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全紐英倫區唯一的中英雙語雙週報

March 1, 2024 - March 14, 2024 Vol. 53, Issue No. 4 2024年3月1日 - 2



# Get Ready for Super Tuesday, on March 5, to Cast Vote in Presidential Primaries, Caucuses

3月5日是 "超级星期二",届时许多州将举行总统初选和党团会议

作者 Yizhen Zhang

By Yizhen Zhang

Super Tuesday -- when a large number of states will hold presidential primary elections and caucuses -- is on March 5.

The states holding primary elections on Super Tuesday will be Alabama, Alaska Republican presidential caucuses, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Iowa Democratic caucus main vote, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Utah Democratic presidential primary and Republican presidential caucuses, Vermont, and Virginia. U.S. presidential primary elections typically start in February and end in June. In some states, such as Alaska, Iowa, and Utah, the primaries and caucuses are held separately by each party. In other states, the primaries and caucuses are held, allowing members



of all political parties to participate. Primaries award delegates. During the primary elections or caucuses, the number of delegates each party's national nominating convention will receive from their respective states will be determined.

Following the primaries and caucuses, each party's nominees for president and vice president will be selected during the party's national nominating convention. The 2024 Republican National Convention is scheduled to take place at the Fiserv Forum in Milwaukee, Wisconsin from July 15

to July 18. The 2024 Democratic National Convention is scheduled to be held at the United Center in Chicago, Illinois from August 19 to 22 after the Republican National Convention, since the Democrats currently hold the White House. At the national convention, state delegates vote to confirm their choice of candidates or in the case that no candidate gets votes from the majority of a party's delegates, state delegates choose the nominee after additional rounds of voting during the national convention.

On Super Tuesday, March 5, the polls will open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Any U.S. citizen who is a registered voter can vote in the Massachusetts primaries. Voters do not need to be a party member to participate in the primaries. Nevertheless, voters registered as a party member will not be allowed to vote in the primaries of other parties while independent voters are allowed to *Continued on Page 2* 

# Boston Water and Sewer Commission Meeting Provides a Platform for Residents' Infrastructure Concerns in Chinatown and Downtown Neighborhoods

By Derek He

"My tap water is reaching temperatures of nearly 100 degrees." described Robert Qua, a South St Leather District resident, at a recent meeting called by the Boston Water and Sewer Commission to Announce Capital Improvements and StormWater Remediation Installation. He spoke about the adverse effects of high groundwater levels on civil infrastructure. By highlighting the impact of groundwater on infrastructure integrity, he underscored the urgency of implementing measures to mitigate potential risks and safeguard critical infrastructure assets. His insights served as a wake-up call to prioritize groundwater management strategies in urban planning and infrastructure development efforts. He explained that the presence of "high water levels combined with high heat can accelerate rotting," pointing out that the effects of climate change



may impact the further deterioration of our infrastructure.

Infrastructure is the backbone of any city, providing essential services and facilitating daily life for its residents. Boston continues to grow and the strain on its infrastructure becomes increasingly evident. In the meeting, key stakeholders and city officials discussed a myriad of infrastructure challenges, ranging from infrastructure deterioration to stormwater management issues. The meeting was a result of multiple water main breaks over the year and it was an opportunity to inform the community of recent requirements to implement storm-

water retention systems for rehabs and new constructions.

Irene McSweeny, Chief of Operations, and John Sullivan, Chief Engineer of the Boston Water and Sewer Commission acknowledged the persistent challenges faced by Chinatown and Downtown neighborhoods. Also in attendance was Dolores Randolph, Deputy Director of Communications. All emphasized the critical importance of maintaining infrastructure projects, fostering collaborations with Chinatown residents, and ensuring the resilience of its infrastructure against future challenges. Sullivan took the opportunity to announce at the

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Sampan publishes every other Friday.

# **Super Tuesday**

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vote in any party primary. The voter registration deadline is February 24 and the vote by mail application deadline is February 27. Massachusetts allows early voting for primaries. Early voting for the presidential primaries will be held from Saturday February 24 to Friday March 1 during designated hours.

There are 3 recognized political parties in Massachusetts: Democratic Party, Libertarian Party, and Republican Party. On each ballot, voters will also see contests for state party positions, including State Committee Man, State Committee Woman, and Ward Committee. On the ballot for the Democratic Party, voters will see incumbent President Joe Biden as well as US representative Dean Phillips, and author and politician Marianne Williamson. Back in December in 2023, the Massachusetts Democratic Party submitted only Biden's name for the Massachusetts Super Tuesday presidential primary ballot. Massachusetts Democrats are the latest in a string of state parties to leave president Biden's rivals off their lists of candidates for the primary ballot. Both Phillips and Williamson were placed on

the ballot by Secretary of the Commonwealth William Galvin after Williamson cried foul over the incumbent protection. On the Democratic ballot, voters will also see state representative Tommy Vitolo and state treasurer Deborah Goldberg for State Democratic Committee seats.

On the ballot for the Libertarian Party, voters will see attorney, author, and politician Jacob George Hornberger, author Michael Rectenwald, political activist Chase Russell Oliver, former candidate for Congress Mike ter Maat and Lars Damian Mapstead. The Libertarian Party does not have a state committee or ward committee. Voters will only see presidential candidates on the ballot

On the ballot for the Republican Party, voters will see former president Donald Trump, former New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, Ryan Binkley, Vivek Ramaswamy, former Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, and former South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley. There has been an ongoing legal battle across the country between advocacy groups and the state's courts to bar former president Donald Trump from being listed on the ballot. As of early February 2024, the U.S. Supreme Court was consid-

ering a Colorado case to drop Trump from the ballot. A decision in this case will have national implications.

In Massachusetts, Free Speech For People and Massachusetts-based civil rights firm Lichten & Liss-Riordan, P. C filed an objection with the Massachusetts Ballot Law Commission to having Trump's name on the ballot, citing Section 3 of the 14th Amendment of the Constitution which is also known as the Insurrectionist Disqualification Clause. Section 3 of the 14th Amendment prohibits the election of anyone who previously under an oath of office engaged in insurrection or rebellion. The challenge considers Trump to be ineligible for any future public office, after the attack on Congress on January 6 2020 to prevent the certification of the election results. The challenge asks the Massachusetts Ballot Law Commission to bar Trump from appearing on the state ballot, abiding by Section 3 of the 14th Amendment. Massachusetts Ballot Law Commission denied the request to remove Trump's name and after the petitioners appealed to the state's highest court, a Supreme Judicial Court judge has ruled that Trump's name can appear on the primary ballots in Massachusetts because the statute petitioners cite as reasons for the commission to remove Trump's

name does not apply as Trump is not yet a nominee for president.

The objection has been filed in many states. Trump was disqualified from the primary ballots in Colorado and Maine but Trump has appealed the decision. On the Republican ballot, voters will also see Tom Mountain and Vladislav S. Yanovsky running for one Republican State Committee Man seat and Susan Huffman and Rosann Palermo Fleischauer running for one Republican State Committee Woman seat.

Several of the candidates, including Chris Christie, Ron DeSantis, and Asa Hutchinson on the Republican ballot and Marianne Williamson on the Democratic ballot have suspended their presidential campaigns since the printing of the ballots in early January. Voters might still be able to cast ballots for them and these candidates may still amass delegates if party rules allow for it.

Full details on where and how to vote in your neighborhood can be found here: https://www.mass.gov/news/voting-early-in-massachusetts-heres-what-you-need-to-know

# **Boston Water and Sewer Commission**

Continued from Page 1

meeting that on April 1st there will be a new stormwater fee and 60 percent of residents should expect to see their bill go down." because of the plan to lower sewer fees and allocate funds to stormwater efforts,

Katherine, a local resident on Edinboro Street, voiced concerns about the current stormwater management, drawing attention to the unpleasant odor emanating from drains. She noted, "There are still issues with rain/snow with storm drains at street level, which drain in her building and smell really bad." Her observations highlighted the need for comprehensive solutions to address not only drainage issues but also the environmental and health implications associated with poor stormwater management practices. The group discussion explored innovative approaches to mitigate odor and improve overall stormwater quality in Boston's urban environment.

Wilson Lee and Tran shared their frustrations about the water main breaks and the infrastructure maintenance work on Edinboro Street and Washington Street. Lee is a long-time landlord in Chinatown. Their comments provided their personal experiences about the impact of infrastructure failures in Chinatown emphasizing the need for proactive maintenance and investment in upgrading aging systems. Their input reinforced the importance of a better approach to infrastructure management, including preventive maintenance and responsive measures to address immediate concerns, especially the need for closer communication with community residents. Tran questioned, "How would we know how the plans are progressing?" Tran informed the panel, "Lots of elderly, stores, and everyday people would be affected by this service disrup-

Margaret asked about timelines for the infrastructure projects on Boylston and Tremont Streets expressing concern about delays in implementation and the need for expedited action. Her query opened up the group's feeling of urgency for efficient project management and timely execution to meet the evolving needs of Boston's growing population. Her question also brought to the fore a recurring concern with the problem of pipes still being in use.

Chulan Huang, a Chinatown resident and Mayor Wu's Liaison for Chinatown, Downtown, and the Leather District, emphasized the responsibility of the Boston Sewer Department in addressing cracks around pothole covers and underscored the interconnected nature of infrastructure management. His remarks also included the need for collaboration among various city departments. By recognizing the role of each entity in maintaining the city's infrastructure, Chu emphasized the importance of collective action in addressing Boston's infrastructure needs.

At the meeting, Sampan heard from the community members who came that infrastructure challenges are still not being handled effectively and efficiently. Aging infrastructure, coupled with the effects of climate change, pose significant risks to public health, safety, and the environment. Water main breaks, stormwater flooding, and high groundwater levels were described as leading to property damage, disruption of essential services, and compromised infrastructure integrity. Furthermore, inadequate infrastructure maintenance can exacerbate these challenges, resulting in increased repair costs and prolonged service interruptions. Boston Water and Sewer Commission reported that they plan to strengthen Boston's resilience to environmental hazards and ensure the sustainability of essential services for future generations.

Various solutions were proposed to address the concerns voiced by residents regarding the infrastructure challenges facing Boston. Irene and John Sullivan outlined plans for new infrastructure projects in Chinatown, emphasizing collaboration with the city and securing federal funding. "Working with the fire department to abandon the old system and remove lead services which are being mandated." They also highlighted efforts to address water and sewer rate affordability and ensure public health and safety. Irene discussed strategies to address water main breaks and improve hydrant maintenance, including a master plan to update inventory and remove old services. Katherine suggested investigating issues with storm

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drains and odor emanation, with Irene offering to conduct investigations and ensure proper maintenance of catch basins. She also mentioned a commitment to furthering the process of "switching hydrants to a different system." Robert Qua's insights into high groundwater temperatures prompted discussions on infrastructure upgrades and closer collaboration with adjacent areas. John Sullivan emphasized the need for comprehensive planning and collaboration to address aging infrastructure and slow processes due to design work. Margaret's inquiry about project timelines prompted reassurance

of progress updates and feedback mechanisms for residents. Chu's comments about infrastructure maintenance around potholes covers prompted commitments to prompt action and coordination among relevant departments and contractors. For instance, Irene addressed the issue and promised "a pavement contractor to do the casting."

The meeting provided a platform for residents' concerns to be heard and actionable solutions to be proposed, signaling a proactive approach towards addressing Boston's infrastructure challenges.

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New Sanctuary Movement Supports the Rights of Refugees, Asylees and Migrants

# **By Tracy Huang**

There has been an increasing rise of sanctuary cities in the US. These are locations that- according to the Center for Immigration Studies, provide refugees, asylees, migrants and immigrants with resources to help them live in the country. They also protect undocumented individuals from unwarranted deportation. A list of states that have sanctuary cities includes California, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Utah, Vermont, and Washington.

According to Global Refugee, a sanctuary city is defined as a city that promotes the ideals of human rights and the empowerment of communities through the inclusion of immigrants. They are specifically against closed borders, detention, and deportation of migrants. In order to become a sanctuary city, generally the city council and mayor usually vote and decide to declare themselves a statutory city.

The concept of sanctuary cities started when there was a rise in Guatemalan and Salvadoran refugees arriving into the US. The majority of them were fleeing mass violence and civil wars in their home countries. Activists felt the urgency to help the Central American migrants. In particular, faith communities were the most involved. Hundreds of churches and faith communities joined the movement to

help them find sanctuary in the US. Today's movement is now known as the New Sanctuary Movement and the sanctuary cities help reduce deaths from deportation and prevent the separation of families. At minimum, Sanctuary cities have successfully enrolled migrant children in public schools and helped families get access to social and health services.

Sanctuary cities have been controversial from their inception. There has been no correlation between crime and the existence of sanctuary cities. Some Americans believe that immigrants, refugees, asylees, migrants and all non-United States citizens bring about crime and increase poverty. However, a 2020 report from the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America, or PNAS shows that there was no significant rise in crimes by undocumented immigrants and documented immigrants, as compared to native-born citizens.

A refugee is defined as someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war, or violence. Usually, there is an underlying reason for the persecution, usually including but not limited to race, nationality, religion, political opinion, or affiliation with a particular social group. Oftentimes, they are subjected to terrible conditions in their home country and as a last resort are forced to evacuate for fear of death and other devastating consequences. Refugees are un-

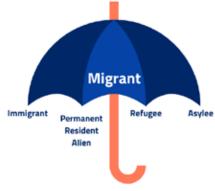


Photo courtesy of immi-usa.com

willing and unable to return and in that respect, they do not have a nationality.

Sampan interviewed a Palestinian refugee who described that, while growing up in Gaza, he was forced to live on a 2,000-square-foot plot of land with over 200 other people. He said that oftentimes, it was so hard to move around, living in inhumane conditions, surrounded consistently by trash and human feces because they were not allowed to create any sanitation system. Additionally, their captors limited food supplies and other basic needs so he suffered extreme hunger and freezing temperatures.

An asylee is someone who flees their country and is granted asylum. They flee to escape religious, political, or life-threatening persecution. The status of asylum gives them protection and the legal right to stay and work in this country without fear of deportation. Asylees are eligible to adjust to lawful permanent resident (LPR) status after one year of continuous presence in the United States. However, despite having the status to stay in the United States and also being able to qualify for benefits, being able to qualify for asylum is very difficult. Not only is the application lengthy and difficult, but millions of other applicants are also refugees trying to apply for asylum and it might take months and sometimes years to hear back. Some are never accepted and are in this constant state of being a refugee. The sanctuary cities are helpful since there is only a portion of refugees who can qualify for asylum and they can help protect from deportation many who are in the process of seeking asylum.

Compared to a refugee and an asylee, a migrant is someone who goes to another country on their own will, most of the time looking to have a better life in another country. The key thing about migrants is that they are there temporarily and do not seek permanent residency in the country they migrate to. Oftentimes statutory cities try to provide services to help migrants acclimate and live in the country and communities in which they arrive, despite only being here for a temporary period. However, it is important to remember that although they do their best to protect immigrants, ICE can still come and deport undocumented immigrants.

An immigrant is like a migrant, someone who comes to a new country of their own will, however, they come here permanently. There has recently been a huge uproar against the acceptance of undocumented immigrants, as some Americans believe that they bring crime and disease. They sometimes tend to categorize all immigrants together, believing that immigration, in general, is terrible for America. Other Americans believe that it was through the labor of both immiSAMPAN
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3:00 p.m., Friday, May 24, 2024 | Meeting ID: 820 1255 3896 Passcode: 307349

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grants and migrants that much of the foundational systems like trains, transportation, and factories were built in the United States by them. Sanctuary cities advocates believe that they are helping America continue to build its foundation through diversity and inclusion, no matter race, gender, or nationality status.

Sampan interviewed Jiang Zhu, a Chinese immigrant (now an American citizen) who immigrated from Szechuan, China. She mentioned how difficult it was for her to come to America, where she had to get accepted to an American university to get her third master's. It was a tough time for her when she was getting a college education in a language she was not native to, working two jobs, and being pregnant with her first child. Yet, with all the hard work that she has done, and coming here legally, she often faced both micro and macro aggressions from people, telling her "You should go back to China".

It's important to remember that no matter if someone is an immigrant( illegal or legal), migrant, refugee, or asylee, respectful treatment is the key. Being able to have an increase in sanctuary cities in the United States with the sanctuary movement is an important step to being able to help protect people with local funds and trying to limit cooperation with federal agencies. However, it is also important to do more, since it doesn't offer complete immunity and instead provides some protection, and it is important to be informed about such cities and understand how they affect refugees and immigrants.



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B <sub>C</sub>	South St. Clinic 南街診所 145 South St. 617-521-6730	婦科、牙科、眼科、X 光乳房攝影篩檢、骨質 篩檢、家庭計劃、心理科、營養科/奶券 OB/GYN, Dentistry, Optometry, Mammography, Bone Density, Family Planning, Behavioral Health and WIC	MON-FRI 星期一至五 8:30AM -5:00PM
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Qui 是	Holmes St. Clinic 霍姆斯街診所 88 Holmes St. 617-318-3200	婦科、小兒科、牙科、眼科、心理科、家庭計 劃及社會服務部 OB/GYN, Pediatrics, Dentistry, Optometry, Behavioral Health, Family Planning, and Social Services	MON-FRI 星期一至五 8:30AM -5:00PM SAT 星期六 8:30AM - 12:30PM (Pediatrics ONLY 僅小兒科)
Malden摩頓	Commercial St. Clinic 商業街診所 277 Commercial St. 781-912-2500	成人科、婦科、小兒科、眼科及社會服務部 Adult Medicine, OB/GYN, Pediatrics, Optometry, and Social Services	MON-FRI 星期一至五 8:30AM -5:00PM

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# **Events Calendar**

## • 4th Annual Lunar New Year Rolling Parade - Year of the Dragon

Date: Sunday, March 3, 2024
Time: 12 noon to 4:00 pm
Location: Lion Gateway, Chinatown, Boston
Parade Marshal: Wilson Lee, Co-founder of
Chinese American Heritage Foundation
Schedule:

- 12:00 12:30 pm: Opening Remarks at Lion Gate, Chinatown with Woo Ching White Crane Lion Dance
- 12:30 pm: Parade starts
- 12:50 1:10 pm: Cambridge Lion Dance by Kwong Kow Chinese School
- 1:30 1:50 pm: Belmont Center
   Appearances by State Senator
   Brownsberger, State Rep Rogers, Select
   Board members, and Woo's Martial Arts
- 2:20 2:40 pm: Somerville City Hall -Mayor Ballantyne, Rep. Uyterhoeven, Councillor Mbah, Councillor Sait, NAICEM Nanta Korean Drummers, and Wah Lum Lion Dance
- 3:00 3:20 pm: Malden City Hall Mayor Gary Christenson and Wah Lum Lion Dance Troupe

### • THE CHER SHOW

Dates: March 15 - 17, 2024 Location: Wang Theatre

Brief: Celebrate the legendary Cher in the Tony Award®-winning musical, THE CHER SHOW. Experience the story of Cher's six decades of pop culture dominance through 35 smash hits, portrayed by three actresses embodying the phases of her career: the kid starting out, the glam pop star, and the icon. Featuring a Grammy®, an Oscar®, an Emmy®, and Tony Award-winning Bob Mackie gowns, this musical promises an unforgettable experience of music, fashion, and dance.

Ticket Prices: Start at \$45

https://www.bochcenter.org/events/detail/ thechershow

# • 28th Annual Mystic River Herring Run and Paddle

Date: Sunday, May 19th Location: Blessing of the Bay Boathouse, Somerville, MA

Events and Times:

- 5K run/walk: Starts at 9:00 AM
- 12 mile paddling race: Starts at 11:00 AM
- 9 mile paddling race & Bike to the Sea bike ride: Starts at 11:15 AM
- 3 mile paddling race: Starts at 11:30 AM Boat Rentals: Available through Paddle Boston. Delivery to the race included.
   Cost: \$25 for run or paddle events, \$40 for both if registered online (Boat rental not included).

Volunteers: Opportunities available for parking, registration, on-course direction, etc. Contact the Race Director to volunteer.

# • Boston Youth Symphony Concert

Date and Time: Sunday, March 3, 2024, 3pm Location: Arlington High School, 869 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA, 02476 Conductor: Federico Cortese Program:

- Rossini: Overture to William Tell
- Prokofiev: Symphony No. 1, "Classical"
- Mussorgsky: "Dawn on the Moscow River" from Khovanschina
- Shostakovich: Cello Concerto No.
   1 featuring Andrew Kim, cello (BYS Concerto Competition Winner)

Tickets: \$20-\$25

# • New Public Art Celebrating Year of the Dragon by The Greenway Conservancy

Dates: Ponnapa Prakkamakul's "Year of

the Dragon" installed on February 15, 2024. Zhidong Zhang's "Far Away, From Home" installation in mid-March 2024. Both on display until January 2025 for "Year of the Dragon" and March 2025 for "Far Away, From Home."

Location: Auntie Kay and Uncle Frank Chin Park on The Greenway, Boston, MA

Rriof: Colebrate the Voor of the Dragon

Brief: Celebrate the Year of the Dragon with installations by Ponnapa Prakkamakul and Zhidong Zhang, showcasing themes of community, identity, and environmental consciousness in vibrant and interactive art pieces.

https://www.rosekennedygreenway.org

# • Under the Snow Moon at Armenian Heritage Park

Date: Sunday, February 25, 2024 Time: 4 pm, virtually Organizers: Age Friendly Boston, The Greenway Conservancy & Friends of Armenian Heritage Park

Activities: Virtual Meet & Greet, Labyrinth Walk, Sharing Wishes for The Wishing Tree, Enjoying Topper Carew's "This Little Light of Mine"

Brief: Join a special virtual event "Under the Snow Moon" to remember, honor, and celebrate the Armenian Heritage Park's contributions. This mid-winter gathering offers a chance to connect and appreciate the park's gifts through a virtual labyrinth walk, shared wishes, and a special presentation by Topper Carew.

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/ tZwuceCspj8pGd TMmtILMfptZ61ePMtcg8 H1#/registration

# • 2nd Annual Living Art Boston Creative Economy Series

Dates: Thursday, March 07, 2024, 9:00 am - Friday, March 08, 2024, 5:00 pm

Location: Boston Convention and Exhibition Center, 415 Summer Street, Boston, MA 02210

Admission: \$25 - \$70

Brief: Join the intersection of health equity, art, tech, innovation, and entrepreneurship at the 2nd Annual Living Art Boston Creative Economy Series. This event is a hub for inspiration, collaboration, and insights from industry leaders and innovators. It's an ideal platform for artists, small businesses, designers, professionals, entrepreneurs, and enthusiasts passionate about the creative economy. The series will feature workshops, panel discussions, and interactive sessions aimed at igniting creativity and fostering growth in the creative industry.

https://www.madeincboston.com/livingart boston

# • The Heart of New England Screening

Dates: Sunday, March 10, 2024, 10:00 am - 11:00 am (Repeats weekly)

Location: Museum of Science, Boston, 1 Science Park, Boston, MA 02114 Admission: \$8-10

Brief: Experience the iconic New England through "The Heart of New England," a unique giant-screen film at the Mugar Omni Theater, Museum of Science, Boston. Narrated by Uzo Aduba and Mindy Kaling, the film offers an immersive journey across New England, celebrating its resilience, hope, and the diverse people who embody its spirit, including storytellers, conservationists, athletes, students, scientists, and engineers. https://www.mos.org/explore/omni/heart-of-new-england

# Spring Birding at Burrage Pond WMA

Date: Sunday, March 03, 2024

Time: 8:00 am - 11:00 am

Location: Burrage Pond Wildlife Management Area, Pleasant Street, Hanson, MA 02431 Admission: \$25

Brief: Join us for a morning of spring birding at Burrage Pond Wildlife Management Area in Hanson. This special location offers a fantastic opportunity to explore and spot ducks, forest birds, and occasionally, the majestic Sandhill Cranes. A mustattend event for birdwatchers and nature enthusiasts!

https://www.massaudubon.org/programs/boston-nature-center/92135-spring-birding-at-burrage-pond-wma

# Spanish for Lunch - Online Conversation Workshops

Dates: Thursdays, February 8 to February 29, 2024

Time: 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm (Repeats weekly) Location: Online event

Brief: Join us for free open-level informal Spanish conversation workshops. This online event welcomes participants of all levels to practice their Spanish speaking skills in a relaxed setting. Limited spots available. Please send an email to confirm your attendance, and you will receive instructions to connect via video conference. Note: Dates are subject to change.

https://www.thebostoncalendar.com/events/spanish-for-lunch-presencial-4

### Boston Parks Winter Fitness Series

Dates: January 7 - April 6 Class Offerings: Zumba, Yoga, Kick Boxing, Cardio, Strength, Tai Chi, and more Class Format: 4 in-person classes weekly at local community centers, 7 virtual classes weekly Cost: FRFF

Cost: FREE https://boston.gov/fitness

• Walk the Women's Heritage Trail

Boston's Women's Heritage Trail that

showcases spots where Boston women made history. The walk comprises 14 trails, each in a different Boston neighborhood, from Beacon Hill to Jamaica Plain to East Boston

https://bwht.org/category/self-guided-tours/

# • Join 'Equali-tea' at the BPL on Thursdays

Every Thursday in March at 2 p.m., the Roxbury location of the Boston Public Library hosts "Equali-tea: A Conscious Raising Group." The Women's History Month programming is designed to foster conversations about issues like work-life balance, aging and gender, women in leadership, and family planning. The events are free, open to the public, and yes, tea will be served.

https://bpl.bibliocommons.com/events/65b 7d83b8f2b073a00ceddcd

### Witness the Women Veterans Roundtable

On March 26, the city hosts a Women Veterans Roundtable, including food and a panel of women veterans speaking about their experiences. The event runs from 6 to 8 p.m., is free and open to the public, and takes place on the fourth floor of Faneuil Hall at 4 South Market.

https://www.boston.gov/calendar/womenveterans-roundtable

# • Boston Youth Symphony (BYS) Concert

Tickets \$20-\$25, Address: Arlington High School, 869 Massachusetts Ave. Arlington, MA, 02476

Federico Cortese, Conductor Rossini, William Tell Overture Prokofiev, Symphony No. 1, "Classical" Mussorgsky/Shostakovich - Prelude from Khovanschina (Dawn on the Moskva River) Shostakovich - Cello Concerto No. 1 BYS Concerto Competition Winner, Andrew Kim, cello

https://www.bysoweb.org/

# **Affordable Housing Lottery**

166 Main Street

Watertown, MA
YOU CAN COMPLETE AND SUBMIT A LOTTERY APPLICATION ONLINE HERE:



# nttps://form.jotform.com/SEBHousing/166MainStree

Affordable Rent Amounts

65% AMI Units: One Studio at \$1,483, One 1BR at \$1,663 80% AMI Units: Two 1BRs at \$2,103, One 2BR at \$2,319

\*Rents subject to change in future years. Rents do not include the cost of utilities (gas heating & hot water, electric cooking, electricity, water, and sewer). One free parking space is included. Three units will be assigned full use parking spaces and two units will have access to overnight spaces. A lottery will be held to determine which units are assigned which spaces. That lottery will be conducted along with the lottery for the affordable units.

166 Main Street is a brand-new development located in Watertown. There will be five (5) affordable apartments within the community. Two of the affordable units (one Studio and one 1BR) will be rented to households with incomes at or below 65% of the area median income through this application process. The remaining three units (two 1BRs and one 2BR) will be rented to households with incomes at or below 80% of area median income. The property is conveniently located near shops, restaurants, public spaces, and the Charles River. Located on Route 20, it also offers easy access to the Mass Pike.

Maximum Household Income Limits - 65% AMI Units \$67,535 (1 person), \$77,220 (2 people)

Maximum Household Income Limits - 80% AMI Units \$82,950 (1 person), \$94,800 (2 people) \$106,650 (3 people), \$118,450 (4 people)

 ${\bf Public\ Info\ Session:}\ March\ 19,\ 2024\ at\ 6:00\ pm\ via\ Zoom\ Go\ to\ zoom.com/join\ or\ call\ (646)\ 558-8656\ and\ enter\ Meeting\ ID:\ 818\ 9317\ 7595.\ Passcode:\ 088159$ 

Application Deadline: April 16, 2024 at 2:00 pm

Completed Applications and must be delivered or postmarked by this date. Applications postmarked by the deadline must be received no later than 5 business days from the deadline.

Lottery: April 30, 2024 at 6:00pm via Zoom

Go to zoom.com/join or call (646) 558-8656 and enter Meeting ID: 857 2736 5609, Passcode: 276410

Attendance is not required at Info or Lottery sessions. To view the recorded sessions at a later date, please search for 166 Main Street on the SEB Housing YouTube channel.

For Lottery Information and Applications, or for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, go to www.sebhousing.com or call (617) 782-6900x3 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.

Tradução livre disponível.



YOU CAN COMPLETE AND SUBMIT A LOTTERY APPLICATION ONLINE HERE: https://form.iotform.com/SEBHousing/166MainStreet Ġ



# Get Ready for Super Tuesday, on March 5, to Cast Vote in Presidential Primaries, Caucuses

See front page for more

Our partner AAJC provided additional information and instruction. On March 5th Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Iowa, Main, Massachusetts, Minnesota, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, and American Samoa voters will cast their ballots.

How primary elections are conducted varies widely from state to state. To help clear up any confusion, Advancing Justice - AAJC developed an "Open v. Closed" primary factsheet. The factsheet has been translated into Arabic, Bangla, Hindi, Hmong, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Simplified Chinese, Tagalog, Thai, Traditional Chinese, Urdu, and Vietnamese.

You can find the factsheets here: https://www.advancingjustice-aajc.org/publication/open-vclosed-primaries. To view and download the factsheets, click the download dropdown menu, click the factsheet language you are interested in and a window with the downloadable fact sheet will open in another tab.

我们的合作伙伴亚裔推进正义协会 (AAJC) 提供了更多信息和说明。3月5日,阿拉巴 马州、阿拉斯加州、阿肯色州、加利福尼亚州、科罗拉多州、爱荷华州、美因州、马 萨诸塞州、明尼苏达州、北卡罗来纳州、俄克拉荷马州、田纳西州、德克萨斯州、犹 他州、佛蒙特州、弗吉尼亚州和美属萨摩亚选民将投票。

初选的进行方式因州而异。为了帮助消除任何混乱,促进正义。亚裔推进正义协会制 定了一份"开放与封闭"主要情况说明书。该情况说明书已被翻译成阿拉伯语、孟加 拉语、印地语、苗语、日语、高棉语、韩语、简体中文、他加禄语、泰语、繁体中 文、乌尔都语和越南语。

您可以在这里找到情况说明书: https://www.advancingjustice-aajc.org/publication/openv-lined-primaries。要查看和下载资料表,请单击下载下拉菜单,单击您感兴趣的资料 表语言,然后将在另一个选项卡中打开包含可下载资料表的窗口。

# Constitution Co-op



Constitution Co-op where member residents have a voice in the management of the property, has large studio and one bedroom apartments.

Located in beautiful City Square, this active senior co-op is on an MBTA bus route, and is within walking distance to shopping, banks and medical professionals.

# Features such as...

- Scenic views of historic Charlestown
- Plenty of space for indoor relaxation
- Emergency Response person living on site, on call
- On site laundry facilities and air conditioning
- Large community room with many social events
- Resident Service Coordinator

Rent is based on 30% of income (income limits apply) to qualified seniors 62 and older, and to younger persons who are mobility impaired requiring the special design features of accessible units

Call 1-800-225-3151 WWW.CSI.COOP





# MASSACHUSETTS BAY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY 10 PARK PLAZA **BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02116**

### LEGAL NOTICE

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. T35CN01-, Supplemental Track Improvement Program Contract 1- Green, Blue, and Orange Line, Systemwide, PROJECT VALUE - \$10,000,000 (CLASS 1-GENERAL TRANSIT AND CLASS 3, TRACK) can be submitted at www.bidx.com until ten o'clock (10:00 a.m.) on March 14th, 2024. Immediately thereafter, in a designated room, the Bids will be opened and read publicly.

Work will include replacement of ties, rail, restrained rail along both tangent, curved and restrained curve track, removal and replacement of broken or lock spike plates with pandrol plates, insulators and C-Bonds (where called for or where damaged by Contractor), contact rail replacement, ballast replacement (full depth and spot), joint elimination-thermite welding, direct fixation and floating slab repairs including concrete repairs and replacement, surface line and tamping and track stabilizing where directed. CWR will require thermite welding and destressing in accordance with MBTA standards. Work will include concrete work to replace primary and secondar direct fixation slabs. Work may require early action items like weekly meetings with MBTA to plan and schedule work, pre plating ties, site walks to finalize work limits, materials delivery, materials staging, equipment movement, schedule update, etc. Contractor will be required to remove all surplus materials generated by the project and all existing currently within the project limits.

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 5% percent.

To view the full Notice to Bidders, please see link below.

http://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

Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority Phillip Eng General Manager & CEO of the MBTA February 21, 2024



# Massachusetts Bay **Transportation Authority**

MASSACHUSETTS BAY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY 10 PARK PLAZA **BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02116** 

# LEGAL NOTICE

Electronic proposals for the following project will be received through the internet using Bid Express 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 Bid Express at least 14 days prior to a scheduled bid opening date.

Electronic bids for MBTA Contract No. Z99CN01, Replacement of Fire Alarm System & Suppression at Albany & Andrew Station, Boston, (CLASS 1 – GENERAL TRANSIT, CLASS 7 BUILDING \$3,000,000) PROJECT VALUE - \$8,891,602 can be submitted at until two o'clock (2:00 p.m.) on March 21, 2024. Immediately thereafter, in a designated room, the Bids will be opened and read publicly.

The work consists of the replacement of the existing Sprinkler and Fire Alarm System with a new Sprinkler System and new Fire Alarm System. All work will be performed in accordance with NFPA 13 and 780 CMR Chapter 9: Fire Protection Systems.

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.

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.

Phillip Eng

General Manager & CEO of the MBTA

February 21, 2024

# Pressure to Pass Anti-Bullying Bill is Dividing Legislators

# By Damica Feliciano

Hundreds of activists in Massachusetts last October testified for ethical workplace conduct and anti-bullying legislation. Many spoke in favor of the Workplace Psychological Safety Act (WPSA), one of two proposed measures that could protect workers from mental and emotional harm.

Massachusetts employment law currently prohibits discrimination against workers who fall under a protected class, or based on race or ethnicity, disability, gender, age, or religion. However, the WPSA will expand the state's current statutes and hone in on protecting employees from bullying and psychological abuse, including mental and emotional detriment, impeding career growth, and financial loss. This house bill aims to promote healthy work environments and make employers accountable for bullying, harassment, and mobbing.

According to a 2021 Workplace Bullying Institute Study, almost 80 million Americans are affected by bullying. The WBI defines workplace bullying as a form of "non-physical form of workplace violence" and "abusive conduct" including mistreatment that is "threatening, intimidating, humiliating, work sabotage or verbal abuse."

Even with the high numbers, the disaggregated data shows that women and people of color are disproportionately affected. Male bullies, 67 percent, seem to prefer targeting women more than other men. Bullying data regarding race showed

that the group most affected by bullying were Hispanics at 53 percent, followed by whites at 47 percent, Black people at 45 percent, and Asians at 32 percent.

The report found that workplace bullying even affects 43 percent of remote workers

Behaviors that constitute "psychological abuse" include direct acts like verbal or written abuse, physical abuse, or public humiliation and degradation. Indirect acts of bullying and harassment are also prohibited like exclusion from work functions and communications, taking credit for work, and unreasonably heavy workloads.

For Asians, their rates of witnessing and believing are comparable to all the other groups but only 12 percent reported bullying incidents. The WBI infers that this low percentage may be due to cultural stigmas, meaning the bullying rates may be higher.

Sampan spoke with two Boston professionals who attested anonymously to the struggles of being perceived as different and at times difficult based on standards beyond their control. Simply put, their stories of microaggressions speak to a larger issue of living in a society in which they are expected to live up to unrealistic standards.

"You have to understand how it is to be a young Asian woman whose very presence can be threatening to my majority white colleagues," Alison (not her name) said. "I am a twenty-four year old Asian



woman. I was born and raised in Vietnam. I take care of myself and take pride in my appearance.

Beyond that, there is the sexism that most young professional women experience, the fear that our personal space is always at risk of being violated, and we hesitate to speak. I am an educated woman. I am in my LCSW Master's Program and people say I sound like a baby or a sex worker. They say I have a flat voice, that I should be working in a nail salon or taking orders at a restaurant. 'I don't understand you,' they say. 'Speak clearly.' Sometimes I wish I never learned English, and it doesn't help that lately I've been crying myself to sleep most weekends."

Russell, a sixty year old Asian man from Japan who has been in the United States since 2005, reflected about ageism, which (like many acts of bullying) at first seemed benign.

"I worked as an educator at a local non-profit from 2020-2023. I was over twice the age of most of my colleagues and they made sure I never forgot that. Within a week after introducing myself to my twenty-eight year old female colleague, a pitiful look came over her face. 'What are you doing here?' she asked. 'What happened to your life?' Based solely on my age, and she didn't know anything else about me, she wondered why I was at this low-paying non-profit.

I was also expected to be a Microsoft Words expert, a master of the Zoom meeting, a Wizard level multi-tasker with google spreadsheets and Smartboard Presentations. My supervisors had no patience and offered no flexibility when it came to my learning new skills. I did learn everything, of course, but I was still considered a benign tumor at the agency soon to become malignant. I left the job and found myself with older colleagues in a more relaxed atmosphere. Ageism is real, everybody, and like any workplace bullying incident it seems harmless when it's cloaked in 'good-natured' jokes."

If passed, the Workplace Psychological Safety Act (WPSA) will not only bridge the gaps between federal discrimination laws established under little VII of the Civil Rights Act, but it will make Massachusetts the first state to hold employers legally accountable for psychological workplace safety. This stride toward an ethical work environment is a continuous conversation in Massachusetts, especially with an anti-bullying proposal in the Boston City Council developing in response to the numerous complaints of harassment. One notable incident raised tension when attorney Christine O'Donnell accused three councilors of allegedly bullying and ridiculing her during a redistricting hearing.

According to a letter reported by the Boston Herald, O'Donnell wrote, "There is a toxic work environment at the City Council where individuals are afraid to speak up for fear of retribution or retaliation."

Councilor Ricardo Arroyo, one of the accused legislators, pushed back on O'Donnell's statements who reported feeling "intimidated and bullied by Councilor Arroyo's actions."

"The entirety of this exchange was between myself and Councilor Ed Flynn on the floor, on video, in front of the media and the public," he said in a statement. The incident in question was not captured on camera since it occurred during recess but according to the Boston Globe, the meeting between Flynn and Arroyo was a "frosty exchange."

Last month, the bill moved up to Senate Ways & Means but according to the End Workplace Abuse group, it is paired with another less restrictive act, the Healthy Workplace bill, that does not protect employees enough and is "regressive" with sexual harassment law.

Critics of the WSPA bill believe that its motive to promote "psychological safety" in the workplace may disturb the labor market altogether, particularly when legal action can be taken against employers with "at will" processes.

"It's one thing to create a law that states that you cannot treat people abusively at work," David Yamada, a legal professor at Suffolk University, told the Boston Globe. Achieving a psychologically safe environment is "trying to mandate a state of mind, which is often less about the law and more about the integrity of people in the workplace."

Author and researcher Jennifer Fraiser noted that indirect, "non-physical" forms of bullying can still tangibly harm the individual. In her book, "The Bullied Brain," she showcases 20 years of peer-reviewed research on how the brain is physically harmed by all forms of harassment and abuse.

"This damage is visible on brain scans," Jennifer Fraser said in response to Vega's op-ed. "All forms of bullying and abuse have the capacity to leave neurological scars and dismantle brain architecture."

Other supporters of the bill voiced the financial effects of workplace bullying. In the same response letter, Marcia MacInnis stated, "In addition, when someone's earnings suffer because of bullying, there are also economic consequences for the community as a whole. This includes workers' compensation costs and the expense of social services and other forms of financial assistance to those who have been marginalized in the workplace."

By the end of February, the Massachusetts Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development must decide whether to pass the bill. With this limited time remaining, anti-workplace abuse groups are urging Massachusetts residents and legislators to show their support by emailing and contacting their legislators.

The WSPA has already been passed in Rhode Island and is awaiting introduction in New York City. Sampan will follow this story and report on how it's resolved (if at all) in a later issue.

# Affordable Housing Lottery

The Lodge

3000 Green District Boulevard, Marlborough, MA YOU CAN COMPLETE AND SUBMIT A LOTTERY APPLICATION ONLINE HERE:



 $\underline{https://form.jotform.com/SEBHousing/TheLodgeMarlborough}$ 

Two Studios @ \$1,863; Twelve 1BR @ \$2,130; Nine 2BR @ \$2,326; One 3BR @ \$2,492
Rents do not include the cost of utilities. Tenants will be responsible for gas (heating, cooking, hot water),
electricity, water, and sewer. One parking space is available for residents and is included in the rent.

The Lodge is a brand-new development located at 3000 Green District Boulevard in Marlborough. There will be 24 affordable apartments within The Lodge that will be rented to households with incomes at or below 80% of the area median income through this application process. Units feature walk-in closets, premium appliances, and in-unit laundry. The community's indoor amenities include a fitness center, kids play area, golf simulator, and co-working space. Outdoor amenities include a pool, fire pit, roof deck, and an outdoor kitchen and grilling area. A dog park and dog washing and grooming facilities are also available at the property. The community provides easy access to interstate 495 and numerous businesses and restaurants on Route 20.

# Maximum Household Income Limits:

\$82,950 (1 person), \$94,800 (2 people), \$106,650 (3 people) \$118,450 (4 people), \$127,950 (5 people), \$137,450 (6 people)

Public Info Session: March 13, 2024 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

Application Deadline: April 9, 2024 at 2:00 pm

Completed Applications and must be delivered or postmarked by this date. Applications postmarked by the deadline must be received no later than 5 business days from the deadline.

**Lottery:** April 23, 2024 at 6:00pm via Zoom Go to zoom.com/join or call (646) 558-8656 and enter Meeting ID: 857 2736 5609, Passcode: 276410

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Attendance is not required at Info or Lottery sessions. To view the recorded sessions at a later date, please search for The Lodge on the SEB Housing YouTube channel.

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. Tradução livre disponível.



YOU CAN COMPLETE AND SUBMIT A LOTTERY APPLICATION ONLINE HERE: https://form.jotform.com/SEBHousing/TheLodgeMarlborough



# U.S. Census: Asians Are No. 2 Fastest Growing Group

By Yizhen Zhang

The Census Academy of the United States Census Bureau recently hosted a webinar titled "Exploring the Diversity and Growth of the Asian American Population," revealing that in 2021 the Asian population in the United States was roughly 23 million -- 1.2% up from 2020.

The webinar revealed other key areas of growth for the population, which is highly diverse.

As of 2021, Chinese were estimated to have the largest Asian population of 5.2 million in the U.S., followed by Indians with a population of 4.8 million, and Filipinos with a population of 4.4 million. California had the largest Asian population of 7 million followed by New York with an Asian population of 2 million. Idaho had the fastest growing Asian population in 2021 with an increase of 5.4% over 2020's numbers.

Asian Americans represent more than 30 different nationalities and ethnic groups. Within a single nationality, there are significant differences in regional dialects, religions and cultures.

According to the 2017 National Popula-



Photo courtesy of U.S. Census Bureau on X

tion Projections, the third set of projections based on the 2010 Census covering the period from 2017 to 2060, beginning in 2030, net international migration is expected to be the main driver of population growth in the US. The fastest-growing racial or ethnic group in the United States is made up of people who are two or more races.

This group is projected to grow by 200% by 2060. The next fastest is the Asian population, which is also projected to double.

In 2020, there were 612,194 Asianowned businesses, making Asians the highest among all minority groups in terms of number of minority-owned US employer firms. Of the 612,194 Asian-owned firms, approximately 23.8% were in the Accommodation and Food Services sector. Simultaneously, Asian-owned firms were found to account for 8.6% (approximately 2.3 million) of the nonemployer businesses in 2020. Asian-owned firms were recorded to have \$106.1 billion in receipts, making Asian-owned firms to be the businesses that have the most receipts among all firms owned by minority race groups. It is also worth mentioning that while the median household income in the United States was \$74,755 in 2022, the median Asian household income in the United States in 2022 was \$106.954. Furthermore, 52.6% of the Asian alone or in combination population are householders or spouses with regard to the population in households. Also, it was released by the Census Bureau that in 2021, 55.1% of the Asian alone or in combination population aged 25 and older had a bachelor's degree or higher level of education.

It was predicted by Chia, Chief Investment Officer of Bank of Singapore, that Asia's long-term growth rates for the next decade will outpace American and European countries. According to the World Bank, the GDP per capita for a few countries in Asia – such as Singapore with a GDP per capita of 82,807.6 USD, Japan with a GDP per capita of 34,017.3 USD, and Hong Kong, China with a GDP per capita of 48,983 USD – were relatively comparable to the United States which has a GDP per capita of 76,329.6 USD.

It is also worth noting that while India has a relatively low GDP per capita of 2,410 USD in comparison to the United States or Singapore, the annual percentage growth rate of GDP for India was 7.2% which was relatively high. Also, it is expected that Asia is ready to regain its position as the main engine of growth for the global economy and is ready to play a greater role as a diversifier for global investors and businesses in 2024 and beyond.

# Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Center and Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic (LITC) in Boston Chinatown Are Ready to Help Everyone in MA During Tax Season and They're Free

By Derek He

As the new tax season begins, individuals, families, and businesses alike find themselves struggling through the complexities of filing their taxes. Paying taxes is a fundamental aspect of civic responsibility, not just a legal requirement but as a crucial contribution to the fabric of our society. Taxes finance public services and infrastructure, roads and schools, healthcare and national defense, and ultimately the safety and wellbeing of the community.

Filing your taxes can present significant challenges, for individuals for whom English is a second language or for those experiencing financial difficulties. Recognizing these obstacles, a new Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) location has opened at the Chinatown Main St Center at the intersection of Boylston and Washington Streets in Chinatown to serve Chinese speaking taxpayers. The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program offers free tax help to people who generally make \$70,000 or less, persons with disabilities, and those with limited English speaking abilities who need assistance in preparing their tax returns. IRS-certified, Chinese speaking volunteers provide free basic income tax return preparation with electronic filing to qualified individuals. They can help with special credits, such as Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), Child Tax Credit, and Credit for the Elderly or the Disabled.

Sampan interviewed Debbie Ho, the manager of the VITA site located at Chinatown Main Streets. Ho emphasized that VITA is committed to offering clients topnotch assistance with federal and Massachusetts state tax services at no cost. It is prepared to assist with simple tax returns, so

it may not be suitable for individuals with complex tax situations, such as substantial investment income, rental property income, or certain types of self-employment.

VITA at Chinatown Main Streets prides itself on having around 30 dedicated volunteers at their site. While some of these volunteers are knowledgeable college students pursuing degrees in finance, the majority are seasoned professionals. This diverse blend of volunteers ensures that professionalism and expertise are at the core of the support VITA provides, guaranteeing that clients receive high-quality tax assistance. The tax assistance services provided by VITA at Chinatown Main Streets will be available until April 16th. Taxpayers who only speak Chinese or who make less than \$70,000 are strongly encouraged to seek out their help.

In addition to VITA, another valuable resource for low-income taxpayers is the LITC (Low Income Taxpayer Clinic). The AACA LITC is an organization prepared to help those with limited English proficiency, who are facing tax debt, or who are unable to make full tax payments. The AACA Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic (LITC) is located at the Asian American Civic Association (AACA) in Chinatown at 87 Tyler St Boston. . The clinic provides free assistance to these individuals in dispute with the IRS, and/or the MA Dept of Revenue. . The clinic is staffed by Qualified Tax Experts, knowledgeable in tax law and advocacy, ensuring that clients receive competent guidance. This clinic is beneficial for those who need specialized assistance in resolving complicated tax issues, making it an essential resource for the community.

Sampan interviewed Doris Zyra, Intake Coordinator at the Low-Income Taxpayer





Clinic (LITC) to gain further information about the support they offer. Zyra explained that the LITC assists clients in managing notices and letters from the IRS, ensuring they understand official documents and find viable solutions to their tax issues. LITC

Zyra explained that the IRS and MDOR are eager to help taxpayers resolve tax issues. One program is the "Offer in Compromise" program. This arrangement allows taxpayers to settle their tax debts for less than the full amount owed, based on their income and assets. The program is designed to consider the taxpayer's ability to pay, offering a more manageable path to settling tax obligations over months. While interest may accrue during the extended payment period, this option can be a lifeline for those experiencing temporary financial hardships, enabling them to meet their tax responsibilities without undue stress.

The Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic (LITC) offers crucial support for individuals facing tax debt challenges. Zyra described this case highlighting how LITC can help. A client, nearing retirement with a suspended driver's license due to unpaid taxes and an inability to work because of surgery received assistance from the LITC Qualified Tax Expert who helped communicate the





client's situation to the Department of Revenue, explaining his inability to work and the need for financial leniency. LITC successfully negotiated a two-year delay in tax payments, allowing the client time to recover, return to work, and eventually settle his tax debts. This case explains LITC's commitment to providing tailored support to those in complex financial and health-related predicaments.

Both Ho and Zyra have stressed the importance of responding to messages from the IRS and MDOR and to pay your taxes on time. Ignoring IRS and MDOR communications or accumulating tax debt can lead to severe consequences, such as the suspension of driver's licenses or the seizure of property, including cars, houses, or other valuable assets. To avoid such devastating outcomes, Zyra strongly urges taxpayers experiencing payment difficulties to take advantage of the resources mentioned. Those in need should consider reaching out to VITA at Chinatown Main Street, located at 2 Boylston Street, Phone number (617) 350-6303, E-mail BoscmsED@gmail.com or the Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic (LITC) at AACA, situated at 87 Tyler Street, Floor 5, Phone Number (617) 426-9492 Ext. 285, Email lite@aaca-boston.org for support and guidance.

# Wu Tsang's 'Of Whales' Lets You Immerse Yourself Into the World of Ocean Life

**By Harmony Witte** 

Of Whales by artist Wu Tsang is a gently calming, fully engrossing exhibit in the heart of the Institute of Contemporary Art-- first presented at the Venice Biennale in 2022. On display now until Aug 4th the giant, 40-50ft long screen which displays the piece is in the Paul and Catherine Buttenwieser and Fotene Demoulas Galleries. This major work is premiering in New England in a gallery that is positioned above the Boston Harbor. According to the accompanying museum label, "Of Whales draws upon the region's rich whaling history and invites audiences to contemplate the depths of the ocean just beyond." The label continues in its describing Of Whale's creation process, "created on the Unity gaming platform with XR (extended reality) technologies, the dynamically generated real-time video and sound installation immerses viewers in a lush, dreamy oceanscape for imagination, contemplation, and provocation."

Museum goers will first encounter a dimly lit hallway where they can already hear notes of saxophone and other whale sounds as they enter the space. A museum label on the wall gives the pertinent details about the artist and the piece. As patrons enter round the corner, they encounter a large, open room with a massive screen on one side displaying the real-time video and multi-channel audio that constitutes Of Whales. Strewn about on the ground are bean bag chairs with benches lining the back walls. As people enter the space they are drawn to sit in the dark and contemplate the video before them in rapt attention. Children, tempted by the open space, take turns running to bean bags. Parents take smiling photos of their children on the bags, illuminated by the screen. Children giggle at the images before them, and one can be heard to ask repeatedly "What is that? What is that?" as their parents tried to shush them.

This immersive installation was con-



Wu Tsang: Of Whales | Photo courtesy of ICA



committed to recruiting and assisting in producing career opportunities for

educators and administrators from diverse backgrounds, and forming

collaborative relationships that will enhance staff diversity within our school



Wu Tsang | Photo courtesy of moma.org

ceived by Wu Tsang to be a whale's firstperson perspective of its journey of a dive from the surface to the depths of the ocean, resurfacing again for air every hour. Tsang was born in Worcester MA in 1982 and is a cross-disciplinary artist who "centers hidden histories and marginalized perspectives in her performances, films, and video installations." She creates video installations, does live performance, and makes narrative and documentary films. In 2022 Tsang "Embarked on an ambitious adaptation of Herman Melville's Moby-Dick, or, The Whale (1851) reimagining the great American novel through gaming technologies and postcolonial perspectives." With ever evolving technology, this piece runs the risk of quickly looking dated, but the animation is so well done that it can likely be displayed for years to come.

Tsang put together an extensive team of people to create *Of Whales* including composers Asma Maroof and Daniel Pineda, there were several people who played instruments for the score including saxophone, horns, clarinet, and contrabass. as well as harp and vocals. There was a creative technologist, a 3D artist, VFX artists, as well as cosmos sequencing, directing, and animation. In addition to sound design, music specialization, and additional integration.

When I first walked into the hall into the gallery space a dozen or so jellyfish illuminate the screen, floating tranquilly. People filter in and out as I find a space on a bench and take a seat. The jellyfish look something like floating coffee filters as the view begins to rise through clouded water with reflections from the surface visible. The screen is full of greens, blues, browns, yellows, and white. The score that had been filling the space with sound suddenly stops as the whale breaches the surface. There was the staticky sound of waves crashing against the whale's body. Seagull cries could be heard as blue sky with yellow, white, and gray clouds becoming visible. The whale looks down at the roiling, white-capped waves. There is a moment of tranquility and peace as the whale and viewer watch the waves, then both notice a storm cloud in the distance. The cloud grows closer, and the waves appear to churn more frantically.

The whale turns toward the ocean and slowly sinks beneath a crashing wave. The water appears green, and the music starts back once the whale is submerged.. A plaintive saxophone solo starts to play. Blue and white jellyfish appear on the screen. It is here that I note the artist's attention to detail as the final wave crashes over the whale. The jellyfish music is languid and playful with occasional clarinet parts. The whale looks again to the surface and sees blue, green, and yellow billows in the water with hints of reflections from the surface. Purple specks float upward indicating air bubbles. As the music gets more playful, more jellyfish and air bubbles appear. There are

several different kinds of jellyfish. The coffee-filter jellyfish, and translucent jellyfish with hair like tentacles. Some jellyfish have purple, electric tentacles, and swirls inside of their bodies. The jellyfish float in all different directions, some seemingly float upside down. Some of them flutter open and closed, propelling themselves forward.

Occasional loud vibrations emanate from the contrabass, shaking the entire place. Sinking further into the depths the screen darkens and little pinpoints of light slowly appear, filling the space. It appears as the night sky with countless dots of light in the blackness. Suddenly, a black hole appears surrounded by orbiting light that swirls around the hole as horns flutter excitedly and cymbals chime. The light begins to fragment in its swirl pattern as the rumbling intensifies. It looks like the screen contains the sun during a solar storm. The black hole fills up the center of the screen and grows brighter as the hole takes over the center of the screen. Sparks of light and smoke appear and gentle saxophone playing returns. It's reminiscent of sparklers on the 4th of July.

Meanwhile, the room where we are watching this engrossing performance slowly empties, then fills again. There are cloud-like blue, gray, and purple swirls that somewhat mirror what was seen on the surface. They shrink down until they are 4 vertical lines on the screen. The lines converge, then split, converge, then split again. Suddenly they multiply sending infinite green, purple, white, and blue lines scattered across the screen in a pattern that evokes an Andy Goldsworthy sculpture. The lines expand and contract, always leaving a hole at the center, dancing across the screen. Eventually the lines shrink into individual specks of light. Once more the screen looks like a starry sky. In a striking image, the silhouettes of whales move through the stars, moving them as they swim through. The saxophone and contrabassoon rumble as the whales speak to one another.

The lights shrink once more and converge into a slit of light with techno-inspired sounds emanating from the speakers. The light explodes into red and orange smoke with a bit of a turquoise circle at the center. The smoke fills the screen and the music pulses dissonantly. The screen begins to darken on the edges and the jellyfish appear once again. The video has cycled through its hour-long performance.

The gallery is a quiet respite from the stimulation of the museum. Tsang has accomplished something remarkable with her piece, the ability to suspend time and encourage viewers to consider life from another being's perspective for an entire hour. No words were spoken over the speakers during this time, yet it felt like a conversation had been exchanged. Hopefully, people walk away with some understanding of what it is like to be a whale, regardless of whether or not they have read *Moby-Dick*.

# **Job Corner**

# Tufts Medical Center-Boston. MA

# · Position: Medical Assistant, Full Time, **Boston**

- -Completed MA education from an accredited program that was accredited at any time during the student's enrollment OR Graduated within the 36 months prior to the program becoming accredited.
- -Basic Life Support Certification -High school diploma or equivalent required
- Position: Workplace Violence Prevention Program Manager, Lowell, Full Time -CPI/NCI Instructor, AVADE Instructor
  - -Bachelor's Degree, BLS Certification -5+ years of experience in a Public Safety
- Position: Lead Public Safety, Full Time , Melrose
- -High school diploma or equivalent -Valid state issued driver's license. Five (5) years of experience in healthcare Public Safety/Security

Website: tuftsmedicalcenter.org

# **Boston Medical Center-Boston, MA**

# • Position: Central Processing Technician

- II, Full Time, Evenings, Boston -Requires a minimum of a High School
- Diploma or government recognized equivalent
- -Requires a Certification as a Certified Registered Central Sterile Technician (CRCST) by the International Association for Central Sterile Healthcare Materiel Management (IAHCSMM)
- Position: Cook Food and Nutrition, 40Hrs, Days, Full Time, Boston
- -Education at the high school level or above is preferred
- -ServSafe certification is highly desired. -Minimum of 1 year experience with large quantity of food preparation. Experience utilizing standardized recipes in large institutional setting preferred.
- Position: General cleaner, Full Time, 40 hrs, 7:00 AM -3:30 PM
  - -Work requires the ability to read, follow oral and written instructions in English at a level acquired through the completion of elementary school
- -Ability to learn and perform basic housekeeping practices and understand the policies and procedures of the hospital.
- -HS Diploma or completion of GED preferred

# Apply at www.jobs.bmc.org Contact: Caroline Cafer, 617-414-7066, caroline.cafer@bmc.org

# **Boston Centerless**

- · Position: Machine Operator (Grinder), Full Time, Woburn
- -High School Diploma -Comfortable with math, including fractions and numbers up to 4 decimal places (.0000 or ten thousandths) -No experience necessary. Prefer to have either vocational education, manufacturing work experience, apprenticeship in an industrial environment but not required.

Apply at www.bostoncenterless.com Contact: Steven Vanaria, svanaria@ bostoncenterless.com

# **Boston Public School**

 Position: Principal Clerk School Secretary, Full Time

-High School diploma or equivalency -Basic computer skills including word processing, email

- -Successfully completed appropriate course work
- -Good communication skills
- · Position: Senior Lead Specialist, Full
- -High School diploma or GED -Current BPS employee of the Department of Safety Services, possessing a rank of former Lieutenant/Lead Specialist for three years and in good standing with the **Department of Safety Services** -Possess a valid driver's license and access to a motor vehicle for daily use
- · Position: Home and Hospital Instructors, **Full Time**
- -Bachelor's degree
- -Passing score on the Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure (MTEL) for Communication and Literature or equivalent from out of state
- -Experience providing one-on-one tutoring to students

Website: https://www.bostonpublicschools.

Contact Info: Recruitment@ BostonPublicSchoosl.org

# **Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

## Position: Benefits and Eligibility Representative, Full Time

-At least two years of full-time, or equivalent part-time, professional or paraprofessional experience in social work or social casework, claims adjudication, job placement, recruitment, employment counseling, vocational or rehabilitation counseling, credit investigation, educational counseling, legal advocacy, or legal counseling. -Salary: 59,527.52 - 81,067.48 Yearly

# Position: Kitchen Services Worker I - Full and Part Time

- -Applicants must have at least six months of full-time, or equivalent parttime experience in building custodial or institutional housekeeping work -Working knowledge of the approved sanitary methods and procedures for the care and use of dining room equipment. -Salary: 38,620.14 - 48,837.36 Yearly
- · Position: Electrician I, Full Time, Shift
  - -Knowledge of state and local electrical codes
  - -Knowledge of the principles and theory of electricity
  - -Possession of a current and valid Massachusetts Journeyman or Master Electrician's License issued by the State **Examiners of Electricians**

-Salary: 56,279.86 - 78,337.74 Yearly Website: https://www.mass.gov/

# ABCD-Boston, MA

# · Position: Support Services Navigator, Hybrid

- -High School Diploma or equivalent, 1-3 years of relevant experience, and some college coursework or professional certification required
- -Bachelor's degree in education, social work, human services, social science or related field is preferred
- -Ability to deal sensitively and effectively with individuals of diverse socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds

# **Position: Administrative Assistant -**Billing Clerk, Full Time

- -Minimum of a high school diploma or equivalent and at least one year of prior experience with a human service agency and a solid background
- -InExcellent written and verbal communication as well as interpersonal skills general office practice is required. -Associate's degree in a relevant field preferred

Salary \$22.59 per hour

Website: https://careers.bostonabcd.org/ Contact: Lavette Sealls, lavette.sealls@ bostonabcd.org

# The City of Boston

# • Position: Strategic Communications Manager, Full Time

- -A Master's degree in the abovementioned fields is preferred and may be substituted for three (3) years of required experience.
- -Experience developing public awareness communications content for immigrant communities and in languages other than English.
- -Experience developing messaging for mainstream audiences on issues immigrants face and on issues of race, diversity, equity, inclusion
- -Boston Residency Required. -Salary: \$77,840.87-\$103,418.55

## Position: Immigrant Youth Organizer, **Full Time**

-Applicants must have at least three (3) years of full time, or equivalent parttime experience working with immigrant youth or in youth development programs, community organizing efforts, program development and implementation, and/or organization of training and community events

- -Bachelor's degree can be substituted for two (2) year of the required experience. -Boston Residency Required.
- -Salary: \$58,794.56 \$81,732.63 **Position: Director of Neighborhood**

# Housing Development, Full Time -At least five (5) years of related work experience with a Bachelor's Degree, or seven (7) years of related work experience without a Bachelor's Degree, required, with at least three (3) years of supervisory experience required. -Degree in Community Planning, Development, Public Policy, Public Administration, Business Administration

or other related fields preferred. -Boston Residency Required. -Salary: \$100,328.95- \$142,800.12

# Contact: Paola Reyes, paola.reyes@ boston.gov

# The City of Cambridge

- Position: Parking Violation Cashier, Full Time
  - -Knowledge of standard office procedures.
- -High school education or equivalent required.
- -Must be able to handle pressures of contact with the public, respond to customers in a courteous and professional manner, and maintain confidential information
- -Salary \$22.64 \$31.84/hour + excellent benefits

Website: https://phe.tbe.taleo.net/phe02/ ats/careers/v2/applyRequisition?org=CAMB RIDGEMA&cws=37&rid=731

### • Position: Director of Constituent Services

- -Bachelor's degree in related field required or equivalent combination of education, training and experience
- -Minimum of three years of case management experience, preferably in the areas of housing/homelessness, domestic violence, and/or income insecurity

-Salary \$70,000 - \$76,000 annually Website: https://phe.tbe.taleo.net/phe02/ ats/careers/v2/applyRequisition?org=CAMB RIDGEMA&cws=37&rid=701

# **South Cove Community Health Center-**Boston/Malden

- · Position: Interpreter ,Boston/Malden, From \$22/hr, Full Time
- Position: Social Service Assistant, Boston, From \$22/hr, Full Time
- · Position: Social Service Assistant, Malden, From \$20/hr, Full Time
- Position: Certified Medical Assistant, Boston/Malden, From \$23/hr, Full Time Contact: le.jiang@scchc.org, (617) 521-

ATTN: Human Resources, 145 South Street, Boston, MA 02111

# **Affordable Housing Lottery**

The Pastures at Dover 61 County Street Dover, MA

YOU CAN COMPLETE AND SUBMIT A LOTTERY APPLICATION ONLINE HERE:



https://form.jotform.com/SEBHousing/PasturesOfDover

# Affordable Rent Amounts

Three 1BRs at \$2,093, Four 2BRs at \$2,485, Two 3BRs at \$2,858

\*Rents subject to change in future years. Tenants will pay the cost of gas (including heat, cooking, hot water), electricity, and water. Sewer charges are included in the rent. Pets are permitted, subject to restrictions. One complimentary parking space is available for residents.

The Pastures at Dover is a brand-new rental development located in Dover. The property will contain 34 total apartments with 9 affordable units that will be rented to households with incomes at or below 80% of the area median income through this application process. Kitchens in all units feature stone countertops and stainless-steel applicants. The building contains a common area meeting room and tenants will have access to basement storage facilities. Outdoor amenities include a dog park, tot lot, and an outdoor cooking and seating area. The building has an elevator. Units are expected to be ready for occupancy in May 2024.

> Maximum Household Income Limits \$82,950 (1 person), \$94,800 (2 people), \$106,650 (3 people) \$118,450 (4 people), \$127,950 (5 people) \$137,450 (6 people)

Public Info Session: March 21, 2024 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

> Application Deadline: April 22, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. Completed Applications must be delivered by this date.

Lottery: May 6, 2024 at 6:00pm via Zoom Go to zoom.com/join or call (646) 558-8656 and enter Meeting ID: 857 2736 5609, Passcode: 276410

Attendance is not required at Info or Lottery sessions. To view the recorded sessions at a later date, please search for The Pastures at Dover on the SEB Housing YouTube channel.

For Lottery Information and Applications, or for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, go to **www.sebhousing.com** or call (617) 782-6900x3 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.



YOU CAN COMPLETE AND SUBMIT A LOTTERY APPLICATION ONLINE HERE: https://form.jotform.com/SEBHousing/PasturesOfDover



# 'Freckled Rice' and 'Our Chinatown' **Explore Chinatown's Past and Future**

# By Harmony Witte

Arts Emerson brought back to life the local classic narrative film, "Freckled Rice," on Feb. 18 at the Bright Family Screening Room over the Paramount Theater in a screening that included the documentary short, "Our Chinatown."

"We have found a diamond that was in someone's treasure box and unearthed it." said Susan Chinsen, creative producer at Arts Emerson, who is also the director of the Boston Asian American Film Festival.

"Freckled Rice" is the coming-of-age story of a 13-year-old boy named Joe Soo, who navigates through life in Boston's Chinatown in the 1960s and attempts to find his place in the world as a Chinese American. The film was directed by Stephen C. Ning, shot in 1980, and released in 1983. "Freckled Rice" was shot mainly in Boston's Chinatown and in the Greater Boston Area and provides a fascinating glimpse into the neighborhood's past.

The film starts with a vignette of family photos and opens on young Joe as he and his family prepare to leave Chinatown and move to New Hampshire for financial security. Joe hangs out with his friend at a wedding, getting into minor mischief. After the wedding, Joe's mother admonishes him to behave and not irritate his father so much. The next day Joe goes fishing with his grandfather and they catch an eel. Joe's Grandpa says, "your mother doesn't know how to cook these; I'll bring them back to my neighbor."

Later, Joe's father comes home irritated that he found out Joe was spending time with his grandfather -- after the neighbor thanked the father for the eel. Joe's parents argue about Joe and his increasing bond with his grandfather.

The following day Joe goes to visit his brother who is estranged from the family and living on his own, while working at a music studio. Joe spends some time with his brother, drinking Coke, listening to jazz and rock music, and sneaking into a swimming pool -- intending to live with him instead of returning home to his parents. Joe's parents realize he is gone and have a fight about his father being too harsh on the boys. His mother says "When they're good, they're yours ... when they speak up you kick them out. You want full control of Joe in New Hampshire.



Paul W. Lee, Our Chinatown Documentary | Photo courtesy of Arts Emerson

# Affordable homeownership opportunity in Chelsea!



Applications are available for online access at www.TheNeighborhoodDevelopers.org or for inperson pickup during office hours at 4 Gerrish Ave Rear, Chelsea, MA 02150, Alternatively, applicants can request application forms to be sent to them via mail or email. The application period is from January 25, 2024, through April 29, 2024. Deadline for completed applications by mail only: Postmarked no later than April 29th, 2024. For questions or more information, call Winn Management 617-884-0692.

### Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday & Thursday 9am - 4pm Tuesdays 9am-7pm | Fridays 9am-3pm

Annual Income	Sales Price	# of Units
80% AMI	\$278,700	2
3 BR -4.5 persons		
80% AMI	\$240,800	1
2 BR - 3 persons		
100% AMI	\$393,200	1
3 BR - 4.5 persons		
100% AMI	\$347,400	2
2 BR - 3 persons		

# Maximum Income per Household Size

Household Size	80% AMI	100% AMI
1	\$83,150	\$103,900
2	\$95,050	\$118,800
3	\$106,900	\$133,600
4	\$118,750	\$148,400
5	\$128,250	\$160,300
6	\$137,800	\$172,200

\* 2023 Area Median Incomes for the Boston MA MSA



An Eligible Purchaser shall be a First-Time

Homebuyer





Joe's friend eventually tells his parents where Joe has gone. Joe leaves his brother's house and goes to see his grandfather who tells him how he buys the cheaper rice that has flawed grains in it, and he picks out the freckled rice as a metaphor for life. Joe's grandfather talks to him about his relationship with his parents and encourages Joe to return home. Joe eventually returns to the empty apartment where he finds his father waiting for him. They have a tender exchange and Joe leaves with his father, stepping into his new future. The film is mostly told from the perspective of Joe, yet the audience gets glimpses of the perspective of his parents, brother, and grandfather which really serves to fill out the story.

The 11-minute documentary, "Our Chinatown," was directed by Kenneth Eng and Curtis Chin. It follows advocate Paul W. Lee as he returns to Chinatown to help build affordable housing. The short starts with Paul saying, "The Chinatown area is under severe threat from gentrification and commercial development." Like Freckled Rice, "Our Chinatown" is a valuable glimpse into the community and the lives of the activists who fight to keep it vibrant. It is one of four vignettes in a collection of documentary shorts that explore Chinatowns across the

The screening was followed by a panel discussion featuring the voices of some of the film makers and local community activists. It was an informative time, with Arts Emerson gathering different voices from the community to speak on topics relating to life in Chinatown and to discuss the films.

"Am I still acting? I've been an attorney for 20 something years, so the answer is 'yes!' said JP Wang, who played Joe Soo in "Freckled Rice,' ' updating the audience on the trajectory of his acting career since the 1980s.

He explained that he originally read for the part of Joe's friend yet was cast as Joe. Yuet-Fung Ho (co-producer/assistant director for "Freckled Rice") told the audience that she hopes to get funding to find a master of "Freckled Rice" so that it can be remastered and hopes to have it entered into the Library of Congress. She went on to explain that she had gone on to marry director Stephen C. Ning, and they had a child together before he passed away while working on his second film. She told the audience that the script had to be changed to Cantonese and the actor who played the grandfather had to be dubbed because he spoke in Mandarin.

"It was kind of unusual at that time to have that kind of film released," she said.

She added that the cast and crew helped to fund the project "we all put in our own money and a lot of the cast deferred payment." When asked what it meant to be included in the panel she responded "I think I really feel being loved by the community. I feel like I'm being able to connect with the community. And I hope the presentation and also the talk would be inspiring for some people and inspiring for me, too, of course!"

The other panelists were Kenneth Eng (co-director of "Our Chinatown"), Paul W. Lee (community leader, subject of "Our Chinatown"), Mary Chin (Executive Director of the Asian American Civic Association), and Miaoyi Hu (student activist). Ken spoke of the struggle to find funding for the "Our Chinatown" series across New York City, Chicago, Boston, and San Francisco. He spoke of the struggle of narrowing the focus of the series to one person per episode because, "it was hard to choose just one person to highlight."

Miaoyi said she liked the film: "It really fits with what I've experienced in Chinatown."

She clarified that she moved there as a 3-year-old and had a difficult time adapting to the community. Paul said it's "really interesting how Joe and his father tried to communicate...it also resonated how his mom was the go-between."

Mary spoke of the Asian American Civic Association and how it was the first agency serving the Chinese population 60 years ago. She explained that Chinatowns have disappeared and for the people who live in Massachusetts the work continues "in a very noble way and will continue with the people in this room."

After the panel, Sampan asked Kenneth how he felt being included. "It was pretty amazing," he said. "[It was] an honor to share the screen. I had a short film called Our Chinatown Boston, and we opened for Freckled Rice, which is a legendary, classic film from the Asian American movement and to be able to share the screen with my short film is unbelievable! Truly an honor!" When asked about his upcoming projects he said "We're helping to build a heritage center at the old Quincy school on Oxford Street. It's a big oral history project, which is the start of a big walking tour in Chinatown where you'll be able to access the history of Boston's Chinatown. So hopefully when people come to Chinatown, they're here for more than food. They can get a little information, too."

JP Wang was asked what it meant to be included in the panel and he shared "I guess I'm honored. I'm always still surprised at the relevance and the significance of the movie, and I'm happy that it still has an impact. I'm always shocked when I see so many people. So, I guess honored to be on the panel. I'm happy to sort of voice the way I see things from my position currently."

# **Lunar New Year Celebration throughout Greater Boston**



Mayor Michelle Wu joins the Vietnamese community at their annual Tet Celebration at the Flynn Cruiseport 吴市长与越南社区一起参加在弗林邮轮港举行的一年一度的春节庆祝活动

# **Tet Boston at Flynn Cruiseport** Sunday, February 4th | 2024年2月4日, 星期日



Vietnamese Youth community 越南青年社区

# **Lunar New Year Celebration at City Hall** Thursday, February 15th | 2024年2月15日, 星期四



Mayor Wu extends a Lunar New Year greeting to the Josiah Quincy Lion Dance Team 吴市长向昆西中学醒狮队致以新春祝福



(Front 前排) Boston Music Project Orchestra 波士顿音乐计划管弦乐团 (middle row L-R 中排左至右)

Monique Tú Nguyen (Executive Director of the Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement 市长移民促进办公室执行主任), City Councilor Ed Flynn 市议员爱德华费林,Mayor Michelle Wu 波士顿市长吳珥, City Council President 市议会主席 Ruthzee Louijeune, City Councilor 市议员 Erin Murphy, City Councilor 市议员 Enrique Pepén, City Councilor 市议员Benjamin Weber

(back row L-R后排左至右) Christopher Schroeder (Executive Director of Boston Music Project波士顿音乐项目执行董事), Chulan Huang 黄楚岚, (Neighborhood Liaison of Chinatown, Downtown, and Leather District Liaison唐人街、市中心和皮革区邻里联络人)



# **Chinese New Year Lion Dance Parade** 多个舞龙醒狮队于唐人街龙年巡游 Sunday, February 18th | 2024年2月18日, 星期日





