

# Hub Music Group Celebrates 'Chinese Arts and Culture'

**Boston Festival  
Orchestra  
Conductor  
Tells of show,  
group's history**

By Harmony Witte

Sampan sat down with the conductor of the Boston Festival Orchestra, Alyssa Wang. Wang discussed the orchestra's upcoming program, "A Celebration of Chinese Arts and Culture," as well as her thoughts on inclusion and engagement in music, and what it means to her to be leading the performance as a Chinese American. BFO's "A Celebration of Chinese Arts and Culture" will be held on July 28, 3 p.m., at Jordan Hall in Boston.

Tickets can be purchased at: [bforchestra.ticketleap.com/scheherazade/](http://bforchestra.ticketleap.com/scheherazade/)

**Sampan:** Will you tell us a bit about the Boston Festival Orchestra, your role

*Continues on Page 6*



TUNING IN: Boston Festival Orchestra conductor Alyssa Wang talks with the Sampan. Courtesy photo.

## Report: American Youth Dying at High Rates of Preventable Causes

By Adam Smith

Despite advances in medicine and vaccines, America's young people are dying at alarming rates and by preventable causes, according to a recent investigation by a team of U.S. pediatric doctors. The report, published in May in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, shows that in particular Blacks are hit hard by gun violence, whites and Hispanics by motor vehicle accidents and Asians and Native Americans by suicide. Most every group saw a recent increase in drug-related deaths.

Most startling: Between 2019 and 2021, death rates in the U.S. among kids ages 1 to 19 increased by 18.3%.

That rate was the "largest such increase in at least half a century," according to the paper, titled "Racial and

Ethnic Disparities in All-Cause and Cause-Specific Mortality Among US Youth." The paper, which relied heavily on data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, looked at causes of deaths among various ethnic groups between 1999 and 2020, as well as between the Covid years of 2020 and 2021. It found many disturbing trends, such as Black youths were "most likely" to die from gun violence – with nearly 13 out of every 100,000 dying by homicide between 2016 to 2020. Asthma was also a significant killer of Black youth, which were more likely to succumb to several diseases disproportionately than other racial and ethnic groups.

Whites and Hispanics were most likely to die from car accidents or other vehicular crashes, although Hispanics

also suffered from disproportionately high rates of gun violence. American Indian, Alaska Native youth and Asian and Pacific Islanders, meanwhile, were seeing high numbers of suicides.

Nearly a half million – or 491,680 – youths died from 1999 to 2020, with the majority, around 65%, boys. More than half of the deaths were among teenagers, and the largest increases in deaths were seen among Blacks, American Indian and Alaska Natives and Whites.

"Disparities in death rates among American Indian or Alaska Native, Black, and White youth have been increasing in the last several years. Between 2014 and 2020, all-cause mortality rates increased 36.7% in Black youth and 22.3% in American Indian or

*Continues on Page 2*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**Editorial: Failing Our Youth**  
PAGE 2

**Sec. of Labor Julie Su**  
PAGE 3

**Women-Owned Biz of Year**  
PAGE 4

**Events Calendar**  
PAGE 7

**India Events**  
PAGE 7

**Job Corner**  
PAGE 8

**Immigrant History Trail**  
PAGE 9

# Editorial: U.S. Is Failing Its Young People

America is failing its children.

That is the undeniable takeaway from a report published earlier this month in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

Kids age one to 19 are overall dying at a faster rate than they have been in the past half century, found the team of doctors who wrote the report, “Racial and Ethnic Disparities in All-Cause and Cause-Specific Mortality Among US Youth.”

Between 1999 and 2020, nearly a half million kids in the U.S. died, and many from preventable causes: gun violence, auto accidents, drugs and suicide were among the major killers. More disturbing: Between 2019 and 2021, death rates from all causes jumped by 18.3%, the largest spike in 50 years for children in the U.S., say the researchers.

“Large increases in all-cause pediatric mortality have occurred in recent years, a departure from decades of progress due to improvements in motor vehicle safety, vaccinations, and other medical advances,” reads the report.

This is a tragedy. The death rates for

children – who are vastly less likely to succumb to “natural” causes like heart failure, cancer or other diseases of the old – is not supposed to suddenly shift upward in the richest nation in the world.

We can not blame the kids and teens for these deaths. It is the adults who make the laws and the adults who decide how our society operates. But, perhaps most important, it is the adults who are the parents, caretakers, teachers, psychologists and psychiatrists, CEOs, police officers, and government officials. We make the gun laws and we design the streets and cars. We set the age requirements for driving and owning deadly weapons. We run schools. It is our job to care for the young, and yet we are instead upholding and maintaining policies and systems that keep systemic racism and poverty in place.

And we, as the adults, are all responsible for what is happening to our nation’s children. So we should all feel some responsibility for this report’s findings, which are damning. The rise in deaths by homicide among Blacks is damning. The suicides among American

Indians and Asians is damning. The increasing fatality rates among Hispanics is damning. It does not matter if you are in the “safe” group; if those around you are in a bad lot, we all are.

Anyone who sees the news knows things aren’t right. We all are reminded that schools are increasingly places of mass shootings – something that was unthinkable before Columbine High School’s nightmare in 1999. We all know that more of our attention is not on our children, but on our smartphones. We all know that the idea of a family in which parents can work and still have time to nurture and care for our children is a thing of the past, as housing prices and the cost of living have risen dramatically. And we all know that our quality of education is often linked to how wealthy or poor our towns or cities are.

The findings of this report are unlikely to make it as a topic in this November’s election. The findings are unlikely to even get more than a passing headline. That’s a shame. If young people are our future, we’re doing very little to invest in either.

## Study Reveals Disparities in Youth Deaths

*Continued from Page 1*

Alaska Native youth while increasing 4.7% in White youth,” reads the report.

Sampan interviewed the paper’s lead author, Dr. Elizabeth Wolf, a pediatrician and researcher at the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine, about the findings.

**Sampan:** After reading through this investigation, it feels, quite frankly, like we as a society are failing our children on many levels. Is that a fair assumption?

**Dr. Wolf:** *I think you are right to be disappointed. These recent increases in child mortality have offset the medical advances and improvements in injury prevention made over the past 50 years. As a society, we need to do a better job of protecting our children.*

**Sampan:** The trend for Black youth

seems most troubling... Were you surprised by the results, or did they make sense given what you see at the hospital?

**Dr. Wolf:** *I was surprised by a few things: 1) that disparities got worse rather than better over time, 2) that the disparities were so large.*

**Sampan:** If you could, based on these findings, prescribe changes to our society that can’t be remedied in the hospital – as in gun laws or motor vehicle laws or mental health support – what would they be?

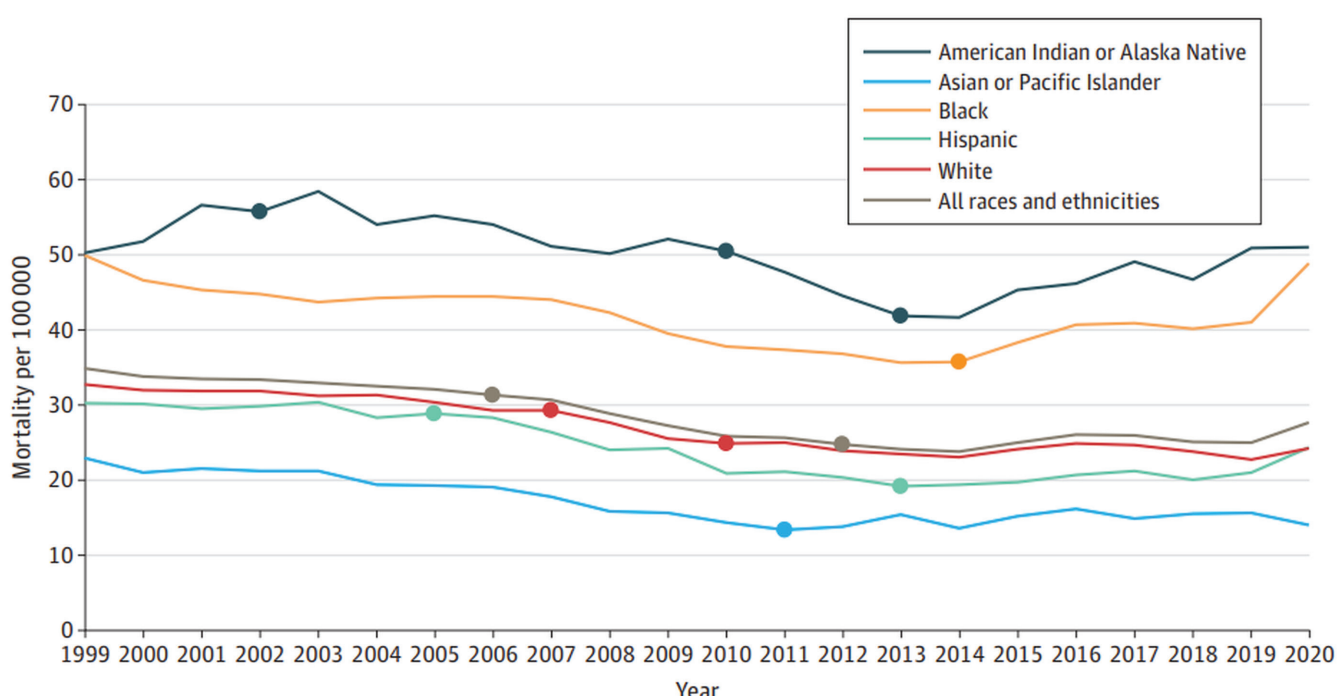
**Dr. Wolf:** *I think you are right to focus on interventions that occur outside the hospital. Common sense gun reforms such as child access prevention laws and raising the age limit for firearm purchasing could make a difference in preventing firearm deaths.*

*Our mental health system is under*

*tremendous strain right now. There is a shortage of mental health providers, especially in rural areas. Every day, we see pediatric patients languishing in emergency departments waiting for psychiatric beds to open. We need to recruit more mental health providers and increase the number of beds for pediatric psychiatric patients. We also need to understand how technology and social media are contributing to the recent mental health crisis.*

**Sampan:** Jumping off that last question, do you ever feel as if we are becoming a society that places too much burden on emergency room care? For example, these gun and other “mechanism” deaths, such as car accidents, would likely be worse if the U.S. did not have such a robust emergency care system. And yet we still see these jumps in deaths among some groups of youth.

Figure 1. All-Cause Mortality Rates in Youth Aged 1-19 Years, 1999-2020



### SAMPAN

A Publication of the AACA

[www.sampan.org](http://www.sampan.org)

87 TYLER STREET

BOSTON, MA 02111

TEL: (617) 426-9492 x 206

FAX: (617) 482-2316

ads@sampan.org

editor@sampan.org

#### Chinese Editor

DongDong Yang

#### English Editors

Adam Smith (consulting editor)  
Christopher John Stephens

#### Editorial Committee

Ed Crotty

#### Correspondents

DongDong Yang

Anita Yip

Kristin Si

Adam Smith

Harmony Witte

Tracy Huang

#### Translators

Ben Lee, Tong Gao

#### Advertising & Production

Ben Lee, Adam Smith, DongDong Yang

SAMPAN is New England’s only biweekly bilingual English-Chinese newspaper. Sampan fosters cultural understanding and celebrates global diversity. Founded in 1972, Sampan is published by the Asian American Civic Association. Sampan is distributed free in Chinatown and the Greater Boston area. All donations to the publication are tax deductible. Subscription: \$65/year (1st class mail). The reproduction, in whole or in part, of any information contained herein and prior is forbidden without the express written permission of the publisher.

**Dr. Wolf:** *I think emergency care is extremely important. Emergency doctors must make lightning-fast decisions that impact whether a patient will live or die. We are seeing a lot of burnout in emergency departments following the pandemic and I worry about whether we will have enough providers in years to come.*

*On the other hand, the U.S. generally tends to underemphasize prevention efforts relative to acute care. Atul Gawande wrote about this in a wonderful essay for the New Yorker ([www.newyorker.com/magazine/2021/08/30/costaricans-live-longer-than-we-do-whats-the-secret](http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2021/08/30/costaricans-live-longer-than-we-do-whats-the-secret)).*

**Sampan:** Please help me through the table on total mortality and what it tells you about suicide deaths? What was most striking for you here?

**Dr. Wolf:** *I found the suicide rate in American Indian/Alaska Native youth to be very disturbing. Many of the deaths were by hanging.*

**Sampan:** ...Do you have any concerns that these leading causes of deaths that are preventable, such as by guns or suicide especially, will have a ripple effect of trauma for loved ones and friends of those who died, potentially leading to more injury and death or risky behavior?

**Dr. Wolf:** *I am very concerned about the effects of trauma on the family and community. It is incredibly sad to see so many young people die from preventable causes.*

# U.S. Secretary of Labor Julie Su Reflects on Family's Immigration, Value of Unions

By Tracy Huang

Secretary of Labor, Julie Su, spoke at a conference in honor of Asian American Heritage Month on May 13, reflecting on her family's own path to the U.S., including her mother's union job and trip to the U.S. from China on a cargo ship.

Su is an American attorney and government official who has served as an acting United States secretary of labor since 2023. She's also the 37th United States deputy secretary of labor, serving since 2021. Elaine Lan Chao was the first Asian American woman to serve as United States secretary of labor in the administration of George W. Bush from 2001.

As the daughter of a Taiwanese father and a Chinese mother, Su, who was born in 1969, is a second-generation Asian American woman who grew up in Madison, Wisconsin, a predominantly white community. Su is the first Asian American on President Biden's cabinet at the secretary level and has spent many years advocating for low-wage workers as a civil rights worker, focusing specifically on things like Unions during her career.

Su's mother first arrived in the U.S. on a cargo ship, where she was not even able to afford a ticket on a passenger ship from China. But she was able to get a union job that came with paid leave and health benefits, helping her family move into the middle class. She understands that through the benefits of unions, her family was able to benefit tenfold, and she wants to help other underprivileged, low-wage workers. In an interview with news company NRG, she said, "I believe in the transformative power of America, and I know the transformative power of a good job. To all workers who are toiling in the shad-

ows, to workers who are organizing for power and respect in the workplace, know that we see you."

Before her secretary position, she was the staff attorney at the Asian Pacific American Legal Center, which is now known as the Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California. As California labor commissioner from 2011-2018, Su helped to enforce California's labor laws to ensure a fair and just workplace for both employees and employers. At the age of 26, Su was the lead attorney of the El Monte Thai Garment Slavery Case 1995 case, which helped recover more than \$4 million in wages stolen from trafficked Thai garment workers in a Los Angeles County sweatshop. After petitioning for the workers to be able to stay in the United States under a visa program, there was the creation of the T-Visa for victims of human trafficking.

During her work with immigrant workers, she realized that many of the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) immigrants have been exploited for their labor and had unfair treatment, despite having many of the country's labor laws still being able to apply to them, regardless of their immigration status. Some companies even illegally weaponize immigration status. From the days of the Chinese Exclusion Act, Asians in the U.S. have long faced exploitation and discrimination.

During Jerry Brown's time as governor, Su was head of California's Division of Labor Standards Enforcement as the California Labor Commissioner. Fast forward to Governor Gavin Newsom's tenure, Su served as Secretary of the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency. Many Asian Lawmakers pushed to nominate Su for the secretary of labor in 2021; however, she was nominated to serve as deputy



**WORKING FOR LABOR RIGHTS: Secretary of Labor, Julie Su.**  
Courtesy photo.

labor secretary instead in July of 2021.

On March 11, 2023, Julie was appointed as acting Secretary of Labor and is the only Asian American in the Secretary position as the other two Asian Americans hold trade representation positions. In fact, according to Su's letter to Senate Majority Leader Schumer and Senate Republican Leader McConnell to try to confirm herself as secretary of labor, she says that AAPI members make up just 0.9% of elected leaders across all levels of government, despite representing 6.1% of the population. President Biden describes Julie as "The American Dream." Following her role in helping to pass a bill that

helped avert a national rail shutdown late last year that could have caused devastating effects on the economy and also helped to ensure fair wages for workers in sectors such as semiconductor manufacturing, broadband, and health care.

She aims to continue to help immigrants who are exploited for their labor by employers who manipulate and trick immigrants into believing that they do not have rights. When asked about her future in the nomination, Su says, "President Biden called me the American dream. And I know that he is not just talking about me, he's talking about our entire community."

## Linden Ponds

EVERYTHING YOU NEED FOR  
A VIBRANT RETIREMENT

Linden Ponds® is the South Shore's premier senior living community.

Here, you gain more than a stylish apartment home, you gain an extraordinary way of life!

- **Enjoy time and freedom** from the hassle of house repairs.
- **Experience resort-style amenities** just steps from your door.
- **Discover peace of mind** with additional levels of on-site care should you need them.

Get your **FREE** brochure!

Call 1-888-287-6515 or visit [LindenPonds.com](http://LindenPonds.com) today.

  
**Linden Ponds** | South Shore  
BY ERICKSON SENIOR LIVING® | [LindenPonds.com](http://LindenPonds.com)

Linden Ponds values diversity. We welcome all faiths, races, and ethnicities, and housing opportunities are available for low and moderate income households.



# Dr. Gisela Velez Awarded for Vision Care to Hispanics, Others

By Kristin Si

After years of helping under-served Hispanic residents of central Massachusetts with eye care, Dr. Gisela Velez has been honored by the Small Business Association. Her clinic, Central Mass Retina and Uveitis Center, was recently named Woman-Owned Business of the Year.

Velez says her ability to care for patients while also speaking both English and Spanish has helped her better serve her patients. Her practice provides specialized medical ophthalmic care to patients whose only other option would be to travel to Boston for treatment and surgery for cataracts, glaucoma, uveitis and various retinal conditions.

After her residency, Velez said, she took a part-time job at an office in Worcester and then became determined to focus on operating clinics in central Massachusetts. She opened her first in 2012.

“I was building a patient base that was very heavily Spanish-speaking,” she told the Sampan. “There is a very large Dominican community, a very large Puerto Rican community, and a very large Central and South American community. Me, being a native Puerto Rican, it was very striking ... so I decided I really wanted to stay in that area and continue providing care to these patients.”

Velez has two offices, one in Ayer and one in Marlborough, and has plans for a third in Worcester.

She said she likes that she can help her patients by speaking with them in Spanish and identifying culturally with them.

“Being able to communicate at that level with the patient made ad-

herence to regimens much better,” she said. “When I decided to open my own practice I decided I wanted to stay here and serve this community.”

Velez said she believes that working with patients means more than crossing language barriers, but cultural barriers, too.

“The cultural barriers are often more important than then language ones. ... To narrow that gap, you need people who belong to those communities to provide care to those communities.”

But the path to operating her own practices was not easy.

“When you are in private practice and you have your own small business, providing care in those communities is not only expensive, as these are often high-risk patients, but these are also patients that are often insured in ways that do not give you the same financial compensation as other insurance plans... . In a field like ophthalmology where the technology is expensive, it is not uncommon to spend more than half a million dollars on that equipment, so that you can provide good care.”

She said the costs for doctors like her gives little incentive to stay in communities where people need the most help.

“We have a system that is set up that discourages members of these communities who successfully complete their training from going back to those communities to provide care. So that’s what I think needs to be fixed.”

Velez said running a woman-owned business also has challenges.

“You don’t have an ‘old boy’s network.’ As a woman in my field, there is no real network you can tap into.



**VISION OF CASE:** Dr. Gisela Velez operates several eye care clinics central Massachusetts. Her clinic was named Woman-Owned Business of the Year. Courtesy Photo

There just aren’t enough of us out there that are business owners in ophthalmology. Whether we like it or not, for better or for worse, as a woman, as a wife, as a mother, I had a lot of other responsibilities to juggle. You have to find a way to balance. There is no set algorithm that tells you how to do it. You’re going to hear from a lot

of people, ‘Oh, you shouldn’t do this or that’ – but to be successful and to be able to balance your life and your business requires creativity and out-of-the-box thinking. You have to do things in ways that buck the system. ... My advice is to never forget what’s important to you and why you are doing what you are doing.”

## AstraZeneca’s Jab Ends; Officials Urge Getting Covid Boosters

AstraZeneca is pulling its Covid-19 vaccine, Vaxzevria, which had been OKed in several nations in Europe and elsewhere.

The U.K. company’s official reason for withdrawing the vaccine was a lack of demand, as the pandemic has largely cooled since it first flared up in China after the first cases were detected in late 2019. The vaccine was granted full marketing authorization in the European Union in 2022.

But just before the vaccine’s run was to end, AstraZeneca publicly admitted in court documents that its COVID-19 vaccine, Vaxzevria, can cause a rare but deadly side effect, called Thrombocytopenia Syndrome, or TTS, according to press reports.

TTS is a condition in which blood clots form, leading to a low number

of platelets in the blood. Based on data from the U.K. compiled by the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency, the odds of being affected by TTS as a result of the COVID-19 vaccine is roughly one in 50,000. The legal case against AstraZeneca was first filed by Jamie Scott, a man who suffered from a blood clot that developed on his brain after receiving the vaccine, according to a report in The Telegraph. Since then, dozens have joined the class action lawsuit, according to the newspaper.

While the U.S. initially secured doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine, it was put on hold. The mRNA vaccines from Pfizer and Moderna were favored in the U.S.

The side effects of the AstraZeneca vaccine are specific to that type of

vaccine, and not to mRNA vaccines used by Pfizer and Moderna.

In a 2023 study published in The Lancet Infectious Disease by Dr. Oliver Watson at the Imperial College London, an estimated 19.8 million deaths have been prevented as a result of widespread vaccination in general. Public health officials around the world recommend that all people who have the ability to get vaccinated, to be vaccinated. This leads to a high enough proportion of the population being protected against COVID-19, such that the disease cannot spread to those most susceptible to it – a concept known as herd immunity. Therefore, by getting vaccinated against COVID-19, people are able to not only protect themselves but also others who may be unable to get the vac-

cine due to health conditions.

Currently two new COVID-19 variants are beginning to spread in the United States, part of a new family of variants nicknamed “FLiRT”. According to recent data from CDC, one of the subvariants of the FLiRT family, KP.2, is now the dominant strain in the United States and currently accounts for nearly 25% of all COVID-19 infections worldwide. The variant was originally discovered through analysis of wastewater as part of the National Wastewater Surveillance System. Currently, this variant has already overtaken the Omicron variant in the United States, according to recent Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data.

- Kristin Si

**LYRIC STAGE** **BOSTON** CELEBRATING **50** YEARS

**MAY 31 - JUNE 23**

LyricStage.com | 617.585.5678

Follow us!



ONE MAN  
TELLS A LIE,  
DOZENS  
REPEAT IT  
AS THE  
TRUTH.

謊言  
重復  
十遍  
即是  
真理



BY  
DAVID HENRY  
HWANG

DIRECTED BY  
TED  
HEWLETT

黃色臉孔

**YELLOW  
FACE**

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS CORPORATE SPONSOR:

**BrooklineBank**



# Boston Festival Orchestra Conductor Chats About Concert, Asian Americans in Music

## BFO Interview

*Continued from Page 1*

with the group, and the upcoming program, a “Celebration of Chinese Arts and Culture”?

**Alyssa Wang:** *I am the co-founder, artistic director, and conductor of the Boston Festival Orchestra, and this is a very near and dear project to my heart. We are relatively new. We founded right when the pandemic started, and our first season was delayed because of the pandemic, however, we were able to come back, and what we have now is a really interesting full year of programming that includes some chamber music, some opera, some educational programs. It all culminates in our Summer Stage Series, which is our season with a full orchestra—which I conduct. Part of our mission of the Boston Festival Orchestra is to really try and revolutionize what it means for music to be accessible to people, particularly classical music. We are always looking for ways to present this music in fresh and exciting and approachable ways. That means that many of our concerts include cultural elements, interdisciplinary elements, audience interactive elements, et cetera. Our concerts really don't follow the standard or orchestra model. There's lots of engagement on the stage, we do lots of demonstrations, and we really care about our audiences, that they have a personal experience with the music. We want to give them the context of the music and give them the tools that they need to really understand where this music is from. 'Why does it matter today?' And then we can find that music is the way that we can use our skills as artists to connect our community, have those authentic connections as a community.*

*My role as artistic director, I am the one that curates the programs, and I am very passionate about featuring the diversity that exists in the classical music world, and that often comes out in the form of composers, new and old. We program music that's from all over the world and from all different time periods. That makes our concerts have a really exciting variety.... “A Celebration of Chinese Arts and Culture” ... is a really rare combination of Chinese artistry sharing the stage. I will be conducting the program. Featured on this program is a very special piece for solo piano called Er Huang, it was written by the living Chinese composer Qigang Chen, and it will be performed by the Chinese virtuoso pianist Ruoting Li, who is BFO's resident pianist.*

*We're having the trifecta of a Chinese conductor, a Chinese composer, and a Chinese performer. I was really excited when I first found this piano concerto because it just does such a beautiful job of incorporating Chinese folk songs, very popular Chinese folk songs, into the tapestry of a classical orchestra. What you'll hear is all of the typical orchestral instruments per-*

*forming these beautifully orchestrated Chinese folk songs with the piano solo, kind of tying it all together. I really love the fact that I get to use this opportunity to introduce our broader audience to the beauty of Chinese music and that the representation that we have on stage for that concert is really important in all aspects. It's really a privilege to be able to share that moment with everybody.*

**Sampan:** You've touched on this a little bit, but how has your identity as a Chinese American impacted you as you approach this project?

**Alyssa Wang:** *I think this is the first time that I have ever really made my identity as a Chinese American musician kind of at the forefront of the concert, and I've never really had many opportunities to play music that is about being Chinese or that was even, like, written by Chinese people. Anytime I get to use my artistic voice to highlight Chinese artistry, it's always a rare and a precious opportunity. I'm really honored, honestly, just to be able to go on stage and let my identity kind of speak for itself and to feel pride about being Chinese American. So, yeah, it's very special for me.*

**Sampan:** Your website says you have a focus on audience inclusivity and engagement. How do you manage that?

**Alyssa Wang:** *My approach to performance is to not assume that people in the audience are experts in the music that I'm playing, because they're usually not. The average person who goes to a concert hall maybe is interested in classical music, maybe has heard of Beethoven or Mozart, but doesn't really know any of the details of the music or any of the history. And they are just there because they want to listen to something beautiful and to think about art and music and to experience something profound.*

*I always try whenever I'm performing to give the audience the tools that they need to have that profound experience. And that could be as simple as just interfacing with the audience beyond the music that you play. I find that the model of going onto stage playing, everybody claps and then you leave is very impersonal and makes people who don't know a lot about classical music, feel excluded from the process because they feel like if they didn't enjoy that experience, that there's something that they're missing or that they're not educated enough in the matter, or they're not knowledgeable enough about this to appreciate it. That attitude, the takeaway that some audiences get of, “I'm not knowledgeable enough to appreciate this comes from a place of elitism in the classical music industry.” I think it's really important not just for the survival of the industry, but for our communication with each other as a community, to actually be giving our audience as much interaction as possible. So that way*



**SHOWTIME:** Boston Festival Orchestra conductor Alyssa Wang talks with Sampan. Courtesy photo.

*they feel like they're with you when you're playing, and you feel like you're taking them on a journey. You've got to give them the equipment to go on the journey. Otherwise, they just kind of get left in the dust.*

*For years, I've been speaking to my audiences, curating concerts very carefully. I curate concerts and give a great deal of thought to what is on the program and what I'm going to say about it and how it all ties together. That way it doesn't feel so much like you're in a museum looking at kind of, like, dead artifacts, but like, you're experiencing something that's living and breathing today that's relevant to you. Even if it's music that was written 300 years ago, I still try to make a pitch to the audience about why they should care, and there are many, many ways to do that. We want to include people in the process.*

*(Also) We are doing “pay what you can” (ticket model). If you go into the ticket website to get your tickets and you can, if you're only comfortable purchasing a ticket for \$5, you can do it. Or \$0, you can do that as well. We sort of leave the ticket price in the ticket buyer's hand, and that allows us*

*to make this concert super accessible. Our hope is to really engage the Chinese community in the city and get everybody to come out and celebrate this culture that has had such an impact in Boston, particularly, obviously in Chinatown. It also is really special for me because I have a long family history in Boston and in Boston, Chinatown. This, in a way, feels like the first time I've ever been able to really stand up on a stage and say, look at all the ways that I am proud to be from this community and represent this community.*

**Sampan:** What do you want to say to the potential audience members who want to attend the show?

**Alyssa Wang:** *I guess I'll say that this concert is for everybody, and you should come. Whether you are a classical music aficionado or just discovering classical music for the first time, we are welcoming everyone from all walks of life into this concert. We really want to share the beauty and majesty of Chinese arts and culture with people. I hope that people will be curious to hear this beautiful piece and learn something new about music and take advantage of the pay-what-you-can ticket model.*

# Events Calendar

## Boston Parks Summer Fitness Series

Dates: May 5 - August 31  
 Location: Various parks across Boston and Virtual  
 Details: Get ready to stay active with the Boston Parks Fitness Series this summer! Enjoy free fitness programming available both in-person at various Boston parks and virtually. Classes are led by certified fitness instructors and cater to all fitness levels. Check the full schedule for daily virtual workouts and weekly in-person classes to keep fit from anywhere or in the beautiful outdoor settings of Boston.  
 Admission: FREE  
 More Information: <https://www.boston.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/boston-parks-fitness-series>

## TEMPLE Opening Reception

Date: Friday, May 24, 2024  
 Time: 7:00 PM - 11:00 PM  
 Location: Blue Triangle Gallery, 17 Edinboro St. #3, Boston, MA 02111  
 Details: Join us for the opening reception of TEMPLE, a group art show that explores the profound connection between tattoo artistry and personal expression. This exhibition features the work of 23 diverse artists, showcasing the symbiotic relationship between their craft in the tattoo parlor and their individual creative narratives. Each artwork reflects the significant impact of the tattoo shop on their artistic practice and how their personal stories bring vitality to their tattoo work.  
 Admission: Check website for details  
 More Information: Visit [Blue Triangle

Gallery](<https://www.bluetrianglegallery.com>) for more details.

## Tasting at Michael's Deli with Owner Steven

Date: Saturday, May 25, 2024  
 Time: 12:00 AM - 4:00 PM  
 Location: Michael's Deli, 256 Harvard St, Brookline, MA 02446  
 Details: Join us for an exclusive hour-long tasting with Steven, the owner of Michael's Deli. Sample some of the most popular items and discover the flavors that make this deli a local favorite.  
 Admission: \$12  
 Ticket Purchase: <https://dropclockclub.com/product/michaels-deli>

## Complimentary Bluebikes Credits by Blue Cross

Dates: Sundays, May 12, 19, and 26, 2024  
 Time: 12:00 AM - 11:30 PM  
 Location: Bluebikes Stations, Surrounding areas, Boston, MA 02127  
 Details: Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts is celebrating Women's Health Awareness Month and National Bike Month by offering free Bluebikes credits on the Sundays of May. This initiative aims to promote physical activity and highlight the importance of both physical and mental well-being for women. Take advantage of this opportunity to explore Boston on two wheels at no cost.  
 Admission: FREE  
 More Information: <https://www.bluecrossma.org/aboutus>

## Kintsugi Pottery Workshop

Dates: Sundays, starting May 26, 2024  
 Time: 4:00 - 5:30 PM  
 Location: 91 Hampshire Street, Cambridge, MA 02139  
 Details: Embrace the ancient Japanese art of Kintsugi at our hands-on workshop in Cambridge. Learn to mend broken pottery with gold, turning flaws into striking highlights. This 1.5-hour workshop is ideal for anyone interested in pottery or seeking a unique experience. All materials are provided, and you'll take home your own piece of Kintsugi pottery.  
 Admission: \$59  
 More Information and Tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/kintsugi-pottery-workshop-tickets-856166455917?aff=oddtcreator>

## Evolve Bootcamp

Dates: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, starting May 27, 2024  
 Time: 6:00 AM - 7:00 AM  
 Location: Boston Public Garden Entrance, 84 Beacon St, Boston, MA  
 Details: Kickstart your morning with the Evolve Bootcamp at Boston Common! This dynamic outdoor fitness training utilizes the city's unique terrain, featuring steep hills, stairs, fields, and urban obstacles. Designed for all fitness levels, each session promises a challenging and enjoyable workout. Expect the unexpected, rain or shine!  
 Admission: \$30  
 More Information and Registration: <https://evolvebootcamp.com>

## Free Admission Day at the ICA

Date: Monday, May 27, 2024  
 Time: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
 Location: Institute of Contemporary Art, 25 Harbor Shore Drive, Boston  
 Details: Celebrate Memorial Day with a visit to the Institute of Contemporary

Art in Boston. Enjoy free admission to all exhibitions and special programming throughout the day. Advance ticket reservations are required.  
 Admission: FREE  
 More Information and Tickets: <https://www.icaboston.org/visit>

## Sunday Morning Long-Pose Sessions

Dates: Sundays, starting June 2, 2024  
 Time: 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM  
 Location: Boston Figurative Art Center, 6 Vernon Street, Somerville, MA  
 Details: Join the Sunday Morning Long-Pose Sessions at the Boston Figurative Art Center. These sessions provide a fun and welcoming environment for artists of all skill levels to develop their craft. Each session features the same model throughout the month, accommodating various mediums including oil, acrylic, watercolor, pastel, pen and ink, pencil, iPad, and even silverpoint. Pre-registration is recommended to secure your easel spot, but space is made to accommodate everyone.  
 Admission: \$25

## Kelleher Rose Garden Viewing

Dates: Monday, June 3, 2024 - Thursday, July 4, 2024  
 Time: Monday - Friday, 7:00 AM - 5:00 PM; Saturday - Sunday, 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
 Location: Kelleher Rose Garden, 73 Park Drive, Boston, MA  
 Details: Visit the Kelleher Rose Garden in Boston's Back Bay Fens during its peak bloom starting in June. Explore over ten classes and 200 varieties of roses across nearly 1,500 plants. Founded in 1931, the garden is a historical part of the Emerald Necklace, featuring stone dust pathways, benches, cherubs, and a fountain for a serene garden experience.  
 Admission: FREE



**NORWELL AFFORDABLE RENTAL HOUSING**  
**15 High Street**  
 14—One, Two and Three Bedroom Apartments  
 Rent: One BR—\$2,210, Two BR—\$2,619, Three BR—\$2,984  
 Sewer is included in the Rent

Applications must be submitted or postmarked, if returned by mail, on or before the application deadline. The Application includes all submission information.

---

**For Info and Application Availability:**  
 Pick Up: Norwell Town Hall, - Town Clerk's Ofc, Public Library, Leasing Office  
 Phone: (978) 456-8388/FAX: 978-456-8986  
 TTY/TTD: 711, when asked 978-456-8388  
 Email: [lotteryinfo@mcohousingservices.com](mailto:lotteryinfo@mcohousingservices.com)

**Maximum Allowable Income 80% AMI**

1 person:	\$91,200
2 person:	\$104,200
3 person:	\$117,250
4 person:	\$130,250
5 person:	\$140,700
6 person:	\$151,100

**Reasonable Accommodations Available for persons with disabilities**

**Unit distributed by lottery.**

**Public Information Meeting – via Zoom.com**  
 6:30 p.m., Monday, June 17, 2024  
 Meeting ID: 837 8401 1494  
 Passcode: 477349

**Application Deadline**  
 July 18, 2024

**Language/translation assistance available, at no charge, upon request.**



**Section 8/Housing vouchers accepted/Smoke Free/Pets Allowed**

**APPLICATION AVAILABLE ONLINE AT: [www.mcohousingservices.com](http://www.mcohousingservices.com)**



**BELLINGHAM AFFORDABLE HOUSING**  
**Bungay Brook—GPS: 30 Locust Street**  
 4—2 Bedroom Townhomes  
 Price: \$244,300

*New Construction*

**Maximum Allowable Income 80% AMI**

1 person:	\$91,200
2 person:	\$104,200
3 person:	\$117,250
4 person:	\$130,250

**Homes by Lottery**  
 Assets to \$75,000

**1st Time Homebuyers**



**Public Information Meeting via Zoom.com**  
 6:30 P.m., Monday June 10, 2024  
 Meeting ID: 875 6907 2003  
 Passcode: 565524

**APPLICATION DEADLINE**  
 July 8, 2024

**Language/translation assistance available, at no charge, upon request.**



**APPLICATION AVAILABLE ONLINE AT: [www.mcohousingservices.com](http://www.mcohousingservices.com)**

**For Info and Application Availability:**  
 Pick Up: Bellingham Municipal Center, Town Clerk's Office, Public Library  
 Phone: (978) 456-8388/FAX: 978-456-8986  
 TTY/TTD: 711  
 Email: [lotteryinfo@mcohousingservices.com](mailto:lotteryinfo@mcohousingservices.com)

**Reasonable Accommodations Available for persons with disabilities.**

## Job Corner

### Tufts Medical Center-Boston

#### Position: Carpenter, FT, Boston

High school diploma or equivalent  
One (1) year of experience in the carpentry trade  
Ability to effectively communicate verbally and in writing.

Website: [tuftsmedicalcenter.org](https://tuftsmedicalcenter.org)

#### Position: Electrician, FT, Boston

High school diploma or equivalent  
Licensed as an electrician  
Three (3) years of experience as an electrician  
Ability to effectively communicate verbally and in writing in English  
Website: [tuftsmedicalcenter.org](https://tuftsmedicalcenter.org)

#### Position: Public Safety Officer I, FT, Boston

High school diploma or equivalent  
Valid state issued driver's license  
Website: [tuftsmedicalcenter.org](https://tuftsmedicalcenter.org)

### Boston Medical Center-Boston

#### Position: Medical Assistant, FT

HS or GED required  
Successful completion of a medical assistant program or  
Successful completion of the-second medical-surgical clinical rotation or  
Equivalent combination of education and healthcare related work experience.

Requires at least two years of previous work experience. Experience in clinical setting is preferred

Apply at [www.jobs.bmc.org](http://www.jobs.bmc.org)  
Contact: Caroline Cafer, 617-414-7066, [caroline.cafer@bmc.org](mailto:caroline.cafer@bmc.org)

#### Position: Materials Support Assistant 40 Hrs, Days, Rotating Weekends & Holidays

High school diploma or GED  
Requires at least 3 – 12 months of experience in shipping, receiving, warehouse, material handling, or maintaining inventory.  
Work requires demonstrated ability to read and write English, perform basic math, and communicate well verbally and in writing

Apply at [www.jobs.bmc.org](http://www.jobs.bmc.org)  
Contact: Caroline Cafer, 617-414-7066, [caroline.cafer@bmc.org](mailto:caroline.cafer@bmc.org)

#### Position: Certified Nursing Assistant, 36 Hours (Nights/Weekends/Holidays)

A high school diploma or GED certificate  
Certification in basic life support (BLS), including CPR certification (must be current or obtained within 30 days of employment)  
Ability to pass clinical competency testing.

Apply at [www.jobs.bmc.org](http://www.jobs.bmc.org)  
Contact: Caroline Cafer, 617-414-7066, [caroline.cafer@bmc.org](mailto:caroline.cafer@bmc.org)

### Boston Centerless

#### Position: Maintenance Technician, FT, Woburn 1st Shift role

Minimum of 2 years of trade school, vocational education, work experience, or apprenticeship.  
Wage per hour up to \$30.00 per hour

Apply at: [www.bostoncenterless.com](http://www.bostoncenterless.com)

Contact: Steven Vanaria [svanaria@bostoncenterless.com](mailto:svanaria@bostoncenterless.com)

#### Position: Machine Straightener – 2nd Shift

Training for 30 days on days from 10:00 A.M.-6:45 P.M.  
2nd shift hours are 4:00 P.M.-2:45 A.M.-Monday through Friday.  
The wages per hour are \*\$20.70 to \*\$21.85.

Apply at: [www.bostoncenterless.com](http://www.bostoncenterless.com)

Contact: Steven Vanaria [svanaria@bostoncenterless.com](mailto:svanaria@bostoncenterless.com)

### Boston Public School

#### Position: Multimedia Content Creator, Full Time

Associate's/Bachelor's degree or two years minimum professional experience in journalism, photo/video production, digital marketing or related field

Proficiency in DSLR camera and iPhone shooting, photo and video  
Experience using Adobe Creative Suite, particularly Premier Pro and Photoshop

Salary: \$77,429

Website: <https://www.bostonpublicschools.org/>

Contact Info: [Recruitment@BostonPublicSchools.org](mailto:Recruitment@BostonPublicSchools.org)

#### Position: Culinary Manager, FT

Bachelor's degree or equivalent in culinary experience.  
5 or more years of progressive experience with large scale food preparation management in multi-unit settings, including scratch cooking.  
Knowledge of and experience with culturally appropriate menu choices.  
Salary: \$96,773

Possesses food safety certification and valid driver's license.

Website: <https://www.bostonpublicschools.org/>

Contact Info: [Recruitment@BostonPublicSchools.org](mailto:Recruitment@BostonPublicSchools.org)

#### Position: Substitute Lunch Monitor, 3 hrs per day

This position is subject to the City of Boston residency requirement.

Website: <https://www.bostonpublicschools.org/>

Contact Info: [Recruitment@BostonPublicSchools.org](mailto:Recruitment@BostonPublicSchools.org)

#### Position: Principal Account Clerk, FT

High school diploma or equivalency  
Basic Computer Skills, including work processing, email & database programs

Knowledge of basic accounting principles

Website: <https://www.bostonpublicschools.org/>

Contact Info: [Recruitment@BostonPublicSchools.org](mailto:Recruitment@BostonPublicSchools.org)



HUDSON HOUSING AUTHORITY

8 Brigham Circle  
Hudson, MA 01749  
Tele. No. (978) 562-9268  
Fax No. (978) 562-4623

## Advertisement for MAINTENANCE MECHANIC Hudson Housing Authority (HHA), MA

Hudson Housing Authority is seeking F/T maintenance department Maintenance Mechanic to perform maintenance, custodial, and grounds keeping functions at HHA apartments and properties. Must have experience and skills in plumbing, HVAC, electrical, carpentry, painting and mechanical equipment, as well as experience and knowledge of groundskeeping and custodial functions including snow removal. 40 hours M-F plus rotating on-call coverage. High school diploma and basic computer literacy skills required. Massachusetts driver's license required. No criminal record. Professional licenses and certifications, including MA hoisting license, are highly desirable, however they are not required. Full job description available upon request. Excellent benefits. Competitive pay.

Send resumes to Jaclyn A. Beaulieu, Executive Director, Hudson Housing Authority, 8 Brigham Circle, Hudson, MA 01749 or email to [jaclynp@hudsonhousing.org](mailto:jaclynp@hudsonhousing.org). No phone calls. EOE/AEE. HHA provides preference to Section 3 applicants. Position will remain open until filled.

5/2024

## Affordable Housing Lottery

Atwood

728 Broadway, Saugus, MA

YOU CAN COMPLETE AND SUBMIT A LOTTERY APPLICATION ONLINE HERE:



<https://form.jotform.com/SEBHousing/atwood>

Seven Studios @ \$2,050; Thirty-Four 1BR @ \$2,154; Twenty-Six 2BRs @ \$2,566, Eight 3BR @ \$2,949  
\* Tenants will be responsible for paying electricity (which is used for cooking, heating, hot water), water, and sewer. One free parking space is included. Additional spaces can be rented for a fee. Pets are permitted and there is a maximum of two pets per unit. Rents after the first year of a lease are subject to change.

Atwood is a brand-new, 300-unit apartment community located off Route 1 in Saugus, featuring high end Studio, 1BR, 2BR, and 3BR apartments. Through this process, 75 apartments will be made available to households earning no more than 80% of the Area Median Income. All apartments feature stainless steel appliances, in unit laundry machines, and quartz countertops. The building amenities include an outdoor pool, fitness center, resident lounges, grilling stations, pet spa, and more. The building is located on Route 1 and provides easy access to Boston and many local businesses and restaurants. Units are expected to be ready for occupancy in August 2024.

#### Maximum Household Income Limits

\$91,200 (1 person), \$104,200 (2 people), \$117,250 (3 people)  
\$130,250 (4 people), \$140,700 (5 people) \$151,100 (6 people)

**Public Info Session:** June 25, 2024 at 6:00 pm via Zoom. Go to [zoom.com/join](https://zoom.com/join) or call (646) 558-8656 and enter Meeting ID: 818 9317 7595, Passcode: 088159

**Application Deadline:** July 16, 2024 at 2:00 pm. Completed Applications must be delivered by this date.  
Applications can be sent to: SEB Housing (re: Atwood), 257 Hillside Ave, Needham, MA 02135; or faxed to: (617) 782-4500; or emailed to: [info@sebhousing.com](mailto:info@sebhousing.com).

**Lottery:** August 6, 2024 at 6:00 pm via Zoom. Go to [zoom.com/join](https://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 Atwood on the SEB Housing YouTube channel.  
For Lottery Information, Applications, or for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, go to [www.sebhousing.com](http://www.sebhousing.com) or call (617) 782-6900x1 to 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/atwood>





# Preview: Immigrant History Trail Paves Way for Chinatown’s Legacy

By Anita Yip

The Immigrant History Trail celebrates Boston Chinatown’s resilience and enduring cultural heritage on June 8 at 1 p.m. with its launch, marking a significant milestone toward efforts to designate Chinatown as a cultural district.

Following decades of urban renewal, zoning injustice, and institutional expansion, Chinatown faces one of its biggest

threats yet: the erosion of cultural identity. As luxury developments encroach, surging housing prices and rising rents are displacing long-standing residents and small businesses. Consequently, both the immigrant, working-class residential and small business core that has characterized the neighborhood for 180 years and the sense of belonging for working-class immigrants have been gradually diminishing. In response to these mount-

ing challenges, Chinatown Community Land Trust (CCLT), a nonprofit organization working to stabilize the future of Chinatown as a neighborhood for working class families and a regional hub for the Greater Boston Chinese community, launched a new project that serves as a symbol of unity and preservation: the Immigrant History Trail.

The Immigrant History Trail is a multimedia public art project that honors stories about the neighborhood’s working class immigrant histories. The Immigrant History Trail not only charts Chinatown’s legacy, but also serves as an outcry for preserving the neighborhood’s cultural heritage. It stands as a reminder that, amid the waves of change, the stories of immigrants must live on. The project is funded in part by the Mayor’s Office of Arts and Culture, Mass Humanities with funding from the Barr Foundation, and a grant from the National Trust Preservation Fund of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Cynthia Yee, a former Chinatown resident and an author of a collection of essays chronicling the neighborhood’s history on [hudsonstreetchronicles.com](http://hudsonstreetchronicles.com), is an Immigrant History Trail Advisory Board Member. She says she’s on a mission to preserve immigrant narratives. Yee writes to “bear witness to the people of that era: my beloved aunties and uncles of Chinatown, garment workers and restaurant workers and laundry workers who often did not speak English.”

“I participate in the Immigrant History Trail for the same reason: that the early Taishanese immigrants who built Chinatown shall have a place and voice in the historical narrative of a rapidly evolving, gentrifying changing Chinatown.”

Sites along the trail will showcase plaques and lenticular prints with QR codes linking to a Web site filled with stories, images, oral histories, and more.

Stories range from Boston Chinatown’s victory in the fight against institutional expansionism and environmental racism at Parcel C (now 38 Ash Street) to Asians as a visible political force rallying behind Mel King, the first Black candidate to advance to the final mayoral ballot in Boston in 1983.

Beyond the Chinese community, the neighborhood was also once home to Irish, European, Syrian, Lebanese, African American, Cape Verdean, and Jewish families. Among this mix of cultures lies the hidden stories of Boston’s Little Syria, a diasporic enclave that existed a century ago. Along the trail, visitors can learn more about Khalil Gibran and discover the origins behind the naming of Johnny Court, illuminating the lesser-known stories of Boston’s immigrant past.

As a community-stewarded resource, the project welcomes new site and story contributions on an ongoing basis to enrich the trail. Vivian Wu Wong, part of the core Immigrant History Trail team, enthuses, “I am excited to see an organization like the CCLT launch this project because it will allow past and current residents to share their experiences and shape how the story of Chinatown will be told.”

Immigrants bring with them diverse perspectives, talents, and experiences that enrich the cultural, social, and economic fabric of society. “As long as Chinese-speaking immigrants continue to make their way to the Greater Boston area, we will need a Chinatown in Boston to help them adjust to their new lives. Everyone should be aware of the role that Chinatown has played in supporting recent immigrants and raising awareness around Asian American issues.”

Wu Wong adds, “The Immigrant History Trail is going to make a huge difference in how Chinatown is seen by the public.”



**AFFORDABLE TOWNHOUSE OWNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**  
**- Cushing Trails, Hanson, MA –02341**

**1 (3) Bedroom Affordable Townhouse Style Units Offered**  
**\$236,000 HOA \$100/Month**

**4 (2) Bedroom Affordable Townhouse Style Units Offered**  
**\$210,885 HOA \$100/month**

**Lottery Opens: 2/26/24 Lottery Closes: 32924**

Located at CUSHING TRAILS @ Hanson  
 Informational Session: 3/26/24 z7 4/6/24 via Zoom  
 Applications accepted:/postmarked: May 29, 2024  
 Housing Lottery: June 5, 2024 via Zoom call for link

**APPLICANT QUALIFICATIONS INCLUDE 2021 INCOME LIMITS**  
**Household of 1 - \$66,250 Household of 2 - \$75,700, Household of 3 - \$85,150 Household of 4 - \$94,600**

\*Maximum Asset limit of \$75,000for this development\*  
 Mortgage Pre-Approval  
 Other Restriction Apply  
 To apply, please contact  
 Susan Jacobson, Norfolk Affordable Housing Director @ **508-440-2812**  
 Application can be found at [www.norfolk.ma.us](http://www.norfolk.ma.us), at the Norfolk Town Hall, One Liberty Lane, Norfolk, MA 02056 or the  
 Hanson Town Hall, Town Planner’s Office 542 Liberty Street, Hanson, MA 02341  
 Municipal Affordable Housing Office, 1st Floor and the Town Clerk’s Office Ground Floor  
 email contact: [sjacobson@norfolk.ma.us](mailto:sjacobson@norfolk.ma.us)  
 Use and resale restrictions apply



## ANCHOR POINT 2 – BEVERLY, MA AFFORDABLE HOUSING LOTTERY

Applications Available: MAY 15, 2024  
 Informational Meeting #1: AUGUST 13, 2024 (10AM)  
 Informational Meeting #2: AUGUST 15, 2024 (6PM)  
 Application Deadline: NOVEMBER 15, 2024 (4PM)  
 Lottery Drawing: DECEMBER 19, 2024 (6PM)

Informational Meetings and Lottery will be held via Zoom and in-person at the Beverly Public Library, 32 Essex Street, Beverly, MA  
 Attendance is optional and not mandatory to participate in the lottery.

Providing affordable housing in Beverly, MA  
 2- and 3-bedroom units with on-site laundry, resident support services, and off-street parking.

Income limits apply for all units; assets limits may apply.  
 30% AMI units: No income minimum. \$39,200 (max, 2 people), \$44,100 ( max, 3 people), \$48,950 (max, 4 people), \$52,900 (max, 5 people), \$56,800 (max, 6 people).  
 30% AMI rent based on income.



60% AMI units: \$56,176 (2-bedroom minimum) and \$64,923 (3-bedroom minimum).  
 \$78,360 (max, 2 people), \$88,140 (max, 3 people), \$97,920 (max 4, people), \$105,780 (max, 5 people), \$113,640 (max, 6 people). Estimated max rent for 60% units \$2,203 (2-bed) and \$2,546 (3-bed).

Utilities (heat, A/C, electricity, water) included. Resident responsible for phone, wi-fi, and cable.

For information, reasonable accommodation, or to request an application, please call Harborlight Homes (Monday-Friday, 8:30 AM-4:30 PM) located at 600 Cummings Center, Suite 270-X, Beverly, MA 01915.  
 Tel: 978-922-1305. TTY/TTD: Dial 711.

Applications will also be available on our website [www.harborlighthomes.org](http://www.harborlighthomes.org) and/or can be picked up at the Beverly Public Library (32 Essex St, Beverly, MA) or Beverly City Hall (191 Cabot St, Beverly, MA)

Applications can be mailed to P.O. Box 507, Beverly, MA 01915. Applications for the lottery must be postmarked by November 15, 2024 or if submitted in-person, by 4pm on November 15, 2024. Once the lottery has been conducted, we will have an open application period.



JIANHUA TANG GARDEN: This image is one of the lenticular prints at 29 Oak St. and will accompany the quote, ‘One day, I saw an elderly woman squatting outside the barbed wire fence of our yard, happily counting my melons.’

## OPINION

# Amid Turmoil, Haitian Flag Day Stands Tall

By Milourdes Augustin  
and Kery Forges

Even as far away as Massachusetts, Haitian Flag Day is a festive occasion of national pride, even in times of trouble.

Celebrated annually on May 18 the day honors the flag that was created in 1803 by Catherine Flon, who was involved in the Haitian Revolution. For Haitians, Flag Day is a time of pride and joy, marked by large family gatherings, parades, and dance parties that celebrate Haiti's rich history. It is a day for sharing stories of Haiti's great heroes with children, passing down the culture and fostering enthusiasm for the country's future.

Haiti became the first free republic of former slaves on Jan. 1, 1804, after fighting for liberation since 1791. Since then, the country has struggled to maintain a stable government capable of supporting its people. Decades of political turmoil have led to hundreds of thousands of Haitians fleeing the country. Many of these refugees settle in Massachusetts, which has the third largest population of Haitians in America. We have seen an increase in Haitian immigrants seeking services, especially for employment. These immigrants vary in age and education levels, but all share a willingness to take any job available.

In Massachusetts, this year a group of Haitians under the leadership of a local pastor raised the Haitian flag at the City Hall in Somerville. It was the ideal opportunity for the mayor of this city to

celebrate with the Haitian community, to enjoy and learn the wonderful history behind this flag.

It was the same in Everett. This city has a tradition of celebrating the Haitian Flag Day. High school children are told about the history of Haiti, which gained its independence after a group of former slaves joined together to fight not to return to slavery and which later led to the creation of the State of Haiti. A large percentage of these Haitian immigrants are here for two years under the "Biden Humanitarian Act," and many we serve at a nonprofit in Boston have expressed fear about having to return to Haiti within that time frame. It is reported that 80% of the capital of Haiti is under the control of violent gangs.

In Haiti, Cap Haitian continued to celebrate the flag with the students who made a beautiful parade in the streets of the city. Great marching bands parade in town during the May 18 parade in the city of Cap Haitian. The presidential council at the Capital held a small ceremony in their office to celebrate the big day. Only four of the nine council members were present at the event. In his speech, the president of the presidential council, Edgard Leblanc, emphasized the symbolism of the flag, which is unity.

According to him, unity is a necessity if we want to remove the country from these difficult times that it has been through. The presidential council began to act after it was installed last month. The self-elected president, Edgard Leblanc, was installed. The vote lacked



**FLAG DAY:** Haitian Flag Day in Somerville. Credit: SomerViva

transparency, which caused many of the members to contest the election of Leblanc. Now the council has to choose a prime minister to lead the next government. There are more than 100 people who have filed to become prime minister. That seems ridiculous to many people who follow the politics in Haiti. They think that it is the same absence of unity that causes everyone to think they can become leaders. The reality is, the selection criteria for the prime minister are not clearly defined.

Now the presidential council wrote to the president of Kenya to officially request the deployment of the multinational Security Support Mission, which will have the mission of helping the Haitian

police to fight gangs and restore peace throughout the country in order to organize the elections. Many people put a lot of hope on this mission and the arrival of the next government to get the country out of its complicated situation.

Despite the turmoil, the Flag Day reminds us to hope for a better Haiti.

*Milourdes Augustin (MiMi) came to America in 1996 and is a former political activist now helping immigrants with job placement. Kery Forges is from Haiti and moved to Boston five years ago and is now an employment specialist at a nonprofit in Boston.*

## Honoring Those Who Served

This Memorial Day, we honor the families who have lost loved ones, as well as the thousands of people who have served and continue to serve our country with courage and dedication.

Keolis is an equal opportunity employer and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment regardless of their race, color, sex, religion, age, creed, marital status, national origin, ancestry, disability status, protected veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identification or any other characteristic protected by law.

**KEOLIS**  
To learn more, visit [www.keolis.com](http://www.keolis.com)

**NEWTON, "T" to work from**  
 **Woodland Station  
Apartments & save \$\$\$.**

Contemporary apts with  
condo quality finishes and  
amens. Single level and  
townhomes. Easy access to  
Rte 128, 9 & Mass Pike.  
Income guidelines may apply.

844-721-1176 TTY:711

[Woodlandstationapts.com](http://Woodlandstationapts.com)



**WOODLAND  
STATION**  
APARTMENTS



**TuftsMedicine**  
Tufts Medical Center



# Happy Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month

亞裔美國人太  
平洋島民傳  
統月快樂



Dedicated to the health needs  
of Boston's Asian community.

For adult appointments, please call 800.483.0521 to book an appointment in Chinese. For pediatric appointments, please call 617.636.1337 and speak to a member of our bilingual staff. To see all of our Chinese-speaking doctors, visit: [tuftsmedicine.org/find-a-doctor](https://tuftsmedicine.org/find-a-doctor).

致力於波士頓亞裔社區的健康需求。

成人預訂請撥打800.483.0521進行中文預訂。如需兒科預約，請致電 617.636.1337並與我們的雙語工作人員聯繫。要查看我們所有講中文的醫生，請訪問：[tuftsmedicine.org/find-a-doctor](https://tuftsmedicine.org/find-a-doctor)。

**Primary Care—Boston**  
全科醫療—波士頓：  
617.636.5400

**Pediatric Primary Care**  
兒科基礎護理：617.636.5255

**Asian General Pediatric and  
Adolescent Clinic**  
亞裔兒科及成人門診：  
617.636.1337

**Boston OBGYN**  
塔芙茨醫療中心婦產科：  
617.636.2229

**Interpreter Services/Other  
Hospital Services 翻譯部/ 其  
他雙語醫療中心服務：**  
617.636.5331

## IN THE NEWS

# Hong Kong Day in the Hub

The New England Hong Kong Festival celebrated culture in Union Square, Somerville, on May 19.

Hosted by the City of Somerville, the Somerville Arts Council, and the SomerViva Office of Immigrant Affairs, the event featured 20 booths offering a diverse array of Asian and Hong Kong-inspired goods, cultural activities, and live music performances.

This celebration honored Hong Kong culture in recognition of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month.

-DongDong Yang



## Gov. Healey Honors Asian Heritage Month, Community Leaders

By Dong Dong Yang

Massachusetts Gov. Maura Healey and leaders from communities across the state gathered on May 20 at the State House to commemorate Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Secretary Yvonne Hao from the Office of Economic Development presided over the event as the master of ceremony. Gov. Healey and Sec. Hao recognized the significant contributions of five community leaders: Lydia Lowe, director of the Chinatown Community Land Trust; Helen Chin Schlichte, co-founder and president emeritus and current board of director at South Cove Manor Nursing and Rehabilitation Facility; Paul Lee, founder and current chair of the steering committee of the Asian Community Fund at the Boston Foundation and the Asian Business Empowerment Council; Tuyet Tran, executive director of Southeast Asian Coalition; and Suzanne Lee, community activist and former Boston school teacher and principal

“We are very lucky in our state of Massachusetts that we have such an awesome, strong, vibrant, diverse, committed Asian American and native Hawaiian Pacific Islander community. We have so many leaders across the private sector, the public sector, academia, state government, city government, nonprofit, and we work together and support each other,” said Hao. “One of the reasons we want to celebrate these five leaders is because they are role models and examples of how to really play a big role and have a big impact in our community. Each of the five of them, they all got involved in convening, worked on big problems and found



**DAY OF HONOR: Gov. Maura Healey and leaders from communities across the state gathered on May 20 at the State House to commemorate Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Courtesy photo.**

good solutions and made such a huge difference so that’s why we all want to be more like these five people.”

Healey stressed the state’s commitment to ensuring community safety and combating discrimination and hate in all forms. Additionally, she outlined initiatives to enhance affordability in Massachusetts, including policies on affordable housing, free community college for adults aged 25 and above, and free school meals for K-12 stu-

dents. She also emphasized the importance of protecting civil rights and fostering equality and diversity within the state. Secretary Yvonne Hao reiterated the focus on economic development, particularly for the AANHPI community, by offering the highest-ever grants – small business technical assistance and other opportunities to assist small businesses.

“Today is great celebration,” said Healey, but added, “this should not be

the only time that people come to the State House; we want you to here every day.”

Paul Lee said he felt it was wonderful for Asian leaders to be recognized, and that “we’ve been invisible for so long.” He said he hopes the event will encourage others to become involved.

“I am really grateful to be here today,” said Tuyet Tran. “As an Asian community, we can talk and share more resources that we have and offer.”