

# ‘Most Famous Woman in China’ Visits Hub

By Yuchen Hong

Chinese author and mega celebrity Yue-Sai Kan, while on tour at Boston University’s Tsai Performance Center on Sept. 16, discussed her cross-cultural influence in promoting China abroad, and introduced her aptly titled new book, “The Most Famous Woman in China.”

Kan’s journey from a modest start to becoming a global media icon and influential philanthropist coincided with China’s dynamic transformation over the years. Both topics were her focus at the meet-and-greet book event.

“I’m both a witness and a participant,” Kan said of China’s growth over the past several decades.

While her appearance made little news locally, Kan proved influential to the crowd at Tsia: Before she began speaking, scholars in attendance whispered their admiration for Kan, young students said they traveled hun-

*Continues on Page 3*



FAMOUS IN CHINA: Chinese author and mega celebrity Yue-Sai Kan, appeared at Boston University’s Tsai Performance Center on Sept. 16. Photo and inside photos by Yuchen Hong.

# CineFest Founder Uses Film to ‘Break Stereotypes,’ Educate

## Sampan speaks with Latino fest’s Sabrina Avilés

By Harmony Witte

Sabrina Avilés founded Boston’s only currently operating Latino film festival, CineFest Latino Boston, in 2021, during a time of personal crisis.

“I was in a kind of a very pivotal moment in my life at that point, and my father was very ill and close to dying,” Avilés, executive director of CineFest Latino Boston, told the Sampan recently. “And so it just made me reflect about a lot of things. When something like that happens, you just reflect

about, you know, your life choices and moving on and how life is so precious and short. I think at that point, it was definitely a factor in kind of motivating me to move forward and start something that I could call my own.”

CineFest Latino Boston, which screens in the Boston area Sept. 25-Sept. 29, highlights stories by and about Latinos. The festival is committed to “using the power of film to break stereotypes, bring cultures and communities together and reveal the complex issues affecting the Latinx community in the United States, as well as communities in Latin America and Spain,” according to its website.

Avilés expanded the definition a bit to add that the festival is a celebration, and it is intended to help educate audiences.

When asked which stereotypes the fes-

tival helps debunk, she responded, “I think the biggest one now is just about who we are. As you know, we are either immigrants, or children and immigrants, or grandchildren of immigrants. We really contribute to this society in ways that often get taken for granted. Any negative image or perception that people have about us is exactly that ... I think that what happens in the news nowadays and is that, and for people who don’t want to explore further than what they hear or read, you know, for certain people, it’s so easy to look at the world through a very black and white lens, because it’s easy to put things into those little boxes,” she said.

“And I always argue and have argued that who we are, what the world is, policies, anything -- nothing is truly black and white, and everything is gray. We’re not black and

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## EDITORIAL: The Lasting Hurt of Hate

The images are shocking, but are they really all that shocking by “today’s standards”?

In one propaganda poster, a cartoon depicting a Japanese person’s face is getting punched by a muscled up “American” laborer. The words above the drawing: “Don’t save his face! Every blow counts in the battle for production.” In another cartoon, a Japanese person is depicted as a rat – the most despised of all animals – crawling into a trap that reads, “Army, Navy, Civilian.” And one, by famed children’s book author Dr. Seuss, shows an endless line of Japanese entering California, each gleefully holding a box of TNT.

It would be mildly reassuring to be able to declare these images, from 1940s anti-Japanese propaganda in the U.S. and held by the Hampton Roads Naval Museum, as shocking by today’s standards.

But to do so would not be true. We live in a time and place when similar words are blared on television and throughout posts all over the Internet.

And just as before, much of it comes from the top down.

If you think this is an exaggeration, or that we’re better than we were decades in the past, think again.

We have the absurd anti-Haitian hate that polluted the presidential debate and rippled far beyond a small town in the Midwest. We have the U.S. senator who just told an Arab American activist to hide her head in a “bag,” and implied she supported groups accused of terror. We have another lawmaker who earlier this year appeared to propose dropping atomic bombs on Palestinians.

Closer to home, we have a Boston city councilor who, according to a report in the *Boston Herald* from December, called an event honoring two Boston high school students for speaking up for Palestinian lives, “a Hamas attack.”

This hate of the immigrant, of the minority, of the Muslim and Arab, and on and on is not new to the past year. This has been going on for a long time, in waves of declining and growing strengths. We have anti-Asian bias that has persisted in one form or another since the 1800s and the infamous laws and policies of exclusion. We have the racism that has allowed for the countless deaths of Black Americans. We have the former president and current candidate who had warned of the “kung flu,” had proposed a “Muslim” ban, and had who likened immigrants entering California to “animals.”

Note the label of “animals,” just like in the rat cartoon, to dehumanize groups



of people. “Human animals” – sound familiar? Another one is the blanket term of “rapists” – it’s used by anti-immigrant groups to scapegoat all immigrants for the crimes of one or two. It’s also used in anti-Palestinian propaganda. And then the murky and legally consequential term, “terrorist,” not too dissimilar from the label of “Communist” of generations ago.

To discuss “othering,” damaging and often outright hateful language like this only in the context of hate crimes, however, is a disservice. The hurt is much bigger. Language can influence thought and thought can then justify action, like the violence following a demonstration in Newton earlier this month, the death of Vincent Chin in the 1980s, and police

abuse of power at protests at colleges around the country. This language that dehumanizes communities, populations even, has been used to justify forcing entire ethnic and immigrant groups into virtual open air prisons and concentration camps, dropping atomic bombs on civilians, relegating people to poverty and disproportionate imprisonment, and even, as we saw in the past and in the present, genocide.

But this language can also harm in ways that are invisible. It can cause trauma to families and children, people who grow up as the targets of these abhorrent words. *Sampan* recently wrote about research in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* showing the negative effects of anti-immigrant political

speech on Latino families.

And as Hena Zuberi, a rights activist who spoke recently of Islamophobia in the media, told the *Sampan*:

“I have four kids ... and I can speak from personal experience that we really don’t watch mainstream media in our house, not because we don’t want to, but because of the incessant portrayal of Muslims and of Islam in a manner that we don’t identify with. ...”

She said that Muslim families in America and elsewhere “consistently have to fight for their humanity and to prove that they are human, too.”

Haitians, Palestinians, so many others probably could say the same right now. It’s easy to look back and say we’re better than we were in the past. But how will future generations look back at how we are now?

### SAMPAN

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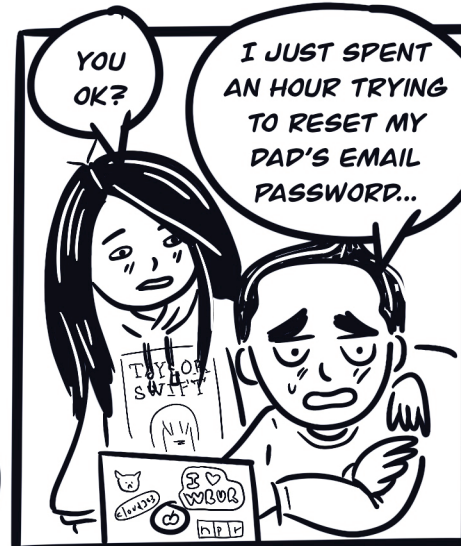
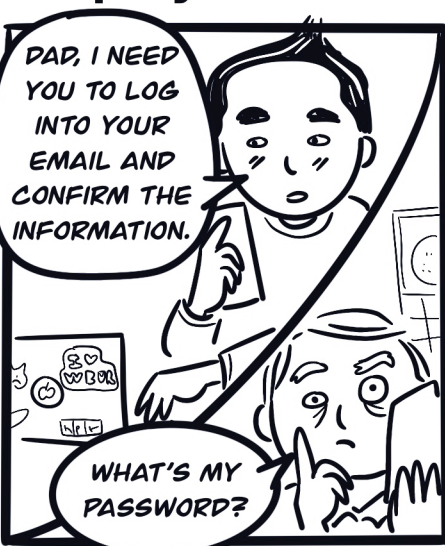
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### empty bamboo girl



@emptybamboogirl

by Lillian Lee

9-25-24



# Yue-Sai Kan Talks About China's Rise, Her Life

*Continued From Page 1*

dreds of miles just to see her, and middle-aged business people said they came specifically to meet their childhood idol.

The event was hosted by the Frederick S. Pardee School of Global Studies of Boston University.

Kan holds many titles: She is an Emmy-winning television host and producer, an entrepreneur, a fashion icon, a bestselling author, and a humanitarian. *People* magazine once called her “the most famous woman in China,” which also serves as the title of her new book.

“You know, it’s a little bit impossible to say, ‘The most famous woman in China,’” Kan joked at the event. “But I was.”

Unlike the Chinese-version of her autobiography, this new book starts with the night her television show was set to premiere.

“That night literally established my relationship with mil-

“You know, it’s a little bit impossible to say, ‘The most famous woman in China.’ But I was.”  
-Yue-Sai Kan

lions of Chinese people,” Kan said. “And it changed the trajectory of my life. And I’m very sure that it changed millions of Chinese lives as well.”

In the early 1970s, Kan headed the weekly television series “Looking East,” the first of its kind to introduce Asian cultures and customs to a growing American audience. Later, her television series “One World,” aired on China’s national television network, CCTV, reaching 300 million viewers weekly. Kan has since dedicated herself to fostering a more inclusive world, she said, using her platform to impact millions of lives in China and beyond.

Over the past 40 years, Kan

witnessed Asia’s transformation from a place “nobody cared about,” as she was told, to an economic powerhouse.

“The wealthiest person I met at that time was making \$40 a month,” Kan recalled. “That was during my first trip in 1984, when China was just opening up. Now, I can easily tell you that at my dinner table, I’ve sat with several Chinese billionaires.”

In her discussion, she described Chinese society as “money hungry” and “adaptive.”

“It is a lot of sacrifices the Chinese made to become what they are today,” she said. In her opinion, China’s rapid development is inseparable from the hard work and diligence of its citizens.

When she returned to her home in Shanghai after the pandemic, Kan found the changes fascinating. She shared an example about department stores.

“Because e-commerce is so successful, they need to change the whole purpose of the depart-

ment store. So now when you go, they do everything—food, movies, games, shopping, and so on.”

Despite all these changes, Kan addressed the issue of misinformation about China.

“I haven’t read a single positive article about China in the past 10 years,” she said.

Kan is the chairwoman of the China Institute, a 96-year-old organization dedicated to advancing a deeper understanding of China through programs in Chinese language, culture, art, culinary arts, and business. Through that group, Kan has been actively promoting Chinese culture.

“If we don’t start promoting Chinese culture, I’m afraid it will all disappear.”

During the book-signing session, a young man brought a “Yue-Sai Doll” designed by Kan in 2000, which she said touched her deeply. It symbolized that the dialogue between U.S. and Chinese cultures will never end, and, in her words, “We will do better.”

# Chinatown Celebrates Opening of New Upper School after Decades of Using Aging Buildings

By Dong Dong Yang

Josiah Quincy Upper School Head Richard K. Chang, and Chinatown community members and city officials on Sept. 12 celebrated the ribbon cutting of the new Josiah Quincy Upper School in Chinatown. The school, serving grades 6-12, opened for the 2024-2025 school year with modern facilities including a media center, fitness center, and band rooms, all aimed at helping the Boston students reach their full potential. The \$223.6 million project was jointly funded by the City of Boston and the Massachusetts School Building Authority, which contributed over \$54 million.

The six-story building at 900 Washington St. houses 650 students, 84 staff members, 35 educational spaces, and 29 classrooms. It also features a 435-seat auditorium, a 125-seat black box theater, a 10,000-square-foot gym, and a cafeteria for 250. Construction began in June 2021 and finished last month.

“We have been arranging special tours for school families, and community associations can also request a tour of the new campus. While we don’t have plans for individual tours at the moment, we are planning to host open houses in the near future,” said Chang, who said the official move in to the school was a week prior to the ribbon cutting. “We’re



**BACK TO SCHOOL:** City and school officials, including Boston Mayor Michelle Wu, second to right, celebrated the opening of the new Josiah Quincy Upper School earlier this month. Photo by Ben Lee

also excited to announce a Homecoming Dance for current students and alumni, many of whom are in Chinatown, on Saturday, October 26th.”

The former Upper School building on Arlington Street will be used as swing space for other schools during their renovations, said Chang.

Currently 580 students and 90 staff members at located at the new building. “We will continue to grow each year, with an aim of 725 students,” said Chang.

Prior to the new building, the 500 or so Upper School students were for many years split between the 112-year-old Ar-

lington Street building and a pre-cast concrete annex building on Washington Street that was built in the 1990s.

Mayor Michelle Wu, along with Superintendent Mary Skipper and Treasurer Deb Goldberg attended the ribbon cutting and so did some city council members.

## Affordable & Workforce Housing Lottery

Harmony  
1 Lilac Ave, Bellingham, MA

Harmony is a new community of 103 single family homes located in Bellingham. Through this lottery, 1 unit will be made available to households earning less than 50% of Area Median Income (AMI), 2 units will be made available to households earning between 50% and 80% of AMI (above 3 units are “Affordable” units), and 1 unit will be made available to households earning between 80% and 120% of AMI (above unit the “Workforce” unit). Homes will feature approximately 2,500 square feet, four bedrooms, two and a half bathrooms, quality kitchen appliances, washer/dryer hookups, all electric utilities, high speed internet, central air conditioning, and a garage. Sales Prices for these homes are as follows:

- One (1) 4BR Home @ \$203,900 will be Sold to Households Earning 50% or Less of the Area Median Income
- Two (2) 4BR Homes @ \$358,200 will be Sold to Households Earning 50% to 80% of the Area Median Income
- One (1) 4BR Home @ \$515,900 will be Sold to Households Earning 80% to 120% of the Area Median Income

The Household Income Limits and Ranges are as follows:

Number of Household Members	50% AMI Maximum Income Limit	50%-80% AMI Income Range	80%-120% AMI Income Range
1	\$57,100	\$57,101-\$91,200	\$91,201-\$125,076
2	\$65,300	\$65,301-\$104,200	\$104,201-\$142,944
3	\$73,450	\$73,451-\$117,250	\$117,251-\$160,812
4	\$81,600	\$81,601-\$130,250	\$130,251-\$178,680
5	\$88,150	\$88,151-\$140,700	\$140,701-\$192,974
6	\$94,700	\$94,701-\$151,100	\$151,101-\$207,269
7	\$101,200	\$101,201-\$161,550	\$161,551-\$221,563
8	\$107,700	\$107,701-\$171,950	\$171,951-\$235,858

**Application Deadline:** October 15, 2024 at 2:00 pm

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

**Public Info Session:** September 16, 2024 at 6:00 pm via Zoom

Go to [zoom.com/join](https://zoom.us/join) or call (646) 558-8656 and enter Meeting ID: 818 9317 7595

**Lottery:** October 29, 2024 at 6:00 pm via Zoom

Go to [zoom.com/join](https://zoom.us/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 Harmony on the SEB Housing YouTube channel.

For Lottery Information and Applications, or for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, go to [www.sebhousing.com](http://www.sebhousing.com) or call (617) 782-6900 x2 and leave a message or postal mail SEB Housing, 257 Hillside Ave, Needham MA 02494. For TTY Services dial 711.

Free Translation Available. Traducción gratuita disponible. Tradução gratuita disponível.



SCAN HERE

## Affordable Housing Lottery

71-73 Warren Avenue  
Milton, MA

- One (1) 3 Bedroom Condominium for \$335,600 (\$220/month condo fees)
- One (1) 4 Bedroom Condominium for \$362,400 (\$238/month condo fees)

**71-73 Warren Avenue** is a new homeownership opportunity in Milton. This is a lottery for two (2) affordable condominiums. Each unit within this bright and welcoming 2-family home features spacious rooms, a well-appointed remodeled kitchen and bathrooms, and beautiful hardwood floors. The units each have separate entrances, in-unit laundry, central air conditioning, a fireplace, and a sunroom. The backyard features a lovely common patio area to be shared by both unit owners. The basement is dry and features a secure storage unit for each owner. Unit 71 (3 Bedrooms), located on the first floor, will include two surface parking spaces. Unit 73 (4 Bedrooms), located on the second and third floors, will include two garage parking spaces. This home is conveniently located just one mile from both the trolley to River Street and the local bus stop on Blue Hill Ave. The MBTA Fairmount Station is two miles away. Through the lottery process, these units will be sold at affordable prices to households with incomes at or below 80% of the area median income. The units are expected to be ready for occupancy within 45 days of the conclusion of the lottery.

**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), \$161,550 (7 people), \$171,950 (8 people)

The Maximum Household Asset Limit is \$75,000.

**Public Info Session**

September 18, 2024 at 6:00 pm via Zoom

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

**Application Deadline**

October 18, 2024 at 2:00 pm

Completed Applications and Mortgage Pre-Approvals must be delivered or postmarked by this date. Applications postmarked by the deadline must be received within 5 business days.

**Lottery**

November 4, 2024 at 6:00 pm via Zoom

Go to [zoom.com/join](https://zoom.us/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 71-73 Warren Avenue on the SEB Housing YouTube channel.

For Lottery Information and Applications, or for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, go to [www.sebhousing.com](http://www.sebhousing.com) or call (617) 782-6900 x2 and leave a message or postal mail SEB Housing, 257 Hillside Ave, Needham MA 02494. For TTY Services dial 711. Free translation available. Traducción gratuita disponible. Tradução livre disponível.



SCAN HERE

# Chef Shi Mei of Lenox Sophia Serves Up Big Flavors Inside a Small Space

By Harmony Witte

South Boston's Lenox Sophia is not your typical restaurant – and in many ways Chef Shi Mei is not your typical chef.

Trained in economics, Mei says the first dish he made as a kid was instant ramen. And his restaurant – where patrons are encouraged to bring their own drinks – is more akin to a tiny Japanese noodle house than a glitzy Hub bar.

But the result is an intimate and delightful taste of small-room dining that serves up seasonal dishes such as scallop ceviche, pea custard, and lamb shoulder.

Located on A Street, Lenox Sophia is a small restaurant with only four staff members and without a liquor license.

Mei modeled the restaurant after places he saw while traveling in Asia.

“Japan was probably the ... biggest influence because we saw some of the smaller spaces, how they're able to make it work. And I knew that when I opened my restaurant that I wasn't at an age where I felt that I wanted to run a 75 seat, 100 seat restaurant....”

When we found this space, kind of looked at the bones of the restaurant, we were like, ‘OK, this can probably work based on how some of the spaces that we've seen in Japan and then also the supper club that I did at my house.’”

Lenox Sophia has already won several awards in its short time in existence including two “Best of Boston” honors. It was also labeled No. 7 in Boston's top 50 restaurants in 2023.

Chef Mei says he is grateful for the awards, but awards have never been his goal.

“It just happened, you know, it wasn't like I'm going out there to make this great, fantastic food and aiming to get awards. It just kind of happened. It just kind of happened naturally.”

When asked if it feels validating to win awards he said, “It does in a way, because you always want to know that. You want to know that your food is accepted among ... yourself first, and then your peers next, and then to the general audience. It's always, always, always nice.”

The restaurant serves modern American fare with a prix fixe menu in five courses.

Chef Mei says patrons don't have to dress up.

“You can walk in with flip flops and sandals, and I'll still serve you ... a lot of people have this idea where you go pay a certain dollar point that you need to come in a shirt and tie.” But not here.

The prix fixe menu is a result of the lack of a liquor license and the need to optimize the workflow and turn tables quickly, he said.

“We decided to go prix fixe, because that makes more sense financially, and



**CHEF'S CHOICE:** Chef Shi Mei of Lenox Sophia in South Boston.

we can control costs better.”

The chef does not describe cooking as a passion of his, but rather as a skill that has been borne out of necessity.

“Cooking is one of those things ... My mom always needed help in the kitchen. And then I kind of ended up by default (helping), because I was the middle child.”

He recalled the first dish he learned to make was instant ramen. Now, his go-to when cooking at home is fried egg and a lobster over rice and some ginger scallion sauce. Shi Mei graduated from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in 2000 with a degree in economics.

“Growing up in a traditional Asian household and it was always talked upon to get a college degree, an office job is always preferred. The sort of quote ‘kitchen stuff’ ... was frowned upon. But my bachelor's degree was more to appease my parents.”

He went back to school to Johnson & Wales University for his culinary degree, which he received in 2009; “I decided to go to culinary school instead for myself.”

Mei's father was a cook and did not initially respond favorably to Mei following in his footsteps.

“He didn't enjoy it because he knew how hard it was to make a living. He

understood the work aspect of the craft, I guess, but not the artistry of it.”

Chef Mei spoke of his time as a regional financial accountant for Whole Foods and credits it with helping him with running a restaurant because “it allows me to understand numbers a lot better and how to effectively maneuver my money and how to spend it.”

He also spent time working in several different restaurants in California and Texas before moving back to Boston with his wife.

“I grew up in the South End, so when my family first immigrated to the states, we lived in the South End since 1984. So, I made a crazy ... move to move to China and had culture shock.”

While working at the French Laundry in California, Mei learned about redundancy and repetitiveness. “Basically, doing stuff consistently is what's the most important thing ... in my profession.”

He spoke of developing his muscle memory, “Just keep doing the same thing over and over again until that one day that you need to like, turn on that switch. That switch will turn on.”

Mei named the restaurant after the daughter he never had in the hopes that it will take care of him in his old age. He hopes that patrons of the restaurant will “just have a good meal, good con-

versation, and most importantly, leave full, not hungry.” When asked about plans for the future he said “hopefully the restaurant stays open. Gives me something to do as I, hopefully gracefully age.”

## Quick Dish: A Short Review of Lenox Sophia

Sampan's Mary Chin recently dined at Lenox Sophia and shared her review of the food:

**Scallop Ceviche:** The scallop ceviche was the first entree. The fresh scallops were deliciously flavored with Vietnamese fish sauce nuoc cham. Combined with scrumptious gratin potatoes.

**Pea Custard:** The pea custard was a surprising favorite. The velvety texture of the custard was brightened with Meyer Lemon and mint. A delightful summer dish.

**Rice and Peas:** The rice and peas entree was dotted with succulent pieces of crawfish. Spring vegetables added seasonal texture and flavor to this comforting dish.

**Lamb Shoulder:** The lamb shoulder was both succulent and tender. The maitake mushrooms added depth while the sauce vert added a deliciously contrasting flavor of freshness.

**Skate :** The skate was amazing with brown butter, capers and sear beans. The skate was deliciously moist and so flavorful. The sear beans perfectly added natural saltiness and sweetness to this entree.

**Rhubarb:** We ended this exciting gastronomic evening with a frozen rhubarb experience. It's tartness was beautifully balanced by the sweetness of lychees, the creaminess of buttermilk. and luscious, fresh strawberries.

- Sampan staff

## Rally in Boston Calls Out Lies, Hateful Words About Haitians

By Milourdes Augustin

A group of demonstrators on Sept. 24 surrounded the “Embrace” sculpture at the Boston Common to stand in solidarity with Haitian migrants across the country. The group called out the rhetoric and lies spread by the campaign of former president and current presidential candidate Donald Trump about Haitian refugees in Ohio.

“As a Haitian American person, I have an obligation. Whenever something bad is said about my community, it’s important for us to come together and unite,” said Brockton Councilor at Large, Jean Bradley Derenoncourt. “Obviously what the former president said is a big lie, there’s no fact to it. The mayor of that city and the governor came out and said it wasn’t true.”

Former president Trump has sug-



**SPEAKING OUT: Dr. Geralde Gabeau, CEO of IFSI, at a rally on Sept. 24 in Boston against anti-Haitian rhetoric.**

Photo by Ben Lee

gested that Haitians were eating cats and dogs in Ohio.

Carline Desire, the executive director of the Association of Haitian Women in Boston praised residents for standing in solidarity with Haitian refugees and immigrants.

“We need to come together as one community,” said Desire. She and oth-

er called out racist accusations spread by white supremacy groups and others. She also discussed what she called the untaught history of the Haitian peoples’ involvement in American history, such as during the successful slave revolt of African Americans.

“We are here today to say no to hatred,” said Kedel Atien, who attended

the rally. “Because the Haitian community has been under attack for weeks. All the allegations are lies. We are real people contributing to the economy of this country, raising our families and we don’t deserve hatred. We are ready to fight, using our votes so we stop these types of attacks on the Haitian community.”

# How Political Banter, Local Law Enforcement Forever Changed the Lives of the Danbury 11

*As immigration has become an even more heated debate issue over the past year or so, especially with the immigrant housing crisis and hateful political rhetoric coming from public officials, Sampan took a look back at an event that rocked the hometown of our reporter, Ryan Lundgren, 18 years ago this month. It involved immigrants without their proper paper work, men just trying to get by for their families, and a set up by local law authorities to have them detained. Here’s what happened:*

By Ryan C. Lundgren

On a typical September day in 2006, an incident that would fan the flames of the fiery debate over immigration law and its enforcement took place in a small but diverse city in western Connecticut.

In and around Danbury’s Kennedy Park, a small strip of land in the middle of the road between the city’s bus terminal and some local small businesses, men could be seen waiting hopefully on the sidewalk. These men are immigrant day laborers, who typically work for cash doing manual labor in construction and landscaping. Fellow tradesmen would often arrive in a truck or a van and honk to signal the need for workers and the men would scramble into the vehicle.

These typically undocumented workers are integral players in the local economy, with locals knowing the spot as the place to go when they need a job done.

During the Bush administration however, immigration was an extremely hot topic for politicians, and undocumented immigrants were particularly under fire, as they have been during recent elec-

tions. Danbury in 2006 had a Republican mayor, unusual for a city in a heavily blue state like Connecticut. Mayor Mark Boughton was outspoken for his disapproval of “illegal” immigration, although his rhetoric was notably focused on the primarily non-white communities in Danbury, such as Ecuadorians. In April of 2005, the former mayor asked for the state to push the federal government to deputize local police to enforce immigration laws. In June, over 1,000 immigrants marched down Main Street to demand respect from the mayor and then a month later, the former mayor directed city officials to take action against so-called illegal volleyball businesses happening in people’s backyards.

On Sept. 19, 2006, the political banter had real consequences for undocumented immigrants in the community.

Immigrant workers had assembled at Kennedy Park like any other day when a white van pulled up. The workers were offered work to take down some fencing and 11 men signed on. Only the men were not taken to a job site. The 11 men who got into that van were taken to a parking lot where Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers were waiting to arrest them. The man who offered them a job was a Danbury police officer. The men were immediately arrested once ICE determined they were undocumented and placed in immigration proceedings. The public learned of the arrest when the men did not return home from work that day.

Michael Wishnie, an attorney and professor at Yale Law School, was not going to stand for that. He had just

arrived at Yale a few months before the incident and really hadn’t even begun teaching yet. But he gathered students and community advocates to support and represent the men in their immigration proceedings and a suit against the government brought by nine of the men.

Speaking to Sampan by phone,

Wishnie said how in that era it was common for ICE to move detainees far from their home, particularly to the south of the country, “effectively denying them representation” since they’re far from their community and from attorneys who are ready and able to defend them. Unlike a criminal trial, people in immigration proceedings have no constitutional right to counsel. According to data from the Executive Office for Immigration Review, people in deportation proceedings between July 2018 and June 2023 lacked representation 60% of the time.

That number rises to 69% when the person is detained.

Wishnie told Sampan how the community response was strong, telling of the protests and community organizing to raise bond money for the men detained in immigration facilities. But simply freeing the men from ICE custody was only the beginning. Wishnie’s

Worker and Immigrant Rights Advocacy Clinic of the Jerome N. Frank Legal Services Organization at Yale University, represented nine of the 11 men in a suit against the city, alleging violations of numerous constitutional rights and an unlawful enforcement of federal law by local police.

The level of involvement of the local police was at first unclear. Boughton

originally claimed in December 2006 that “the city played no part in the September 19th action” but legal proceedings eventually revealed a clearer picture. Wishnie told the Sampan that he believed the Danbury police were “deeply involved in the scheme” and that this case really raised the public’s awareness of the degree to which “police would sometimes cooperate with ICE,” something which Wishnie feels has since changed “in a small way.”

Wishnie feels that the incident is notable because it was “one of the first big raids with such a large community response.”

In a statement to Sampan declining our request for an interview, former mayor Mark Boughton reiterated that he “was not involved in the planning or execution of the enforcement action.”

But Wishnie still places much responsibility for the incident on Boughton. He told Sampan over the phone that while Boughton wasn’t actually “putting cuffs on people” that the “mayor is responsible for the police.”

Wishnie also felt the political rhetoric led to people “targeting” immigrant communities and putting them in a negative light.

Still, in 2011 when the city settled the suit brought by Wishnie’s group to the tune of almost half a million dollars, Boughton insisted that the city had done nothing wrong. He told the New York Times that “we are not changing any of our policies, practices or customs.”

Boughton’s tone in speaking about Danbury’s immigrant communities has changed significantly since then. In his

*Continues on Page 9*

# Filipino Culture on Center Stage in Cambridge

By Ava Belchez

October is Filipino American History Month and to celebrate, the Harvard Square Philippine American Alliance is partnering with Harvard Square Business Association to host the third annual Filipino American Festival in Harvard Square on Oct. 6 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. The event will take place along side the business association's Oktoberfest and the HONK! Parade.

Event leader Cathy Uy said the aim of the Filipino celebration is to diversify the Cambridge festivities and "teach everyone about different cultures."

She said expects people to come from as far as Ohio and from much of New England to celebrate the culture and history of Filipino Americans.

Filipino American History Month nationally commemorates the first recorded Filipinos' arrival in the United States: Morro Bay, California in October 1587, according to the Filipino American National History Society. Around 26,000 Filipino American live in Massachusetts, making them the sixth largest Asian population in the state, according to APIAVote.org.

To attract more visitors, the festival will include new features, like an outdoor fashion show.

"We are promoting a young generation of these fashion designers in the Philippines," Uy said. "They're coming here to showcase their clothing,

which is plant-based."

Uy said Harvard's Peabody Museum reached out to her to find a way to feature Filipino artifacts that are currently at the museum. The collection includes a terno, a traditional Filipino women's dress from the 1800s.

The historical clothes will not be worn in the fashion show, but they can be seen along with other Filipino artifacts at Harvard's Peabody Museum on Oct. 5 and 7, with pre-registration.

The festival will also include a traditional Filipino game called sipa, in which a soft ball is kicked back and forth over a low net; an adobo workshop led by Chef Vallerie Castillo-Archer; and a "balut" boiled fertilized duck egg-eating contest.

There will also be performances by multiple dance groups and entertainment by Ronaldo Abante, semi-finalist for "America's Got Talent."

"I think everyone would be able to relate through music, food, art, fashion," Uy said.

Another new part of the festival is a "Pink on Wheels," a pilot test for an Amb-U-Car with preventative breast cancer care for women in Manila.

"Aside from educating people, we also want to help out," Uy said.

While working with partners in Manila, they will begin raising funds to make the care available to underprivileged women in the Philippines.

Uy said the main goal of the festival

is to educate people about Filipino culture.

She moved from the Philippines to the U.S. in the early 1970s. She has lived in New Jersey and New York, where she says she was heavily involved in the community. As a member of the board of directors for the Philippine Independence Day Council, she assisted in organizing their biggest Philippine independence parade in New York City. This is something that she said she missed after she and her husband moved to Massachusetts.

"Moving here, I didn't see that at all," Uy said. "I saw a lot of small-

er-scale non-profit organizations doing their own festivals."

Uy said to bring all the various community groups together, she started out in Boston working as a community advisor.

"That's where I learned the concept of home away from home," Uy said. "Moving here from Jersey was quite lonely, not knowing anyone. Everyone here is to themselves unless you force them out. ...[I said] let's do this for the Philippines, let's do this for the Asian community," Uy said. "One day, just for a few hours, [let's] make it home away from home for everyone."

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**Addressing Disparities in Asian Populations through Translational Research (ADAPT)**

**Tufts CTSI**

**8th Annual Asian Health Symposium**  
**Equity-Centered Data: Making Communities Visible**

Tuesday, October 8, 2024  
8:30 AM - 1:30 PM EST

Tufts University School of Medicine  
Center for Medical Education, Room 114  
145 Harrison Avenue, Boston, MA 02111

Asian American and Pacific Islander (AA&PI) populations are the fastest growing racial group in the U.S., comprising over 50 ethnicities speaking more than 100 languages. Despite their diverse lived experiences and health needs, AA&PI communities are often misrepresented as a homogenous "model minority" in health data and research. In August 2023, Massachusetts passed the [Data Equity Bill](#), a landmark legislation mandating state agencies to collect data on major ethnic groups, not just race. This disaggregation of data provides a more accurate and nuanced understanding of diverse communities across the state. While this bill is a significant step towards improving data equity, further efforts are needed across government and health sectors to ensure that all communities are fairly represented in data and decision-making.

Join us to explore the importance of data equity, the vital role of community voices and intersectionality, and cross-sectoral and cross-racial strategies to promote data equity in Massachusetts.

**Featuring our Keynote Speaker: Akil Vohra, J.D.**  
As Policy Director of [AAPI Data](#), Mr. Vohra oversees federal and state strategies to ensure collection, analysis, publication, and utilization of data to advance understanding and support of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities.



This event is sponsored by **Tufts CTSI** and hosted by the **Addressing Disparities in Asian Populations through Translational Research (ADAPT) Coalition**.

Breakfast and lunch provided. Chinese (Mandarin and Cantonese) language interpretation will also be available for attendees.

For more information, please contact Chloe Yang, ADAPT Project Manager, at [Chloe.Yang@tuftsmedicine.org](mailto:Chloe.Yang@tuftsmedicine.org).

Space is limited at this in-person event.

**Click here to register or scan the QR code below**



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# Still Time to Take Sampan Survey on Readers' Views of Key Election Issues

Sampan published a QR code inviting readers on Sept. 13 to participate in a poll regarding three major issues in the 2024 United States Presidential Election: The economy, reproductive rights, and immigration/migrant concerns. We look forward to receiving your responses through Oct. 4.

In our Oct. 11 issue, Sampan will publish the results. We look forward to hearing from you, our readers, as we head into this all important election. No matter your political perspective, Sampan encourages all readers to become informed and vote.



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Applications will be available **ONLY ON THESE DAYS: September 13, 2024 to November 13, 2024**

An informational session will be held online at <https://bit.ly/47dwz5g> at 6 PM on **September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024**. Placement on the Waitlist will be by Lottery. Completed applications must be received or postmarked by **November 13, 2024** to be included in the lottery. Applications received **after** the lottery deadline will be added to the waitlist on a date and time received basis. **Reasonable Accommodations made – contact the Developer at 978-869-6363.**

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## Affordable Housing Lottery

### Highland Park

680 Worcester Street, Wellesley, MA

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\$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:** October 23, 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:** November 19, 2024 at 2:00 pm.  
Completed Applications must be delivered by this date.

**Lottery:** December 3, 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 Highland Park 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.



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

### LEGAL NOTICE

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

Electronic bids for MBTA Contract No. N03CN02, HINGHAM FERRY DOCK MODIFICATION in Hingham MA, Class 1A-Marine General Transit Construction valued at \$12 Million and project value of \$12,671,019, can be submitted at [www.bidx.com](http://www.bidx.com) until two o'clock (2:00 p.m.) on October 31, 2024. Immediately thereafter, in a designated room, the Bids will be opened and read publicly.

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Bidders' attention is directed to Appendix 1, Notice of Requirement for Affirmative Action to Insure Equal Employment Opportunity; and to Appendix 2, Supplemental Equal Employment Opportunity, Anti-Discrimination, and Affirmative Action Program in the specifications. In addition, pursuant to the requirements of Appendix 3, Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Participation Provision, Bidders must submit an assurance with their Bids that they will make sufficient and reasonable efforts to meet the stated **DBE goal of 22 percent.**

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

[http://bc.mbta.com/business\\_center/bidding\\_solicitations/current\\_solicitations/](http://bc.mbta.com/business_center/bidding_solicitations/current_solicitations/)

On behalf of the MBTA, thank you for your time and interest in responding to this Notice to Bidders  
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Phillip Eng  
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September 18, 2024



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# A Look Back at the Immigration Case of the Danbury 11

*Continued from Page 6*

statement to Sampan he said that "Danbury is among the most diverse cities in the United States. As Mayor and now as a private resident, I am proud of the city. Serving as the city's mayor for 20 years has been the highest honor of my life."

He said he never had a problem with immigrants, but only with illegal immigration, telling the Danbury News-

Times in 2014 "We've moved past what happened." ... "The issue was never about immigrants. It was about illegal immigration and what we had to grapple with in Danbury."

The current mayor, Democrat Roberto Alves, declined multiple requests for comment.

Boughton now serves as Connecticut's

Commissioner of Revenue Services, officially appointed by Democratic Governor Ned Lamont in 2021.

According to the Danbury News-Times, as of 2014 only three of the men arrested on Sept. 19, 2006, remain in Danbury. One of them, Jose Froilan Llibisupa spoke with the News-Times in 2014 and conveyed his hopeful outlook on the future. Despite being imprisoned in ICE custody from 2006 to 2011, when Llibisupa spoke with the News-Times then he still had notable aspirations for the American dream.

He told the News-Times then that he would "like to stay in Danbury, maybe open a business."

**Correction:** The original version of this story misstated the settlement amount.



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# Events Calendar

## • Experience Chinatown

This fall, see, hear, create, and connect. Together, celebrate the rich cultural fabric of Boston Chinatown through free creative activities! More: <https://paoartscenter.org/events/experiencechinatown2024>  
**Mural Installations** : September 1 - October 27 (Various businesses across Chinatown)

**Performances & Activities** - : Saturday, September 28 | 11:00 am - 3:00 pm  
 Location: At Auntie Kay & Uncle Frank Chin Park on The Greenway (near Chinatown Gate)

## • 12th Annual Trung Thu Festival & Night Market: A New Harvest

In honor of Têt Trung Thu (Mid-Autumn Moon Festival), everyone is invited to enjoy a selection of food vendors, activities, and live entertainment from local performers!

Date: Saturday, Sep 28, 3:00pm - 8:00pm  
 Location: Town Field Park - 1565 Dorchester Ave. Dorchester  
 More: <https://www.facebook.com/events/434913499594721>

## • The 6th annual Taiwan Film Festival of Boston (TFFB)

Across an ocean, Taiwan and the US are connected through the ever-flowing tides. And just like a river, the rolling reels of cinema film can connect us over the spatial divide of continents, and the temporal di-

vide of generations.

Date: Saturday, Sep 28, 10:00 am - Sunday, Sep 29, 10:00pm  
 Location: AMC Boston Common 19 - 175 Tremont St, Boston  
 More: <https://taiwanfilmfest.org/>

## • Harry Potter Kid's Balloon Magic Show with Jungle Jim

The show is a combination of storytelling, exercises, magic, interactive play and of course, balloons. For kids of all ages (ideal 3-9y)

Date: Saturday, Sep 28, 11:00am -12:00pm  
 Location: High Street Place Food Hall - 100 High Street. Boston  
 More: [https://www.squadup.com/events/harry-potter-kids-balloon-magic-show?legacy=0?utm\\_source=website&utm\\_medium=organic&utm\\_content=boston\\_calendar](https://www.squadup.com/events/harry-potter-kids-balloon-magic-show?legacy=0?utm_source=website&utm_medium=organic&utm_content=boston_calendar)

## • Robot Block Party – the largest celebration of robots and robotics

This year's 7th Annual Robot Block Party is THE LARGEST CELEBRATION OF ROBOTS AND ROBOTICS, free and open to the public, will include robot demonstrations and hands-on interactions with robots, games and more.

Date: Saturday, Sep 28, 11:00am - 4:00pm  
 Location: Seaport Common - 88 Seaport Boulevard. Boston  
 More: <https://www.massrobotics.org/robot-boston/>

## • Urban Agriculture & Climate Justice Fair

Enjoy games, gardening and cooking demos, live animals, tractors, and resources for building a climate resilient Boston. More: <https://thetrustees.org/event/419653>

Date: Saturday, Sep 28, 11:00am -3:00pm  
 Location: Nightingale Community Garden - 512 Park St. Dorchester

## • Sauchuk's Corn Maze & Pumpkin Patch

Make a day of it with lunch at a food truck then pick apples\*, pumpkins\*, or both and enjoy the first large-scale corn maze in the eastern Massachusetts region!

Date: Every weekends, Sep, 21-Nov. 3, 9am- 6pm  
 Location: Sauchuk's Corn Maze & Pumpkin Patch - 200 Center St. Plympton  
 More: <https://www.sauchukmaze.com/>

## • Davis Mega Maze 2024

The world's best corn maze can take anywhere from 30 minutes to 3 hours (or more) to complete. It is both a physical and mental challenge.

Date: Saturday, Sep 28, 11:00am - Sunday, Sep 29, 2024 7:00pm (Repeats weekly)  
 Location: Davis Mega Farm - 142 Redstone Hill. Sterling  
 More: <https://davismegamaze.com/>

## • Dumpling Festival

This culinary celebration, hosted by Roslindale Village Main Street (RVMS), aims

to expand our appreciation of dumplings, a cherished dish across various cultures, and highlight the vibrant local food scene.

Date: Saturday, Sep 28, 3:00pm -6:00pm  
 Location: Adam Park - 4225 Washington St. Roslindale  
 More: <https://roslindale.app.neoncrm.com/nx/portal/neonevents/events#/events/7840>

## • AfroBeats. AfroEats

Will spin upbeat African Amapiano music & a chef demo featuring delicious African food that will captivate the taste buds of patrons and a variety of vendors of the African Diaspora will join in the celebration.

Date: Saturday, Sep 28, 4:00pm -8:00pm  
 Location: Nubian Square - The Nawn Factory, 2080 Washington St. Boston  
 More: <https://www.boston.gov/government/cabinets/economic-opportunity-and-inclusion/community-canvas-series>

## • Black-Owned Business Pop-up Market

Shop for gift items from fashion, vegan treats, fine art, bags, jewelry, artisan soaps, sauces, dog treats to accessories, there will be something for everyone.

Date: Every Sunday, Sep 29- Oct. 27, 11:00am - 6:00pm  
 Where: Harvard Square on Palmer Street between Brattle Street and Church Street. Cambridge

More: <https://www.sbnmass.org/blackbusinessmarket>

# CineFest Founder Tackles Big Questions on Identity

*Continued from Page 1*

white. We're not either/or, we're complex. We're diverse even within our communities. We all come from different countries. The majority of us have been colonized by Spain, but each country has its own nuances and languages and history. I think for some people, that is too much information and that doesn't fit into the black and white. You know, it's comfortable to accept the black and white. The grays take effort. They require effort. They require conversation. They require research. And that might be too much for some people to even undertake. So, you know, I look at the festival as a way in which we can present the grays, have conversation around the grays."

The festival is run entirely by volunteers and features dozens of narrative and documentary films in feature length as well as shorts.

The festival features more documentary films, said Avilés, because they are more easily produced in the United States.

"Film is really hard to obtain funding for, really hard. We've been lucky. We have some wonderful, amazing, wonderful narrative films. I guess the takeaway is just the breadth and depth of the talent that we have in the United States and in Latin America. And that also a lot of the films that I also have programmed are films that truly elevates and amplifies the independent filmmaker, where you won't see many films in my film festival that are 100% commercial, like something that would come out of Hollywood. There are things that are a little bit more commercial, if you will.

"And when I say commercial, it is a little bit easier to follow and engage with. And I think a lot of the films that we present, we have some experimental films that they're very challenging to watch, but it's like going to the museum. You see impressionist paintings, and most people are like, 'oh, that's so beautiful!' And I love Monet, and

I love Renoir, and it's very easy on the palette, very easy to digest that. But then you go to the modern section, and you see Jackson Pollock, you see Joan Miró, you see all these, you see even Picasso in his cubist phase when he started to abstract his art, or anybody that even is beyond that, where you just question 'what am I?' 'What am I seeing?'

But I had an art history teacher who used to tell me, 'you don't have to analyze it, just feel it. Good art will make you react.' So, film is about that. You'll either love it or you'll hate it, but it won't leave anybody neutral."

Avilés explained that watching a film takes a patience because sometimes the payoff doesn't come until the end. She compared Hollywood films to fast food because five minutes into those films the audience already knows who the protagonists and antagonists are and what the outcome will be. The films that are being presented at CineFest require the audience to wait to be satisfied and challenged emotionally and intellectually in the long run.

All of the films in CineFest, she promised, have one constant and that is that they engage the audience on a human level which makes for good storytelling.

The films are chosen for the festival in two ways, either through a call for submissions or by researching which Latino films are getting buzz at film festivals. CineFest reaches out to the distributors for those films and asks if they can showcase their films in the festival. The opening night film, "In the Summers," had earlier success at Sundance, winning the Grand Jury Prize for Dramatic films and was directed by a Latina director, Alessandra Lacorazza Samudio, starring a famous Puerto Rican rapper, René Pérez.

Avilés explained, "Starting this year, I was going to start a tradition where anywhere between two and four weeks before



ON FILM: Sabrina Avilés

Courtesy photo.

the initial run of the festival, I want to do a free screening at a Latino community because a lot of these venues, as beautiful as they are, they're not in Latino neighborhoods."

But the problem, she said, was of the scarcity of art house in those areas.

At the major theaters where they will be screened, however, she has another obstacle: "Because they're not Latino neighborhoods, it's hard for my community to come to these screenings. But at the same time, I have to think about honoring the work of the filmmakers that I programmed and show their films in really beautiful theaters."

This year she was able to hold a free screening for the Latino community in Chelsea at the Apollinaire Theater.

"We converted it into sort of a projection room. And it was really successful. And because it was our first one, we had a little reception. We showed three shorts. And also, because a lot of these communities don't even know that CineFest exists, it serves two purposes. One is a way to bring

the festival to these communities and really to let people know the festival exists. You know, because we have our film festival once a year, but we have screenings all throughout the year in different locations. That's a way to let people know that we exist, and also to feel a sense of pride and ownership towards the festival. I do the festival not only for white, general audiences. I do it for our community and it's really important for me to engage them, especially the youth, because then they see possibilities, especially if they're interested in entering production."

*The festival will be held at the Coolidge Corner Theater, the Museum of Fine Arts, and the Emerson Paramount Theater from Sept. 25 to Sept. 29. There will be an opening night reception for sponsors and pass holders and a closing night reception that is open to the public at the Coolidge Corner Theater. The closing night event is where the award winners of the festival will be announced. For a schedule of film and events go to [www.cinefestlatino.com](http://www.cinefestlatino.com).*



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