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# **Unprecedented T Shutdowns:** Finding Alternative Public Transport

By: Kristen Si

Since August 19th, the T's Orange Line has faced the beginning of its unprecedented month-long shutdown in service. This disruption has since been followed by the closure of Green Line stops north of Government Center, with neither shutdown being lifted until September 18th.

Even with the Orange Line opening up on September 18th, there seems to be little reprieve from T shutdowns. The Green Line has been undergoing the Green Line Train Protection System (GLTPS) renovation this summer, with tracks being replaced on B, C, D, and E branches in an effort to prevent derailments and reduce the number of unexpected stops. Only the D branch is left for renovation, which will occur from September 24th to October 30th.

These closures come on the heels of rising MBTA safety concerns, as a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Safety Management Inspection was conducted this July. FTA Associate Administrator for Transit Safety and Oversight Joe DeLorenzo wrote in a letter to MBTA General Manager Steve Poftak that "there is a continued failure to sufficiently prevent unintended and uncontrolled train movements by disabled trains", referring to multiple incidents of Red Line trains rolling away on tracks due to faulty braking systems. In the face of glaring concerns, there have been widespread safety overhauls in T stations across the city.

The Orange Line is now undergoing a 30-day safety and revitalization renovation project termed the Orange Line Transformation Program. This is part of the MBTA's "Building

前所未有的地铁关闭: 寻找公共交通替代方案

作者: Kristen Si



Photo courtesy of Unsplash

a Better T" program and is meant to replace tracks, upgrade signals, and improve stations within a month an acceleration on the plan's original 5 year timeline. With respect to the disruption, MBTA General Manager Steve Poftak defends the decision, claiming that "thirty days of 24-hour access to the Orange Line replaces over five years of weekend diversions needed to address delays and slow zones. We can eliminate slow zones, prevent unplanned service disruptions, and increase the reliability of our service. Perhaps most importantly, we will provide the quality of safety and service that our riders deserve."

With the Orange Line serving

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自8月19日以来,地铁橙线开始面临前所未有的长达一个月的停运服务。此后,政府中心以北的绿线站点关闭,直到9月18日才会解除关闭。

即使橙线于 9 月 18 日开通,地铁的停运似乎也没有什么缓解。今年夏天,绿线一直在进行列车保护系统(GLTPS)改造,更换 B、C、D和 E 支路的轨道,以防止脱轨并减少意外停靠的次数。 9月24日至10月30日,只剩下D支线将进行装修。

随着今年 7 月联邦交通管理局 (FTA)安全管理检查的进行,MBTA 安全问题日益严重,这些线路关闭 发生在此之后。 FTA 运输安全和监 督副署长乔•德洛伦佐在给 MBTA 总经理史蒂夫•波夫塔克的一封信中 写道,"在充分防止列车意外和失控列车运行方面持续失败。"他指的是多起红线列车由于制动系统故障而在轨道上行驶并发生事故的现象。面对此担忧,全市地铁站进行了广泛的安全检修。

橙线目前正在进行为期 30 天的安全和重建改造项目,称为橙线改造计划。这是 MBTA "打造更好的地铁" 计划的一部分,旨在在一个月内更换轨道、升级信号和改善车站,这加快了该计划最初的 5 年时间表。关于地铁中断,MBTA 总经理 Steve Poftak 为这一决定辩护,

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## Labor Shortages and Climate Crises: Immigrants Impacted in Food Supply Industry

By: Giselle Chu

Immigrants have long played a key role in the creation of the national food supply. Previously, the US faced a labor shortage in the food industry before COVID, only to have it exacerbated by the pandemic. According to a July 2022 report from the American Immigration Council, the existing labor shortage consists of two key parts: "an increase in retirements as the baby boom generation reaches retirement age, and lower labor participation rates since the pandemic."

Immigrants' large impact on the food supply can be noticed in their contributions to the dairy and meat industries. Immigrant workers are a key asset in the dairy industry. The American Immigration Council states that "many dairy farmers rely on immigrant workers—often undocumented—to milk and tend to the cows" and "retail milk prices would nearly double if farmers lost foreign-born workers." Immigrants hold a similar significance in the meat industry. Specifically, the meatpacking industry, where over 50

percent of workers are immigrants, has historically depended on immigrant workers since the 1880s; in early 2020, 45.4 percent of meatpacking workers were foreign born. The labor shortage has directly impacted this industry, with a rise in meat prices as well as a rise in online job postings. From 2017 to 2021, the number of these postings rose by 86.4 percent. The American Immigration Council reports that "meat producers have called for the federal

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# Lantern Stories , By Yu-Wen Lu at Chinatown's Chin Park, Boston, MA. August 2022

The Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy recently re-installed Lantern Stories in Chinatown's Chin Park. It's by Taiwan native and Boston-based interdisciplinary artist Yu-Wen Wu. While its first iteration in 2020 was embraced by the community, it faced COVID-19 restrictions. With this new iteration, Wu created new images that evoked the reality of exclusion acts and racial hatred and the necessity of unity and cohesion. This 2022 version of Lantern Stories also features contributions from other local artists. Wu's themes cover migration, displacement, arrival, assimilation, and identity. Like most of the best public art in Boston, Lantern Stories exists comfortably within the sometimes uncomfortable intersections of art, science, politics, and socio-cultural identity. It's yet another unique facet of Chinatown's rich cultural history that embraces the past, lives in the present, and strives towards a better tomorrow.

Photos by Sampan Photographer Kevin Don



## **SAMPAN**

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#### www.sampan.org

87 TYLER STREET
BOSTON, MA 02111
TEL: (617) 426-9492 x 206
FAx: (617) 482-2316
ads@sampan.org
editor@sampan.org

Editor: Mary Chin Christopher John Stephens

> Consultant Editor: Adam Smith

Correspondents: Kristen Si, Giselle Chu, Jeff Millman, Max Wei, Christopher John Stephens, Yang Yang, Sonia Cavazos

Translators: Fanny Lio, Ben Lee, Bear Daddy, Kwai Ching Lo

> Photographer: Kevin Don

Advertising: J. Wu

Production: J. Wu

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## Aspirin, Heart Disease, and You

#### By: Jeff Millman

Once upon a time, bloodletting and lobotomies were common medical procedures. Cocaine was prescribed for depression, and doctors treated asthma with cigarettes. Conventional medical wisdom - fortunately for us changes over time. The progress of science is cumulative: as we gather more evidence, we build upon our existing knowledge and abandon those practices for which there is little empirical support. Earlier this year, the United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF), a volunteer panel of experts that issues evidence-based medical recommendations, updated their stance on daily aspirin use. 30 million Americans over the age of 40 take aspirin every day because of its supposed benefit of reducing the risk of heart disease. The USPSTF now cautions against such widespread use. They state that aspirin for certain populations may have a small benefit, but that it should not be taken daily by healthy people.

Aspirin works by preventing inflammatory processes in the body. It can also prevent blood platelets from aggregating, hence the potential benefits of aspirin for people with cardiovascular disease. In such patients, abnormal platelet aggregation can lead to heart attack and stroke. Low-dose aspirin can be helpful in blocking the production of platelets and reducing the rate of platelet clumping. However, for people with no history of cardio-vascular disease, the risks of aspirin may outweigh the benefits. In particular, you may be increasing your risk of excess bleeding, stomach ulcers, and liver damage if you take aspirin every day.

The USPSTF recommends that adults between the ages of 40 and 59 with a 10% or greater risk of developing cardiovascular disease in the next ten years talk with their doctors about taking daily low-dose aspirin. They may see a small benefit from aspirin use, especially if they are not at an increased risk of bleeding. Adults 60 years of age or older with no history or risk of cardiovascular disease are not recommended to take daily low-dose aspirin, and older adults with increased risk of bleeding should avoid taking daily aspirin. As always, these are individual decisions that must be discussed with medical professionals.

For people who are concerned about cardiovascular disease but who do not want to or cannot take daily aspirin, what else can done to reduce their risk? Cardiovascular disease affects nearly half of American adults and is the number one cause of death in the US, so it's clear that we must be vigilant about preventing it. Dr. Emelia Benjamin, professor of cardiology at Boston University, recommends focusing on the "Simple 7" – the American Heart Association's 7 goals of eating a healthy diet, exercising, avoiding obesity, not smoking, and keeping blood pressure, cholesterol, and blood sugar within a healthy range. This is particularly important for non-white populations, who may suffer from precursor conditions such as hypertension and obesity. South Asians are more likely to die of heart disease than the general population, and Black and Hispanic adults are more likely to suffer from hypertension, diabetes, and obesity.

Cardiovascular disease will likely continue to be a leading cause of death in the aftermath of the pandemic, which undoubtedly had a negative impact on cardiovascular health. Not only can COVID-19 itself cause damage to the heart, but the unhealthy eating habits, increased consumption of alcohol, and lack of physical activity that resulted from quarantine affected our health profoundly. Dr. Donald Lloyd-Jones, president of the American Heart Association, said in an interview last

year that medical professionals "have seen much of the progress [in preventing cardiovascular disease] go out the window since COVID-19 hit." Another impact of the pandemic was missed medical visits, with many patients postponing regular check-ups with their doctors. The American Heart Association also found that many individuals who experienced a heart attack or stroke during the pandemic "did not seek urgent care out of fear of contracting COVID-19 in a hospital setting."

Everyone can take steps to reduce their risk of cardiovascular disease, but with the pandemic now on the wane, it may take some time to break the bad habits many of us fell into. Recommitting ourselves to a healthy diet and daily exercise and avoiding smoking and other unhealthy behaviors can do wonders for our physical and mental health. Heart disease is an epidemic in the United States that requires no less attention than COVID-19, and by listening to our medical professionals and living better, we can regain the progress we were making before the pandemic in reducing cardiovascular disease.

# Gun Possession in Morocco: Sampan Interviews a Citizen about Gun Culture in his Homeland and the US

### By: Christopher John Stephens

In a 2018 failed bid for the 2026 World Cup, Morocco highlighted its limited threats from gun crime, especially compared to the United States. At that time, Morocco's murder rate was 3 in 100,000, which looks comfortable against 5.3 in the United States. The rate has stayed more or less the same in Morocco over these past four years. In comparison, the United States experienced more gun-related deaths in 2020 than any other in recorded history. This reporter recently had the opportunity to survey a Moroccan native, via email, about perceptions of US gun violence from a Moroccan perspective.

SAMPAN: What were your initial impressions, as a child, of the role guns played in the culture of the United States?

When I was young, the movies that prevailed were Westerns and Thrillers. Guns were the solution to every conflict and the hero was the one who handled guns better and quicker.

SAMPAN: What role did guns play in your life as a child growing up

in Morocco?

Real guns never existed in both my childhood and my adulthood because they don't exist. Gun Possession is simply not allowed by the law.

SAMPAN: Describe the punishment for illegal ownership and distribution of guns in your country. Does Moroccan popular culture (TV, music, film) glamorize gun use as has so often been the case in the United States?

Illegal possession of arms is harshly punishable. If someone is caught, he or she would be tried at the military court and would be sent to jail for a long time. Arms do not represent an issue in Moroccan culture that's why they are never mentioned or used in Moroccan movies.

SAMPAN: How long have you been in the United States? Were friends and family scared knowing that you'd be coming here and probably susceptible to more gun violence here than in Morocco?

I have been living in the US for more than 20 years. I have never felt threatened for my life or the lives of my children because shootings usually happened in places they were bound to happen. However, since 2016 life has changed dramatically in America. Random shooting and mass-killing has become more common. Last weekend murders in four different states are a good example.

SAMPAN: Do you think the importance of guns in American culture is an unavoidable fabric of who we are? If we consider that the West was "won" by pistols and six-shooters, and guns have been constant from the beginning, how can we change? How can we steer our children away from the impression that guns are the only way to solve problems?

Guns in America are here to stay. Changing mentalities is a long process. First we have to establish stricter laws on the companies that make and market guns. I think if it is easy to trace where a bullet came from, it should be easier to know where the gun came from. By

doing so we can punish the gun maker who let it go to the wrong hands. Hollywood and games designers should stop glorifying guns and start steering our children's attention towards more constructive issues.

SAMPAN: Are you confident that US legislators and our President, now or later, will be able to write and pass some sensible gun legislation? Can the US gun problem be solved in your lifetime? If so, how? Tell us the ways Morocco has kept their gun violence so low. Are there any suggestions you have for the immediate and long term safety of the United States re: gun accessibility?

I am not confident that the legislative or the executive branches of the government will do anything to put an end to this phenomenon. I saw them stuttering when a journalist asked them about gun control. Going against the gun makers is like committing political suicide legislators think. Why can we allow guns but with rubber bullets only?

## **Labor Shortages and Climate Crises: Immigrants Impacted in Food Supply Industry**

#### Continued from Page 1

federal government to expand the H-2B visa program to allow yearround visas in addition to the seasonal visas allowed today." The current H-2A and H2-B allow for employers to hire temporary foreign workers for seasonal industries such as those of dairy and meat. The H-2A visa regards temporary agricultural workers (such as tending livestock), and the H-2B visa regards temporary non-agricultural workers (such as butchering meat).

It is clear that immigrant workers are significant to the national food supply. However, there are multiple obstacles in their way, such as unsafe working conditions and inequalities due to their status as immigrants. The conditions of extreme heat environments and weather-exposed industries put these workers in dangerous positions. "Heat-related illnesses are the leading cause of death for farmworkers, who are 20 percent more likely to die from them than are other workers." The recent heatwaves this year and this summer only exacerbate the issue of safe working conditions, as workers are still "expected to continue to work despite the increased risk of harm and exposure to wildfire smoke."

An individual Immigrants' status as a resident in this country also plays a large role in their eligibility and access to rights. According to the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP), "workers whose homes may have been impacted by wildfires or flooding may be ineligible for economic or housing assistance due to their immigration status. Immigrants who develop health conditions from exposure to toxic chemicals at work are often not eligible for health care coverage."

Additionally, "immigrant workers are particularly vulnerable to labor abuses. Both the meatpacking and farming industries aggressively recruit undocumented workers precisely because their status can be used against them. Companies pay them lower wages, provide fewer benefits, and cut costs through subpar working condi-

Lack of legal protections means that immigrant food supply workers are particularly vulnerable to worsening labor conditions as a result of climate change. Farmworkers are excluded from many federal labor standards that protect the rights of workers in other sectors, including collective bargaining rights. Although farm work is subject to the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) and other limited federal policies, employers frequently violate these standards with no repercussions. Even within FLSA standards, farm

work is exempt from certain rules, including those concerning child labor. This means child farmworkers have no hour limits and are subject to hazardous conditions such as exposure to pesticides, which can compromise child development. With minimal action from the U.S. Department of Labor to enforce workers' rights, and no protection for workers' self-advocacy, employers will only continue to disregard immigrant workers' rights and safety.

Beyond statistics and reports government officials about what is or is not being done to help alleviate the troubling conditions many frontline food workers are experiencing, the strongest evidence will always come from the people themselves. Sampan spoke with some immigrant farmworkers, through translators and under the condition of anonymity, about how the confluence of labor shortage and an ongoing climate crisis is making their lives that much harder.

Jose, a Massachusetts factory worker, said: "It is still very difficult to know if my job will be safe. The Amazon warehouse work is drying up because of this problem. The drought we've had this summer also isn't helping. I would go back to Florida and try my luck in the orange groves, but it's not much better there."

Luisa, who declined to offer her city or place of residence, instead gave this reporter some advice: "I think you should understand that it's not going to get better any time soon. Your fresh fruit will get more expensive. Your dairy and meats will also keep going up in price. You will have to choose between less healthy alternatives and processed food or go to the high-priced stores and pay three times as much for a third of what you usually received. Don't even get me started on the fact that those stores are never located anywhere near where frontline food workers live or work."

The positive impact of immigrants is blindsided by their disadvantages in the food supply industry. By filling the labor shortage but not being given equal rights, immigrants are burdened with their responsibility. In the future, the US can surely find a way to consider expanding temporary work visa programs and implementing policies that will protect all workers across the food supply industry, support immigration rights, and make our agricultural system match the invaluable status of our human resources: the people who bring good food to our tables.

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857.325.3703 | US Relay: 711 WaterstoneLexingtonLottery.com

Applications also available at Cary Memorial Library 1874 Massachusetts Avenue | Lexington, MA

53-55 Watertown Street | Lexington, MA 02421 Independent Living | Assisted Living



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## **Events Calendar**

## **1. SoWa Open Market on Sundays:** a wide range of products that support May 1, 11:00 am October 30, 4:00 Black entrepreneurship, including

An event every week that begins at 11:00 am on Sunday. "SoWa Open Market is part farmers' market, part arts 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-marke t-on-sundays/2022-05-01/ https://www.sowaboston.com/

## 2. Go to the ICA, free of charge throughout 2022.

August 11-2023. 8:00am-5:00 pm. Recurring Event. Institute of Contemporary Art. 25 Harbor Shore Drive Boston, MA 02210. "Open to all, the weekly evening event runs through the end of 2022, and among the museum's permanent collection, you'll view an array of 2022 exhibits, including Deana Lawson's photographic representations of Black life, the multimedia installations of Somerville 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-

## 3. View 'Legacies' by Rose B. Simpson at the ICA.

to-do/arts/go-to-the-ica-free-of-

charge-2/202 2-08-11/

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 go on view at the ICA this August in an exhibit called "Legacies," featuring new works alongside her signature ones. Simpson lives and works in 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 its 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-simpsonat-the-ica/

## 4. Support local businesses at the Seaport x Black Owned Bos. Market.

August 27, 1:00 pm - Oct 16, 6:00 pm. Seaport Common, 85 Northern Ave Boston, MA 02210. "The Seaport x Black Owned Boston Market offers

Black entrepreneurship, including gifts, apparel, packaged foods, and beauty products. This market, located on Seaport Common, is run by Black Owned Boston, a business service and consulting agency which aims to highlight Black owned businesses, places, spaces and people. Black Owned Bos. aims to show people that collective buying power can make an impact, and asks them to be intentional about the distribution of resources in communities.Parking is available at One Seaport Garage, located at 75 Sleeper St., across from the Envoy Hotel." The event is held on the following days: Saturday, August 27, 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday, August 28, noon to 6 p.m. Sunday, September 25, noon to 6 p.m. Sunday, October 16, noon to 6 p.m. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/seaport*x-black-owned-bos-market-tickets-30* 2980782677?aff=ebdssbdestsearch

## 5. King Richard's Faire returns to Carver.

September 3, 10:30 am-October 23. 6:00 pm.
King Richard's Faire Grounds, 235

Main St. Carver, MA 02330. "Deep in the woods in Carver, an enchanting village known as Carvershire awaits — where royalty strolls alongside minstrels and jesters, knights battle on horseback, and kissing wenches steal smooches from unsuspecting victims. King Richard's Faire returns for its 41st season of entertainment, exciting rides, skilled games (yes, there will be axe throwing and archery), meals of spit-roasted giant turkey legs and mead, and more. Walk through the gates and back in time to the Renaissance period, as hundreds of entertainers (think acrobats, aerialists, jugglers, minstrels, fire eaters, and puppeteers) perform non-stop throughout the day on vibrant stages and meander on the property's winding paths. Talented artisans will also hawk their wares of glass blowing, portrait painting, hand-spun pottery, sword making, and more. Guests can come in period costume or wear modern day attire." https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2022king-richards-faire-the-new-england-ren aissance-festival-tickets-200552998417

## 6. The Smithsonian comes to Massachusetts.

September 10, 10:00 am-June 23, 2023, 5:00 pm.

"Starting this September, you can discover more about small town life thanks to "Crossroads: Changes in Rural America," a traveling exhibit produced by the Smithsonian Institution's Museum on Main Street program. The Smithsonian, along with Mass Humanities, have selected six communities in Massachusetts for this exhibit that explores how rural American communities have changed in the 20th century. The exhibition will prompt discussions about what happened when America's rural population became a minority of the

Please email ads@sampan.org to add events to the calendar

country's population and the ripple effects that occurred." The events will take place at: Sept. 9 - Oct. 22: Essex Historical Society and Shipbuilding Museum, Essex. Oct. 30 – Dec. 10: The Hull Lifesaving Museum, Hull. Dec. 18 – Jan. 28, 2023: Rutland Free Public Library, Rutland. Feb. 5 - March 18, 2023: Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls. March 26 – May 6, 2023: Bushnell-Sage Library, Sheffield. May 14 – June 24, 2023: Athol Public Library, Athol. https://www.boston.com/things-to-do/ arts/the-smithsonian-comes-to-massa chusetts/

## 7. Celebrate Oktoberfest with beer in hand at this Boston bar crawl.

September 17 3:00 pm - 10:00 pm. Faneuil Hall Marketplace, 4 S Market St. Boston, MA 02109. Come partake in the classic tradition of Oktoberfest. Go to the best bars in Boston with family or friends and other good time enthusiasts. "Boston's Oktoberfest Bar Crawl starts at Faneuil Hall and stops by The Greatest Bar, The Point Nightclub, Wild Rover, Sissy K's, Hong Kong, and more. With one general admission ticket, event goers can expect: Door cover charges waived, Deals on food and drink, Participation in a costume contest, DJs and other entertainment at select bars." https://www.barcrawllive.com/crawls/ oktoberfest-bar-crawl-boston

## 8. Join a sticky celebration at the Somerville Fluff Festival.

September 17, 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm. Union Square Somerville, MA 02143. "Things are about to get a little sticky in Union Square with the return of the 17th Annual "What the Fluff? Festival." Slated for Sept. 17 (with a Sept. 18 rate date), this quirky outdoor party celebrates the gooey goodness of the marshmallow topping invented in Somerville in 1917. So unique is the festival that it was mentioned in Lonely Planet as one of the reasons Somerville is among its top 10 "Best in the U.S." destinations. With this year's theme of "Fluff at First Sight: Back on Track!," the festival returns for a'nutter year of musical performances, cooking contests, Fluff-themed games, activities, and Fluff treats of all kinds. Union Square eateries, breweries, cafes, shops, and Fluff fans cook up their own special take in celebration of the Square's roots."

https://www.boston.com/things-to-do/ festivals-expos/join-a-sticky-celebratio n-at-the-somerville-fluff-festival/

https://www.flufffestival.com/

## 9. Go on a guided sake tasting without leaving Brighton at Sake Day East.

September 30, 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm Garage B at the Charles River Speedway 525 Western Ave. Brighton, MA 02135. "Sake lovers, you can thank Marina Giordano, a certified sake educator, sommelier, and well-traveled pro. Giordano founded Sake Day East in celebration of World Sake Day, and it has grown into New England's largest sake tasting. This year, Giordano's Wine & Sake Experience hosts the event on Friday night, September 30." https://www.boston.com/things-to-do/food/go-on-a-guided-sake-tasting-with out-leaving-brighton-at-sake-day-east/

## 10. Attend the 43rd annual Harvard Square Oktoberfest.

October 9, 11:00 am - 6:00 pm. Harvard Square Brattle St Cambridge, MA 02138. "Annually attended by over 100,000 people, the Harvard Square Oktoberfest is a long-standing tradition for Harvard Square. Planned and executed by The Harvard Square Business Association, which hosts multiple events throughout the year, Oktoberfest is one of the group's largest and most popular celebrations. This year, Oktoberfest will feature: Live music, Dancing, Street performers, Family-friendly activities, Sidewalk sales, Arts and craft vendors, Vintage goods, Free goodies, Globally inspired food."

https://www.harvardsquare.com/43rdannual-oktoberfest-applications-nowavailable/

## 11. Register Now for Tufts CTSI's 7th Annual Asian Health Symposium on September 30!

You are invited to join Tufts Clinical and Translational Science Institute (Tufts CTSI) and the Addressing Disparities in Asian Populations through Translational Research (ADAPT) program for the 7th Annual Asian Health Symposium "Unpacking the Root Causes of Problem Gambling in the Asian Community: From Research to Action" on Friday, September 30.

The recently launched Asian CARES report illuminates how problem gambling is the "canary in the coal mine" for the Asian community. Join us to learn about the root causes as well as the short and long-term impacts of gambling addiction on children, families, and the broader Asian community and how problem gambling can be addressed by using a public health approach.

Researchers and community members are encouraged to attend! Language interpretation and translation services in Chinese Mandarin and Cantonese will be provided.

Date: Friday, September 30, 2022, 9:00AM-1:30PM (Breakfast and Registration: 9:00AM-9:30AM; Lunch and Networking: 12:30PM-1:30PM) Location: Center for Medical Education, Room #114 | 145 Harrison Ave. — Chinatown

Registration and more information: https://www.tuftsctsi.org/events/7th-annual-asian-health-symposium/

## **Unprecedented T Shutdowns: Finding Alternative Public Transport**

Continued from Page 1

more than 100,000 trips every day, these closures have significant impact on the daily lives of local Boston residents, with a particular focus on the city's working class community. With many having limited access to personal vehicles and an inability to afford expensive rideshare costs, public transportation has become a necessity for thousands of residents as a means to get to work or attend school.

In the face of this month-long disruption, the MBTA has offered possible alternative routes for people in need of transportation between the currently closed stations. The commuter rail will be free to riders who show their CharlieCard or Charlie-Ticket during the Orange Line shutdown. For rides south of the Downtown station, passengers should look for Providence/Stoughton Line trains stopping at Hyde Park and Forest Hills. For rides on the northern side of the Orange Line, look for Haverhill Line trains stopping at Oak Grove. Due to the commuter rail running in parallel to many sections of the Orange Line, the commuter rail may be the closest alternative to previously existing public transportation routes.

For people looking for other Orange Line alternatives, other free options include shuttle services and Bluebike passes. After a \$37 million deal with Yankee Line, Inc., shuttle access has been greatly increased across the city. There is currently a free shuttle service running between Oak Grove and Government Center (via Haymarket), between Forest Hills and Copley (via Back Bay), and between Government Center and Union Square. Additional shuttle service between Tufts Medical Center, Chinatown, and Government

Center is also being provided on a 30 minute schedule during peak hours. In addition to these shuttle services, the MBTA has made 30-day passes to Boston Bluebikes freely available to residents during the month of Orange and Green Line closures. These will offer access to a Bluebike for up to 45 minutes without any charge.

For the over 20,000 Boston Public School students who use the MBTA as a means of getting to school, the MBTA is offering more than 5,000 free 7-day pass CharlieCards to students to help them prepare alternative routes of travel. Students are also being promised that any late attendance as a result of these transportation issues will not result in penalties at school.

Despite these efforts to lower the burden on MBTA riders during these long shutdown periods, there have been serious concerns being raised about how these disruptions will affect vulnerable populations in Boston. These may be of particular concern to immigrant communities, as well as many Sampan readers. who may not have access to reliable transportation alternatives despite MBTA efforts. While shuttle service is being provided from the Chinatown Orange Line stop to provide access to the Green Line through Government Center, these shuttles are limited to run only during morning and evening hours (5-7 a.m. and 8 p.m.-1 a.m.). The frequency for these shuttles is also quite limited, so transportation options for those living or working in the Chinatown or Tufts Medical Center area are far and few between. Remaining MBTA alternatives, such as using Bluebikes or walking, may prove difficult to elderly or physically disabled Chinatown residents looking to travel

around Boston, providing additional burden to these communities.

With so many recent disruptions in Orange and Green Line service, many MBTA riders will be confused as to their transportation options during the coming month. MBTA Transit Ambassadors are currently working outside Orange Line stops, helping MBTA riders locate nearby transportation alternatives. For residents within the Chinatown community who may not fluently speak English, local MBTA Neighborhood Liaisons were also present in front of affected stops, helping to cross language barriers during the first few days of shutdown.

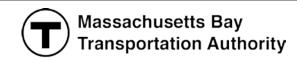
How do real riders feel about what's happening? We can hear from officials and watch orchestrated photo opportunities, but spontaneous comments from people on the street have a way of putting things into perspective. Sampan took the pulse of pedestrians in Downtown Crossing and Chinatown today and here's a sample of what we found:

Debra T, a nurse from East Boston, told us she hopes we can all develop some empathy. "I walk ten miles a day," she said. "It's a combination of my rounds at work with my extra 30-40 minutes round trip I am walking now from State St to my job. I am relatively healthy, my legs are strong and my determination solid,

but I know this is devastating to so many of my colleagues and patients, not just those who are infirmed but the language difficulties people are facing."

Leila W, Debra's friend and also from East Boston, agrees. "I can't walk too long without feeling dizzy. I get on these shuttle buses from State St to work and I can only imagine the problems second language learners are facing. The drivers don't announce the stops and you just have to ride by instinct. I have a desk job so I'm not on my feet a lot. The shuttle is a minor inconvenience right now, but I feel for the infirmed non-English speakers who simply are not being served right now."

While efforts to reach out to immigrant communities have been made by the MBTA during the Orange Line closure, more can be done to support affected communities who desperately need dependable transportation within the city. Increased signage around affected stops in multiple languages would be able to make alternatives more accessible to those in the community who are not fluent in English. Additionally, more shuttle availability is crucial to make sure that residents in the Chinatown area are not cut off from public transportation services during this time.



MASSACHUSETTS BAY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY 10 PARK PLAZA BOSTON, MA 02116

#### NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Electronic proposals for the following project will be received through the internet using Project Bids until the date and time stated below, and will be posted on www.bidx.com forthwith after the bid submission deadline. No paper copies of bids will be accepted. Bidders must have a valid digital ID issued by the Authority in order to bid on projects. Bidders need to apply for a digital ID with Project Bids at least 14 days prior to a scheduled bid opening date.

Electronic bids for MBTA Contract No. R18CN02, MBTA CNG FACILITY UPGRADES BOSTON, MA, Classes of Work Class 10 – MECHANICAL \$10,000,000, and Project Value \$13,600,000 can be submitted at www.bidx.com until two o'clock 2:00 p.m. on September 22nd. 2022. Immediately thereafter, in a designated room, the Bids will be opened and read publicly.

The Scope of Work of this Contract shall consist of furnishing all labor, materials, and equipment for the complete and satisfactory execution of the work in conformance with the Contract Drawings and Specifications. The Scope of Work shall include but not be limited to demolition and construction services for the Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Fueling System Upgrades at Cabot Bus Maintenance Facility and Arborway Bus Maintenance Facility.

Bidders attention is directed to Appendix 1, Notice of Requirement for Affirmative Action to Insure Equal Employment Opportunity; and to Appendix 2, Supplemental Equal Employment Opportunity, Anti-Discrimination, and Affirmative Action Program in the specifications. While there is no DBE goal associated with this contract, the Authority strongly encourages the use of Minority, Women and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises as prime contractors, subcontractors and suppliers in all of its contracting opportunities.

This information may be viewed at the MBTA website: nbta.com/business\_center/bidding\_solicitations/current\_solicitations/

On behalf of the MBTA, thank you for your time and interest in responding to this Notice to Bidders

Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority

Steve Poftak

MBTA General Manager

August 24, 2022

R18CN02 NOTICE TO BIDDERS **MBTA AUGUST 2022** 00100 - 1 CNG Facility Upgrades



September 2, 2022 SAMPAN 7



## **Job Announcements**

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, filing, 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+ years 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

## A Bridge Towards Tomorrow: Sampan speaks with Monique Tú Nguyen -Executive Director of the Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement

By: Christopher John Stephens



Monique Tú Nguyen, Director of the Mayor's Office for Immigrant Achievement (MOIA)

Government policies and mission statements are always driven by terms and phrases. Whether they exist beyond looking good on paper and sounding strong in stump speeches is the dream that isn't always realized. For Boston's MOIA (Mayor's Office of Immigrant Advancement), the driving motivation rests in that final word: advancement. What does it mean? How is it measured? Can immigrants advance without successfully integrating themselves within the social fabric of their chosen land? What measures need to be taken in order to achieve that integration? Economic strength can only come from financial autonomy. Are immigrants being offered (and taking) opportunities to become their own bosses? Our nation's table is long and rich with the bounty of hard work, perseverance, and single-minded determination. Do immigrants have an unconditional seat at that table?

Monique Tú Nguyen, Boston's newly appointed Director of the Mayor's Office for Immigrant Achievement (MOIA), served ten years as the Executive Director of Matahari Women Workers Center, where her focus was advancing the rights and protections for domestic workers, women, immigrants, and their families. While there, she served as a steering committee member of massundocufund.org, in the early days of the COVID 19 pandemic, supporting undocumented men, women, and children with direct financial assistance in order to repair, rebuild, and revive their businesses, communities, and families. She was also pivotal in the successful passage of the 2014 Massachusetts Domestic Workers Bill of Rights

Sampan recently had the opportunity to speak with Nguyen, a Vancouver, Canada native and proud daughter of Vietnam War refugees. It was a busy time for Nguyen, only one week after her August 16th appointment and four days into the unprecedented Orange Line MBTA shutdown. We covered that topic, and others, in a conversation edited for clarity and continuity

SAMPAN: Could you start by telling us about your experience and history with immigrant rights?

NGUYEN: I embarked on my journey with immigrant rights work as a formerly undocumented student. I was living in Texas and even though

I'd gained status I still had a sense of injustice about my family members still struggling with being undocumented and thinking about all the other families out there that were just like mine, living in the shadows. I had an epiphany moment one day when I did a google search for "immigrant rights movement." I didn't know what 'immigrant rights' or 'movement' was but my search came up with so many campaigns and movements across the country, like California and New York. The first was too expensive and the second too scary. On the third page were some Massachusetts options. I saved up for six months of living expenses and came up here on a whim. After attending various meetings I came upon Matahari, my former employer. They resonated the most with me because of their work with immigrant women. That's where I cut my teeth with organizing for immigrant rights. In the beginning I focused mainly on family reunification. Over time, it became more about building empowerment through channels like workforce development and the Massachusetts Domestic Workers Bill of Rights.

SAMPAN: Stability, economic empowerment, civic ownership and social integration have always been important ideals for all of us here in Massachusetts. Could you elaborate on how important it is for immigrants to reach these objectives? What obstacles are still in the way and how are you working to remove them?

NGUYEN: Those are fundamental goals for all of us in the United States. Oftentimes, immigrants are not going to feel they have equal access to these goals, especially with language barriers. In my work I've come to find that people are more comfortable when they speak the language that is most comfortable with them. While they're learning English they're only using limited vocabulary. I'm hoping to do a lot of work within MOIA and the Equity and Inclusion office to build more language access so that immigrants can be working alongside non-immigrants here in Boston to make the city better, more inclusive and powerful, more civically engaged. [Programs include but are not limited to: The Dreamers Fellowship, Immigrant Information Corners, Immigrant Professionals Fellowship, Immigrants Lead Boston.] There are so many countries represented among our immigrant population that there's no way the city of Boston can do it alone so we have to partner with many other organizations.

SAMPAN: COVID-19 has devastated so many aspects of our lives over these last two and a half years. Mental health issues often go unspoken, maybe because of cultural stigmas, but they're even more apparent in all of us these days. What is MOIA doing right now to specifically address and repair the

mental health problems that are further complicating immigrant advancement?

NGUYEN: That was something definitely revealed throughout COVID, and immigrants especially have less access to mental health care. MOIA has been able to share resources that will allow immigrants to improve their lives and survive during these times. There has been extreme isolation during COVID that has impacted our mental health. So many people had this moment of clarity where they felt like they could die alone. A lot of migrants are often here in this country alone or far from their families. MOIA's minigrants have helped a number of organizations this year, in pilot form, and we look forward to expanding the program more. I got to meet members of one of the organizations, Asian American Youthforce Workshop, last week. They spoke with me about the impact that even \$6500 has had as their organization has been able to help members talk through the stigma, the depression and extreme isolation that impacted their ability to function every day. I'm really looking forward to expanding that program.

SAMPAN: Entrepreneurship and academic or political leadership have always been hallmarks of an American dream. We come here with the understanding that we can build our own businesses and create lives as doctors or state officials and these dreams happen for many of us. What is MOIA doing to ensure that newly arrived immigrants can have equal access to the same opportunities as those who have been here for generations?

NGUYEN: I'm confident in the work Mayor Wu has been doing across all aspects of her cabinet to ensure that residents who have been here for a while also get empowered. MOIA is trying to adjust the barriers immigrants have so they can equally access the same opportunities as people who speak English or have gone to school here. I am really excited about an initiative we have called Cooperative Business Support. This model has been found to best serve the needs of immigrant business people and we are looking to feature this as a new emergence business model for immigrants. The Dreamers Fellowship also goes a long way towards creating equity. Across the cabinet we are looking to uplift everyone. I understand if people wonder 'why immigrants?' but we're really trying to maintain and sustain equity.

SAMPAN: Do you think there's more of a cultural divide or a generational divide when it comes to us as a nation of immigrants working together?

NGUYEN: It's both. It's cultural and generational. Before we came here as immigrants, we all had our home cultures that upheld traditions. We passed on stories and practices that

were so important to our heritage. We came here and were so busy just trying to survive that we lost languages, we lost traditions. We didn't have cultural support. People have a distance within themselves from their cultures and it makes it harder for them to appreciate new immigrants. I'm hoping through MOIA that we can all start reclaiming our cultures. It's interesting that people forget the struggles Italian immigrants went through when they first came to this country. There's always an ongoing wave of who is the scapegoat. I hope through MOIA that we can build bridges across cultures. Learning our history will help create more solidarity. My whole point is to build more points of relation instead of points of division.

SAMPAN: How will the Driver's License Bill help advance the causes most important to MOIA?

NGUYEN: Immigrants feeling they have equal access to opportunities is such a central foundation for functioning in daily life. Something as simple as a driver's license will lower barriers. People have been living in fear of something so simple like picking up or dropping off their children or going to get food for dinner because they didn't have a driver's license. We're hoping this will give people a sense of identity and validation in a different way. It will help them become more involved with the world and lessen the fear.

SAMPAN: We are in the midst of an unprecedented shutdown of the Orange Line in Boston. Many immigrants who live at either side of the line, in Malden or Forest Hills, are having to scramble for alternatives to commuting into the city for work. How is MOIA dealing with alleviating the fears of immigrants who don't know what's happening?

NGUYEN: The MOIA team, and the whole administration, has been so responsive, open, and communicative. There's not a day that goes by right now where I'm not responding to groups or residents to get them clear answers to their questions and concerns. I'm proud of how everyone is working inter-agency and across government levels to respond to this MOIA has been working closely with community-based organizations on texting with local directors and organizers to help with anything, like getting things translated and organizing language access. We need to be responsive, open and communicative and be humble that we may not have the answers but we're here with you to move through this together. If anything, I think it's been galvanizing for people to start appreciating public transportation more. Without this situation, people wouldn't have the impetus to create a movement for change. The next time this happens, if it does, we will have a more rapid response.



## Easter Sunday: A Milestone for Filipino Representation in Film

By: Sonia Cavazos

The big screen has recently felt the presence, the joy, the powerful (and incredibly comedic) storytelling of a Filipino family in America. Jo Koy's comedy, Easter Sunday, hit the theatres on August 5th, marking an achievement for representation of Filipino culture and opportunities for Filipino actors. Throughout history, Filipinos have seen little representation, whether through the opportunities given to actors or authentic roles being portrayed in film. Koy, along with some of his co-stars, explore the importance of that representation in this film, adding a bit of comedic flair, relatable family dynamics, and beloved traditions.

Minority representation is often hard enough to obtain. And Filipino representation has somehow been buried amongst the call for other voices. But no more. Filipino's are the third highest group of Asians in America, accounting for about 4.2 million people out of the U.S. population. They have been a part of American history from as early as the late-fifteen hundreds, contributing to the Farm Labor Movement and the growth of Hollywood's hometown, California. And yet, Hollywood has shown films with 5.9% of characters being of Asian American or Pacific Islander heritage, out of 1300 top movies between 2007 and 2019. Of those, only 3.3% had Asian American or Pacific Islander lead or co-leads. Though one might wonder how far back Filipino actors stretch.

Currently, some of the names of actors with Filipino heritage will turn heads from their more prominent roles. Guardians of the Galaxy's Dave Bautista, Dante Basco (notable for Hook and Avatar: The Last Airbender), Jacob Batalon (riding in on the newest Spiderman movies), The Good Place's Manny Jacinto, Bird's of Prey's Ella Jay Basco, and of course Lou Diamond Phillips and Tia Carrere (both of whom star in Easter Sunday.)

Early Filipino actors and roles are difficult to come by, save for the valiant pursuit of one Elena Jurado Jacobs. Born in 1901 in Cebu to a U.S. Army Sergeant and Sibonga born Placida Jurado, Elena immigrated to America when she was just 18. In 1919, she and her husband, a U.S. Army medic, arrived in California, looking for work.

After a fortuitous meeting with Hobart Bosworth, then a lead actor in the film White Hands for which Elena was auditioning, Elena started her career in 1922. She went on to act in a number of silent films, becoming an early, and sadly often unknown, trailblazer for the representation of Filipinos and women in film.

Koy sought to further this journey for Filipino representation in film, fighting for the showing of Easter Sunday to be in the theatre instead of Netflix. According to NBC, Koy said he wasn't going to have it any other way, stating, "I love Netflix. But I felt like if it had been on Netflix, it wouldn't do it any justice." He went on to recount his own powerful experiences with seeing Filipino actors on television. He felt "seen", watching Dante Basco lead the lost boys in Hook. He was deeply impacted by seeing Rob Schneider make even a small reference to Filipino culture in Deuce Bigalow. His goal in pushing for this film to hit the theatre first was to not only give Filipinos a voice, but to also, hopefully, give a shot to other Filipinos trying to make it in show business.

The film follows Koy, the main character, playing Joseph Valencia, a struggling actor and single father, going home to celebrate Easter with his family. They have their problems, bickering and inner feuds, like any, but are filled with love for each other. A unique number of circumstances arise as Joe seeks to stop familial feuding, bring his family together and even help some of his family members out of some hilarious yet strange situations. In the middle of it, Koy brings authentic representation fueled by the beautiful Filipino voice. Easter Sunday is officially the first Hollywood studio film about Filipino Americans and should draw everyone into the theaters with nothing but unbridled excitement.

Koy's co-star, Lou Diamond Phillips, has been waiting for such an opportunity. The actor has played in many different roles, only two of which were Filipino roles. In an interview with Esquire, Phillips mentioned his history with playing different roles. His earliest and first role playing someone Filipino was in the 90s and he reflected on the experience. "To be able to play some-

one of Filipino descent especially then [1991] in Hollywood–you know, I had to create that content because I was being cast as everything but. Then again, there wasn't a lot of call for Filipino stories or Filipino-infused stories or characters that reflected that sensibility...They're just now getting ready."

Comedy star Jo Koy is making them ready. With culture, comedy, class, and creativity...but not without sentimentality. Koy worked to implement too much in this film that will represent Filipino culture, family, and language. It goes beyond this as well to show their struggles. Koy teared up while filming his favorite scene, according to NBC news, in which the family prepares Balikbayan boxes. Filled with different goods, they are sent to their family back in the Philippines. It shows an essential part of Filipino culture in which they not only care for themselves and their family in the states, but those that are still in the Philippines. Koy was caught reminiscing, as this is something his own mother did in the 80s for relatives back home. Koy expanded on the experience, saying "When we shot that, I started tearing up. It's very emotional to see that, and you want other people to see that. Like, look: This is what we do. These people that live in this country, they're taking care of other families."

This expression in the essential sharing of stories from other cultures, and the sharing of one that isn't often told, is another way that people can better understand someone else and appreciate who they are and where they come from. This movie and it's representation challenges stigmas and stereotypes of Filipinos by sharing stories told by them. Sharing those stories provides a light into another's world and a connection for someone who is unaware of similar some things are, like family and how unique and important another culture is.

In an interview with Today, Koy shared more of his passion about the film and the affect it will have. "My mom moved here in '69 and its been 51 years she's lived here and never seen anything like this. And this is the first time that her and anyone else that is Filipino will get to be represented this way."

In the interview, Al Roker commented on the phone call in the trailer where Koy's character, Joe, is being prodded and guilt tripped by his curious but loving mother about coming over for easter. "You were listening in on my parent's conversation!" He said. Koy was nothing but smiles as he agreed. A small moment, but an important one that shows the relatability existent in two different people from different cultures. Another goal of Koy's, to show that representation of different cultures matter, that it is important to celebrate your history and who you are, that there are things we all have in common that not only makes us similar but that makes us all human.

In a text conversation with this reporter, Lidy Chan, Advisor, NaFFAA New England Region/NaFFAA National Arts, Culture and Entertainment Director said:

"It's refreshing to see Filipinos represented in a movie that promotes laughter and is completely relatable. Even if you don't have a large family Easter is exactly like the movie. There are a lot of moments in the movie that bring back memories of spending time with your titas and lula during holidays. I think having an all Filipino cast is significant as we don't normally see that on American TV. It's a little surprising that we haven't had a full Filipino cast in a mainstream movie here because we have a large Filipino population in the US. We know representation matters. We are known for singing and dancing but this movie shows we can act too and you can be a comedian. You can be a producer and you don't have to follow what others expect of you. I hope this inspires young Filipinos to continue to push the boundaries in American media and to follow one's passion".

It is the ability to look past previous, perhaps harmful showings of Filipinos in TV-shows with off-the-wall jokes and stereotypes. Koy has provided a means by which people can look to the screen, just like he did, and see themselves in an honest and heartfelt way.



80% AMI

1 person: \$78,300
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October 7, 2022

Language/translation assistance available, at no charge, upon



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TTY/TTD: 711, when asked 978-456-8388
Email: lotteryinfo@mcohousingservices.com

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APPLICATION AVAILABLE ONLINE AT: www.mcohousingservices.com









## Golda Meir House Expansion in Newton: Affordable Senior Housing Lottery

## Now accepting applications!

Opening February 2023, the new Golda Meir House Expansion will offer 68 one- and two-bedroom apartments for adults 62+ with a wide range of income levels.\* Both subsidized and unrestricted market-rate rentals will be available in this vibrant, supportive community.

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- · Utilities included
- Cable- and internet-ready
- · 24-hour emergency call system
- Award-winning programs and services
- Next to MBTA Woodland Station
- Fitness center
- · Art, dance, and movie rooms
- Beautiful private courtyards
- Mandatory lunch plan (\$100 pp/month)

#### **APPLICATIONS**

Applications must be received by Friday, September 30, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. EDT.

#### TO OBTAIN AN APPLICATION:

- **Download** at 2LifeCommunities.org/Golda-Expansion
- Email your name and complete mailing address to Leasing@2LifeCommunities.org
- Call (617) 912-8491 (free interpretation is available); use 711 for TTY and TDD.
- Visit 2Life Communities, 40 Wallingford Rd., Brighton, MA 02135 (vestibule, 24/7)

#### **WONDERING IF YOU QUALIFY?**

People of all income levels may qualify to live at Golda Meir House. Subsidized rent is based on income; Section 8 mobile vouchers are accepted. A limited number of unrestricted, market-rate rentals are available with no income cap. For more information, call (617) 912-8491 or email Leasing@2LifeCommunities.org.

### **IN-PERSON INFORMATION SESSIONS**

Visit 2LifeCommunities.org/Golda-Expansion or call for details: (617) 912-8491

\*Nine of the 68 apartments are designated for chronically homeless individuals with no age restriction, with supportive services provided by Hearth, Inc. in collaboration with 2Life staff.









 ${\it 2Life \ Communities \ does \ not \ discriminate \ against \ federally \ and \ state \ protected \ classes.}$ 

# Roxbury Crossing Farmers Market

Open During Orange Line Shutdown Tuesday & Friday 11 am- 6 pm

Thank you for your support!

Fresh Eggs, Fruits, Come on Vegetables Shuttle or & Local Honey Local Bus

Special Honey Raffle Sept 13 & 16

Details at www.mhhm.org
In September: Free Bike Maintenance
Friday 3-6 by Boston Cyclist Union

Sponsored by Mission Hill Health Movement





## Explore Wellan for Toddler-Grade 8

- · In-Person Tours
- Virtual Info Sessions

Register Today at wellan.org

Newton Centre • Need-Based Financial Assistance Available

## The Shutting Down of Orange Line: How It Affects Bicyclists

By: Max Wei

Starting from Friday night, August 26, the MBTA's month-long shutdown of the Orange Line for overdue repairs will be scheduled to resume service until Monday, September 19.

According to Governor Charlie Baker, in this way, the subway will get faster track maintenance instead of five-year-maintenance on nights and weekends.

What does this public transportation decision mean? What population will it affect? When reading this article, the readers of SAMPAN might already sense the influence of the temporary shutdown of the subway. Most of us might even affecting by it. While September is the month for the students to go back to school and colleges, the routes are getting and will be getting more crowded and dangerous, as bicyclists and motorists try to live together. At the same time, numerous shuttle buses are also added in order to cover the closed subway routes.

Based on the situation, the public worries that the overcrowded traffic will cause safety issues. On Friday, August 12, a 72-year-old Somerville bicyclist was killed after the driver of an SUV opened a car door and hit the bicyclist at 1055 Broadway near Somerville's Teele Square, which the cyclists call this type of injury "dooring".

The cyclist's injury and death were preventable. The bike lane at this stretch of Broadway is unprotected from car traffic.

"Paint isn't protection," said Arah Schuur, one of the founders of Somerville Bicycle Safety. "I live about three blocks from where this happened. I ride my bicycle on Broadway all the time. There is no safe way for people in West Somerville to get to and from places in the city safely by bicycle, and that needs to be remedied immediately."

In order to ensure the safety and convenience of the bikers, one way is to set the block from the bike lanes and roads. Yet this strategy might cause debates and controversy at other places in the city.

On Tuesday, August 2, more than 150 bicyclists lined on Charles Street, petitioning that the neighbor needs the state to install a two-way bike lane, in regard to safety consideration. However, not everyone will be benefited from this possible decision. Some local business owners worry that the reduced traffic to one or two route lanes might decreased the customers and business in their congested neighborhood.

In response to the death of the 72-year-old Somerville bicyclist, Somerville Mayor Katjana Ballantyne has committed to make safety changes on the road. For now, the schedule for

bike lanes is not decided.

To ensure the safety, what are the solutions that we can take as public, as a driver? There is one easy solution that does not cost expensive infrastructure changes: the Dutch Reach. It means that the driver using the farthest hand from the car door when opening it. This posture will force the driver to turn the head and get a broader vision of the road. The driver will be more likely to notice the potential near bicyclists. In this case, it will help to reduce the accident between the drivers and bicyclists.

The cyclists need to check the bike before riding. When riding on the road, a good-fitting helmet will protect the safety. Ride in a straight line and signal others before moving.

For the students who are going back to schools in September, the general public has the responsibility to ensure their safety. The pedestrians need to always walk on the sidewalk or walk facing traffic when necessary. When crossing the road, the pedestrians need to use crosswalks when available. The pedestrians need to look left, right, and left again before crossing. The children under age 10 need to walk with an adult when crossing the street. Putting away the phones can avoid the distraction when walking on the road.

The following is a list of instructions and information created by the MBTA, Mass 511, and MassDot:

Alternative travel options for riders: https://cdn.mbta.com/sites/default/files/2022-08/2022-08-12-ol-gl-closures-a-riders-guide-to-planning-ahead.pdf

Orange and Green Line Service Alternatives: https://www.mbta.com/projects/building-better-t-2022

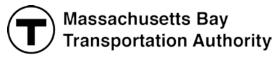
Check the latest traffic for drivers: https://www.mass511.com/

Recommended route for the northern Orange Line Section for bicyclists, inbound: https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1KKzn2ePToOvowSnsV0cchjO1y4rlX6o&usp=sharing

Outbound: https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1Cw0F1oEOe4n46oRWQR3Ms993F1-oyho&usp=sharing

Recommended route for the southern Orange Line section for bicyclists: https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1-5x0shw1uR7xRphLcG23 h5V4VJknbfs&ll=42.3555037777168 6%2C-71.06871901691804&z=15

In the same time, beginning Friday, August 19, a free 30-day Bluebikes passes will be available. You can get a pass by downloading the Bluebikes app or go to Bluebikes.com/join and select a Monthly Membership.



MASSACHUSETTS BAY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
10 PARK PLAZA
BOSTON, MA 02116
NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Electronic proposals for the following project will be received through the internet using Project Bids until the date and time stated below, and will be posted on <a href="www.bidx.com">www.bidx.com</a> forthwith after the bid submission deadline. No paper copies of bids will be accepted. Bidders must have a valid digital ID issued by the Authority in order to bid on projects. Bidders need to apply for a digital ID with Project Bids at least 14 days prior to a scheduled bid opening date.

Electronic bids for MBTA Contract No. A26CN01, SYMPHONY STATION IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT – UTILITY RELOCATION, HUNTINGTON AVE, BOSTON, MA, CLASS 2, SITE WORK – PROJECT

**VALUE** – \$18,063,153.00, can be submitted at <a href="www.bidx.com">www.bidx.com</a> until two o'clock (2:00 p.m.) on **September 22, 2022**. Immediately thereafter, in a designated room, the Bids will be opened and read publicly.

Work consists of necessary utility protection and relocation, to facilitate future renovation and expansion of an existing green line MBTA station, as detailed in the Contract Documents.

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

This information may be viewed at the MBTA website: https://bc.mbta.com/business\_center/bidding\_solicitations/current\_solicitations/

On behalf of the MBTA, thank you for your time and interest in responding to this Notice to Bidders.

Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority

Steve Poftak MBTA General Manager

August 24, 2022

MOH Income Restricted Rental Opportunity

#### Bartlett Place A 2505 Washington Street, Roxbury, MA 02119

40 Income-Restricted Units

# of Units	# of bedrooms	Estimated Square Feet	Rent	Maximum Income Limit	# built out for mobility impairments	# built out for Deaf/hard of hearing
7**	1 BR	664	\$1,578	60% AMI		
1**	1 BR	664	\$2,105	80% AMI		
5	2 BR	875	\$1,577	50% AMI		
1**	2 BR	875	\$1,577	50% AMI		
18	2 BR	875	\$1,893	60% AMI	2	1
3	2 BR	875	\$2,524	80% AMI	1	
1**	2 BR	875	\$2,524	80% AMI		
2	3 BR	1,154	\$1,823	50% AMI	1	
4	3 BR	1,154	\$2,187	60% AMI		
4	3 BR	1,154	\$2,917	80% AMI		

\*\* These units have a preference for BPDA Certified Artists.

3 Homeless Set-aside units will be filled through direct referral from HomeStart. For more information please contact us at the email address or phone number below. For direct referrals, please visit

*Minimum Incomes  (set by owner + based on # of bedrooms + Area Median Income (AMI))						Maximum Incomes (set by HUD/MOH + based on household size + Area Median Income (AMI))						
# of bedrooms	30% AMI	50% AMI	60% AMI	80% AMI		Household size	30% AMI	50% AMI	60% AMI	80% AMI		
1 BR	N/A	N/A	\$54,102	\$72,137		1	\$29,460	\$49,100	\$58,920	\$78,550		
IDK	IN/A					2	\$33,660	\$56,100	\$67,320	\$89,750		
2 BR	N/A	\$54,085	\$64,902	\$86,537		3	\$37,850	\$63,100	\$75,720	\$100,950		
ZBR						4	\$42,050	\$70,100	\$84,120	\$112,150		
3 BR	N/A	\$62,506	\$75,008	\$100,011		5	\$45,450	\$75,750	\$90,900	\$121,150		
3 BK						6	\$48,810	\$81,350	\$97,620	\$130,100		

\* Minimum incomes do not apply to households with housing assistance (Section 8, MRVP, VASH) or for the units in this development that include a project-based voucher.

Applications are available during the application period for 42 days, from 8/19/2022 to 9/30/2022

To request an online application or to have one sent by email visit <a href="https://bit.ly/BartlettApp">https://bit.ly/BartlettApp</a> or call 617-442-8472

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 617-442-8472, to request that we mail you one and to ask us for any support or guidance you might need to complete the application.

We will be holding 2 virtual informational meetings on Zoom:

Thursday, August 25, 2022 at 6:00pm <a href="https://zoom.us/j/97987013061?pwd=SnlyN014K1kzU3JhV0NmTWNYTU41dz09">https://zoom.us/j/97987013061?pwd=SnlyN014K1kzU3JhV0NmTWNYTU41dz09</a>
Meeting ID 979 8701 3061, Passcode bwM5f1, Dial In 1-929-205-6099

Thursday, September 15, 2022 at 6:00pm <a href="https://usofsweb.zoom.us/j/83655911386?pwd=YjhGZGNMU0UvWTJIZHVIK3NKSkVsZz09">https://usofsweb.zoom.us/j/83655911386?pwd=YjhGZGNMU0UvWTJIZHVIK3NKSkVsZz09</a>
Meeting ID 836 5591 386, Passcode xHkRbD, Dial In 1-929-205-6099

**DEADLINE:** Applications must be submitted online or postmarked no later than 4:00pm 9/30/2022 Mailed to: Bartlett A, 233 Blue Hill Avenue, Roxbury, MA 02119

- Selection by Lottery.
   Asset & Use Postriction
- Asset & Use Restrictions apply.Preferences Apply.



For more information, language assistance, or reasonable accommodations for persons with disabiliting please call 617-442-8472 or email mtamaklo@winnco.com.



## Global Warming in China: Living With Today's Social and Economic Dilemmas

By: Yang Yang

There is no doubt that human beings are already living in the era of global warming - everywhere, including China. In Shanghai, we have gone through 49 days of so-called hightemperature (over 35°C) days in the past two months. There were 7 days officially recorded over 40 °C. The last time that Shanghai was this hot was 150 years ago. Besides, keep in mind that Shanghai is a humid city, which can make 40°C feel like over 50 °C. What has come with this extreme heat is the drought in the city. It often comes strange to most Shanghainese, because in the years before 2022, no matter how heated the city became, there was always rain. In June and July, it is "the Plum Rain Season" in most east-coast cities. It is called "the Plum Rain Season" because humidity, heat, and rain are perfect weather for plum, and all of the 3 ingredients are essential elements of the weather in these two months. In the scorching August, there are usually a few typhoons coming from the Pacific, which results in heavy rain and thunderstorms. However, this year is different. Month-long Plum Rain Season shortened to several days with meager rainfall; even 2 typhoons that swept across Shanghai made little impact.

What's happened in Shanghai is by no means the worst picture of global warming in China. Shanghai is a flat city with no mountains or forests; it is a city of economy after all and with all the natural resources supported from all over the country. Human experiential heat may be our only complaint and each household has at least one airconditioner. However, those who live in the inner provinces and are heavily

dependent on natural resources are not so lucky.

Jiangnan, Jianghuai, Jianghan and Sichuan and Chongqing are the places which have had the worst of heat and drought months. The drought in Yangtze River is extremely worrisome in terms of its disastrous effect on agriculture and farming. Yangtze River is commonly quoted as the mother river of China, because its river has been used for water, irrigation, sanitation, transportation, and many other industries in China. The total area of the Yangtze Delta area generates as much as 20% of China's GDP.

From July to August, rainfall in the Yangtze River basin decreased significantly, with the average precipitation in July reaching 141.2 mm, 48.2% less than the same period of the year, which is the lowest in history since 1961. Since August, the cumulative precipitation in Jiangnan, Jianghan, and the eastern part of the southwest is less than 10 mm, and the unusually persistent high intensity heat made the drought develop rapidly. On August 19th, a satellite showed that the Yangtze River basin -Poyang Lake and Dongting Lake has shrunk 3/4 of its water surface, compared only to the early June this year. The water level of Poyang Lake had already lowered 11.99m back in early August, which means it entered its dry season over 100 days in advance. Up to now, the area of medium drought and above in the Yangtze River basin has reached 1.267 million square kilometers, including 89,000 square kilometers of extreme drought. 12.32 million acres of land, 830,000 people, 160,000 head of livestock have been affected by the drought and lack of water supply in Sichuan, Chongqing, Hubei, Hunan, Jiangxi, Anhui.

Drought led to lack of water supply, which in turn caused the governmental restrictions on its electricity and water supply in Sichuan and Chongqing - the two most affected province and city. On August 14th, Sichuan Province Economic and Information Office and the State Grid Sichuan Electric Power Company jointly issued On the Expansion of Industrial Enterprises to The People's Implementation of The Emergency Notice, requiring all industrial enterprises full power and production stop from August 15th to 20th. In Chongqing - the city nicked as one of the four furnaces in China - has also issued similar policies. Worse than Sichuan, Since August 17th, there were 14 mountain wildfires raging in Fuling, Jiangjin, Banan and other districts of Chongqing, affecting 10 districts and counties. One can see rolling smoke from the downtown. The city mobilized more than 5,000 professional rescue teams, forest firefighters, armed police forces, fire rescue, and resident volunteers to try to put out the fire. Forest fire rescue teams of more than 1,000 people from Gansu, Sichuan, Yunnan and other provinces also came to support Chongqing. City Emergency Management Bureau of Air Rescue Headquarters utilized 7 helicopters to carry out aerial firefighting. Not until August 26 did the city finally put out all the open fires.

If you can imagine, the extreme drought and heat are also detrimental to agriculture and aquaculture. In August, south-central Anhui, western and southern Hubei, northern Jiangxi, and the eastern Sichuan basin, rice, corn and other autumn food crop growth has been greatly impacted by the drought to varying degrees. Fruit farmers are also suffering the worst time of all times. In the Jiangnan area, sunlight has caused sunburn on the fruit trees. One can see with his or her bare eyes that all of the leaves are dried by the heat and fruits dropped long before the mature season. If the living things on the earth do not survive the drought, then the fate of those who habituate in water is of course in dire. In Wuhan, the first Covid city of the world, experiences its great challenge in aquaculture. As the water temperature rises, it exceeds the critical temperature for warm water fish, shrimps and crabs to live in. Heat also drains the oxygen under the water which is essential for living organisms. With high water temperature and the dissolved oxygen rate of the water body decreases, many fish ponds experience the hypoxic flooding, fishermen therefore suffers economically.

Now it's towards the end of August. Heat broke in these two days in Shanghai and most of the other cities. Autumn finally came. However, the memory of the extreme heat is still near and what it means is that winter will not be easy for human beings. Extreme coldness usually comes hand in hand with extreme heat. Ten years ago, many people, including Chinese, still thought that global warming may be the issue of the next generations', but now reality has hit us all hard. What should we do? How fast should we take actions? These are the questions Chinese governments need to answer.

## **Affordable Housing Lottery** Aura at Medfield 50 Peter Kristof Way, Medfield, MA

Eight 1 Bedrooms @ \$1.908. Five 2 Bedrooms @ \$2.104. One 3 Bedroom @ \$2.290 \*Rents subject to change in 2023. Rents include the cost of hot water. Tenants are responsible for the cost of all other utilities. There is parking on site.

Aura at Medfield is a brand-new, 56 unit rental apartment community located in Medfield at 50 Peter Kristof Way. There will be 14 affordable apartments ready for occupancy starting in the Summer of 2022. 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 wood-inspired flooring, in-unit laundry, and large walk-in closets. Kitchens offer stainless steel appliances and center islands with quartz countertops. Building amenities include a large entertainment lounge, a communal office area, fitness facility, and a yoga studio. Outdoor amenities include a deck with gas grills, a pizza oven, putting green, and fire pits, as well as an indoor dog washing station and outdoor off-lease play area. The building consists of four floors and has an elevator

> MAXIMUM Household Income Limits \$78,300 (1 person), \$89,500 (2 people), \$100,700 (3 people) \$111,850 (4 people), \$120,800 (5 people) \$129,750 (6 people)

#### Application Deadline: October 17, 2022

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

Public Info Session: September 14, 2022 at 6:00 pm via Zoom Go to Zoom.com, Join, or call (646) 558-8656 and enter Meeting ID: 818 9317 7595, Passcode: 088159

Lottery: October 27, 2022 at 6:00pm via Zoom  $Go\ to\ Zoom.com, Join,\ or\ call\ (646)\ 558-8656\ and\ enter\ Meeting\ ID:\ 857\ 2736\ 5609,\ Passcode:\ 276410.$ 

For Lottery Information and Applications, or for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, go to www.sebhousing.com or call (617) 782-6900x1 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.







## The Wright **Affordable Housing Lottery** 341 2nd Ave, Waltham, MA

80% AMI Affordable Units: 4 Studios @ \$1 831 14 1BRs @ \$1 954\* 15 2BRs @ \$2 313\* 4 3BRs @ \$2 618 60% AMI Affordable Units: 1 Studio @ \$1.347.5 1BRs @ \$1.435.5 2BRs @ \$1.689.1 3BRs @ \$1.897 Rents subject to change in 2023. Tenants will pay own utilities: Gas Heat, Gas Water Heating, Electric Cooking, Electricity, Water and Sewer. One parking spot is included in the rent. Free second spots available to tenants of 3BR units if required to accommodate a second vehicle

> MAXIMUM Household Income Limits for 80% AMI Affordable units: \$78,300 (1 person), \$89,500 (2 people), \$100,700 (3 people), \$111,850 (4 people), \$120,800 (5 people), \$129,750 (6 people) MAXIMUM Household Income Limits for 60% AMI Affordable units: \$58,920 (1 person), \$67,320 (2 people), \$75,720 (3 people), \$84,120 (4 people), \$90,900 (5 people), \$97,620 (6 people) \* subject to change in 2023

The Wright is a 195-unit development on 341 2nd Avenue in Waltham, MA. Thirty-seven (37) units in this development will made available through this application process and rented to households that have incomes at or below 80% of the Area Median Income. Twelve (12) units in this development will be made available through this application process and rented to households that have incomes at or below 60% of the Area Median Income. Units feature high-quality finishes and in-unit laundry and the property features luxury amenities including a private courtyard with grilling stations and a heated pool, fitness center, clubroom, and multiple lounges. Units available through this process will first be ready in the Winter of 2022/2023.

Application Deadline: October 24, 2022 at 2:00pm Completed Applications and must be received, not postmarked, by this date in order to be considered.

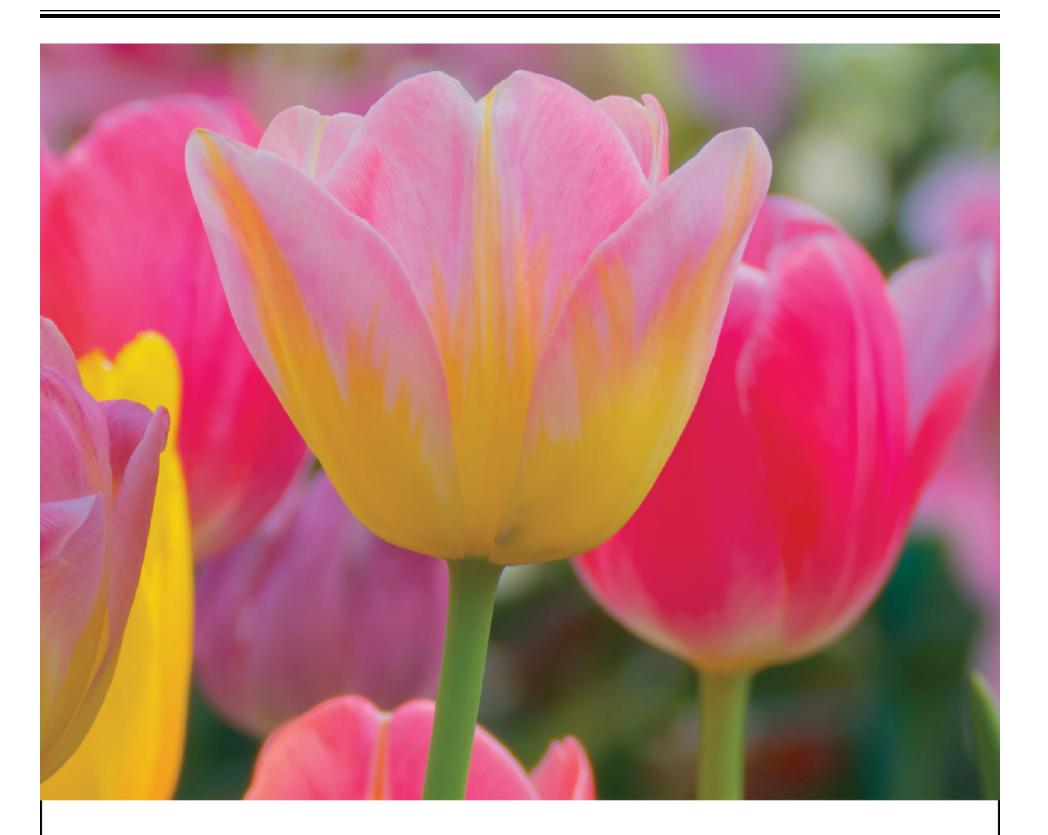
Public Info Session: September 28, 2022 at 6:00 pm via Zoom Go to Zoom.com, Join, or call (646) 558-8656 and enter Meeting ID: 818 9317 7595, Passcode: 088159

Lottery: November 7, 2022 at 6:00 pm via Zoom  $Go\ to\ Zoom.com, Join,\ or\ call\ (646)\ 558-8656\ and\ enter\ Meeting\ ID:\ 857\ 2736\ 5609,\ Passcode:\ 276410$ 

For Lottery Information and Applications, or for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, go to www.sebhousing.com or call (617) 782-6900 (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.







## Arbella is proud to support the

## Asian American Civic Association

Arbella is committed to supporting charitable organizations that work so hard to positively impact the lives of those around them. We are proud to be local and to help our neighbors, individuals and families in our communities.



HERE.FOR OUR COMMUNITIES. HERE. FOR GOOD.