

The Crisis in Haiti, Explained

By Yizhen Zhang

Additional reporting from Milourdes Augustin and Kery Forges

“Living in Port-au-Prince became a living hell”

EDITOR'S NOTE: The developing story of Haitian Prime Minister Aryel Henry's March 11th resignation has resonated throughout the Haitian community state-side, especially the estimated 14,000 who have come to the Greater Boston area in the past few months.

The violence that has erupted in Haiti in recent weeks has been fueled by an explosive mix of government corruption, emboldened gangs and a string of natural disasters on the deeply traumatized Caribbean island nation.

While those just seeing the headlines of how Haiti has unraveled into chaos, the violence was actually preceded by the dangerously destabilized and fragile state the country has been in since the 2010 earthquake, which killed up to 300,000 people. Since the disaster, gang violence exploded after 3,000 inmates – most of whom were gang members now heavily armed – broke out of the National Penitentiary, Haiti's largest prison, during the earthquake. The inmates either rejoined old neighborhood gangs or formed new groups. Then, when President Jovenel Moïse came to power in 2017, Moïse and his government alleged-



Photo courtesy of sprecker.com

ly cooperated with the gangs and provided them with government support in attacks at Port-au-Prince. According to Daniel Foote, the former U.S. Special Envoy to Haiti, Moïse aligned with G9 – one of two major gangs, the other being G-Pep, – which acted as a security force for Moïse.

President Moïse was assassinated in

2021 and gangs in Haiti have grown even more powerful. After the assassination of Moïse, a 7.2-magnitude earthquake hit Haiti and killed more than 2,200 people, injured more than 12,000, and flattened and destroyed tens of thousands of houses in an area that was still recovering from the devastating Hurricane Matthew in 2016.

关于海地危机——解释

作者 Yizhen Zhang

请看中文版首页

Milourdes Augustin 和 Kery Forges 额外报道

Ariel Henry, appointed by Moïse to be his successor but was never sworn in because Moïse was assassinated, became the acting prime minister. He began to serve after the assassination. In 2022, Henry announced that fuel subsidies would be eliminated, causing fuel prices to double. According to Reuters, in response to the government's decision to cut fuel subsidies, the G9 gang coalition blockaded the main port and the Varreux fuel terminal.

The escalating gang violence, political instability, and rising prices for basic goods has made it impossible for Haitians to support themselves. According to an IPC analysis, Haiti, in 2022, experienced its worst-ever famine with 4.7 million people, which amounted to approximately 40.5% of the Haitian population, suffering acute hunger. Meanwhile, the lack of gas and diesel due to the blockade of the fuel terminal greatly impaired transportation in Haiti and as a consequence forced many businesses and hospitals to halt operations, worsening the situation in Haiti.

While the gang activity and violence escalated, Haiti's National Police became outmatched and outnumbered by these heavily armed gangs. To address this crisis, Haiti's government authorized Acting Prime Minister Henry to ask the international community for a “specialized armed force.” While several countries declined to lead such a mission, Kenya committed to help. However, the African country's *Continued on Page 3*

Tiktok Faces a Possible U.S Ban

By Aditya Venkatram

Tiktok is currently facing a possible ban by U.S policymakers. This recent development, which has been a very controversial move and bold statement by the federal government, is subject to speculation and debate across multiple economic sectors. Lawmakers are currently examining the implications of this decision, considering the social, economic, racial, and free speech ramifications.

Over the past four years, Tiktok has become an undeniable staple of American life and media consumption. The platform has had a tremendous influence in popular culture, and is one of the foremost sites for users to exhibit their creativity and self-expression. ABC news reports that Tiktok boasts more than 170 million U.S users, and tens of millions of these users spend an average of 82 minutes on the app per day. With such a large audience, Tiktok has become a significant player in the music industry. They influence music discovery, talent promotion, cultural trends, and grant

their content creators remarkable power to shape their own narratives and uniquely interact with their views. In response to the proposed bill, a spokesperson for the company stated that “this will damage millions of businesses, deny artists an audience and destroy the livelihoods of countless creators across the country”(ABC news). The Influencer further points out the concerns raised about the potential loss of this platform in the context of expression and

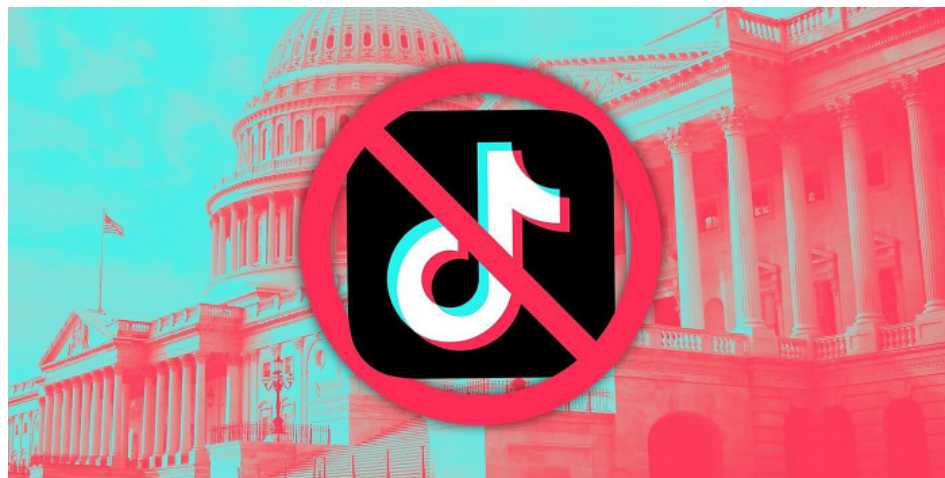


Photo TikTok Ban

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Tiktok boasts more than 170 million U.S users

creativity. Citing the Washington Post, they write it plays an increasingly crucial role in the national economy and American public life”(Influencer). There is no doubt that banning Tiktok would have lasting social implications. Community engage-

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The Resiliency of Irish-American Immigrants

By Tracy Huang

St Patrick's Day has come and gone. The parades are over. But behind the festivities is the proud history of the Irish Americans who arrived in America escaping famine and political victimization. Saint Patrick is known for bringing Christianity to Ireland. He used Christianity to help him through his time as a slave and escaped back to Ireland. The most famous myth about St Patrick is that he drove out all the snakes in Ireland. Although the reason for his death is still a mystery, the Irish have honored his death with a feast since the beginning of the 17th century. Originally it was a holiday based solely in Ireland but because of the massive migration of the Irish to different shores, this event is in many US cities and towns like Boston.

To understand why droves of Irish immigrants came to America, we must understand from whence they came. The first big migration occurred as an outcome of the Nine-Year War between Ireland and England. The British government gained control of Ireland. Until the Irish gained independence in 1921, they were under British rule forcing many of the Irish to

seek a new society to leave their homeland. Additionally, according to the National Geographic Society, the Industrial Revolution reduced the need for workers. The Industrial Revolution occurred in Great Britain in the 18th Century, when new machines led Europe into a major industrialization frenzy. While there was a big increase in production due to the introduction of machines, there became less need for workers. Many Irish farmers lost their jobs, causing a huge surge of immigrants who emigrated out of Ireland to the United States.

Another influx of migrants into the United States was due to the Potato Famine. In 1845, a mold known as Phytophthora infected and destroyed many plants that Irish people depended on. During the famine called the Irish Potato Famine or the Great Hunger, many crops, particularly potatoes, which were a huge part of the Irish diet, had to be destroyed. The Corn Laws, imposed by the British government, where things like corn and bread became very expensive, and the increased demand for the export of products to Britain, left thousands of Irish families dying of starvation, and hundreds of thousands dying from diseases related to malnutrition. This confluence of factors forced many Irish men, women and families to leave Ireland to escape poverty and starvation, immigrating to places like the United States.

Annie Moore, a 17-year-old girl of Irish descent set forth from County Cork with her two brothers, Anthony and Phillip, for a 17 day journey to America to meet their parents who has arrived two years prior. She was the first ever immigrant who set foot on the Ellis Island facility. Ellis Island is a very famous New York landmark where more than 3.5 million Irish immigrants were processed during its 62 years in operation. Moore lived a happy life, starting a family of at least ten children and dying at the tender age of fifty. Her statue is on both County Cork and Ellis, with the inscription, "...will forever represent the millions who passed through Ellis Island in pursuit of the American dream."

Boston was a popular place for people of Irish descent due to the growth of modern industrialization and its robust labor demands. Boston's expanding economy created many jobs for laborers in the manufacturing, construction, and transportation fields. In addition, Boston was a major port city on the East Coast and that attracted many immigrants. Upon settling down in Boston, many Irish established core com-

munities of people who shared similar cultures, history, and religious backgrounds. They created businesses, restaurants, and social organizations which catered specifically to the Catholic population.

However, like other immigrant groups at that time and even today, many Irish immigrants faced discrimination and hate. As a mainly Protestant country, the people of Boston did not welcome the Catholicism that the Irish brought with them when they immigrated to America. According to History.com, many people in Boston viewed the Irish as dangerous alcoholics. They created phrases such as "Don't get your Irish up", and labeled them with slurs like "mick." There were many violent anti-Irish protests, where initially Irish people were categorized like the segregated blacks and Chinese. There were settings where Irish people were not allowed to share public spaces with non-segregated white people.

With the huge flux of Irish immigrants desperately seeking work, they were willing to work very strenuous labor tasks for very little pay. Many Americans thought that they were stealing their jobs from them. They started putting up signs such as "No Irish Need Apply" and also formed political groups such as "Know Nothing" who refused to elect people who were not "native-born" and had campaigned anti-Catholic and anti-Irish positions. In August 1855 Know-Nothing members, guarding polling stations on an election day, launched street fights against German and Irish Catholics. They ransacked and torched Immigrant homes. On another day, over 100 immigrants were killed in Louisville, Kentucky in a terrible massacre infamously known as "Bloody Monday." To combat this abuse, the Irish started to fight power with power and rose in numbers at the ballot box. They voted, not as a religious group, but as a political group. Through unprecedented broad organization, they were able to help Hugh O'Brien become the first Irish and Catholic mayor of Boston in 1884. In Boston today, the Irish politicians continue to enjoy their reputation as "politicians", and the rest of the politicians from all ethnic backgrounds join together, at the most popular annual event of St Patrick's Day, the St Patrick's Day Breakfast.

New immigrant groups replace old immigrant groups. New immigrant groups deal with the discrimination, the isolation, the anger, the hate and the fear from the populace. The irony is that the last immi-



Photo of Irish American Heritage Month grant group has often joined the populace. Social Psychology theory reminds us that race will slow down the assimilation of an immigrant group into the populace

Although there were many challenges that the Irish faced as immigrants in America, through celebrations such as Saint Patrick's Day, we, as Americans, are able to appreciate their culture during Irish Heritage Month. Like Columbus Day and

Over 100 immigrants were killed in Louisville, Kentucky in a terrible massacre infamously known as "Bloody Monday."

Lunar New Year, Black History Month, Indigenous Peoples Month and other special holidays, this country sets aside special days to celebrate our differences. This practice maintains mutual respect for all our immigrants. Sampan interviewed Tim Kelly, about what he thought about Saint Patrick's Day. He said, "I think it is a great way to showcase my Irish Heritage. Traditions like the ginger run, where all the students of Irish descent showcase our beautiful ginger hair makes me feel an immense sense of pride in my culture. It's important to understand that St. Patrick's Day is not just a holiday to dress in green and throw chocolate gold coins, but rather a day to celebrate the culture and history of the people of Ireland."

Influx of migrants into the United States was due to the Potato Famine...

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Haiti's Political Crisis

Continued from Page 1

top court ruled that a 2023 agreement to send police officers to Haiti was unconstitutional since Kenya's National Police Force could not be deployed outside of the country, and that Kenya and Haiti did not have reciprocal agreements. In order to rally support for the United Nations-backed International Police Force to be deployed to Haiti, Henry went to Nairobi, capital of Kenya, in February 2023, to sign the reciprocal agreements that could help send 1,000 Kenyan police officers to Haiti. Following the signing ceremony, Henry appeared in a lecture at Kenya's United States International University and pointed out that democratic governance and elections were needed in order to settle the political instability in Haiti. Haiti has had no elected president since the assassination of President Moïse in 2021 and has had no parliament since the last 10 senators of the nation had their terms terminated in January in 2023.

"Living in Port-au-Prince became a living hell. After almost three years in power and facing pressure to organize elections, Prime Minister Henry decided to visit Kenya to seek assistance from its police forces in curbing gang violence. During his absence, the gangs unified under the slogan 'living together' and turned against Henry, preventing his return by storming all the airports in Haiti, causing widespread destruction and loss of life," said Jacques Andre Vertilus, an NGO worker in the Northeast of Haiti on the presidential council, who spoke with Sampan on the condition his name has been changed.

While Henry has been abroad, the gang violence in Haiti has dramatically escalated. According to the Washington Post, Chérizier, who is also known by the nickname "Barbecue" – a former police officer now leading the gang alliance G9 Family and Allies – had called for Haiti's warring criminal factions to unite to oust Acting Prime Minister Henry. To strengthen their plans for his removal, the gangs attacked the National Penitentiary again and allowed a total of 3,597 prisoners to escape.

According to AP News, the gangs soon attacked a second prison in nearby Croix-des-Bouquets which contained approximately 1,400 inmates. Haiti immediately declared a state of emergency and imposed a nighttime curfew between 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. Meanwhile, these heavily armed gangs have attacked and shut down the International Airport and the main seaport,

In 2022, it experienced its worst-ever famine with 4.7 million people, which amounted to approximately 40.5% of the Haitian population, suffering acute hunger



Photo courtesy of nytimes.com

locking out Henry. According to the Washington Post, the gangs have blockaded main roads in Haiti nationwide, making it almost impossible to reach Port-au-Prince by land. Currently, the gangs control up to an estimated 80% of Port-au-Prince. In addition to blocking all ways of entering the capital, the gangs have been terrorizing the population. The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, reports that gangs have been committing systematic sexual violence, including collective rape and mutilation, indiscriminate kidnapping, violent arson, and mass killings.

Gang violence has driven many Haitians to flee the country to nearby nations including the Dominican Republic and the United States. Some Haitians fled to the United States under the Humanitarian Parole Program – a program that allows certain people from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Venezuela who have a sponsor in the U.S. and who pass a background check – to come to the U.S. for a period of two years to live and work lawfully. According to AP News, since the launch of the Humanitarian Parole Program in fall 2022, more than 357,000 people have been granted parole and allowed to enter the U.S. Haitians have been the biggest group to use the program. Approximately 138,000 Haitians have arrived in the U.S. under this program while many Haitians fleeing to the Dominican Republic have been arrested and deported. According to the Dominican-based National Coalition for Migrations and Refugees, complaints have been lodged about Dominican authorities bursting into houses to arrest people who they believed to be Haitians and destroying their properties. The United Nations and many human rights activists have called on the Dominican Republic and other countries to halt the deportations or diminish or postpone the push for deportations. However, according to NBC News, the Foreign Minister of the Dominican Republic, Roberto Álvarez, told the reporters that the deportations are a result of a national security policy and that there is no choice but to continue them. This month, more than 4,500 Haitians have

been deported.

Meanwhile, gang violence has trapped many Haitians inside their homes. The gangs have cut off the capital from food, water, and medical supplies by road, by air, or by sea. The violence has shut down schools, businesses, public hospitals, and government buildings and has limited public services such as trash collection which has led to the resurfacing of cholera. Cholera is mainly linked to inadequate sanitation and insufficient access to safe drinking water. The roadblocks have impeded the World Food Program's efforts to distribute food to Haitians and the closure of the International Airport has impeded World Health Organization's effort to import essential goods and medicine amid the ongoing Cholera outbreak in Haiti. According to the United Nations, more than 5 million Haitians need immediate humanitarian assistance because of famine, displacement, and other deprivations.

The shutting down of the international airport and the denied permission to land in the Dominican Republic has Henry to find refuge in Puerto Rico. In a video address from Puerto Rico on March 11, he announced that he would step down "immediately after the installation of a Transitional Council," members of which are to be chosen by representatives from several sectors of the Haitian people. The Transitional Council would appoint an Interim Prime Minister until a new prime minister and a new government are appointed, Henry's government would continue to handle routine affairs.

While diplomats from several countries are pushing to set up the Transitional Council, gang violence has further escalated and, according to NBC News, has spread to the Petion-Ville suburb of the capital Port-au-Prince, an upmarket area with several embassies. The leader of the G9 gang, Chérizier, has threatened to target the harboring politicians. Currently, all groups and political parties involved in choosing members for the transitional council have submitted nominees. The council is composed of nine members. In addition to appointing an interim prime

minister, the Transitional Council will also be responsible for appointing a council of ministers, a provisional electoral council, and a national security council. Furthermore, all members of the council are required to back the deployment of a foreign armed force.

Here in Boston, Pastor Dieufort Jean Fleurissant, better known as Keke, a Senior Pastor and Founder of Total Health Christian Ministries in Mattapan, is urging U.S. politicians do what they can to help Haitians, both by using their political clout and policy changes to assist immigrants.

Pastor Keke is pushing for the expansion of protected immigration status for the migrants who can not return to their home of Haiti. Pastor Keke states the need to expand the Biden Humanitarian Act to TPS status for the migrants that can not return to their home of Haiti. "Two weeks ago when this situation definitely escalated in Haiti, a few Haitian organizations gathered, including the Center Immigrant Families Services Institute and the Association of Haitian Women to call representatives of Senator Markey, Senator Warren, and Congresswoman Pressley to discuss and request their assistants in this situation."

"In light of the deep-rooted issues within Haiti's political landscape, it is skeptical whether the Presidential Council



Photo courtesy of cbsnews

will effectively address the country's crises," said Jacques Andre Vertilus, the NGO worker. "The pervasive division and self-interest among Haitian politicians cast doubt on the council's ability to bring about meaningful change."

Juslene Tyrasias, Deputy Director and Program Coordinator at Mouvement Pasyon de Papaya in Haiti describes, "Ariel Henry spent 32 months in power without the consent of the Haitian people and satisfied the Core Group (Germany, United States, France, Brazil, EU OAS and the UN). He continued to adopt a new Constitution by referendum and held an election to satisfy foreigners to the detriment of the Haitian people. During his time in power, armed gangs kidnapped, massacred, and burned homes in working-class neighborhoods of Port au Prince."

David Pierre, (name changed upon request), an Amazon warehouse worker living in Malden, came to Massachusetts last year in May via the Humanitarian parole program. He says, "The presidential council that has just been created does not bode well. Aryel Henry has been overwhelmed by events. He was no longer the man for the job. He has always been unable to solve the security problems that Haiti is facing... He is a very poor leader. He has never shown any sympathy or compassion towards the population even in the most difficult times. It is said that he is a great neurosurgeon. He used to operate on patients sometimes for free. But he is incompetent in politics.... Haitians have shown themselves unable to resolve the crisis on their own. Good riddance [to Aryel Henry]!!! I think the gangs will calm down a little. We can hope for a better tomorrow for Haiti... For the moment, I am not thinking at all about a potential return to Haiti."



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- RN (FT) OR LPN (FT) – Boston/ Quincy/Malden
- Dental Hygienist (FT) – Boston/ Quincy
- Dental Assistant (FT) – Boston/ Quincy
- Birthing Coach (FT) – Boston
- BIDMC Interpreter (FT) – Boston
- Interpreter (FT) – Boston & Malden
- Member Service (FT) – Boston
- Nurse Assistant – OB/GYN (FT) – Boston
- Social Service Assistant (FT) – Boston/ Malden

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Or Contact our HR Department: 617-521-6701;

Le.jiang@scchc.org

Boston 波士頓	Washington St. Clinic 華盛頓街診所 885 Washington St. 617-482-7555	成人科、小兒科、足科及社會服務部 Adult Medicine, Pediatrics, Podiatry, and Social Services WALK-INS AVAILABLE, APPOINTMENTS RECOMMENDED (接受無預約但建議預約)	MON-FRI 星期一至五 8:30AM – 5:00PM SAT 星期六 8:30AM - 1:00PM (Adult Med. AND Pediatrics ONLY 僅成人科及小兒科)
	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
Quincy 昆西	Hancock St. Clinic 漢考克街診所 435 Hancock St. 617-318-3300	成人科、340B 藥房及社會服務部 Adult Medicine, 340B Pharmacy, and Social Services	MON – FRI 星期一至五 8:30AM – 5:00PM Sat 星期六 8:30am - 1:00pm (Adult Med., and Pharmacy ONLY 僅成人科及藥房)
	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

<http://www.scchc.org>

Events Calendar

• Boston Marathon

Date: Monday, April 15, 2024

Time: 8:50 am - 4:00 pm

Location: Hopkinton to Boylston St, Boston, MA

Details: Join us for the world's oldest annual marathon and one of the most prestigious road racing events. Managed by the Boston Athletic Association and sponsored by John Hancock Financial Services, the Boston Marathon is celebrated for its rich traditions, longevity, and the unique qualification process. Experience the pinnacle of road racing in a day filled with athletic excellence and spirited camaraderie.

Admission: FREE

<https://www.baa.org/>

• Asian-American & Pacific Islander Celebration at Fenway Park

Date: Wednesday, May 1

Time: 7:10 PM

Location: Fenway Park

Details: Celebrate AAPI pride at Fenway Park during the annual Asian-American & Pacific Islander Celebration. Special ticket holders will receive a commemorative Red Sox AAPI Celebration jersey, with sizes ranging from Adult Small to XL on a first-come, first-served basis. The 2024 AAPI Celebration jersey pays homage to the Pacific Islands and Asian cultures with hibiscus flowers and a dragon intertwined with the year '24. Enjoy cultural performances before the game, and savor special themed food and drinks. For group bookings or inquiries, contact ticketoffice@redsox.com.

Buy Now: <https://www.mlb.com/redsox/tickets/promotions/themes/aapi-celebration>

• Free Rapid HIV Testing Clinic

Date: Thursdays, starting April 4, 2024

Time: 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Location: Daniel Driscoll Neponset Health Center, 398 Neponset Ave, Dorchester, MA 02122

Details: The THRIVE Clinic at Harbor Health Services offers free Rapid HIV Testing every Thursday. Resources available include

sexual health resources, safer sex and menstruation supplies, family planning counseling, and information on PrEP. The testing is free, confidential, and inclusive for all.

Admission: FREE

<https://www.hhsi.us/programs-and-services/thriveclinic/>

• Corey Hill Lookout Hill Repeats Workout

Date: Fridays, starting April 5, 2024

Time: 6:30 am - 7:30 am

Location: Corey Hill Lookout, Summit Ave, Brookline, MA

Details: Join us every Friday morning at Corey Hill Lookout for a dynamic hill repeats workout. Suitable for all fitness levels, whether you prefer walking, jogging, or running. A great way to start your day with exercise and beautiful views!

Admission: FREE

More Information: <https://november-project.com/boston/#Friday>

Note: Please sign the one-time waiver to participate. Parking available on Beacon Street with free meters until 8 am or limited parking on Jordan Road.

• Saturday Morning Zen Practice

Date: Saturday, April 6, 2024

Time: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Location: Greater Boston Zen Center, 552 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge, MA 02139

Details: Engage in Zen practice with both in-person and remote participation via Zoom. The session includes Zen liturgy, zazen (silent sitting), kinhin (walking meditation), and either a second sitting or a discussion. See the Instructions Document for details and the Zoom link.

Admission: FREE

<https://bostonzen.org/saturdays/>

• Greater Boston Sports Card & Autograph Show

Date: Sunday, April 7, 2024

Time: 8:30 am - 2:15 pm

Location: Rt. 95 to Rt. 1 North to the Holiday Inn

Details: Cardboard Promotions presents the Big Sports Card & Memorabilia Show. Buy, sell, or trade sports cards, memorabilia, graded and ungraded cards, autographs, and Pokemon cards. Enjoy over 85 vendor tables, free hourly door prizes, and card grading services. Admission is \$3, free for under 12. Meet autograph guests including Hockey Hall of Famer Jari Kurri, umpire Joe West, Red Sox World Series Champ Mitch Moreland, and 7-time NFL Champ Marv Fleming.

Admission: \$3 (Free for under 12)

<https://cli.re/63102-greater-boston-sports-card-autograph-show>

• New England Youth Ocean Summit

Date: Sunday, April 7, 2024

Time: 9:30 am - 4:00 pm

Location: University of Massachusetts, Boston, 100 Morrissey Blvd, Boston, MA 02125

Details: Join the New England Youth Ocean Summit for an inspiring day dedicated to the wonders and mysteries of the ocean. Engage with others who are motivated to protect our planet and the vibrant life along our shores. This event is an opportunity for young individuals to learn, collaborate, and encourage decision-makers to take steps to protect our oceans.

Admission: FREE

<https://www.youthoceansummit.org/>

• Solar Eclipse Viewing at Connecticut Science Center

Date: Monday, April 8, 2024

Time: 10:00 am - 5:30 pm

Location: Connecticut Science Center, 250 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford, CT 06103

Details: Experience a rare astronomical event at the Connecticut Science Center. Join us to witness a Solar Eclipse, a stunning celestial phenomenon where the moon passes between the sun and Earth. Don't miss this chance to observe one of nature's most awe-inspiring sights.

Admission: \$27.99

<https://ctsciencecenter.org/eclipse>

• Baby-Friendly Matinees at The Capitol Theatre

Date: Monday, April 8, 2024

Time: 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

Location: Capitol Theatre, 204 Mass Ave, Arlington, MA 02475

Details: Enjoy a special baby-friendly matinee screening at The Capitol Theatre. Tickets are available in person at the box office on the day of the event only. To find out this week's film, please check our website. It's a great way for parents to catch a movie without worrying about their babies making noise.

Admission: \$8

<https://www.capitoltheatreusa.com/baby-matinees/>

• Complimentary Bike Check-Ups in Seaport

Date: Wednesdays, starting April 10, 2024

Time: 7:30 am - 11:30 am

Location: Seaport Common, 85 Northern Ave, Boston, MA 02210

Details: Seaport TMA collaborates with Amazon and Landry's Bicycles to offer free bike check-ups throughout the summer. Every Wednesday morning, join us at Seaport Common for your bike maintenance and enjoy treats from local businesses as a thank you for your sustainable commuting efforts.

Admission: FREE, registration required. Limit one appointment per bike.

<https://www.bostonseaport.xyz/event/bike-check-ups-2/2024-04-10/>

• Spring Bird Walk at Mass Audubon's Boston Nature Center

Date: Saturday, April 13, 2024

Time: 8:00 am - 10:00 am

Location: Mass Audubon's Boston Nature Center, 500 Walk Hill Street, Mattapan, MA 02126

Details: Join us for a guided bird watching walk to observe resident birds and spring migrants in a unique urban habitat. A BNC naturalist will assist in bird identification through field marks, sounds, and behaviors, making this an enriching experience for birders of all levels, especially beginners. The trails are flat and easy to navigate. The Nature Center offers restrooms and a water bottle filling station.

Admission: FREE, but registration is required.

Registration:

<https://www.massaudubon.org/programs/boston-nature-center/92139-spring-bird-walk>

TikTok Ban

Continued from Page 1

ment, cultural influence, and individual expression would be severely impacted for Americans following the loss of the social media giant.

A potential TikTok ban would come with substantial economic ramifications, particularly for small businesses, media influences, and the tech industry at large. TikTok has established itself as a very lucrative platform for both businesses and individuals, as millions rely on it for advertising, promotion, and generating revenue. Aspire insight underscores the economic significance of TikTok, highlighting the role it has played in creating and driving the influencer economy. TikTok has also posed a huge threat to U.S based tech and social media giants such as Google and Meta. Banning it would have devastating effects on the businesses and creators that rely on TikTok for their livelihoods, costing them millions of dollars. ABC news further points out that industries who advertise on the app and creators with their following on it would find it hard to replicate TikTok's appeal on a different platform. The economic impact could extend beyond any one business and affect the way digital ad-

vertising, marketing, and e-commerce is handled.

There is also a significant racial component to this TikTok ban. Accusations of racism and xenophobia have stemmed from the proposed bill, asserting that the reasons behind it are nothing more than anti-asian sentiment and threats from China's growing economy. Other critics point out that there are real national security and data privacy concerns with the platform, but the cultural and national aspect of this debate cannot be ignored. The Intelligencer further points out the strategic implications of TikTok, stating that a study shows "a strong possibility that TikTok systematically promotes or demotes content on the basis of whether it is aligned with or opposed to the interests of the Chinese Government"(The Influencer). By suppressing keywords and topics that may reflect badly on the CCP, the Chinese government is able to propagate a curated image of themselves on a global scale, allowing them to further their interests very efficiently. Furthermore, this debate underscores the intersection of race, politics, and technology in shaping public discourse. ABC news points out the First Amendment implications of this policy, stating that the bill was "an infringement on the right to express oneself freely"(ABC news). A potential

ban of TikTok could result in a long legal battle on First Amendment grounds, with TikTok challenging the law as a violation of constitutionally protected rights to free speech and expression.

The potential ban on TikTok raises significant concerns about freedom of expression and censorship in the digital age. Critics argue that banning TikTok infringes on constitutionally protected rights to free speech, while proponents cite national security concerns as justification for such measures. An article from ABC News ex-

banning TikTok infringes on constitutionally protected rights to free speech...

plores the free speech considerations of a TikTok ban, noting the likelihood of legal challenges on First Amendment grounds. The debate over the balance between national security and civil liberties is complex, with potential implications for the future of online discourse and digital rights.

Furthermore, as highlighted in an article from The Washington Post, concerns have been raised about TikTok's alleged censorship practices and ties to the Chinese government. The free speech considerations extend beyond individual users to encompass broader questions about corporate responsibility, government oversight, and the regulation of online platforms.

In the digital age, boundaries around freedom of expression and censorship have been heavily blurred. Social media giants have been given essentially free reign to dictate what people can and cannot say, and what ideas can and cannot be discussed. Because they are privately owned, there is little the federal government can do to ensure that constitutional rights are upheld for every citizen on this app. TikTok argues that a ban on their platform would actually infringe on this constitutional right to free speech, stating that the app provides millions of creators a unique place to safely express themselves. However, other concerns about TikTok's censorship practices and ties to the Chinese government make their free speech claims less credible. TikTok has knowingly suppressed information that could hurt the image of the CCP, and works closely with them to advance the Chinese Government's interests in a manner that threatens U.S national security.

Job Corner

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Website: tuftsmedicalcenter.org

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

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- **Position: School Counselor, FT Boston**
-MA DESE School Counselor License at the appropriate level.
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-Passing grade on Manager's Proficiency Exam (administered by FNS)
-Must be Boston resident
Website: www.bostonpublicschools.org/
Contact: Recruitment@BostonPublicSchools.org

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

- **Position: Fiscal Support Coordinator, FT**
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-Salary: Salary: 61,195.94 - 88,071.36 Yearly
Website: <https://www.mass.gov/>

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

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Public Info Session: April 10, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom

Go to zoom.com/join or call (646) 558-8656 and enter Meeting ID: 818 9317 7595. Passcode: 088159

Application Deadline: May 7, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

Completed Applications and Required Income Documentation must be delivered by this date. Applications may be emailed to info@sebhousing.com, faxed to (617) 782-4500, or mailed to SEB Housing, Re: Norton Links, 257 Hillside Ave, Needham, MA 02494

Lottery: May 22, 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 **Norton Links** 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. 提供免费翻译



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Economic Development and Industrial Corporation of Boston ("EDIC") d/b/a Boston Planning & Development Agency ("BPDA")

INVITATION FOR BID RLFMP Building Security

Gigi Munden; 617-918-6203; Gigi.Munden@boston.gov

The Economic Development and Industrial Corporation of Boston ("EDIC") d/b/a Boston Planning & Development Agency ("BPDA"), by its Interim Chief Procurement Officer is pleased to issue this Invitation for Bid entitled "RLFMP Building Security" (the "IFB"). The IFB is issued in accordance with M.G.L. c. 149 as may be amended. This IFB package including requirements for this project will be available to download on the BPDA Procurement Portal [free-of charge in digital print form](#) to all interested respondents on **March 25, 2024 at 9:00 A.M** www.bostonplans.org/work-with-us/procurement. All responses to this IFB must be returned no later than **12:00 noon on June 4, 2024** to: Teresa Polhemus, Clerk, Economic Development and Industrial Corporation c/o Real Estate Administration, One City Hall Square, Room 900A/Reception, Boston MA 02210. Tim Mathis, Interim Chief Procurement Officer

Chromic Duo Played an Emotional, Innovative Show at Crystal Ballroom

By Harmony Witte

Chromic Duo made up of Lucy Yao and Dorothy Chan, performed at the Crystal Ballroom on Friday March 22nd, as a part of the Celebrity Series of Boston's Stave Sessions and this was not the oft pictured typical classical piano concert! They played on toy pianos, a toy xylophone, a synthesizer, as well as on a stand up piano to breathe fresh air into works, such as Ryuichi Sakamoto's "Path of the Wind" from My Neighbor Totoro and wrapped up the show with an original piece by Chromic Duo, From Roots We Carry. During From Roots We Carry they encouraged the audience to write in notes through a QR code on their phones that would then be displayed on the screen during the final piece answering questions such as "what are the roots/traditions that have been passed down to you that you want to keep/celebrate?" and "what are the roots/traditions that have been passed down to you that you want to let go of?" This sort of digital "confessional" helped the audience forge connections with the



Photo of Chromic Duo made up of Lucy Yao and Dorothy Chan

duo and with each other. Making the event something much more than a simple piano concert. Throughout the evening Dorothy and Lucy took turns speaking into the microphones about their connections to the chosen songs and the dialogue was alternatively funny and heartwarming, the perfect accompaniment to the music.

Sampan sat down with Dorothy Chan and Lucy Chao to discuss their show and future plans:

Sampan: How did you meet each other?

Lucy Yao: Yeah, so we met in a hallway, infamously, at the New England Conservatory in 2019. I saw Dorothy in the hallway as she was carrying this huge case of what looked like the Peanuts pianos. And it was like, "what is that?" And from there, we just started to make music with toy pianos. And I didn't see her until another year later when I was looking for ways to break outside of the classical music traditions that I had been around since I was four.

Sampan: How old were you when you began playing piano and did you enjoy it?

Dorothy Chan: Was like, I think, three and a half, four. And I think, same with Lucy. I actually wanted to, apparently. I don't know. According to my mom. I think we had some family gathering, and then you know how you have a big gathering and usually when you're done, people still go outside of the restaurant and just stand around for, like, a second. And then I think we're all standing around, and we're right next to a store that sells pianos. And apparently, I was just like all about it, and she's like, 'do you want to go see?'

And I'm like 'yes!', and then apparently, I wanted to learn it. So, contrary to what a lot of the people are like, maybe when you're young, maybe your parents wanted you to go do something and force you to do that. It came very naturally for me.

Lucy Yao: I don't remember, but I think I enjoyed it at that age, and my parents never forced me to do anything, including piano. So I am not at all a child prodigy. I think I did the bare minimum all the way up until college when a teacher noticed that I am pretty musical and that I can express myself with the instruments. She pushed me towards going into the music education route originally in my societies at college, and I was a pretty late bloomer when I realized that music is a way to express myself. But, however, it was not the only way that I could express myself.

Sampan: This show that you're doing at the Crystal Ballroom on the 22nd, what inspired you to create this piece of work?

Lucy Yao: When we were thinking about returning to Boston, this is the first time that we are returning with all of the tools and the kinds of stories that we want to tell since we first met. And I think what inspires me is being able to create a place for our audiences to reflect within themselves and to ask themselves questions about roots, which is the title of one of the featured works From Roots We Carry. For me, it's asking the audiences to reflect on these two questions, the first being, 'what of these roots have you inherited, or these traditions have you inherited that you want to celebrate or keep?' And then the second question being, 'what are the roots that you no longer wish to hold, the ones that you just want to leave behind?' And I think this is a kind of recurring theme in our work as the more and more we create, it's like, how do we create moments of empathy and reflection? And so our process is inspired by creating maybe moments of familiarity in the programs. And that's how we, for instance, are sharing pieces that we love from our childhood. And that's how we're sharing Studio Ghibli and My Neighbor Totoro paired with more contemporary Ryuichi Sakamoto. And then going into that is inspiring. Also later works that in the pandemic were especially important and then became like a turning point, I think, that helps us define the kinds of things we're inspired by. And that's the piece that is our arrangement of Ravel. So in that piece, it's called Pavane. It's modeled after our roots of growing. My background being in classical music, Dorothy has a different background to talk about a little bit, maybe later. So it's integrating the kind of classical style and the roots we came from, and then talking about, 'why is music important now? What issues are important now?' The poem that is featured in Pavane is talking about the rise of anti API sentiment and hate crime in 2020 during the wake of all of the spikes of hate crime, especially in New York City, where I am based. And it's one of the beautiful things, I think, that art can do is paint potential futures and dream of things that could be the potential for that. And so the poem is talking about, what if Asian American histories are taught in schools? What does it look like when you're represented in the stories that you hear? So that's what that piece is about. And, yeah, I think we're just inspired to

share the things that we love and the things that we grew up with, the things that we

Lucy Yao: ...what inspires me is being able to create a place for our audiences to reflect within themselves and to ask themselves questions about roots...

redefine and then invite audiences to reflect together.

Sampan: The program includes a piece of original music by you From Roots We Carry. Will you talk about that a little bit?

Lucy Yao: From Roots We Carry was created with the multidisciplinary artist Amanda Phingbodhipakkiya. In discussion with her, we were trying to figure out what is the heart of this piece. It was through this kind of discovering process that we started to talk to our friends and family about. 'How does it affect your relationships?' Basically. And it turns out that the theme that we were talking about really had to do with not only Asian American identity, but also with anyone, because, as Dorothy said, 'we all come from somewhere'. We all have these kinds of traditions or trauma or celebrating things that we want to honor. What we did is we collected stories, memories, and experiences from

our friends and family and then created this 20 minute long piece where you hear narrations and stories throughout. And then after that, after the story made sense, we created music and sound design, any kinds of field recordings to make it come to life.

Sampan: What are your plans as a duo for the future?

Lucy Yao: After this, we are going to be artists in residence and creative directors with Texas A&M. And we are creating an augmented reality soundwalk that you're using your phone to discover stories around sustainability, specifically around the United Nations Sustainability Development Goal. We've chosen to focus on life underwater because of Texas's proximity to the ocean, specifically with one of the campuses at...

Dorothy Chan: M. They're next to the ocean there.

Lucy Yao: And what we're doing with that is, without giving too much away, we're inviting participants, just like we would in the concerts, to reflect on their experiences and on their current relationships with climate and to think about how to engage with it in a more meaningful way. And so, yeah, we're collaborating with the extra departments there, the social impact sustainability department, as well as the music composition and theater visualization.

Dorothy Chan: Music... came very naturally for me

Dorothy Chan: And it would be, like, something that would be through an app. So it's a free app that anybody can download and experience on their campus.

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Kung Fu Panda 4 Continues the Furry Franchise

By Harmony Witte

There is a new installment of the Kung Fu Panda comedy/adventure animated film series and its continuing to blow audiences away with its marvelous story, superb voice acting, and stellar music! Kung Fu Panda 4 continues the tale of Po (voiced by Jack Black, The Holiday, School of Rock) who improbably becomes the “Dragon Warrior” – a master of kung fu. Po is a giant panda and in this film is chosen to be the spiritual warrior of the Valley of Peace. He is given the jade-colored Staff of Wisdom and tasked with finding and training a successive Dragon Warrior to take over his position. Meanwhile, a sorcerous known as The Chameleon (Viola Davis, The Help, The Woman King) plans to bring back all of the enemies that Po has fought in an effort to take over the realm. This is the latest animated offering from DreamWorks Animation.

The Kung Fu Panda franchise is set in a fantasy version of wuxia (martial arts and chivalry) in ancient China where the world is filled with anthropomorphic animals. The franchise consists of the four films, 3 television series, four short films, and a television special. This film was directed by Mike Mitchell (Trolls, Sky High).

The story begins with a group of rams working in a mine. Suddenly, darkness falls, and a ram starts screaming. Tai Lung appears (voiced by Ian McShane) and announces he has returned from the dead to “take what is mine, which is everything!” He also declares that no one stands in his way “not even the great Dragon Warrior!”

Meanwhile, Po’s fathers are looking for him and find him practicing kung fu with the Staff of Wisdom, which he earned previously. He explains that the staff gives him the power to travel between realms.

Po also explains that all of his friends from the previous films are busy having their own adventures. Po’s trainer, Master Shifu (voiced by Dustin Hoffman) pulls Po aside and tells him that he is not going to be the Dragon Warrior anymore, that he will now be the spiritual leader of the Valley of Peace. Po counters that he “doesn’t know anything about passing on wisdom” and “being the Dragon Warrior is all I know.” Master Shifu wants him to interview Dragon Warrior candidates, but Po is reluctant. Master Shifu hands Po a peach pit and cryptically explains “every pit holds the promise of a mighty tree.”

Po attempts to meditate but is distracted by thoughts of food. Small panda versions of himself pop up on his shoulders in an age-old trope of the angel and the devil on the shoulder to argue the merits of meditating, but the filmmakers subvert the trope by having the pandas multiply out of control into a dozen mini panda heads arguing with one another. Po looks at some flower petals blowing on the wind as a sign from the universe and begins to choke on the petals. Exasperated, he spots a shadowy figure and begins to follow them. Following the figure quickly turns into an encounter with the wise-talking fox who tells Po “Nothing about you says ‘dragon’ or ‘warrior.’” Po sends Zhen the fox to the Valley of Peace prison for her misdeeds.

The rams from the beginning of the film approach Po to ask for help. Po goes to see Zhen in prison, and she explains to him that there is a shape shifting chameleon wreaking havoc. Zhen offers to lead Po to the Chameleon in exchange for a reduced sentence. They begin their journey to Juniper City. In Juniper City, The Chameleon turns up in disguise in a cabal of criminals who are discussing how best to deal with her. She then turns into an elephant and

pushes a bear down some remarkably steep stairs. She harshly increases this month’s tribute by 60%.

Zhen gets caught in a tavern on the top of a cliff cheating at a game of mahjong, so she and Po have to fight their way out of the place after Po tries peace keeping methods and finds that no one outside of the Valley of Peace has heard of his Dragon Warrior status. He asks in a stunned realization “Am I that provincial?” Director Mike Mitchell seems to relish in shots that couldn’t be pulled off with live action actors without substantial computer graphics. This is a film that is fast-paced and clever with a joke seemingly every 30 seconds. The fight scenes are chaotic in the best possible way with little sight gags that build on each other, making this a true comedy with plenty of puns for the adult’s benefit.

Po and Zhen narrowly escape the tavern and continue on their journey to Juniper City, which is where Zhen is from. She explains that she has no family and survived getting by any way she could. Zhen explains that in Juniper City you can “be anything you want to be, do whatever you want to do, steal whatever you want to steal.” Po exclaims that “Juniper City is the most amazing place I’ve ever seen!”

Once in Juniper City Po and Zhen make friends with a group of feral, criminal children and then continue their journey where they must face off with The Chameleon who has amassed untold power.

The voice acting was strong in this installment of Kung Fu Panda with Viola Davis bringing a powerful performance as The Chameleon. Awkwafina voiced the wily fox, Zhen, and made for a great side kick. The highlight of the film for me were Po’s two dads, who are not a couple--a panda named LI Shan (voiced by John Cranston) and a goose named Mr. Ping (voiced by James Hong) who both care very much for their son, enough so that they follow him into Juniper City and fall into many hijinks during the search.



Kung Fu Panda 4, Photo courtesy of IMDB

For the closing credits of the film Jack Black and his band Tenacious D performed a raucous version of Britney Spears’ hit “Baby One More Time” and it was a perfect way to wrap up the action. Astute listeners will also catch an orchestral cover of Ozzy Osbourne’s “Crazy Train,” arranged by Hans Zimmer and Steve Mazzaro, during a big action sequence. The rest of the score was serviceable with no other highlights that stuck out.

This is a solid addition to the Kung Fu Panda franchise and a film I would recommend everyone take their children to see! There are a few scenes which may be too scary for very small children but I would recommend it for kids ages 7 and up. It’s something both the kids and their parents can enjoy.

Editor Note: Jonathan Ke Huy Quan, Academy Award for Best Actor in a Supporting Role, who also joined the dubbing cast to dub the character Han.



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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. **Z91CN03, ON-CALL EMERGENCY REPAIRS, SYSTEMWIDE (CLASS 1 – GENERAL TRANSIT CONSTRUCTION, CLASS 4A – STEEL SUPERSTRUCTURES; AND CLASS 4B – CONCRETE SUPERSTRUCTURES, PROJECT VALUE: \$4,000,000,** can be submitted at www.bidx.com until two o’clock (2:00 p.m.) on **April 11, 2024** immediately thereafter, in a designated room, the Bids will be opened and read publicly.

The Work to be done under this contract consists of providing professionals, labor, materials, and equipment to perform condition assessment, construct, and complete emergency structural repair work within a specified construction schedule. Emergency structural repair work is defined as work that is of an emergency nature and requires immediate attention and corrective action, as determined by the MBTA.

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.

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 to Bidders

Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority
Phillip Eng
General Manager of the MBTA
March 13, 2024

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Darkness at Noon: The Solar Eclipse

By Tony Le

As the world gears up for a captivating event in the skies, the upcoming solar eclipse on April 8th, 2024, is shaping up to be an extraordinary spectacle. This natural phenomenon, characterized by the moon passing between the Earth and the sun, will cast a mesmerizing shadow over certain regions, plunging them into darkness during the day. It serves as a vivid reminder of the vastness of space and our place within it, inviting onlookers to marvel at the wonders that unfold above us and ponder the mysteries that lie beyond our understanding. Furthermore, it offers a moment for everyone, from casual observers to avid astronomers, to pause and reflect on the beauty and precision of the cosmos.

advancements in scientific research since the 2017 eclipse have equipped researchers with new tools and insights, further enhancing our understanding of this cosmic event. As anticipation builds and excitement mounts, the 2024 solar eclipse promises to captivate a global audience, uniting sky gazers in a shared moment of wonder and scientific discovery.

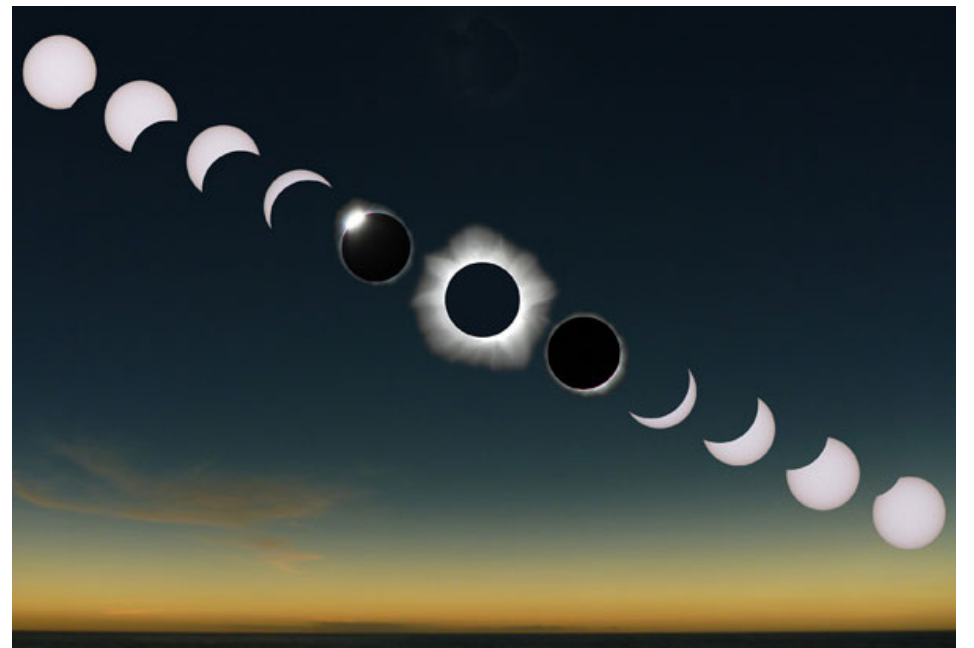
A solar eclipse transpires when the moon, in its orbit around the Earth, aligns directly between the Earth and the sun, obstructing the sun's light. This alignment causes a shadow to be cast upon the Earth, resulting in a temporary dimming or blocking out of the sun's rays. Solar eclipses come in different forms: total, partial,

Burlington offering a total eclipse for approximately three minutes in the late afternoon

NASA expects that because of the "differences in the path, timing, and scientific research," the upcoming eclipse will invite a much larger audience compared to the 215 million U.S. adults documented in 2017". This heightened interest stems from several key factors. Firstly, the path of totality - where viewers can witness the complete blockage of the sun by the moon - is wider during the 2024 eclipse, spanning from Mexico to Canada and passing over more cities and densely populated areas. This accessibility ensures that more people will have the opportunity to witness this celestial spectacle firsthand. Additionally, the duration of totality is expected to be longer, providing spectators with extended moments of awe and wonder. Moreover,

and annular, depending on the alignment and positioning of the sun, moon, and Earth. The forthcoming solar eclipse is anticipated to be visible stretching across Mexico, entering the United States in Texas, and traveling through Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. The eclipse will enter Canada in Southern Ontario, and continue through Quebec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Cape Breton. This celestial event is projected to commence at approximately 11:07 a.m. PDT, and will exit continental North America on the Atlantic coast of Newfoundland, Canada, at 5:16 p.m. NDT. This path of totality is

Photo of Solar Eclipse



the only place where you can experience the full effects of a total solar eclipse, and anywhere outside will not receive the full experience. Totality of the eclipse starts as early as 1:40 in Dallas, Texas and the latest 3:32 in Caribou, Maine. This longer duration offers viewers an opportunity to witness the mesmerizing sight as the moon covers a significant portion of the sun.

How to watch the solar eclipse

It's imperative to exercise caution while observing a solar eclipse to safeguard one's eyes from the potentially harmful effects of staring directly at the sun. The intense solar radiation emitted during an eclipse can cause severe eye damage or even permanent blindness if proper precautions are not taken. Experts strongly advise using special-purpose solar filters or eclipse glasses that meet international safety standards (ISO 12312-2) to view the eclipse safely. These specially designed glasses effectively block out harmful ultraviolet, visible, and infrared radiation, allowing observers to view the sun

without risking eye injury. Additionally, indirect viewing methods such as pinhole projectors or solar viewing telescopes provide safe alternatives for experiencing the eclipse without directly exposing the eyes to the sun's rays. These simple yet effective devices project an image of the eclipsed sun onto a surface, allowing observers to witness the celestial event without any risk to their vision.

Following the solar eclipse, scientists and researchers will seize the opportunity to conduct various studies and observations. These investigations may involve analyzing the sun's corona, studying its magnetic fields, and examining changes in atmospheric conditions during the eclipse. The data collected during these events contribute significantly to our understanding of the sun and its influence on the Earth's environment.

Solar eclipses often serve as remarkable opportunities for public engagement and educational outreach, igniting curiosity

Continued on Page 10

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ity and inspiring wonder among people of all ages. In addition to formal educational institutions, numerous community organizations and local libraries eagerly embrace the celestial event as a chance to spark interest in astronomy and science. These entities go above and beyond to organize a wide array of events, from lectures and workshops to viewing parties and hands-on activities, providing the public with unforgettable opportunities to witness the cosmic spectacle firsthand. For instance, the Thomas Crane Public Library in Quincy, Massachusetts, has already kicked off its campaign to celebrate the upcoming solar eclipse. From March 20th through the 30th, the library welcomes attendees of all ages to drop in and explore the wonders of the universe. Equipped with solar telescopes and sunoculars, participants will have the unique opportunity to observe sunspots and witness the dynamic dance of the sun and moon. By actively engaging with the community in such interactive and immersive experiences, institutions like the Thomas Crane Public Library play a vital role in fostering scientific literacy, encouraging lifelong learning, and cultivating a deeper appreciation for the marvels of the cosmos.

With the steadfast excitement for the upcoming eclipse, many wait in profound anticipation for the thrilling episode. For most, this enthusiasm spurs from the opportunity to experience such a rare spectacle. For some, this event might awaken a sense of curiosity, wonder, or even introspection, considering the broader implications of our place within the vast expanse of space. For very few, this event might serve as a cultural resurrection from the past.

Superstitions, beliefs and science all come together

The significance of eclipses is evident in various historical accounts, such as the Ugarit eclipse, dated back to 1375 B.C., where the darkened sky was perceived as a harbinger of divine intervention. In 763 B.C., the Assyrian empire witnessed a total eclipse coinciding with an insurrection, suggesting a link between celestial occurrences and earthly affairs. Chinese historians chronicled a total eclipse in 1302 B.C., associating it with the emperor's fate, while Christians attributed the darkness following Jesus's crucifixion to an eclipse. Similarly, Islamic texts mention eclipses surrounding the birth of Mohammed, highlighting cultural interpretations of celestial events. Even in modern times, such as the 1919 solar eclipse, scientists seized the opportunity to validate Einstein's theory of general relativity, underscoring the enduring significance of eclipses in human history and scientific advancement. Through these accounts, the cultural importance of eclipses emerges as a timeless phenomenon, bridging ancient beliefs with contemporary understanding.

Deeply ingrained into the story of our ancestors, eclipses have not always been a pleasant understanding. As explored in an article published by Vox, the forthcoming of an eclipse embodies various percep-

tions of the world. Eclipses, symbolizing a profound intersection of celestial events and human experience, have been a source of fascination, fear, and cultural significance across different societies throughout history. For ancient civilizations like the Maya and Inca, they interpreted eclipses as a theme of the gods expressing anger. Along these same lines, groups such as the Aztecs, feared that an eclipse would signal the end of the world and this was met in response with human sacrifices. For the Greeks, eclipses marked divine punishment on kings and this resulted in prisoners or peasants being placed as a substitute and eventually being executed.

Across different cultures, there was also a belief that the sun was being devoured. For instance, ancient Chinese culture viewed eclipses as the result of a dragon consuming the sun, while in Vietnam, it was depicted as a frog. Among the Native American Pomo tribe, it was a bear, and in Yugoslavia, a werewolf. The ancient Egyptians personified this threat as Apep, the serpent of chaos and death, perpetually trying to consume Ra, the sun god. In Norse mythology, it was the sky wolves Hati and Skoll relentlessly chasing the sun and moon, anticipating Ragnarok, the end of the world. Similarly, in ancient India, Rahu, an immortal demigod, was believed to swallow the sun or moon out of resentment for his severed head. Across these cultures, the response to the perceived threat of the sun's disappearance was to make as much noise as possible to scare away the demon and ensure the sun's return. This widespread belief in celestial creatures consuming the sun reflects the imaginative interpretations of ancient civilizations grappling with the awe-inspiring phenomenon of solar eclipses. Myths often depicted the eclipse as a cosmic battle or a divine creature consuming the sun, leading to widespread panic among those who saw their source of light and life seemingly threatened by unseen forces.

In ancient societies, the sun was a central element of life, symbolizing consistency, growth, and stability. Thus, when a solar eclipse occurred, plunging the world into unexpected darkness, cooling the atmosphere, and altering animal behaviors, it challenged the foundational understanding of the world for many people. This dramatic change disrupted the daily rhythm of life, sowing seeds of fear and uncertainty. Lacking scientific explanations, communities turned to spiritual or religious interpretations, often viewing these celestial events as dire omens or divine messages. Spiritual leaders, such as priests and shamans, played pivotal roles during these times, offering interpretations of the eclipses. Their explanations, rooted in religious or mythological understanding, often emphasized the idea that the eclipses were acts of deities either as punishments, warnings, or signs of impending change. These leaders could wield the mystery and fear associated with eclipses to consolidate their influence, guiding public perception and action in ways that reinforced their authority. In

Photo of Darkness At Noon



some cases, this could also mean manipulating the populace's fears to serve broader political or religious agendas, shaping the social and cultural fabric of their communities. The interplay between fear, lack of understanding, and the interpretive power of spiritual leaders illustrates a complex dynamic where natural phenomena were intertwined with the socio-political and spiritual life of ancient civilizations.

As science progressed, the understanding of solar eclipses has evolved from fearful superstitions to a fascination with the mechanics of the cosmos. The transition from viewing eclipses as terrifying omens to opportunities for scientific study and public celebration marks a significant shift in human understanding and response to natural phenomena. Yet, the ancient awe and wonder at the heart of observing a solar eclipse remain, a testament to the enduring curiosity and resilience of the human spirit in the face of the unknown.

While the terror once associated with solar eclipses due to a lack of scientific understanding has diminished significantly, some beliefs about the mystical or ominous significance of these events persist in various cultures and communities around the world. These contemporary beliefs, however, tend to be more nuanced and are often intertwined with cultural traditions, astrology, and personal superstitions rather than outright fear. People may view eclipses as moments of reflection, times to enact rituals for personal growth or change, or see them as signs influencing human affairs according to astrological interpretations. Though not as widespread or deeply feared as in the past, the cultural and spiritual significance attributed to eclipses continues to influence the way some individuals and groups perceive and experience these celestial events.

For instance, an article published by St George news discusses the contemporary implications of an eclipse and highlights the astrological significance of a "Ring of Fire" solar eclipse, suggesting it triggers

fated changes across various zodiac signs. This perspective aligns with broader astrological views that eclipses usher in periods of transformation and reflection. For example, it might mean a time to break old patterns for an Aries, or a period of career advancement for Capricorn. Such interpretations encourage individuals to align their actions and decisions with these cosmic shifts, seeing them as opportunities for growth and introspection. This take on eclipses combines ancient astrological traditions with personal spirituality, offering a rich tapestry of meaning and guidance.

Witness an unforgettable astronomical event

On April 8, 2024, while a total solar eclipse sweeps across North America, enthusiasts in Boston, Massachusetts, and broader New England have unique opportunities to witness this celestial spectacle as a partial eclipse in many areas. In Boston, public spaces such as the Charles River Esplanade and the Public Garden may offer clear views of the partially obscured sun. For those in Massachusetts seeking to experience the phenomenon in its totality, a journey northward to places like Burlington, Vermont, is advisable, with the city directly in the path of totality. This excursion promises a full eclipse experience for those willing to travel from Massachusetts, with Burlington offering a total eclipse for approximately three minutes in the late afternoon. For residents of northern New England states like Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine, local viewing spots in cities such as Lancaster, NH, and Caribou, ME, will provide front-row seats to totality. These areas, poised for a complete celestial show, will allow viewers to immerse themselves in the awe-inspiring moment when the moon entirely blocks the sun. Whether opting for a local partial view or venturing to witness totality, spectators across New England are poised for an unforgettable astronomical event.

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