatown has been impacted by the shift to high-end property development.

In the past decade, the community experienced a wave of evictions or "building clearances," as property owners sought to convert their properties into single-family homes or luxury apartments. This has resulted in the loss of affordable housing for residents, who have been forced to move out of their homes or lose their leases to new tenants.

What has that meant for Chinatown’s immigrant, working class residents? The signs of gentrification are visible throughout the city. In the past decade, the community experienced a wave of evictions or "building clearances," as property owners sought to convert their properties into single-family homes or luxury apartments. This has resulted in the loss of affordable housing for residents, who have been forced to move out of their homes or lose their leases to new tenants.

And what about the community’s older brick row houses and small properties? The sharp rise in real estate speculation threatens Chinatown’s future. Renters and property owners, who have been priced out of the market, are struggling to maintain their homes and keep them in good condition.

Chinatown’s older brick row houses and small properties have housed some of the community’s most vulnerable immigrant, working class families, disproportionately concentrated in the service and hospitality industries and among the hardest hit by the pandemic. In the past decade, the community experienced a wave of evictions or building clearances, as property owners sought to convert their properties into single-family homes or luxury apartments.

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As luxury units threatened to outgrow the market, the community engaged in a fight for affordable housing. Community organizations and activists came together to demand funds and support for existing and new affordable housing on all available public land. Chinatown’s large subsidized housing developments have stabilized nearly half of its working class residents. But another story has unfolded in its smaller private properties.

Real Estate Speculation Has Displaced the Most Vulnerable

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The Silent But Urgent Problem of Food Insecurity in Massachusetts: The Daily Fight Against Hunger

By Max Wei

When considering the term “food insecurity,” one may at first think this is referring to paying the bills for food. The notion of food security certainly has to do with financial capability. If we have money we can prevent our families, we are suffering from food insecurity.

"27 year old Maria, recently laid off from her restaurant job in Cambridge, came to apply for Food Stamps for herself and her 8 year old child. She was much more concerned now about food because the free school lunches were not available during the summer. I was unable to apply for Food Stamps for her because she was living in an illegal apartment and therefore did not have a legitimate address. All I could give Maria were locations for Food Pantries,” says Lily G., Pediatric Social Worker.

In Massachusetts, about 1,800,000 adults (32% of the state) are experiencing food insecurity today. At the same time, around 21% of Massachusetts households with children are experiencing negative effects made by food insecurity. Furthermore, according to the Greater Boston Food Bank, the food-insecurity rate has increased 53% from 2020 to 2021.

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According to a recent Boston Globe story, it’s estimated that about 42% of households in the state are struggling with food insecurity. In the past decade, the community experienced a wave of evictions or building clearances, as property owners sought to convert their properties into single-family homes or luxury apartments. This has resulted in the loss of affordable housing for residents, who have been forced to move out of their homes or lose their leases to new tenants.

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With teams like the Celtics and Red Sox, Boston houses some of the most passionate sports fans in the United States. As much as Boston is known for athletic excellence, however, the city has also been subject to criticism over its racist past and present. Legendary Boston Celtics superstar player and coach Bill Russell, who died July 31, 2022 at the age of 88, knew all too well the scourge of racism that was thrown at him during his time as a player. In a 1987 New York Times op-ed by Russell’s daughter Karen recalled how when her father first came to Boston as the Celtics’ only black player, “…fans and sportswriters subjected him to the worst kind of unbridled bigotry.” Russell himself said, “Boston itself was a fleabag of racism. It had all varieties, old and new…city hall-crony racists…and in the university areas phony radical chic racists.” Upon giving Russell his Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2011, President Obama said: “I hope that one day, in the streets of Boston, children will look up and see a Black man as shameful to be a Black fan of the Boston Celtics player Marcus Smart has also come forward about the reality of being a Black player in Boston, revealing that he was called a “—ing n—” once by a woman wearing an Isaiah Thomas Celtics jersey while in his car after a game.

Boston has long struggled with its perception of being a racist town. Some of the flames have been fanned by non-Celtics fans, creating a stigma against being a Black Celtics fan when outside of Boston. At the height of the Celtics-Lakers rivalry in the 1980s, even when the Celtics had several Black players and a Black coach, it was still seen as shameful to be a Black fan of the team outside of Boston. Cedric Maxwell, who was drafted by the Celtics in 1977, said that Black Celtics players were “stereotyped as being traitors to [their] race.”

This stigma of being a Black Celtics fan still follows the team today, with the Celtics having the lowest percentage of Black fans out of all the teams in the NBA. The status of racism in Boston sports is not that simple, though, as despite the perception of Boston being racist, the Celtics have broken many barriers in terms of achieving racial equality in basketball. The team was the first to draft a Black player, Chuck Cooper, in 1950 and had the first all-black starting team in 1964.

It can be said, however, that fans have slowly begun to accept Black players as the team’s owners and coaches. Bill Russell faced constant harassment from fans in the 1960s despite his athletic success, even having his home in Reading, MA burgled and covered in racial epithets. In 1990, when Dee Brown had just joined the Celtics, he was surrounded by cops while leaving a post office in Wellesley. The cops thought he was the suspect of a bank robbery that had occurred the previous week, and Brown was only able to walk free because of a passing fan who had recognized him as a Celtics player. The demographics of Boston are changing, though, and maybe its reputation as a racist town will soon be overturned as well. Although Boston has a reputation for being racist, Marcus Smart and other Boston players have stated that they still love Boston and its fans. “Everywhere you go you’re going to find ignorant bigots and misunderstood people,” Smart said. “I recommend it for anyone who wants to play there. I love the city. It’s beautiful.” James Cash, one of two Black owners of the Celtics, has echoed similar sentiments. “Boston is an amazing place. I go to South Boston now and think back to 40 years ago, it’s the kind of thing that just causes you to know there are more people out there trying to do the right thing than the people we have to see and hear highlighted that are jerks.”

Former Celtics player Kevin Garnett stated that “the narrative of Boston before you get there is that it is a racist town,” but after becoming a Celtic he found a home in Boston. “Once you became a Celtic, it was a whole other protection. It was another shield. … It was a whole other flip.”
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“building clearouts” as row house after row house was snapped up by outside investors seeking record profits. Modest tenement-style homes became mini-hotels that rented by the day or week.

As a result, a row house that was modestly priced in 2010 began selling for double its assessed value by 2016! After the City of Boston passed its Short Term Rental Ordinance to limit the loss of residential housing, many of these short term rental operators sought approval for buildouts and additions that would allow them to turn modest homes into luxury condos. This triggered a call for a Row House Protection Area on the few remaining row house streets.

Reclaiming and Preserving Our Row House Streets

The Chinatown Community Land Trust (CLT) seeks to preserve some of the neighborhood’s historic brick row houses as permanently affordable housing. The buildings have been home and landing place for generations of working-class immigrants since the mid-1800s, and some still remember the days when children of different cultures played together on these small-scale streets.

Over the past few years, Chinatown CLT bought and reclaimed two row house properties from short-term rental use, creating seven affordable condos for low-income buyers. As a Community Land Trust, it creates permanent affordability through community ownership of the land. Through 99-year ground leases that outline these terms, Chinatown CLT ensures that the homes remain affordable whenever they are sold. By supporting the homebuyers as they develop their condo association, the organization helps neighbors connect and make decisions together.

While Chinatown’s row houses will not make up a large number of affordable homes, small property preservation is one important piece of the housing stabilization puzzle. Chinatown CLT is particularly focused on opportunities for home ownership and resident-controlled housing.

Potential models may include affordable condos, homeowner plus affordable rental unit, cooperative housing, or rent-to-own housing. Row house preservation is also part of a vision to preserve and develop Chinatown as a historic and cultural district.

Now is a critical moment to safeguard the living pulse of Boston’s immigrant history, before the row house streets of Chinatown are lost. Chinatown’s history and cultural character is a valuable asset that the entire city of Boston cannot afford to lose.

Rebuilding Community Together

Chinatown’s longtime property owners and its family associations have provided inexpensive housing for decades, and can play an important role in preserving Chinatown’s future.

Community-minded owners can work with or sell to Chinatown non-profits that will preserve long-term affordable housing for the community. Today, property owners have become accustomed to quick cash offers from investor buyers. But these cash buyers are more often the speculative investors seeking to increase profits through demolition or maximum buildout plans that threaten to displace residents and further erode the neighborhood feel of Chinatown.

A market-rate sale to a nonprofit may take a few more months to close, but instead of destabilizing or displacing residents, the property is preserved for the long term, so that Chinatown can continue to be an anchor for immigrant working class families for generations to come.

Partnership with Chinatown CLT can also be a way to bring resources for building renovations or retrofits in exchange for affordability, a right of first refusal, or other agreements that can benefit both the community and the owner.

Chinatown CLT asks row house owners that are thinking about the future of their properties to explore these options that stabilize Chinatown’s future. Chinatown CLT can be contacted at participate@chinatownclt.org or by phone at 617-259-1503.

Lydia Lowe is the Executive Director of the Chinatown Community Land Trust, Inc.
WHO Declares Global Emergency as Monkeypox Spreads

By: Jeff Millman

It all started in Wisconsin. A three-year-old child was bitten by a prairie dog purchased from a local pet store. Shortly after, the child developed a high fever and a strange rash and had to be hospitalized. The child’s parents also developed the rash, but were otherwise asymptomatic. The Milwaukee Health Department tested the child and the prairie dog and confirmed that the cause of the child’s symptoms was the monkeypox virus, first discovered in creating macaque monkeys in 1958.

After a month, 71 people throughout the Midwestern United States had contracted monkeypox.

You may think I’m talking about the current outbreak of monkeypox that has slowly become a major news story over the past few months, but I’m not: the outbreak described above happened nearly twenty years ago, in May of 2003. (There’s nothing new under the sun.) The 2003 outbreak was the first time monkeypox had appeared in the United States and the first time an outbreak had occurred outside of West and Central Africa. Its spread was limited, however, and no one died as a result. There were also no instances of human-to-human transmission.

The 2003 outbreak was the result of an imported monkey. The infected prairie dog had been in the spring and summer of 2003. (There’s nothing new under the sun.) The 2003 outbreak was the first time monkeypox had appeared in the United States and the first time an outbreak had occurred outside of West and Central Africa. Its spread was limited, however, and no one died as a result. There were also no instances of human-to-human transmission.

By the time the outbreak was declared over, there were over 20,000 new cases of monkeypox and an estimated 17,000 infections. The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared a global health emergency. The virus has spread to 78 countries on all major continents. Stop me if this sounds familiar. Are we on the precipice of the next great pandemic? What can be done to mitigate the spread?

It’s unclear how exactly all of this started, but it appears to have started with the importation of a prairie dog infected with the virus. Monkeypox is spread from person to person through direct contact with infected animals, but now monkeypox is spreading primarily from person to person outside of West and Central Africa. 98% of cases have occurred in the community of men who have sex with men, suggesting that close sexual contact is the main mechanism of transmission. The CDC explains that “the virus can spread from person-to-person through direct contact with infectious rash, scabs, or body fluids. It can also spread by respiratory secretions during prolonged, face-to-face contact, or during intimate physical contact, such as kissing, cuddling, or sex.”

While the spread has been rapid, there is some good news. Unlike COV-ID-19, monkeypox will eventually run its course and infection in the spring and summer of 2003. The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared a global health emergency. The virus has spread to 78 countries on all major continents. Stop me if this sounds familiar. Are we on the precipice of the next great pandemic? What can be done to mitigate the spread?

There was also no instances of human-to-human transmission. Every outbreak had occurred outside of West and Central Africa. 98% of cases have occurred in the community of men who have sex with men, suggesting that close sexual contact is the main mechanism of transmission. The CDC explains that “the virus can spread from person-to-person through direct contact with infectious rash, scabs, or body fluids. It can also spread by respiratory secretions during prolonged, face-to-face contact, or during intimate physical contact, such as kissing, cuddling, or sex.”

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The first case of monkeypox in the United States this year was in Boston, and Massachusetts currently has over 100 confirmed cases. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health advi- ses that people “[avoid] large gatherings like raves and dance parties where you may have lots of close body contact with others.” They also encourage people to ask sexual partners about their recent travel history to identify cases.

Given these differences, it is unlikely that monkeypox will become the “next COVID”. Still, we need to exercise caution and do our best to prevent more cases.

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Still, we need to exercise caution and do our best to prevent more cases. Through these simple measures, monkeypox can be easily contained.

What may be more difficult to con- from the stigmatization gay and bisexual men are currently facing as a result of sensational reporting. It’s true that monkeypox has spread primarily among men who have sex with men, but monkeypox does not discriminate: anyone can get it from anyone else if they have close enough contact. Gay and bisexual men certainly need to take precautions, but so do we all. We must remember the example of HIV/AIDS, which was in the early days of its spread labelled a “gay disease.” The blame and stigma gay commu- nity faced prevented many sick people from coming forward and getting help. It also slowed the response of public health officials. Monkeypox appears nowhere near as serious as AIDS, but those who contract it must be treated with dignity and receive the care they need so that together, we can see the end of another viral outbreak without succumbing to hysteria.
1. Visit SoWa Open Market on Sundays: May 1–October 30, 11am-4pm. “SoWa Open Market is part farmers’ market, part art market, and part food festival. Local farmers and food purveyors line up to sell fresh produce, animal products, baked goods, and other treats, while artists sell handmade jewelry, clothing, home decor, and ceramics.” https://www.boston.com/things-to-do/festivals-expos/visit-sowa-open-market-on-sundays/2022-05-01/https://www.sowaboston.com/


5. National Geographic’s “Beyond King Tut” world premiere in Boston: July 18, 8:00 am-September 23, 5:00 pm. 550 Harrison Ave, Massachusetts 02118. The North American tour of National Geographic’s new exhibition, “Beyond King Tut: The Rise of the Sun King.” “This exhibition showcases the love of the Latin dance culture and community, while enhancing Hartford’s revitalization efforts, according to festival president and entertainment director Melissa Wahl." https://www.boston.com/things-to-do/arts/see-the-science-in-cinema-this-summer/

6. Watch Shakespeare under the stars on Boston Common: June 20 8:00 pm-August 7 4:00 pm. Boston Common Boylston Street, Massachusetts 02116. “Call it all much ado about nothing. “The Commonwealth Shakespeare Company is back with its free annual al fresco productions. This summer’s troupe takes on William Shakespear’s comedy “Much Ado About Nothing” as directed by Megan Sandberg-Zakian.” https://www.boston.com/things-to-do/arts/watch-shakespeare-under-the-stars-on-boston-common/

7. Performance at the Mission Hill Arts Festival: July 23, 5:30 pm-August 20, 7:00 pm. The Yard at Tobin Community Center 1481 Tremont St. Boston, Massachusetts 02120. “During the pandemic and beyond as a means to safely bring people together, the Mission Hill Arts Festival continues to create music and community in Roxbury with its 2022 theme “Inter-connections,” conveying the value in sharing experiences, cultures, and backgrounds. With spoken word, reggae, world jazz, and movement in the books, the final three performances are rounding out the festival. https://www.boston.com/things-to-do/festivals-expos/the-mission-hill-arts-festival-continues-through-august/  

8. Cantonese Story Time Event: August 5th, 4:30 pm. Brighton Library, 40 Academy Hill Rd, Brighton, MA 02135. For kids ages 5-7. A wonderful story time at the Brighton Library continues with Cantonese telling with fun activities afterwards. This event is being managed by the UCCA; the Universal Chinese Cultural Academy. https://www.universalculturalacademy.com/  

9. Cruise on over to the Fish Pier for the Boston Seafood Festival: August 7th, 11:00 am-6:00 pm. Boston, Massachusetts, 02210. “Returning Sunday, August 7, for its ninth iteration, the Boston Seafood Festival features a traditional lobster bake and a Harpoon Beer Garden in 2022, plus seafood sampling (and non-seafood items), fish-cutting demonstrations, oyster shucking contests, live music, roving pirates, children’s activities, and more.” https://www.boston.com/things-to-do/foods-cruise-on-over-to-the-fish-pier-for-the-boston-seafood-festival/  

10. Taste of the Caribbean & Jerk Festival showcases culture of the West Indies. August 6. 11:00 am-9:00pm. Mortensen Riverfront Plaza 300 Columbus Boulevard Hartford, Connecticut 06103. “Taste of the Caribbean & Jerk Festival is home to the Taste of the Caribbean & Jerk Festival. This year, the festival will be held August 6 at the Mortensen Riverfront Plaza. The original vision of the festival was to honor the city’s Caribbean culture and community, while enhancing Hartford’s revitalization efforts, according to festival president and entertainment director Melinda Dehantre Terrell.” https://www.boston.com/things-to-do/foods-cruise-on-over-to-the-fish-pier-for-the-boston-seafood-festival/  

11. Free ICA admission throughout 2022. August 11-22. 8:00am-5:00pm. Recurring Event. Institute of Contemporary Art, 25 Harbor Shore Drive Boston, MA 02210. “To further celebrate the ICA’s 10th anniversary, we’re welcoming guests to view a array of 2022 exhibits, including Deana Lawson’s photographic representations of Black life, the multimedia installations of Somersetville native Renée Green, opulent and joyful sculptures of Raul de Nieves in Treasure House of Memory, and Eva LeWitt’s captivating arrangements of hanging geometric forms. Face coverings are required, and, beginning January 15, people age 12-plus must show COVID-19 vaccine proof to enter the museum.” https://www.boston.com/things-to-do/arts/go-to-the-ica-free-of-charge-2-2022-08-11/  

12. View ‘Legacies’ by Rose B. Simpson at the ICA. August 11th, 10:00 am - January 29th, 2023 5:00 pm. Institute of Contemporary Art. 25 Harbor Shore Drive Boston, MA 02210. “Artist Rose B. Simpson’s ceramic sculptures will be on view at the ICA this August in an exhibit called “Legacies,” featuring new works alongside her signature pieces. Simpson hails from Santa Clara Pueblo, New Mexico, and is an enrolled member of the Pueblo of Santa Clara, a federally recognized tribe of Native American Pueblo people.” Tickets for this event cost $20 a person. However, if you want to see the exhibit for no cost then go to ICA on Thursdays. This exhibit’s debut is being shown on the same day that ICA is reintroducing its free entry days on Thursdays so you can see it grand opening for free, or you can see it on a different Thursday. Either way, come see Legacies at the ICA. https://www.boston.com/things-to-do/arts/view-legacies-by-rose-b-simpson-at-the-ica/  


14. Sharpen your dance skills at the Boston Salsa Festival: August 19, 2:00 pm-August 22, 3:00 am. Waltham Waltham Boston. 70 Third Ave. Waltham, Massachusetts 02451. “Turn up the heat with a three-day event that showcases the love of the Latin dance salsa. The largest salsa dance event in New England, the Boston Salsa Festival transforms the Boston-Waltham Westin Hotel into a salsa-lover’s paradise, with three days and two nights of workshops and performances by world-class dancers and instructors, along with social dancing until 2:00 am on the wee hours of the morning. Sharpen your salsa skills in workshops and classes for every level, from beginner footwork and partnering to Brazilian Zouk, or just enjoy watching the Lessons and Performances each night at 8 p.m.” https://www.bostonsalsafest.com/https://www.boston.com/things-to-do/festivals-expos/sharpen-your-dance-skills-at-the-boston-salsa-festival/  

15. 48th annual Milford Oyster Festival Promises seafood, live entertainment. August 20, 10:00 am - 6:00 pm Downtown Milford, Connecticut 06460. “The Milford Oyster Festival, a free event, will be bringing in 30,000 oysters harvested in Milford waters for the public to taste. During the festival, there will be an oyster eating contest, as well as a shucking contest, where contestants will have to open oysters and present them on a tray. Scott Stapp of the band Creed will be performing, as will a group called the Fuzz Fighters, an award-winning Fuzz Fighters tribute band.” https://milfordoysterfestival.com/https://www.boston.com/things-to-do/food/48th-annual-milford-oyster-festival-promises-seafood-live-entertainment/  

16. The 103rd St. Anthony’s Feast returns to the North End: August 25, 5:00 pm-August 28, 5:00 pm. North End. Boston, Massachusetts. “Since 1919, the last Sunday in August has seen Saint Anthony’s Feast take to the streets of the North End. Similar to the Fisherman’s Feast, Saint Anthony’s Feast welcomes dozens of street vendors, live entertainment, and thousands of visitors annually. On Sunday, August 28th, the Feast returns to the North End, which is closed to car traffic during the event, festival goers can find purveyors of pizza, arancini, quahogs, sausages, gelato, zepolle, and can- noni. For its third iteration, the Feast is the day-long procession of Saint Anthony’s statue through the streets of the neighborhood, accompanied by a parade of floats and marching bands. Guests can also find live bands and strolling singers throughout the weekend, plus daily religious services and an annual open-air mass honoring Saint Anthony.” https://milfordoysterfestival.com/things-to-do/festivals-expos-the-103rd-st-anthonys-feast-returns-to-the-north-end/  

17. Beach Road Weekend Music Festival rocks Martha’s Vineyard: August 26, 10:00 am-August 28 8:00 pm. Veterans Memorial Park 10 Causeway Rd. Vineyard Haven, Martha’s Vineyard, Massachusetts 02568. “Presented by The Black Dog, the Beach Road Weekend Music Festival takes over Vineyard Haven on Martha’s Vineyard for three days of pop, rock, and fun. Just a short walk from the Vineyard Haven Ferry Terminal in Veterans Memorial Park, the weekend-long festival will feature performances by The Avett Brothers, Beck, Wilco, Emmylou Harris, Lucinda Williams, and more than two dozen other acts. Produced by Innovation Arts and Entertainment, all profits from the event will go towards supporting the Friends of the Vineyard Concert Series, an island based non-profit organization in place to support and enhance the entertainment and recreation landscape on Martha’s Vineyard.” https://www.boston.com/things-to-do/arts/beach-road-weekend-music-festival-rocks-marthas-vineyard/https://www.beachroadweekend.com/tickets
The August Moon Festival 2022: What’s Happening, Where, and When

The Chinese August Moon festival is traditionally celebrated on the 15th day of the 8th month of the Chinese lunisolar calendar. It is believed that the roundness of the moon represents the reunion of family in Chinese minds. For over 2000 years the usually three day celebration has been a time for a post-autumn harvest celebration giving thanks to the gods for the blessings of hard work and family. Foods served include mooncakes, pumpkin, river snails, taro, wine fermented with osmanthus flowers, duck and hairy crabs.

Li Bai, a poet during the Tang Dynasty, (618-907), expressed both frustration and serenity in the opening of one of his famous poems written to honor the moon:

Drinking alone under the Moon
huā jiān yī hú jiǔ dú zhuó wú xiāng qīn
From a pot of wine amid the flowers, I drink alone beneath the moonshine without a partner.

jǔ bēi yāo míng yuè duì yǐng chén sān rén
Raising my cup, I invite the moon and turn to my shadow which makes us three.

Whether you’re missing your loved ones or finding solace under a full moon, the annual August Moon Festival will surely tug at your poetic heartstrings.

Chinatown’s 2022 52nd Annual August Moon Festival, August 14, 2022, 10 am-5pm This celebration promises to be an exciting and welcoming renewal of both spectacle and tradition for the Chinese community and the entire city. It’s about gathering with friends and family, thanksgiving, and collective prayer for a brighter future. Participants will have the opportunity to enjoy Chinese cuisine, arts and crafts, calligraphy, lion dancing, traditional folk dances and martial arts.

For more information, see this link: https://ccbaboston.org/en/chinatown-august-moon-festival-2022

The Lowell Southeast Asian Water Festival, Saturday August 20, 2022, all day starting at 8am, celebrates and honors the preservation, protection, and sharing of cultural heritages of the Southeast Asian Americans in Greater Lowell. Since 1972, Lowell’s Khmer, Thai, Vietnamese, and Laotian population have gathered on the third Saturday of August to recognize the blessings of water to their communities. While the exciting boat races are suspended this year due to Covid, don’t miss this opportunity to celebrate with neighbors or take a trip outside your neighborhood and share in the celebration.

For more information, see this link: https://allevents.in/mobile/amp-event.php?event_id=200023000283835

The 35th Annual Quincy August Moon Festival, August 21, 2022 from 12pm-4pm, a partnership between QARI (Quincy Asian Resources, Inc.) and the city of Quincy, returns to light up Coddington St. Quincy Center with a colorful and glorious celebration of resilience before, during, and after out troubling Covid times. This remains one of the largest August Moon Festivals in the Northeast, welcoming over 20,000 people from throughout Massachusetts with music, dance, Chinese culture, and a unifying community spirit for all.

For more information, see this link: https://www.qariusa.org/august-moon-festival
South Cove Community Health Center has been serving the Asian-American Community in the greater Boston Area since 1972. We have a strong commitment to making health/preventive care linguistically and culturally accessible to patients and clients. We are currently looking for qualified individuals to fill the following positions.

**EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT (FT) – BOSTON**
Preforms executive secretarial duties for the ED/CEO and COO including phone coverage, correspondence, report, filling, appointment scheduling, travel arrangements, coordinates calendar and logistics for ED. Provides administrative support to both officers including writing memos, recording minutes of meetings, managing projects. Associate or Bachelor's degree, strong English writing skills, duties require very good organizational skills, interpersonal skills and ability to deal with confidential information. One to three years of administrative experience preferred. Fluent in English and Cantonese/Mandarin a plus.

**DENTIST (FT) – BOSTON/QUINCY**
Practice general dentistry including but not limited to: oral examinations and diagnoses, dental x-ray, preventive and restorative dental care, and minor oral surgery services. Develop internal systems such as equipment, inventory, appointment referral, and follow-ups, as directed by the Dental Director. Reinforces in universal precaution and infection control. Participate in dental disease prevention projects through educational and outreach. MA licensed. Fluent in English and Cantonese/Mandarin.

**DENTAL HYGIENIST (FT) – BOSTON/QUINCY**
Cleans calcareous deposits, accretions, and stains from teeth and beneath margins of gums, using dental instruments under the general supervision of a dentist. Provides dental x-ray services for diagnosis. May provide clinical services and health education to improve and maintain oral health. Familiar with standard concepts, practices and procedures within particular field. Associate's degree or its equivalent. Dental Hygienist, MA licensed. Fluent in English and Cantonese/Mandarin.

**DENTAL ASSISTANT (FT) – BOSTON/QUINCY**
Assist dental staff to render comprehensive and complete dental care to patients. Work with dental staff as a team. Completion of dental assistant program. MA Dental Assistant license. One-year dental office on the job training. Completion of Radiology Certification Course. Fluent in English and Cantonese/Mandarin.

**RN (FT) OR LPN (LPN) (FT) – BOSTON/QUINCY/MALDEN**
Assist physicians and nurse practitioners in providing services to the patient as a part of a team in adult medicine, pediatrics, and ob/gyn. Coordinate clinical nursing activities. Perform nursing procedures that includes PPDs, immunizations, follow-up on lab results, follow-up with patient's visits according to specific guidelines, medical records documentation. Registered nurse, licensed by Massachusetts. Graduate of an accredited nursing program. One year of nursing in an outpatient environment. Fluent in English and Cantonese/Mandarin. Vietnamese a plus.

**MEDICAL ASSISTANT (FT) - MALDEN**
Medical Assistant provides medical support for providers, general support for other clinical activities such as maintaining equipment and supplies in clinical depts. Works as part of a team in the coordination of care; planning; quality improvement; and patient/family education and outreach. Understand basic medical terminology. Successful completion of a Nurse Assistant or Medical Assistant Program. Fluent in English and Cantonese/Mandarin.

**LAB ASSISTANT (FT) – BOSTON/QUINCY/MALDEN**
Perform phlebotomy waived testing and read lab report when lab supervisor is not available. Draws and collects all blood specimens from patients. Verifies records and specimens for shipment and/or messenger pick-up service and completes appropriate lab forms. Assists in conducting inventory. Fluent in English and Cantonese/Mandarin. Professional telephone and face-to-face communication skills. Certification by a recognized phlebotomy program.

**LICENSED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROVIDER (FT) BOSTON/QUINCY**
Evaluate, diagnose and provide treatment to a diverse population. Collaborate with the appropriate human service agencies. Provide crisis intervention and urgent consultation to other medical departments. Contribute to clinical interdisciplinary training seminars, participate in weekly team meetings, participate in professional continuing education program. Function as a caseworker for grants, supervise interns and graduate students. Current MA LMHC or LICSW. 2 years of experience providing therapy. At least two years of full-time or part-time equivalent of paid professional experience in mental health or social work. Works well as part of a team. Fluent in English and Cantonese/Mandarin, and/or Vietnamese preferred. Salary commensurate with education and experience.

**CALL CENTER AGENT (FT) – BOSTON**
Perform call backs and tracking for designated diagnostics. Assists with scheduling, eligibility confirmation and registering patients. Supports daily activities of South Cove's Medical Home. Fluent in English and Cantonese/Mandarin. Vietnamese a plus. High school diploma or equivalent. Two years working experience in health care setting required. Typing skills and familiarity with data input preferred.

We are an equal opportunity employer. Interested candidates should send, fax, or email their resume to (please specify the position(s) you are interested in applying for):
Attn: Human Resources, 145 South Street, Boston, MA 02111  •  Fax: 617-521-6795  •  E-mail: blee@scchc.org
Meeting Our Neighbors at the Chinatown Summer Ice Cream Social

By Christopher John Stephens

Tufts University Government and Community Relations hosted an Ice Cream Social in the neighborhood on the Health Sciences Campus in Chinatown on July 21st. It was a great opportunity to beat the heat and meet our neighbors. This reporter had the opportunity to interview Liza Perry, Deputy Director, Tufts University Government and Community Relations, about the past, present, and future of Tufts University’s role in the Chinatown community.

What initiatives are you hoping to launch after the summer’s over?

We are fortunate to have several ongoing partnerships with our community partners. The Government & Community Relations team at Tufts University offers nonprofit event sponsorships on a rolling basis, we manage the Tufts Community Grants program every spring. Our office, as well as our colleagues at Tufts’ Tisch College of Civic Life and Tufts’ schools on the Boston Health Sciences Campus, are always looking for new ways we can collaborate with the Chinatown community, which includes sharing our spaces and funding stipends for students. Right now, we are excited to announce we will be partnering with the Pao Arts Center and the Asian Community Development Corporation (ACDC) to activate the Tufts Community Common on our Health Sciences Campus in Chinatown with a vibrant public art exhibit, ResLab 2022. The exhibit is under the creative direction of local artists and residents of Chinatown. The ResLab 2022 kickoff is this Friday, August 5, and all are invited to attend and view the exhibit through September 24.

How do you see Tufts’ role in Chinatown has improved during the pandemic?

From the earliest days of the pandemic, we looked for ways Tufts University could provide support to the community. In early 2020, we hosted a lunch to encourage others to patronize local Chinatown businesses. During the height of the pandemic, we provided emergency grants to Chinatown nonprofit organizations and we offered housing to Tufts Medical Center healthcare workers who were putting themselves on the front lines of the pandemic. When it was safe to return to indoor dining, we hosted a restaurant challenge to encourage Tufts University staff, faculty, and students to give their business to restaurants in Chinatown. From the earliest days of the pandemic, we looked for ways Tufts University could provide support to the community. In early 2020, we hosted a lunch to encourage others to patronize local Chinatown businesses. During the height of the pandemic, we provided emergency grants to Chinatown nonprofit organizations and we offered housing to Tufts Medical Center healthcare workers who were putting themselves on the front lines of the pandemic. When it was safe to return to indoor dining, we hosted a restaurant challenge to encourage Tufts University staff, faculty, and students to give their business to restaurants in Chinatown. This reporter had the opportunity to interview Liza Perry, Deputy Director, Tufts University Government and Community Relations, about the past, present, and future of Tufts University’s role in the Chinatown community.

What distinguishes Tufts as an agent of positive change in the neighborhood?

Tufts University’s faculty, staff and students have a reputation of taking civic and community engagement very seriously, which is something we are immensely proud of. While our students are working hard to earn their medical, dental, and professional degrees, they are also looking for ways to do good in the community. The Tufts University Cherish Chinatown initiative organizes a neighborhood clean-up every spring, and that is just one example of an annual tradition we look forward to every year that serves both Tufts and the local community.

### Mixed-Income Apartment Community

1 Bedroom / Selection by Lottery ~
A 62+ / Disabled Community ~

**TAVERNIER PLACE**

446 Massachusetts Ave, Acton, MA

**Rents & Income Limits:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># of bedrooms</th>
<th>Minimum Income Limit</th>
<th>Maximum Income Limit</th>
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<td>$58,920</td>
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Applications are available for 14 days, from August 5th to August 19th, 2022.


After careful consideration and an abundance of caution, the City of Boston has decided to cancel the in-person application distribution period. If you cannot complete the application online, please call us at 617/822-5300 to request that we mail you one and ask us for any guidance you might need to complete the application.

To fully completed signed applications must be submitted online or postmarked no later than Friday, August 19th, 2022.

**Applications are available for 14 days, from August 5th to August 19th, 2022**
Food insecurity has been a long-term problem in the United States. The difference of rate of food insecurity varies among groups and races. According to her survey, for example, Dr. Lauren Fiechtner, Director of nutrition, Mass General Hospital for children, 50% of the population in LGBTQ communities are experiencing food insecurity. What has been done by the government and organizations to help the public? They offered assistance and programs.

"So the SNAP and WIC are really, extremely helpful. And SNAP is the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program formerly known as food stamps. It's known to help families reduce the impact of food insecurity is now driving resurgence of food insecurity, the number decreased. Yet the food insecurity is now driving resurgence, since many of the programs are lowering their budget. Regarding that problem, Erin McAleer, CEO of the East Boston-based anti-hunger non-profit Project Bread made a comment: "When you also break those numbers down by race and ethnicity, we're seeing over 33 percent of Black and Latino and multi-racial households in Massachusetts are experiencing food insecurity. So, we're very much still in a crisis here."

Malnutrition is not the only problem on the stage of food-insecurity. To keep their children away from starvation, some families choose to purchase cheaper food. This has also led to another problem: obesity.

According to the data drawn from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, for children and adolescents aged 2-19 years in 2017-2020, while 19.7% (14.7 million) of the population were affected by obesity, the rate of prevalence varies based on their ages, races, and socioeconomic backgrounds. For example, 22.2% of the overall child and adolescents' obesity population are aged 12 to 19 years old.

Of course, the reality is far beyond the simple idea of fast food. During the pandemic, the diets and health of children and teenagers in the United States are facing increased mental health problems, food-insecurity, and a series of decisions made by schools and parents during the pandemic. And the problem of obesity also varies based on racial disparities. Additionally, the selection of food is also based on the access to food in different neighborhoods. In some areas with lower socio-economic status, or with smaller populations, the residents have less convenient options for healthy foods that they can afford, such as fresh fruits and vegetables.

According to Ihuoma Eneli, MD, MS, FAAP, Director of the Center for Healthy Weight and Nutrition at the Nationwide Children’s Hospital, in her study in Ohio, she finds that during the pandemic, "the early months of school closures, bans on social gatherings, disruptions to sleep and lack of exercise, increased screen time and snacking, as well as heightened stress and anxiety created the perfect storm for having issues with weight gain". The state’s proportion of overweight or obese youth increased from 37.8% to 44.6% during the pandemic.

Food insecurity is making a severe impact on the public’s health during the pandemic, and the adolescents and children are the populations with the highest impact. Ian X., a teen from Malden, told this reporter: "I am thirteen years old. I have two little sisters. We eat at McDonald’s every day because my mother works two jobs and is never home. She tells me that we can’t apply for food stamps because we are ‘undocumented.’ “

The real problem behind the scene is not simply the socio-economic status of the families. Instead, the stigmaization of “poor” “needy” could bring embarrassment and shame to people who cannot afford food. Some people avoid asking for help based on that reason.

"When I ask families now if they are able to afford food, the rates are increasing. And I want them to know that these programs are probably eligible for them, and you can go on Mass.gov in about 10 seconds and you can go out if you’re eligible. Please reach out. We are here to help you. And I want you to use these benefits.” Says Fiechtner.

The access to food security also varies among races, and the ethnic minorities are always the groups that were hurt by the problem. At the beginning of the pandemic, the number of food-insecure had reached its peak in 2020. With the support made by a series of food assistance and other programs, the number decreased. Yet the food insecurity is now driving resurgence, since many of the programs are lowering their budget. Regarding that problem, Erin McAleer, CEO of the East Boston-based anti-hunger non-profit Project Bread made a comment: "When you also break those numbers down by race and ethnicity, we’re seeing over 33 percent of Black and Latino and multi-racial populations. Instead, the stigmatization of “poor” “needy” could bring embarrassment and shame to people who cannot afford food. Some people avoid asking for help based on that reason.

The real problem behind the scene is not simply the socio-economic status of the families. Instead, the stigmaization of “poor” “needy” could bring embarrassment and shame to people who cannot afford food. Some people avoid asking for help based on that reason.”
Filmmakers fight for inspiration. Directors dream and build their vision for the screen but each is influenced. Whether it is by a person or a culture, everyone is sparked by another work, and the Coolidge Theatre is showing just how much Japan has influenced film with a dazzling line up in their Samurai Summer II.

This sequel is a carefully planned follow up to the debut in 2021. Created as a celebration of their 30th anniversary, the Coolidge Theatre began Samurai Summer as a way to honor their history of displaying Japanese films in the 70s and 80s. Director of Special Programming Mark Anastasio handles the selection and procurement of the films: “When the theater was first turned into a two-screen theater, the Coolidge was kind of famous for running films from Japan. It was known as the movie house where you could come and see Kurosawa films or Ozu films. And samurai film programs were among the most popular programs that the theater put on so we thought it would be cool. While we do run these films throughout the year and through numerous programs at the Coolidge, we thought it would be fun to focus an entire month on samurai films in particular.”

The series will kick off on August 16 with The Hidden Fortress by Akira Kurosawa. The next day features films most might not expect. Star Wars: Episode IV- A New Hope. “Kurosawa’s The Hidden Fortress was actually a huge influence on George Lucas as a filmmaker.” Mark added. “And you can see references to Hidden Fortress in Star Wars: Episode IV- A New Hope.” From costuming, to the storyline, Star Wars saw a lot of Japanese influences. Even the term Jedi is derived from Japanese “jida-geki”, meaning period drama.

There will be two movies a week for four weeks, displaying a total of eight films that are either Samurai related, contain elements of the culture, or were influenced by Japan or Samurai film.

Week two will feature Onibaba, a thrilling film with Samurai armor influences. A double feature of Kill Bill will follow. Certain cultural elements are present there and Mr. Anastasio described it as “more of a stylized genre film.” A blind swordsman will take over the screen in The Tale of Zatoichi on August 30th, a saga that included six films and didn’t begin in the theatre. “The Zatoichi films are just so much fun.” Mark said. “The tale of the blind swordsman is a long running and very popular samurai series in Japan. It was based on, I believe, a book. It’s been turned into a manga. People might not be as familiar with it as they are some of these other characters from well-known films, but we wanted to start to play lesser-known titles as part of exposing people to these amazing films that don’t get to play so often.”

Ghost Dog: The Way of the Samurai will follow the next day. It’s a film that holds more traditional Samurai practices in mind as the main character is determined to follow the Bushido code. Though these are coming from a different time period in a different culture, its relevance remains because it shows that culture and history with others. And people can go to see their culture and history represented in the theatre. Mark made it clear, “Everyone should feel like this is their movie house.”

While some of these films have pairings between the traditional Japanese original and the American influenced or remake movie, not all have counterparts. The remaining line up for the films will see Ran, another Kurosawa film, on September 9th, and the final film, A Fistful of Dollars on September 17th.

“That first pairing, those films are really in conversation with each other. The rest of the series it’s just sort of examples. They aren’t exactly talking to each other.” Mark said as he explained his choices for the line-up. “So, we’re running those films the day after one another. I hope people will come so they can see the inspiration for such an iconic pop culture sort of movie. I just feel like a lot of people might not know that the roots of these films are Japanese.”

Most would be surprised to see just how many American films find their roots in Japanese stories, folklore, film, and manga. Kurosawa has made several influences and even had a film remade into a western that includes not only one of Hollywood’s most famous Director/Actors but is also the last film to show this summer series. A Fistful of Dollars. “Fistful of Dollars was just an immediate rip off of Kurosawa’s Yojimbo.” Mark said. He understands the importance of tracing film’s inspirations, but also the importance of seeing different culture’s films and how they have changed film elsewhere. “You know, the film makers saw that mov- ie and said we’re going to make that but we’ll turn it into a western. They had no permission to do so, and it took them years to get the rights. But they initially stole the idea from Kuro- sawa. It’s pretty much a beat for beat remake of Yojimbo.”

Hollywood has been borrowing from Japan for a long time. Some of the biggest hits including, Avatar, The Matrix, The Lion King, The Magnifi- cent Seven, The Ring, and even rock band Kiss, have all borrowed from Japanese film, storytelling, and culture. There are those that have been honest about their inspiration. Creators of The Matrix have been open about their inspiration in the Ghost in a Shell film, saying they wanted to make the live action version of that with a different plot, of course. Kiss borrows elements of their costume, make-up, and acting from Kabuki actors.

Mark makes sure that the theatre does not cross any lines with any of the films they are showing. With so many filmmakers in America borrowing, stealing, or even taking elements from another culture, some might worry about cultural appropriation. That is why sharing influences and celebrating that culture is so important.

Love for film is a love for life and experience and that is also why Mark explains the importance of seeing these films and being aware of the influence. “Seeing Seven Samurai in high school from a 35-millimeter print that was being projected- it was totally an a-ha sort of moment for me in that I hadn’t really been exposed to foreign films. Certainly never, you know, not too many black and white films. And to have this gorgeous film on screen from Japan, looking at the cool films making films that I should be aware of and needed to learn more about.”

Mark is trying to make others aware about this festival, giving credit where credit is due. Entertain- ing, enlightening, educational, and em- pathetic, all in one, the Summer Samurai II brings all it can to the big screen. “I really do think that films are like the greatest tool we have to understanding seeing people else’s experience, this film series brings cultural awareness and representation, bringing in older movies from Japan that have gone on to influence so much. Mark welcomes audiences from all over the Greater Boston area and encourages readers to jump on the Green Line to Brookline to catch a theatre that shares and celebrates culture and welcomes all.
We proudly partner with and support the Asian American Civic Association and their work to help individuals and families attain economic self-sufficiency and improve their lives, especially over these challenging past few years.

Tufts Medicine
Tufts Medical Center

To find a doctor, visit tuftsmedicalcenter.org/findadoc
Across the country, many people have been outraged by the U.S Supreme Court’s recent decision in overturning Roe v. Wade, an almost 50 year precedent. In the Dobbs v. Jackson’s Women’s Health Organization decision, the Court ruled that “the Constitution of the United States does not confer a right to abortion; Roe and Casey are overruled; and the authority to regulate abortion is returned to the people and their elected representatives.

Abortion was first legalized throughout the United States in 1973 after the Supreme Court ruled in favor of Roe. Through a visual timeline, ABC News explains that Roe v. Wade was brought to the Supreme Court in 1971 when an unmarried pregnant woman, referred to as “Jane Roe” in court documents for anonymity purposes, challenged a state law in Texas that made it illegal for doctors to perform abortions, with the exception of life and death cases. States began to have more inclusive abortion laws. Alabama and Massachusetts permitted abortions in the condition that a woman’s physiological health was at stake, while Mississippi only allowed it in the instance of rape or incest. To legally undergo the procedure, women would often travel to other states where abortions were permitted. A couple years later the Supreme Court legalized abortions in the United States.

The U.S Supreme Court has now upheld a 2018 Mississippi state law that bans abortion operations after the first 15 weeks of pregnancy. The majority opinion in the ruling argued that “the Constitution of the United States does not confer a right to abortion.” Justice Samuel Alito expressed that the decision solely “concerns the constitution, the Court ruled that “the Constitution of the United States does not confer a right to abortion”).

Speaking to Sampan, Chandler explained that while Massachusetts has been a leader in the country in healthcare policies and sexual reproductive health, the concern is national. She emphasized that there is the ongoing issue of systemic and institutional racism. There has been this barrier created over time for people of color and low income communities to access healthcare services like emergency contraception. “We have to be on high alert,” she described, “because not having the federal guarantee to legal abortion can lead to a lot of challenges whether it is emergency contraception or abortion. There’s more of a high alert so that further limitations are not sought that would eliminate altogether that fundamental right of choice to terminate pregnancy.”

ABCD is part of the national NF-PRHA (National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association) which supports the Title X family planning program. There are hundreds across the country in each state and they are in constant communication and alliance with each other. They are all in solidarity with one another over the rights of reproductive health of women.

Sampan also recently spoke to Lucy Chie MD OB/GYN physician at South Cove Community Health Center in Boston, about her thoughts on the overturn of Roe v. Wade. She stated that the Supreme Court’s decision is “completely immoral and wrong” and that the decision will hurt patients across the country. For women who experience ectopic pregnancies, which is about 1 in 50 in the United States, abortions maybe the only treatment. In regards to women who have experienced ectopic pregnancies, she has seen patients come in first hand with a barely a pulse. Chie emphasizes that “ectopic pregnancies can be life threatening in literally minutes.” She expresses that unfortunately in Massachusetts abortion care is recognized and will remain legal. Patients that she serves will have access to reproductive healthcare. However, her concern is that patients with limited English proficiency will be confused on what their rights actually are due to the recent decision.

Abortions are now up to the states, but Chie fears that the recent ruling will cause a misunderstanding among patients as they will think that abortions are federally illegal. She further shared her concern that particular patients won’t know that they can reach out for help in Massachusetts at least. She has ensured that Massachusetts providers are ready to provide care for any patient in need, specifically those coming in from other states. Providers are nationally united in giving care and resources to patients in need that are affected by this ruling.

In Massachusetts, Governor Charlie Baker signed an executive order to protect access to reproductive health care services following the ruling. Healthcare providers that specialize in abortions across the country in states that will criminalize abortions, will not be permitted to perform the procedure. They will be forced to move to more progressive states for work and to be able to provide the necessary care that patients will need. Guttmacher researchers state that in 2017, there were 1,587 facilities in the United States that provided abortions. This included 808 clinics, 518 hospitals, and 261 physician offices. Pew Research Center explains how clinics make up 51% of these facilities, a vast majority approx. 95% of abortions occur at these sites.