

‘I Feel So Hopeless’

With No Severance and Limited English, Ex-East West Workers Fear for Their Financial Future

By Aurora Hao

The closure of East West Manufacturing in Boston in June has left 51 workers, many of whom are Chinese immigrants, uncertain about their financial and career prospects – and with no severance.

“I feel so helpless and don’t know what to do right now,” one former employee, Mandy, told the Sampan. She asked not to use her last name. “Now I get unemployment benefits, but I don’t know so much English and I need someone to fill out some forms for me every week.”

Mandy is one of many of the ex-workers whose English abilities are limited and who had for years depended on work at the manufacturing company.

East West Manufacturing is a global manufacturing services company based in Atlanta with locations worldwide that offer design, engi-

neering, and distribution services. The Boston branch had served as an innovation hub for medical, military, industrial, and commercial industries. Boston’s closure marks the company’s third facility to shut down after two operations in North Carolina laid off a total of more than 200 workers in the spring.

“It is not easy to get another job since I am getting older. I don’t know so much English too. It feels like [I] don’t know what to do,” Mandy said. Workers like her note their dedication to the company through the pandemic, when employees showed up for work on-site.

Although she said the company’s human resources department was able to guide and answer some of her questions about the layoffs, Mandy, who worked at the company since 2012, expressed increasing concern her likelihood of getting a new job, and about



WORKERS UNITE: Former employees of East West Manufacturing in Boston protest for severance pay.

Photo Courtesy of the Chinese Progressive Association.

being terminated without severance, despite 12 years on the job.

Her colleague, Wai Ming Kam, who devoted 14 years to East West, is

now considering retiring altogether.

At 65 years old, Kam said he will likely have to rely on public benefits.

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Survey Sheds Light on Asian American Voters’ Preferences, High Involvement

By Adam Smith

If there is one commonality among the nation’s Asian American voters it’s not a favored party or stance on any particular issue, it’s that the diverse group wants to participate in politics. And, that their key votes might be taken for granted by major political parties.

Those are key takeaways from a survey of 2,479 registered Asian American voters presented by Asian Americans Advancing Justice, just months away from a key presidential election.

Ninety-percent of Asian American voters said they plan to vote in presidential, congressional and in other elections this November, with 68% saying they are “absolutely certain” they will vote in 2024, though the numbers decline among younger age

groups.

The survey was conducted during April 4 to May 26, well before President Biden dropped out of the race and before the attempted shooting of former president Trump. But the insights into Asian Americans’ political views could prove even more valuable amid the upset in the presidential race.

That’s especially true because many of the voters surveyed say they had not been contacted by any political party on any issue by the time of the survey. More than two in five Asian American voters said they had not been contacted by either the Democratic or Republican campaigns this election season, leaving a potential opening for influence. Half say the Democratic candidates have not reached out to them, and nearly three in five say no Republicans have reached out to them. Respondents also said they were

somewhat less likely to vote this November than in the presidential races of 2016 and 2020, but it’s an open question whether Biden dropping could sway more to head to the polls in November with a new candidate for the Democratic party.

While the category of Asian American voters is highly diverse and highly multilingual – and includes Japanese, Vietnamese, Indian, Korean, Filipino and Chinese Americans – as a group, they are increasingly leaning more to the Democratic party and many identify as Independents, when compared to the last election when former President Donald Trump and Joe Biden faced off, again, leaving many voters who could change their minds this fall. Forty-two percent of Asian American voters said they are Democrats – down from 44% in 2020 – and 31% identify as Inde-

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EDITORIAL

Biden Concludes a Chapter, but Our Future Has Yet to Be Written

Fifty years ago, upon taking the oath of office after the resignation of his predecessor Richard Nixon, President Gerald Ford addressed the nation. Just as he had assumed the role of vice president after the resignation of Spiro Agnew, Ford took the reins of power for the remainder of Nixon's term only to lose reelection in the 1976 campaign.

Halfway through his Inaugural speech on Aug. 9, 1974, Ford uttered a line that seems too presumptuous in retrospect: "My fellow Americans," he said "our long national nightmare is over."

A half century and the stunning political events of July 21, 2024, later many will perhaps think that Ford's line comes from a parallel world, some place where the bluster of a well-written statement meant to assuage troubled Americans only serves to further trouble them. Are nightmares ever over, or do they just assume new shapes?

We are now at a point, just months from the presidential election, in which, at press time, no clear candidate has emerged for the Democratic party. Vice President Kamala Harris appears

likely to take the spot. We hope this moment does not pass in a hasty rush that leads the American people from feeling further detached from the political machine that has gotten us in the predicament in the first place. We hope this can be a time of reflection, of assessing our values as a nation, and of political involvement, rather than one of sprinting to the finish line, running in deadly fear, only to forget who we are as a people and as a world super power.

When President Joe Biden ended his announcement over the weekend, telling the world he was stepping out of the 2024 campaign, he ended, with: "...there is nothing America can't do - when we do it together..."

It's no secret that we live in volatile times, and a lot can happen in the next four years. Just look at recent history: We had the Covid pandemic, the Jan. 6, 2021 insurrection attempt by former President Trump supporters; the ongoing war on Ukraine; the October Hamas attacks on Israel and the following bombardment of Palestinians made possible by U.S. support in money and deadly weapons that's likely responsible, by one estimate pub-

lished in Lancet recently, for around 186,000 Palestinian deaths; the June 27 disastrous Democratic performance at the first presidential debate; the July 13 assassination attempt on Trump; and the frequent mass shootings that have become so common in America.

Now, who will we select to lead the nation?

While Democrats sort out their candidate, Trump, a known quantity, continues talk of mass deportation of undocumented immigrants, travel bans, retribution and "draining the swamp."

True, we have many unknowns. We have much to fret and fear over who will be in charge at the White House. Some may feel detached and a sense of resignation. But here's what we do know and can do: while party machines and big money fountains will likely plow past the will of the common person, we still can use our votes and our words and actions to demand an America that's safer, more tolerant, kinder and better at home and for the world. And we can only get there if instead of feeling indifferent or driven by fears and prejudices, we are driven by a desire to make good for all.

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A Publication of the AACA
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

Aurora Hao
Yuchen Hong
DongDong Yang
Esther Wang
Yizhen Zhang
Kristen Si
Adam Smith

Translators
Ben Lee

Advertising & Production

Ben Lee and Adam Smith (lay-
out), DongDong Yang (ads)

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Former East West Workers Fight for Severance

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“I am living in low-income housing now. Since my income got lower, my rent also got cut off. On the other hand, my unemployment benefits ... can also help me. ... But for someone who is (younger), they may have a bigger impact.”

Facing challenges of financial instability and job uncertainty, workers have demanded East West Manufacturing to provide one week of severance pay for every year of service corresponding to the worker’s time at the company. The workers have gained attention from advocates and politicians, and rallied for support from the Boston City Council.

Boston City Council members have urged East West Manufacturing to provide workers with appropriate severance pay and benefits. In a letter

addressed to East West Manufacturing Management, City Councilor Ed Flynn requested the company “provide severance pay and resources to support workers in securing new employment.”

Community organizations and other advocacy groups have also voiced their support, joining the rallies led by laid off workers to protest against what they call a lack of support from East West Manufacturing. Among them included the Greater Boston Labor Council, which in a post on X claimed that the workers’ demands were “modest” and that “these workers manufactured safety equipment during the pandemic and deserve respect.” The Chinese Progressive Association, a grassroots community organization committed to promoting the equality and empowerment of the Chinese community, has

‘It is not easy to get another job since I am getting older. I don’t know so much English, too.’
-Former Employee

helped organize rallies with workers prior to the facility’s closing date, demanding East West to respond to the workers’ needs.

East West Manufacturing has not returned Sampan’s request for comment.

The Boston workforce at East West is not unionized, making it harder to leverage with the company for a demand on severance pay. In Massachusetts, the workers will be eligible for unemployment insurance. The Wage Act also guarantees terminated employ-

ees to receive the full amount of owed wages on the day of discharge from the employer. But there is no requirement for an employer to offer workers severance pay if it is not explicitly stated in the employment contract.

At this moment, East West Manufacturing remains active in Massachusetts at its North Andover site. Mass Robotics, an independent robotics hub sharing the same building with the recently closed East West facility in Boston, is considering expanding its headquarters by occupying the space. Four days after the Boston facility’s closure, East West Manufacturing announced a partnership with Needham-based software and design company ECM PCB Stator Tech. This collaboration will combine the strengths of both companies, helping clients to optimize electrical systems.

MBTA Now Offers No-Contact Pay System for Rides

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority has introduced a “Tap to Ride” system, allowing passengers to use no-contact payment methods such as credit and debit cards, smartphones, and smartwatches. Starting Aug. 1, these payments will be accepted on buses, Green Line and Mattapan Line trolleys, and at all gated subway stations. This initiative aims to streamline fare collection and enhance convenience for riders. More information at mbta.com/TapToRide.

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This upgrade aims to reduce wait times and offer greater payment flexibility. Traditional CharlieCards will still be accepted. Contactless payment will initially be available only on buses and subways, with plans to

expand to other modes later. It’s ideal for riders who don’t have a CharlieCard or prefer to pay as they go.

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State Program Doles Out \$27M for Housing as Many Priced Out

By Esther Wang

The Housing Development Incentive Program on July 9 rolled out the largest funding boost to Massachusetts communities in the program's history, doling out a total of \$27 million to various cities and towns.

But the cash infusion for new housing will likely make only a small dent in what many residents see as a crisis of unaffordability.

The HDIP funds were awarded to 13 communities across the state to build 547 new units of housing in Barnstable, Brockton, Fall River, Haverhill, Holyoke, Lawrence, Lowell, Pittsfield, Salem, Springfield, and Worcester. The plan is to add housing to the so-called "Gateway Cities" as well as boost their local economies.

"We expanded the HDIP program in our tax cuts package, because it has a proven track record of spurring housing development in Gateway Cities and lowering costs," said Gov. Maura Healey in a statement. "Our Gateway Cities are vital centers for industry and culture while also being positioned to help provide the housing we need to meet the demand. These funds help make projects possible that will create hundreds of homes, revitalize neighborhoods and strengthen our communities."

The funding will also help ease the housing supply shortage in the state while potentially making the cost of living more affordable, claimed the administration.

But there is a key distinction with the HDIP-funded housing: they are, in the majority, intended to be market-rate. What this means is that these new housing units will be priced according to the average rent or sale prices in the area.

The housing crisis in Massachusetts is a major issue that poses problems on two fronts: a shortage in quantity, and an excess in cost. These two complications often intersect with and exacerbate each other. For example, a lack of inventory—houses put on the market to be sold—has contributed to a steady increase in home prices in the state. According to the Massachusetts Association of Realtors, the median sale price for a single-family home in April of this year was 9% higher than it was this time last year. Rather than struggle with these high prices, many residents choose instead to leave the state altogether to find a neighborhood they can afford, prompting the departure of many young, educated individuals.

These housing pressures are felt, perhaps even more acutely, by low-income households. For every 100 low-income renter household, there are only 46 available and af-

fordable homes. Simply put, there is not enough housing in the state for them. Even where there is, many families find themselves severely cost-burdened, spending more than half of their income on housing alone. This means they have to scrimp and sacrifice on other expenses, such as food or healthcare.

According to the MIT living wage calculator, for example, a four-person household would require one adult to work full time earning nearly \$44 per hour to support the family in Bristol County. The cost goes up for those living closer to Boston; in Suffolk County, the hourly wage would have to be around \$10 more to support the family. That's far above minimum wage and many times the poverty-wage level.

For some, the lack of available and affordable housing has pushed them out onto the streets. At 19,141, the homeless population in Massachusetts ranks as the seventh highest in the nation. Since the pandemic, this number has only grown as rising prices, especially in the housing market, make it impossible for people to afford their homes. Most homeless persons in Massachusetts stay in shelters, but unless more affordable housing is built, and quickly, there is little likelihood that the homeless population will be able to move out of these shelters and back into permanent housing.

This threatens to further stretch Massachusetts' already-overwhelmed shelter system. The recent influx of migrants into the state has seen shelter spots fill up to capacity and then some; in the past year, the Healey administration was forced to use Logan Airport as a temporary shelter space, though this ended in early July. Families in the shelter system, of which around half are immigrants, have been asked to move out once they reach nine months—another sign of how overburdened the shelter system is. State efforts have focused on mitigating this issue by equipping migrants with the resources to transition to more stable housing, such as through language classes and employment.

As of the moment, however, the shelter system still struggles to accommodate the rush of both migrants and the native residents who have been pushed out of their homes.

"Asking around, talking about immigrants in the shelter system cusps on taboo," said Lee, a homeless woman, in an interview with the Sampan. With resources stretched thin, "people living in the shelter system report theft, entitlement, low standard of living and special treatment as main complaints... Many are unable to find a bed in a shelter or

access adequate support services. Some people report being unhoused for 10 months to two years."

Lee added that some people within the shelter system attribute these issues to the influx of migrants, "Leaving little room for the increasing number of native residents entering homelessness."

"Regardless of intent, the influx of immigrants add increasing stress to a system operating beyond capacity," Lee says.

In contrast to the HDIP program, the Affordable Homes Act that is working its way through the state Senate and House would direct more support toward housing for low-income families. A major portion of the funding in the legislation is planned for building affordable housing units; there will also be an emphasis on maintaining and

repairing public housing units in the state. However, these benefits won't be fully felt until the Act goes into effect.

Gov. Healey's office also emphasized that while "HDIP is a specific tool to incentivize market rate development in Gateway Cities, [it] is not the only program dedicated to housing production." Other measures, such as the 2024 Affordable Housing Development Grant Awards, which will go towards supporting around 1,700 affordable housing units for low-income residents, are also at play.

"We want a Massachusetts that's affordable, accessible and resilient," said Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll, "so that everyone can afford to work, live and build their future here."

So far, however, that goal appears a distance away.

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ROAD TO THE WORLD Silkroad's Global Musician Workshop performs in Boston and China this August.

Courtesy photo.

Boston's Silkroad Workshop Makes Music in Hangzhou

By Yuchen Hong

The Silkroad's Global Musician Workshop kicks off this August with its first dual Boston-Hangzhou performances, welcoming musicians from around the world to both historic cities.

"Hosting it for the first time (in the Chinese city) is challenging, but I'm looking forward to our presentation in Hangzhou this year. I hope to introduce this free and creative motivated music education to China," Silkroad's pipa player, Wu Man, told the Sampan in a video call from China this week. Man has been on faculty with the group founded by famed cellist Yo-Yo Ma since its start and spearheaded the launch of the workshop in Hangzhou, her hometown.

This marks the first event in the Chinese city in the 26-year history of Silkroad and in the 9-year history of the workshop program. The week-long program runs Aug. 4 to 10 in Boston and will welcome students from around the world to participate in workshops and concerts with Silkroad artists at New England Conservatory's

Jordan Hall. An opening concert is set for Aug. 6, followed by daily concerts from Aug. 7 to 10. The Hangzhou program is from Aug. 26-31 at the Zhejiang Conservatory of Music.

"Music is not isolated; the world is connected, and so are we," said Wu Man, adding that "It's interesting to see how various instruments with the same origins develop their own paths under different cultural influences, cooperating, sharing, and learning from each other."

The program is built around the founding of Silkroad as a way of creating new musical conversations across different cultures. The idea is that participants from all over the world can come and immerse themselves in multiple musical languages by collaborating directly with the faculty, according to cellist Mike Block, the director of the program. This year's show, for example, includes a group of participants from West Africa's Sierra Leone, who play traditional African music together.

"What's exciting is the faculty is diverse and unique, but the participants, by sheer numbers, are even

more diverse and unique," said Block in a phone interview with the Sampan.

Sixty-eight musicians were selected from a pool of 218 applicants, representing 28 countries and 32 instruments—more than in any previous year.

"Obviously we're looking for great musicians who are really captivating artists and performers, but a big part of it is that we want to see people who are already doing things outside of their original style. We want to see people who are already making the effort to do cross-cultural collaborations and already have some experience in this territory because it's a unique environment," added Block.

Participants are assigned to different faculties and collaborate as bands. Unpredictable jams happen every day and night, with the focus on making connections with different musicians and collaborating for musical chemistry.

"I once saw a group with three cellos, a pipa, a piano, and a Turkish string instrument. This combination was very challenging. We ended up performing 'The Love Song of Kang-

ding,' a traditional folk song from southern China. The students were very creative, and the stage performance was fantastic. They even added vocal performances, which was a new experience for them," Wu Man recalled, smiling.

All of the participants get a chance to know each other and play music together, noted Block, who added that new touring bands have been created out of people meeting at the workshop. They then go on to play together for years and even end up record albums together.

"I think what we're trying to do is change people's lives with the idea that you can learn about the world through music and feel connected to the whole world through music," said Block. "Through that process, by learning different languages and working with different people, musicians learn more about themselves and their own musical voice. It's like connecting the outside world to the inside voice for every artist."

Wu added that with the expansion into China, she hopes "we continue to reach other parts of the world."

PEERS Group Aims to Help Autistic People Make Friends

By Yizhen Zhang

When it comes to education and autism spectrum disorder, the focus in recent years has been on early childhood education. There are many services for young children with ASD, such as early intervention programs, preschools or other school-run programs, says Dr. Jenny Chu, who runs the Boston PEERS Social Skills Program in Brookline.

But services – especially community-based ones for teens and older people with autism – are much harder to come by.

Helping fill a small space in the gap is Chu's Boston PEERS Social Skills Program, an evidence-based social skills program. Built on a system developed at the University of California in Los Angeles, the program is 14 weeks long for teens and a 10 weeks for young adults with any social pragmatic communication challenges, autism spectrum disorder, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, social anxiety or behavioral challenges. Chu, a speech-language pathologist, is the executive director of Boston PEERS Social Skills Program.

The PEERS program aims to empower people who struggle with social skills – a key component of the autism diagnosis – to thrive in social interactions and develop meaningful relationships. The programs include help with making friends and picking friends, dating, using humor and texting and more.

Chu shared a story of a girl who enrolled in the program. The girl used to go straight to her room and stay in her room for seven hours or more after she came home from school. Her mother initially enrolled her in the PEERS program just so she could get her daughter out of the house for a while. After enrolling in the program, the girl has been able to interact more with other students in her school and she even had her first

sleepover with her friends. According to Dr. Chu, the Boston PEERS Social Skills Program does not just work with the students, the program values collaboration and interacts with parents, school teams, and therapists so that everyone can “be on the same page, use the same language” and can thus “maximize the benefits of students.”

Autism spectrum disorder, abbreviated as ASD, is a complex neurological disorder, that typically includes early-onset dysfunctions in communication, impairments in social interaction, repetitive and stereotyped behaviors and interests, and difficulties adjusting to unexpected changes, and sensory hyper-sensitivity. For more than two decades, autism prevalence has risen in the United States as well as in the world, though that increase is likely attributed in part more aggressive screening for the disorder. Minority groups in the United States are historically believed to be underdiagnosed for ASD.

To help with social interaction, PEERS program encourages students to join clubs and ask about their interests. The program then contacts the child's team at school and the schools are asked to ensure that someone will take the students to the clubs and further encourage them. Autistic children and their families typically need many types of support and it is important to ensure that every child and every family should be represented in the autistic community.

For Asian Americans, however, the problem of under-diagnosis of ASD is real.

Although autism prevalence has increased globally, in clinical studies, there are less than 1% of Asian Americans who are being treated and evaluated. While up to 20% of public school students are being served under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, only 7% of Asian Americans, the lowest of any racial



FRIENDSHIP CONNECTION: Dr. Jenny Chu at the Boston PEERS. Photo by Molly Potter/Courtesy photo.

group, are served when disaggregating the data by race. Disabled Asian Americans are underserved and receive lower-quality support and rehabilitation compared to other groups, including Latinos and Blacks, according to some studies. There is a combination of factors behind the underrepresentation or underidentification of Asian Americans in the disability community, including guilt and shame, socioeconomic, cultural barriers, confusion about what constitutes a disability, the model minority myth and a reluctance to identify as being disabled.

Chu suggests that for many people,

there is “cultural stigma of being labeled with a disability” and “stigma attached to getting diagnosed with ASD.”

As Chu put it, there are “so many issues that overlap”: People's education, upbringing, culture and religious and spiritual ties all play a role in how people view disability. Disabled Asian Americans are often overlooked, misunderstood and simplified not only from outside the Asian American community but even more from within.

But people with ASD can only get the appropriate services, after they are properly diagnosed.

Survey Shows Asian Americans' Eagerness to Vote

Continued from Page 1

pendent, up from 25% in 2020. A total of 22% identify as Republican, down just slightly from the 23% in 2020.

As a group, Asian Americans could play a significant role in determining the next president in a tight race. Voter turnout among Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders hit record numbers in the 2018 and 2020 elections, with two-digit point increases in each election for the group, according to the survey.

“In 2020, almost 60% (7.6 million) of the Asian American citizen age voting population turned out. In battleground states such as Arizona, Georgia, Nevada, North Carolina and Pennsylvania, the number of Asian Americans who cast their ballot in 2020 exceeded the presidential margin of victory,” according to the survey.

Asian Americans over the past 20

years have meanwhile become one of the fastest-growing racial groups in the United States, growing 39% between the 2010 and 2020 census. The Asian American population is projected to pass 35 million by 2060, according to the survey.

Below are some key findings from the survey:

* Before Biden dropped out, just over half of Asian American voters saw him as “very” or “somewhat” favorably, while 43% viewed Trump as “very” unfavorable.

But their views of Vice President Kamala Harris were not as promising for the Democratic party, should she become the top candidate.

Only 13% of Asian American voters said they see Harris as “highly favorable,” while 21% said they see her as “highly unfavorable.” A total of 31% say they see her as “somewhat favorable” and 21% say they see her as

“somewhat unfavorable.”

* As for the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, half of Asian American voters said they would vote for a Democratic candidate; 30% say they would vote for a Republican candidate.

* Most Asian American voters overwhelmingly favor the Democratic Party's handling of issues such as abortion and reproductive rights, healthcare, racism and gun control (43% vs. 23%).

* Most Asian American voters at the same time favor Republican's handling of national security, immigration, inflation, and crime.

* The respondents were nearly split on whom they felt is doing a better job with the Israel/Gaza fighting, which has so far killed tens of thousands of Palestinian women and children and other non-combatants. About 20% favored Democrats' and 22% favored

Republicans' handling of the conflict, but just as many felt there was no difference between either party (42%).

* Top issues for Asian Americans are mostly universal ones: jobs, the economy, inflation, healthcare, Social Security and Medicare, crime, the cost of housing, gun control, national security, immigration, and education.

* Over two-thirds said they worry about hate crimes, harassment, and discrimination, but to varying degrees. Of those, 38% say they “sometimes” worry about it, 17% say “somewhat often” and 13% say “very often.”

* When asked from where they get their news, most Asian American voters said from television (64%), followed by print and digital newspaper sites (39%) and YouTube (38%). Three in four get most of their news from English language sites, while a quarter of Asian American voters get news from non-English sources.

Boston Community Pediatrics 'Starts With the Patient,' :Doc

By Kristen Si

Boston Community Pediatrics (BCP) was recently awarded the 2024 Excellence in Innovation award during the during Massachusetts Nonprofit Network's 2024 Excellence Awards. BCP is a nonprofit, multilingual private practice aiming to provide high-quality medical care to low-income patients, regardless of their insurance coverage. It's located on Albany Street in the South End. Sampan had the opportunity to sit down with the founder of BCP, Dr. Robyn Riseberg.

When people can't have access to their providers and have a hard time navigating the system, that is really frustrating and difficult.

SAMPAN: What shortcomings in healthcare do you currently see exist for low-income pediatric patients and what issues are you looking to address?

Riseberg: We are the first non-profit pediatric private practice in Massachusetts and one of the first in the country. BCP was created to address many of the shortcomings in healthcare right now. What we do is we provide the highest quality, culturally competent pediatric care in addition to mental health care and wellness services that address the social determinants of health. We have a relationship-driven model where we center the patient in all we do. That's where I think our model really differs from the rest of the healthcare system – in that we start with the patient and everything goes from there. Many other organizations start at the administration and the finances and then things are supposed to trickle down to the patient. Unfortunately, they don't always.

In my opinion, in reality, the US has really a two-tiered healthcare system – one for those with public insurance and one for those with private insurance. Ultimately, this traditional model really disadvantages the low-income. For example, the rate of ER visits is 86.1% higher for those with low-income than for their wealthier counterparts. Children with low-income backgrounds are 3 times more likely to have an unmet health need. That is mostly just because they cannot access the



DO GOOD: Dr. Robyn Riseberg of the South End's Boston Community Pediatrics. Courtesy Photo.

care they need. Our model disrupts this by offering the flexibility and agility of a small private practice and provides the cultural sensitivity and services that are needed to meet patients where they are.

Sampan: Boston Community Pediatrics offers the Hyperlocal Community Initiative, collaborating with local community organizations. How are these organizations helping forward your vision?

Riseberg: We have a number of community partners who help provide things on-site at our office. We are also in the community with our Hyperlocal Community Initiative. We work with community organizations such as IBA, Ellis Early Learning... among several others to bring our services into the community. A lot of that is working with teens... parents, and teachers around mental health education. During the pandemic, we provided vaccines to many of these organizations and brought vaccines to the organizations to help vacci-

nate teachers, parents, and children. Additionally, we have provided some education around nutrition and smoothie workshops and healthy eating. We are continuing to expand our work throughout the community through more general health education methods.

Sampan: In your experience working with patients, what factors may have converged to make patients lose trust in healthcare? How are you gaining it back?

Riseberg: When people can't have access to their providers and have a hard time navigating the system, that is really frustrating and difficult. Before I created Boston Community Pediatrics, I spent 15 years working in the community and listening to families. Everything we have created at BCP came out of those conversations. We have structurally embedded the voices of our patients and staff in all that we do... We ensure our patients see themselves reflected in even the physical

environment. That is through the art that we have on the walls that was created by teen community members through a partnership with Artists for Humanity. We also understand that in order to address people's physical health and mental health, we have to address their basic needs. I have collaborations with a number of community organizations such as Hope and Comfort, Dignity Matters, the YMCA, Cradles to Crayons, Reach Out and Read, among others to provide patients at every visit with hygiene products, diapers and wipes, clothing, food, and books... We don't ask the families what they need, we just offer it to them with dignity so that families can take what they need.

We also make sure that our phones are answered and that people know the number of different ways they can contact us. We have a HIPPA-compliant texting system, email, and phone. We really center that relationship and the provider – we don't really have a lot of layers in between the patient and the provider.

Sampan: What steps are BCP taking to help provide culturally competent healthcare to your diverse patient base?

Riseberg: The majority of our medical team speaks Spanish. We have a number of different staff members that are bilingual, bicultural, from the community, and reflecting the population in the community we serve, which is primarily black and brown patients. The majority of our patients identify as Latinx, so all of the front desk staff and all of the medical assistants are bilingual. We know how important it is that families see themselves reflected in the environment where they are.

Sampan: Of all the work that you have done at BCP, what are you most proud of?

Riseberg: I would say that I am most proud of the team that is delivering this care. We received the Innovation in Excellence award, which was exciting because to me, it was a testament to the incredible team that we have created to do this work. It has also been really important to me to create an atmosphere where the staff feel seen and heard. I have worked really hard to make sure that is the case. The team that is delivering this care works incredibly close together and that really is in many ways the secret to our success. I am incredibly proud of their hard work, dedication, and teamwork.

Job Corner

Boston Medical Center, MA

- Position: Patient Transport - Per Diem - Weekends, PT**
 High school diploma or GED preferred
 6-12 months of experience as Patient Transporter in our current Patient Transport Department preferred
 Demonstrated ability to effectively speak, read, and write English.
[Apply at www.jobs.bmc.org](http://www.jobs.bmc.org)
 Contact: Caroline Cafer, 617-414-7066, caroline.cafer@bmc.org
- Position: Guest Support Services - Guest Support Services, 24Hrs, Sat and Sun, 7:00am-7:00pm, and Rotating Holidays**
 Requires at a minimum, completion of a high school education (diploma or GED)
 Requires two years of work experience or an equivalent combination of education and experience
[Apply at www.jobs.bmc.org](http://www.jobs.bmc.org)
 Contact: Caroline Cafer, 617-414-7066, caroline.cafer@bmc.org
- Position: Food and Nutri-**

tion Representative - Food and Nutritional Services - 40Hrs, Day/Eve and Rotating Weekends

High school diploma or GED is preferred.
 minimum of two years' experience in food service /customer service environment.
 Patient feeding experience with all age groups and diet experience preferred
[Apply at www.jobs.bmc.org](http://www.jobs.bmc.org)
 Contact: Caroline Cafer, 617-414-7066, caroline.cafer@bmc.org

- Position: General Cleaner, 40 Hrs, Days and rotating weekends**
 HS Diploma or completion of GED preferred
 Work requires the ability to read, follow oral and written instructions in English at a level acquired through the completion of elementary school
 Ability to learn and perform basic housekeeping practices and understand the policies and procedures of the hospital.
[Apply at www.jobs.bmc.org](http://www.jobs.bmc.org)
 Contact: Caroline Cafer, 617-414-7066, caroline.cafer@bmc.org

The Langham-Boston, MA

- Position: Banquet Cook ,**

On-Call

General knowledge of culinary technique and application with willingness and attitude to learn more.
 Personality and ability to communicate needs to all colleagues.
 Ability to adapt to changing demands as related to food and beverage operations.
 Degree in Culinary Arts preferred, 2 to 5 years' experience in a 4-5 star hotel or independent restaurant.
 Banquet experience is desirable.

Website: <https://www.langhamhotels.com/en/the-langham/boston/>

- Position: Room Service Manager, FT**
 Experience with and good understand of Micros POS and F&B Menu knowledge
 Minimum 1 year of experience in Food & Beverage Management in a 4-5 star hotel, and/or room service.
 ServSafe Alcohol and/or TIPS required
 Website: <https://www.langhamhotels.com/en/the-langham/boston/>

- Position: Carpenter, Full Time**
 5 years carpentry experience
 Hotel experience preferred
 A working knowledge of the use of hand and power tools.
 Website: <https://www.langhamhotels.com/en/the-langham/boston/>

Raffles Boston

- Position: Hotel Concierge, Full Time**
 2 years of Concierge experience in a luxury setting required
 College degree preferred; High School diploma required.
 Must be proficient in Windows, and must have a valid driver's license for the applicable state.
 Must have extensive knowledge of the area and be able to give directions clearly.
 Website: <https://careers.accor.com/global/en/job/hotel-concierge-in-boston-united-states-jid-10909>

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

- Position: ,Chief Data Officer, Full Time**
 Applicants must have at least seven (7) years of full-time or, equivalent part-time, professional, administrative, supervisory, or managerial experience in IT administration or IT management, of which at least four (4) years must

have been in a managerial capacity.

Salary: 110,000.00 - 221,728.00 Yearly
 Apply at: [Website: https://www.mass.gov/](https://www.mass.gov/)

- Position: Social Services Advocate - PDD Boston, Full Time**
 Bachelor's degree in a social service field and one year of related experience, or an equivalent combination of skills, education, and experience;
 Must have access to insured, reliable and available transportation, and a valid MA driver's license; and,
 Access to a personal computer with home internet access sufficient to work remotely.
 Salary: \$61,593 - \$85,095, commensurate with years of experience
<https://careers-publiccounsel.icims.com/jobs/2635/social-services-advocate---pdd-boston/job>

- Position: Reference Archivist , Full Time**
 Master's degree in archival management, library science, history or related field is required.
 One year of archival work experience, especially in reference is essential.
 Knowledge of Massachusetts history and government is preferred.

Salary: 50,000.00 - 50,000.00 Yearly

To apply please send: 1) a copy of your resume 2) a cover letter 3) 3 references to careers@sec.state.ma.us

Boston Public School

- Position: Social Worker, FT**
 Masters Degree in Social Work or Mental Health Counseling
 Bilingual/ Bicultural in the identified SLIFE Program Language
 Minimum of 2 years professional experience in an urban setting similar to Boston Public Schools providing educational and clinical services
 Experience working with youth of immigrant and refugee backgrounds
 Certification by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education as a School Adjustment Counselor/School Social Worker.
 Website: <https://www.bostonpublicschools.org/>
 Contact Info: Recruitment@BostonPublicSchools.org

CATALYST HOUSING – LYNN, MA AFFORDABLE HOUSING LOTTERY

Applications Available: July 15, 2024

Informational Meetings: October 28, 2024 at 6PM

November 1, 2024 at 10AM

Lottery Deadline: January 15, 2025 at 4PM

Lottery: February 10, 2025 at 6PM

Informational Meetings and Lottery will be held via Zoom and in-person at:

Land of a Thousand Hills Café (61 Munroe Street, Lynn, MA) –
 10/28/2024 and 2/10/2025 at 6PM

El Centro (85 Munroe Street, Lynn, MA) – 11/1/2024 at 10AM

Attendance is optional and not mandatory to apply or be placed on waitlist

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Studio units with on-site laundry and resident support services.

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30% AMI units: No income minimum. \$34,260 (max, 1 person)

30% AMI rent based on income.

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/TDD: Dial 711.

Applications will also be available on our website www.harborlighthomes.org and/or can be picked up at the Lynn Public Library, 5 North Common Street, Lynn, MA

FREE language assistance available to all applicants.

Applications can be mailed to P.O. Box 507, Beverly, MA 01915. Applications for the lottery must be postmarked by January 15, 2025 or if submitted in-person, by 4pm on January 15, 2025.

Once the lottery has been conducted, we will have an open application period.



Events Calendar

- **Position: MTSS Implementation Manager, FT**
Bachelor's degree
Proficiency in Google spreadsheets
Strong operational skills, including organization, project management
Commitment to the belief that all students can learn and to the mission of educational equity.
Excellent time management skills, experience balancing competing priorities, and prioritizing resources.
Website: <https://www.bostonpublicschools.org/>
Contact Info: Recruitment@BostonPublicSchools.org

ABCD-Boston, MA

- **Position: Operations Manager, Full Time , South End**
Minimum of a high school diploma or equivalent with at least three to five years of experience in case management or job development and experience working with adults Must have a broad knowledge of human services in the city, how to access them and demonstrated ability to work with clients and staff of diverse backgrounds.
Bilingual skills as needed. nd youth required.
Website: <https://careers.bostonabcd.org/>
Contact: Lavette Sealls, lavette.sealls@bostonabcd.org
- **Position: Food Deliverer, FT , Medford**
Minimum of a High School Diploma/GED and up to 12 months of experience required
Possession of a valid driver's license, proof of car insurance, and a good driving record, as well as access to reliable vehicle to make deliveries
Good organizational, communication and time management skills.
Website: <https://careers.bostonabcd.org/>
Contact: Lavette Sealls, lavette.sealls@bostonabcd.org
- **Position: Cook 1, FT, Mattapan**
Minimum of a High School Diploma or equivalent.
Employees must pass ServSafe Food Manager Certification within six months of hire.
Website: <https://careers.bostonabcd.org/>
Contact: Lavette Sealls, lavette.sealls@bostonabcd.org

- **SoWa Open Market**

The SoWa Open Market is one of Boston's largest open-air farmer and artist markets. It features a diverse selection of regional and local vendors, food and beverage trucks, and is located among artist studios, galleries, and retail shops on pedestrian-only Thayer Street.
Time: Every Sunday until October 27th, 11am - 4pm.
Address: 500 Harrison Ave
More: <https://www.sowaboston.com/>

- **Play Date: Parade + Party**

ICA Watershed for a day of family fun featuring activities in connection with Hew Locke: The Procession. Enjoy a live musical performance, learn about Caribbean Carnival's history and significance, and create wearable art inspired by the costumes of Carnival.
*On Saturday, July 27th, museum admission is FREE for families when accompanied by kids ages 12 and under, with up to 2 adults per family. Timed tickets must be reserved online in advance for Watershed shuttle boats. Use the code PLAY-DATE when reserving your ticket(s).
Time: July 27th, Saturday, 11am - 3pm
Address: : ICA Watershed- 256 Marginal Street, East Boston Shipyard and Marina, MA 02128
More: <https://www.icaboston.org/events/play-date-parade-and-party/>

- **Puerto Rican Festival of Massachusetts**

The annual Puerto Rican Festival is our flagship event, bringing together people from all cultures and walks of life to celebrate and join our community. The festival culminates with the Puerto Rican Parade, where the community showcases its culture through fabulous floats, colorful dance troupes, singers, dancers, and appearances by distinguished honorees.

Time: July 27 Saturday , 12PM - July 28 9PM
Address: Franklin Park- 1 Pierpont Rd, Boston, MA
More: <https://www.puertoricanfestivalof-ma.org/home>

- **9th Annual Cambridge Jazz Festival**

Two days of Grammy winning jazz performances. Hosted by Jose Masso and Valerie Stephens. We will have a variety of vendors, food trucks, and a children's area, special guest tent, and our newly minted portable jazz museum.
Time: July 27th and 28th, Saturday & Sunday, 12-6pm
Address: Danehy Park- 99 Sherman St, Cambridge, MA
More: <https://www.cambridgejazzfoundation.org/2024-festival>

- **Boston 10K for Women Run Club**

Check-in for this run club will start each week at 8:30 am, with warm-up beginning at 9:00 am. It is free and open to all, regardless of running ability!
Time: Every Saturday, July 27 to October 5th 2024
Address: REI Fenway- 401 Park Dr Ste 103, Boston, MA 02215
More: <https://boston10kforwomen.com/run-club/>

- **Kidsfest**

First Kidsfest at The LOT in Southie this July 27th from 12-5PM! Bring the whole family for a day packed with games, art, and science.
Time: July 27th, Saturday, 12pm - 5pm
Address: The LOT- 383 Dorchester Ave, Boston, MA 02127
More: lotonthedot.com

- **Kowloon Concert Series: WILDFIRE**

WildFire is a 5-piece band that packs the power of a 10-piece. The vocals and instrumentation are powerful and true to the artist's recording.
Time: July 27, Saturday, 7pm-10pm
Address: Kowloon Restaurant- 948 Broadway, Saugus, MA 01906
More: <https://www.kowloonrestaurant.com/>

- **The Boston Common Frog Pond Spray Pool**

The Frog Pond Spray Pool is a Boston family favorite for city dwellers and visitors alike. Sit back, relax, and enjoy the beauty and history of The Boston Common while your little tadpoles splash around and cool down on hot summer days.
When: Open daily from 11:00 AM – 6:00 PM; close after September. 05
Where: The Boston Common Frog Pond- 38 Beacon St, Boston, MA 02108
More: <https://bostonfrogpond.com/spray-pool/>

- **Freedom Trail Tours Menu Fully Expands for Summer**

Walk Into History® and experience more than 250 years of history on Boston's iconic Freedom Trail®— the 2.5-mile red line leading to 16 nationally significant historic sites, each one an authentic treasure.
Tour start: Boston Common Visitors Center, 139 Tremont St, Boston, MA 02111
More information: <https://www.thefreedomtrail.org>

- **Silkroad Global Musician Workshop**

Silkroad continues its Global Musician Workshop this summer. The event includes the first international iteration of the program in Hangzhou, China presented in partnership with Zhejiang Conservatory of Music. For the fourth consecutive year, Silkroad also partners with New England Conservatory for the Boston-based workshop.

The Boston program takes place August 4-10 and the Hangzhou program from August 26-31. The 2024 programs in both cities include professional development workshops and a multi-night Performance Festival featuring Silkroad artists, conservatory faculty, special guests, and GMW participants. Performances are open to the public; details are available at silkroad.org/gmw.

GMW Boston Performance Festival
Tuesday, August 6-Saturday, August 10 at 8 p.m. EDT nightly
New England Conservatory's Jordan Hall
Tickets: \$25 Faculty Concert, \$15 Participant Concerts, \$50 All-Inclusive Five-Day Pass

Tyler St. Lot Owner Sues Over Denial of Parking Exemption

By Sampan Staff

The owner of several dozen long-time parking spaces in Chinatown – commonly called the Tyler Street parking lot – filed a lawsuit earlier this month, accusing a city commission of improperly blocking the use of the spaces.

The Chinese Christian Church of New England, which owns the spaces, argued in a court filing that the Boston Air Pollution Control Commission acted improperly in a hearing last month when it denied the church an exemption from the city's parking freeze. Without the permit, the Church had to stop use of the 30 spaces that had been leased for years by Tufts Medical Center.

The church in short claims that the city commission had failed to recognize that the 30 spaces on Tyler Street were part of a larger lot in the area that already been granted an exemption, and that two years ago an employee from the commission "erroneously informed Tufts" that there was no permit of record for the Tyler Street lot. To keep the lot in use, a new permit had to be filed for an exemption from the parking freeze for those 30 spaces.

During a hearing last year, the agency approved most of the spaces but not the 30 on Tyler Street and then in June denied the exemption.

The commission declined commenting on the suit to the Sampan when reached last week; the church did not return multiple phone calls seeking comment.

"The Air Pollution Control Commission does not review the necessity of exemption requests for existing facilities but rather confirms that owners are in compliance with requirements of the Downtown Parking Freeze at the policy and procedural level," Air Pollution Control Commission spokesperson Stacia Sheputa told the Sampan in early July, shortly after the agency's 4-1 vote.

The City of Boston created its downtown parking freeze in 1976, under the rules set by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The freeze limits the availability of commercial parking spaces in all of Downtown Boston and is not specific to the Chinatown neighborhood.

For decades the spaces had been used by the hospital for patients, a neighborhood church and other community activities, including those run by the Asian American Civic Association, the publisher of the Sampan. Environmental activists argue that ending the lot for parking would significantly reduce the city's air pollution levels and discourage car use downtown, but others say parking in the area is lacking.

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To see all of our Chinese-speaking doctors, visit tuftsmedicine.org/health-a-z

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Judy Chang to Serve on Federal Energy Commission

By Aurora Hao

Judy W. Chang, a Boston-based energy economist and regulatory policy expert, was confirmed as a member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on June 3, under President Biden's nomination. Chang will be the first Asian American woman to serve on the FERC, where she will work alongside four other members serving the commission's mission to promote reliable, affordable, and modern energy as well as environmental and economic justice.

Prior to her confirmation, Chang has a long history of working for both private firms and academia around energy and policy. She most recently was a managing principal at Analysis Group in Boston, exploring energy, climate, and natural resources with analysis on strategies and policies. She also served as an adjunct lecturer in public policy at the Harvard Kennedy School. As a senior fellow at the Kennedy School's Mos-savar-Rahmani Center for Business and Government, she conducted roundtable discussions surrounding the investment of critical technologies for a clean energy economy, while also working on the research project, "Decarbonization of Buildings in the U.S.: The Roles of Government and Private Investors," to examine the role of financing and collaboration between the private and the public sectors to build decarbonization efforts. Earlier in her career, Chang founded the

New England Women in Energy and the Environment (NEWIEE), where she is now director and former president. The NEWIEE aims to advance professional development and highlight women's voices in the energy and environmental sectors. Since founding NEWIEE, Chang has continued to promote women's leadership in clean energy as an ambassador for the U.S. Department of Energy's Clean Energy Education & Empowerment Initiative.

From 2020 to 2023, Chang also served as Undersecretary of Energy and Climate Solutions for Massachusetts under former Gov. Charlie Baker. In addition, she collaborated with the Independent System Operator (ISO) for New England, a non-profit corporation committed to innovative clean energy transitions, to launch a progressive transmission planning process in an effort to address financial costs and the reliability of electricity grids.

Chang's investment in energy sustainability and climate analysis is rooted in her diverse experiences and cross-cultural background. Her years growing up in Taiwan, the Philippines, and California, influenced her career path. In her written testimony for the Energy and Natural Resources Committee addressed before the United States Senate, she recalled her personal background of having "experienced firsthand power outages as a daily event..." From a young age, her parents instilled in her the principle



CHANG

that no resource should ever be wasted, working hard to save every penny so that she and her brother could have the opportunity to get a good education in the U.S., she said.

After graduating high school in California, Chang continued her studies at the University of California, Davis, earning an undergraduate degree in electrical engineering and computer science before pursuing her master's degree in public policy at the Harvard Kennedy School.

The FERC's mission statement emphasizes the responsibility to "assist consumers in obtaining reliable, safe, secure, and economically efficient energy services at a reasonable cost through appropriate regulatory and market means, and collaborative efforts," align-

ing with much of Chang's work that centers around building resilience and improving the affordability of energy systems.

In written testimony, Chang said she is hoping to "commit to keeping both reliability and affordability at the forefront" and will continue to dedicate herself to the sustainable practices of clean energy transitioning and lead the energy regulatory field to combat financial and equity issues.

Chang did not return requests to be interviewed for this story by deadline.

Numerous organizations have applauded Chang's confirmation to the FERC.

Principal Dr. Sam Newell at the Brattle Group, a firm specializing in economic modeling, econometrics, and financial analysis where Chang had previously served as principal at the Boston office, said in a statement that "Her expertise, impartiality, and effectiveness will be an asset to the Commission and its many stakeholders."

Robert Gee, the president of the Asian Americans in Energy, the Environment and Commerce (AE2C), has said in a statement that "Judy will be an excellent FERC commissioner. Her extensive experience in both the public and private sectors of the energy industry will allow her to provide outstanding leadership in energy regulatory and financial issues that profoundly affect all Americans."



Turning Hope Into Help

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Boston Koreans Find Place in 'Hallyu: Korean Wave Exhibit'

Members of the region's Korean-American community join the 'Hallyu: Korean Wave' show at the Museum of Fine Arts Boston recently. The show exhibits South Korea as a cultural superpower. There is still time to see Hallyu, which ends this weekend. For more, go to mfa.org or call the museum at (617) 267-9300.

Courtesy photos by Danh Nguyen Photography.

