

# Foreign Students Who Protest 'Criminalized': Rights Groups

By Adam Smith  
With additional reporting by  
Harmony Witte and D.Y.

In the spring of 2024, students at colleges all over Greater Boston called out what they viewed as a campaign of genocide in Gaza. The students objected to the U.S. paying for much of Israel's military expenses. They protested their universities' ties with U.S. companies who build the weapons and fighter jets used by Israeli forces, by calling

for divestment and boycott. And they marched against Israel for dropping bombs and flying drones throughout the strip, demolishing entire neighborhoods.

But groups like the Anti-Defamation League, the Canary Mission and others saw something very different in the rallies. They claimed many of the pro-Palestine demonstrations were anti-Semitic or anti-Israeli — at times appearing to conflate the two. Some U.S. lawmakers cast the demonstrators as fanatics and threats.

A couple of pro-Israeli groups even doxed individual students, posting their photos and "bios" online. Dozens of students were arrested, when cities like Boston and area universities sent in police to clear encampments. The ADL, meanwhile, handed out failing "grades" to universities whom it said were too lax on the protests it felt were anti-Semitic. The group's chief executive, Jonathan Greenblatt went on television, blasting the encampments in New York and appeared to compare the traditional

Palestinian headscarf to Nazi symbolism and demonstrators to Iranian "proxies."

The administration of Pres. Donald Trump now vows to put forth actual immigration penalties for some non-citizens involved in those past protests — in a move that threatens to potentially have students booted from the country.

"To all the resident aliens who joined in the pro-jihadist protests, we put you on notice," wrote Trump recently, "we will find you, and we will deport you."

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## Snake Mural Lets Viewers Send Wishes, Artist Hold onto Chinese Heritage

By Adam Smith

A red snake with gold "scales" is winding through the walls of the Pao Arts Center in Chinatown as part of a celebration of the Lunar New Year.

"We invited people to come and cut out scales from a gold shimmering paper, and then we prompted them to write or draw their Lunar New Year wish," said artist Amanda Beard Garcia, who painted the indoor mural over several days in January. "Some people made one wish and a few people did multiple."

After using colored markers, the kids and adults taped the scales onto her work, which runs through Feb. 28, that's part of a larger celebration of the Year of the Snake.

Beard Garcia, who was trained at the Rhode Island School of Design, said the idea for her mural was inspired by traditional Chinese paper cutting as well as the Chinese zodiac.

A familiar face in Chinatown, she had worked with Pao Arts on various projects since the early 2020s.

"I'm in my 30s, and I feel like this exploration of my Chinese ancestry and heritage has been kind of new for me.

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IN COSTUME: The lion dances in Chinatown earlier this month.

Photo courtesy of Simon Beckford.

## Behind the Drum, Cymbal and Lion, There's Adrenaline, and Then Hunger

By Anna Hu

*This is at once a specific story — one day in Boston Chinatown during the lunar new year parade — and an expansive one, which has played out time and time again in cities around the world.*

*This is a story about colors, red fabric draped over a dancer's back, golden sequins that catch the light, yellow fur in the lion's mane, the whites of its eyes.*

*This is a story about sound, the bright crash of red tasseled cymbals, the echoing ring of a gong, the*

### First Person

*steady heartbeat of the drum.*

*And this is a story about energy. The energy that sustains a troupe of dancers through a six-hour marathon across the streets of Chinatown, the energy between the lion they inhabit and the people they meet. And the energy of the lion itself, fierce, joyful, reverberant.*

*It starts earlier than I would like on a Sunday, with a gathering of troupe members and two dozen volunteers. Volunteers get debriefed on*

*their duties, whether that be carrying troupe flags, wheeling around the drum cart, crowd control, or cymbaling. Performers show up in rain pants and boots in deference to the 5-7 inches of forecast snow, which ends up being much less. By the time we assemble and head to Phillips Square, the snow has, thankfully, drifted to a stop.*

*At noon we perform a snake dance on stage, then begin our lion dancing rounds at a bakery across the corner. Most stores set out a tray of lettuce,*

*Continues on Page 2*



YEAR OF THE SNAKE: Gund Kwok Asian Women's Lion and Dragon Dance troupe. Photo by Michelle Xiong.

## What It's Like to Lion Dance

Continued from page 1

oranges, and a red envelope. If everything is outside, our job is straightforward. The drum thuds and we bow to the store, approach and sniff the food, jump away and approach again, this time snapping up the offering.

From the outside, the lion bends down and scoops the lettuce into its wide-open mouth. On the inside, the dancer in the head sneaks out a hand and grabs the food tightly, which is simple enough for an orange or two but trickier for a whole head of greens. We "eat" the food and kick it out, showering the store and audience with a flurry of lettuce leaves and fruit. (The red envelope stays with us, clenched between teeth or hastily shoved down a shirt.) This is the "choy cheng," bringing luck to each business in the new year.

Every so often a store owner will invite us inside, and this can get interesting. Some places have barely enough room for the two-legged occupants, much less one with four legs and a giant paper mâché head. The drummer stays outside, but the cymbalists and Buddha, whose job it is to guide and

dance with the lion, head in.

Inside a restaurant, we'll parade around and interact with the customers, blinking big eyes at a little girl, sniffing a steaming bowl of hotpot and pawing at curled rolls of beef. The dancer in the tail is bent completely over, hands on their partner's waist and bouncing up and down to bring the lion to life. If we're in a grocery store, extra time must always be spent in the fish section.

There are always a few types of customers. Some are confused, curious, then excited. Quick to pull out the phones, everyone knows that lions love attention (we do). Some have been around the rodeo and are ready with a red envelope or a head pat. Others are totally unbothered; they came for a meal and that's what they're going to get. Finally, there's the cutest kids you'll ever see.

As we go door to door, sending two lions to each choy cheng and switching out performers so that each team gets their rest, it's the human interactions that stand out.

A little boy in a puffy jacket who brings his own gong on a red ribbon, hits a high pealing note when he plays

slightly off-time.

A group of colorful aunties hold hands and dance, twirling each other around and clapping. They make us very happy.

An uncle in a white work apron and faded baseball cap smokes his cigar as he watches, its smoke curls into the air.

When two troupes meet, onlookers are drawn to the sound and the spectacle. Cymbalists play and two lions from each troupe crouch and approach each other, each vying to stay lower to the ground as a sign of respect. Once they get close enough to bump heads, the lions exchange postcards from their respective teams. Is it a kiss, or are they just good friends?

As the sky turns from a pale blue to indigo and the energy starts to dip, our sifu gets in the Buddha head and capers about, starting snow fights, alternately haughty and playful, handing out lettuce to the lions and making us laugh. Seeing my teammates' strength inspires my own efforts, and in between performances we dance to the drumbeat, share snacks, feed each other orange slices. We make it fun, otherwise, what's the point of doing a hard thing?

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At last, with our final performance under fluorescent lights and a dark sky, it's time to head home. Arms aching and backs sore, we parade down the street and to the entrance of the den where we keep our equipment and altar. One last set of bows, and it's over. Everyone cheers.

Truth be told we're famished, and it's time for a family-style feast. Salt and pepper pork, white fish with wood ear, orange chicken, stir fried green beans. Every bite is delicious, and from —where else? Chinatown.

— Anna Hu is a freelance writer, student and member of the Gund Kwok troupe.

## EMPTY BAMBOO GIRL 竹升女

by Lillian Lee



# Artist Invites Wishes for New Year on Snake Mural

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So, I feel like a lot of that is starting to come through in my personal and professional work,” she told the Sampan last week by phone, about her collaborations with Pao.

Born and raised on the North Shore, Beard Garcia didn’t spend a lot of time in the city, aside from visiting grandparents in Brookline, and felt somewhat detached from her Chinese American identity.

“Growing up, I didn’t feel a super strong tie to my Asian Americanness,” she said. “It was something that I didn’t talk about a lot growing up. But lately in the past few years it’s been really important to me to reforge that connection to my identity and my family’s connection here.”

Her influences include modern artists, especially West Coast muralists Stevie Shao and Lauren YS, who goes by @

squid.licker on Instagram.

“There are so many visual artists and designers and even musicians who influence me,” she said, but she is also heavily inspired by traditional themes, history and arts.

How does she feel that her snake will be painted over after the exhibit ends in a week from now?

“I would say at this point in my career I’m used to it, because most public art is temporary. Nothing truly lasts forever. But I feel like in a sense it makes it more special, because it’s so short-lived.”

*Other artists at the exhibit include photographer Angela Rowlings, Anna Hu, Brian Zhu, Chandarith Moeun, Colomba Klenner, Cynthia Medina Flores, Dajia Zhou, Dana Balletta, Emily DeMauro, IJ Chan, Jinyi Duan, Maggie Zhang, Mingliang Han, ponnapa prakamakul, Tenest Tang, and Zhonghe Li.*



YEAR OF SNAKE: Beard Garcia.

Courtesy Photo.



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## Free Speech

# Order Said to ‘Criminalize’ Some

*Continued From Page 1*

Vowing to target “perpetrators of unlawful anti-Semitic harassment and violence,” Trump declared the students will undergo extra scrutiny and monitoring, according to his recently signed executive order. Under the title of combating “anti-Semitism,” the order calls for federal agencies such as the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Education, and the Secretary of Homeland Security to coordinate with schools to “monitor for and report activities by alien students and staff” for possible investigation and removal from the country. His order additionally calls for an inventory and an analysis of so-called anti-Semitic complaints and related administrative actions from Oct. 7, 2023 to now, including in elementary classrooms as early as kindergarten.

To assist in this effort, a group called Betar, told the news outlet *Salon* that it’s already created and shared with the government a list of foreign students and teachers it feels should be expelled. And a company called Stellar Defense & Cyber Intelligence, according to a report from *DropSiteNews*, claims it can use artificial intelligence technology to “identify anonymous, masked” pro-Palestinian protesters.

All this has raised concerns over free speech and First Amendment rights, as well as immigrants’ rights, according to several civil rights groups, including those whose missions include defending the rights of Jewish, Islamic and Arab Americans.

“This executive order is an overbroad and unenforceable attack on free speech,” Mariam Aydah, a civil rights attorney with the Council on American-Islamic Relations-Massachusetts, told the *Sampan*. “We all agree that protecting the civil rights of Jewish Americans is not controversial. What is controversial is criminalizing dissent against Israel and criminalizing dissent against Zionism. And what’s more problematic is equating criticism of Israel and Zionism with criticism of the Jewish faith.”

Ayдах also noted how many students — some of whom are themselves Jewish — are being punished for their protest activity several times over — doxed by online groups, punished by their schools and sometimes even arrested — and now face further risk by the new executive order.

“There are many coalitions who are supporting these student protests, including Jewish students, Jewish groups, Muslim students, Palestinian students and others who oppose Israel’s actions,” she said.

The Jewish Council for Public Affairs publicly stated concerns that the order could undermine civil liberties, saying “Everyone in the United States has basic due process rights, and when we start applying them selectively we don’t only threaten our values — we ultimately threaten our safety too.” The group acknowledged a recent rise in anti-Semitism, but said that it should be addressed without abandoning



**ARREST FOR PROTEST:**  
**Authorities push a young woman down and handcuff her during a protest last year in solidarity with Palestine at MIT; A heavy police presence is also seen at right.**

**Photos by Harmony Witte.**

fundamental values of democracy.

“It essentially criminalizes people on student visas when they express their political conscience,” said Haris Tarin, the vice president of policy and programming at the Muslim Public Affairs Council. “So, anyone who’s on a student visa, who wants to be part of a workshop, a sit-in, a protest, they would essentially be criminalized, and they could potentially be deported, which is absolutely crazy.”

The order, he said, would limit the free speech, “not only of students, but of professors, of programs that are focused on political science. It would limit free speech on college campuses.”

Especially problematic to Tarin and others is the push to use the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance’s (IHRA) definition of anti-Semitism, mainly because some of the definition’s “examples” appear to conflate certain criticism of Israel with anti-Semitism. Even attorney and holocaust expert Kenneth Stern, who contributed to the original draft, has opposed using the definition and its examples in a legal



setting.

“It’s not the definition that’s the problem. It’s the abuse of it,” Stern told *The Times of Israel* during the first Trump administration in 2020 after his first draft of the order. Stern argued at the time that the Trump administration was then also using the IHRA definition to cancel pro-Palestinian speech on college campuses.

Yet, lawmakers have recently renewed efforts to pass legislation that would require the Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights to use the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism when investigating civil rights complaints.

Indeed, groups like the ADL have cast efforts to boycott Israeli companies, divest from Israel and call for sanctions over the attacks on Palestine, as an

attempt “to dismantle the Jewish state and end the right to Jewish national self-determination on any portion of this contested land.”

The ADL did not return an email seeking comment for this story, but, in a public statement said it welcomed the executive order.

“ADL long has supported holding those accountable who harass, intimidate, or attack Jewish students, faculty and staff on college campuses,” stated Greenblatt, but added that “any immigration-related ramifications obviously must be consistent with due process and existing federal statutes and regulations and should not be used to target individuals for their constitutionally protected speech.”

Free Speech

# Non-Citizen Students for Protest

**Double-Standard?**

Tarin, an Afghan American, noted a clear bias when it comes to America's views on his birth nation of Afghanistan vs. Israel.

"There's much more room for criticism of our own policies in Afghanistan than our policies in Gaza .... We've been able to allow our own presidents and our civilian leadership and even military leadership to be criticized on how we dealt in Afghanistan. But that does not extend over to a criticism of Israel. Now that tells you something. We can't criticize Israeli politicians and Israeli military leaders for how they've conducted the war in Gaza, but we can criticize our own officials for how we engaged in Afghanistan. That tells you a lot about bias and then coverage in media."

"You don't have to agree with every form of free speech or every idea, but as Americans, that is who we are, and we should be able to express that openly, freely, and even those who come to study in our institutions and participate in our education system, they should have that right, that uninhibited right to do that, as long as they're not involved in criminal activity."

Aydah added that the executive order is biased in that it fails to acknowledge anti-Muslim hate or anti-Palestinian violence on college campuses, "which has had a real and documented impact on our community."

It's odd, she added, that an administration that vows to put "America first" in this case appears to be putting the state of Israel first.

**Sometimes Hate Never Happened**

Nearly a year before the order was rolled out, colleges and universities in Massachusetts and across the nation were already eager to quash protests on their campuses, as groups and politicians pressured them to do so. In some cases they blamed the crackdowns on anti-Semitic speech — the purported focus of Trump's executive order — which at times never actually occurred. A glaring example was Northeastern University's handling of its student demonstrators. In the late spring of 2024, that school sent authorities to shut down its encampment, (they had encircled it all day prior), and arrest and punish some demonstrators. The school, according to press reports, justified the crackdown on alleged shouting of "virulent antisemitic slurs."

But according to reporting and video coverage at the time, no actual anti-Semitic words came from demonstrators in solidarity with Palestine. The statement was instead yelled out by a couple of Israeli supporters who apparently were taunting those in the encampment.

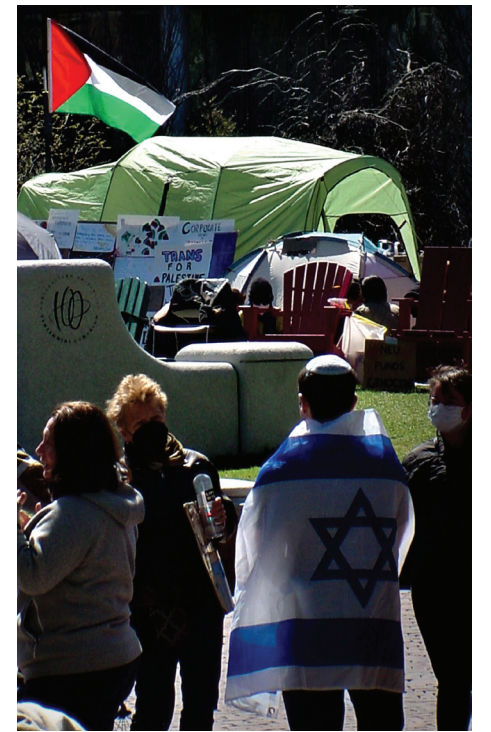
"The university said that antisemitism and remarks such as 'Kill the Jews' are never acceptable. And that's true, which

is why we demand that the university hold the two people who actually made those remarks accountable," one pro-Palestinian demonstrator was quoted as saying in the university's newspaper, *The Huntington News*, at the time.

As the year progressed, schools were quicker to end protests before they could become established. A Sampan reporter who covered some of the recent "Block the Ban" demonstrations at MIT over a "banned" South Asian American student for his pro-Palestinian activities and writings, witnessed extraordinary presence by university authorities who severely restricted where demonstrators would stand.

One of the Block the Ban's organizers, Richard Solomon, a doctoral student at MIT, called out the new executive order and said it would not stop him from protesting the death and destruction in Gaza and the West Bank, which early in the war claimed the lives of members of his host family.

"Come hell or high water, we will continue to take care of our own, both U.S. citizens and international students. Calling on MIT to stop doing weapons research for the Israeli military is not a fringe demand: It represents the will of the supermajority of MIT students. Trump's corrupt attempts to quell dissent are a continuation of the crimes of the Biden administration," Solomon



**ENCAMPMENT QUASHED:** A pro-Israeli counter-protester is seen on the edges of the pro-Palestine encampment last year at Northeastern University.

Photo by Adam Smith.

told the Sampan recently. "As a former U.S. consular official, I ask all diplomats to refuse any directive to revoke the visas of students for exercising their constitutional rights to protest in solidarity with the Palestinian people."

## Handcuffed on Campus

Numerous encampments and protests since October 2023 were shut down across the state — most of which resulted in arrests and charges of unlawful assembly and trespassing. Following are some of the notable incidents:

\* April 21, 2024: Students initiated the "Scientists Against Genocide" encampment on Kresge Lawn, demanding that the Massachusetts Institute of Technology sever research ties with the Israel's defense forces. By May, the MIT administration had warned protesters to disband the encampment or face suspension. Later, nine students were arrested for blocking the Stata Center parking garage, and police dismantled the encampment, arresting ten additional students. President Sally Kornbluth released a statement claiming that the student encampment was diverting school resources such as campus police and creating a "potential magnet for disruptive outside protestors."

\* April 24, 2024: At Emerson College in Boston, students established an encampment in the Boylston Place alleyway to express solidarity with pro-Palestinian movements. Boston police intervened, arresting 108 people on charges of unlawful assembly. The detainees were to be arraigned

the next day. City officials had said the encampment violated a new city ordinance aimed at banning tents pitched by homeless people on public property. Mayor Michelle Wu spoke on the matter, saying that tents in the alley posed health, fire and access hazards.

\* April 24, 2024: Harvard students established an encampment in Harvard Yard, also advocating for the university to divest from holdings associated with Israel. The Harvard administration issued warnings to protesters, threatening suspension if the encampment was not disbanded; afterward, an agreement was reached between the university and protesters to end the encampment. The university agreed to reinstate 20 suspended students and engage in discussions about divestment.

\* May 7, 2024: The University of Massachusetts Amherst witnessed a significant pro-Palestinian protest where more than 130 people were arrested after setting up an encampment on the South Lawn of the Student Union and refusing to disperse upon police orders. Students present said the area was fully militarized and complained of how the students were treated by authorities. Some charges were later reduced or dropped.

— Compiled by D.Y.

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## Tax & Health Advice Pages 6,7

# Don't Miss Out on These Credits

By Mark Cotton

Tax season, regardless of the year, is both confusing and stressful. This can lead to some families putting off their taxes, incurring needless fees and penalties. However, tax season is also an opportunity for families to claim a number of tax credits that can be highly beneficial to them.

A common misconception is that individuals don't believe they have earned enough income to be eligible for tax credits. The reality is that every person's individual situation is different and working with someone to evaluate your personal tax situation is the best way to determine what you may be entitled to receive. Below is a list of credits available for the 2024 tax year:

### Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)

The Earned Income Tax Credit is one of the most beneficial tax credits for low-income taxpayers. It is designed to support working individuals and families by reducing the tax burden and potentially providing a refund.

Who Qualifies?

- You must have earned income from employment, self-employment, or another qualifying source.
- Your income must fall below a specific threshold, which de-

pends on your filing status and the number of qualifying children you claim.

- Even individuals without children may qualify, though the credit amount will be smaller.

- Every year, a number of eligible households overlook this credit, missing out on the benefits. This includes people living in non-traditional homes such as grandparents raising grandchildren, people who have disabilities or are raising children with disabilities and people without children.

- Last year, 23 million eligible households received an average of \$2,541.

### Child Tax Credit (CTC)

The Child Tax Credit provides substantial support to families with dependent children.

Who Qualifies?

- Taxpayers with a qualifying child with a valid social security number under the age of 17 at the end of the tax year.

How Much Can You Claim?

- Eligible taxpayers can claim up to \$2,000 per child. A portion of this credit may be refundable, meaning you could receive money back even if you owe no taxes.

### Additional Child Tax Credit (ACTC)

If you qualify for the Child Tax

Credit but your tax liability is too low to claim the full amount, the refundable Additional Child Tax Credit may apply. This allows families to receive up to \$1,700 per qualifying child as a refund.

### Adoption Credit

If you adopt an eligible child, you can claim the Adoption Credit on your federal income taxes for up to \$16,810 in qualified expenses for 2024.

### American Opportunity Tax Credit (AOTC)

The AOTC helps low-income taxpayers who are pursuing higher education by covering some of the costs of tuition, fees, and course materials.

Who Qualifies?

- Students enrolled at least half-time in a degree or credential program.

- Income limits apply, with the credit phasing out for higher-income taxpayers.

How Much Can You Claim?

- The maximum credit is \$2,500 per eligible student, and up to \$1,000 is refundable.

- You will need to produce your 1098-T Tuition statement when you are filing your taxes to claim your credit.

### Lifetime Learning Credit (LLC)

The Lifetime Learning Credit is another education-related credit, but it has broader eligibility than the AOTC.

Who Qualifies?

- Taxpayers paying for tuition and related expenses for themselves, their spouse, or a dependent.

How Much Can You Claim?

- The LLC provides a credit of up to \$2,000 per return, though it is non-refundable.

### Saver's Credit

The Saver's Credit is designed to encourage low-income taxpayers to save for retirement.

Who Qualifies?

- Taxpayers who contribute to an IRA, 401(k), or similar retirement plan.

- Income limits apply, and the credit is worth up to 50%, 20%, or 10% of your contributions, depending on your income.

How Much Can You Claim?

- The maximum credit is \$1,000 for individuals and \$2,000 for married couples filing jointly.

### Premium Tax Credit (PTC)

The Premium Tax Credit helps low- to moderate-income individuals and families pay for health insurance purchased through the Health Insurance Marketplace.

Who Qualifies?

- Taxpayers with household incomes between 100% and 400% of the federal poverty level.

- You must not be eligible for affordable health insurance through an employer or a government program like Medicaid.

How Much Can You Claim?

- The amount varies based on income, family size, and the cost of

insurance in your area.

### Tax Credits for Seniors

Massachusetts offers what is known as a Senior Circuit Breaker Tax Credit.

Who Qualifies?

- Taxpayers aged 65 and older.
- The credit is based on real estate taxes or rent paid by the taxpayer in 2024.

How Much Can You Claim?

- The maximum credit for the 2024 tax year is \$2,370.

### Why Tax Credits Matter

Tax credits are a vital tool for reducing financial inequality and empowering low-income taxpayers. Unlike deductions, which lower your taxable income, tax credits directly reduce the amount of tax you owe. Many credits are refundable, meaning they can lead to a refund even if you owe no tax at all.

Taking advantage of these credits can significantly improve your financial situation. If you're unsure about your eligibility or need assistance filing your taxes, consider reaching out to a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program (VITA). Their services are free for qualified applicants. Local clinics are available at the following locations:

Asian American Civic Association Inc - AACA

87 Tyler Street  
5th Floor  
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617-426-9492  
ABCD Robert M. Coard Building  
178 Tremont Street  
Boston, MA 02111  
617-348-6329  
ABCD North End West End NSC  
1 Michelangelo Street  
Boston, MA 02113  
617-523-8125

Additional locations can be found on the IRS Website.

If you need assistance with tax years outside of 2024 or have other issues involving the IRS or the Massachusetts Department of Revenue, there are Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic (LITC) throughout the Commonwealth that can be of assistance. Local clinics are as follows:

### Asian American Civic Association

87 Tyler Street  
5th Floor  
Boston, MA 02111  
617-426-9492

### Greater Boston Legal Services

197 Friend Street  
Boston, MA 02114  
617-371-1234

### Legal Services Center of Harvard Law School

122 Boylston Street  
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130  
617-522-3003

Additional locations can be found on the IRS website.

Mark is the Director of Services for the LITC at the Asian American Civic Association, publisher of the Sampan. Email: LITC@aaca-boston.org. Phone: 617-426-9492 ext. 285



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#### 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.sharepoint.com](http://www.sharepoint.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. T90CN09, TRACK STATE OF GOOD REPAIR CONTRACT II, SYSTEMWIDE, MA (Class 1, General Transit- \$20,000,000; Class 3, Track Work- \$20,000,000; Contract value \$25,000,000, can be submitted at [www.sharepoint.com](http://www.sharepoint.com) until two o'clock (2:00 p.m.) on MARCH 13, 2025. Immediately thereafter, in a designated room, the Bids will be opened and read publicly.

*These contracts are for systemwide track infrastructure improvements on the red, orange, blue, and green lines. Work will include replacement of ties, rail, restrained rail along both tangent, curved and restrained curve track, special trackwork, removal and replacement of broken or lock spike plates with pandrol plates, insulators and C-Bonds (where called for or where damaged by Contractor), contact rail replacement, ballast replacement (full depth and spot), joint elimination thermite welding, direct fixation and floating slab repairs including concrete repairs and replacement, surface line and tamping and track stabilizing where directed on both Light Rail and Heavy Rail portions of the MBTA system. CWR will require thermite welding and destressing in accordance with MBTA standards during scheduled surges. Work may require early action items like weekly meetings with contractors to plan and schedule work, moving rail, pre plating ties, site walks to finalize work limits, materials delivery, materials staging, equipment movement, schedule update, etc. Contractor will be required to remove all surplus materials generated by the project and all existing debris currently within the project limits. Debris to be removed will be confirmed during planned preconstruction site walks.*

Bidders' attention is directed to Appendix 1, Notice of Requirement for Affirmative Action to Insure Equal Employment Opportunity; and to Appendix 2, Supplemental Equal Employment Opportunity, Anti-Discrimination, and Affirmative Action Program in the specifications. While there is no DBE goal associated with this contract, the Authority strongly encourages the use of Minority, Women and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises as prime contractors, subcontractors and suppliers in all of its contracting opportunities.

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

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

On behalf of the MBTA, thank you for your time and interest in responding to this Notice to Bidders Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority

Phillip Eng  
General Manager & CEO of the MBTA

February 5, 2025



MASSACHUSETTS BAY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY  
10 PARK PLAZA  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02116

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Electronic bids for MBTA Contract No. T90CN08, TRACK STATE OF GOOD REPAIR CONTRACT 1, SYSTEMWIDE, MA (Class 1, General Transit - \$20,000,000; Class 3, Track work - \$20,000,000; Contract value \$25,000,000) can be submitted at [www.sharepoint.com](http://www.sharepoint.com) until two o'clock (2:00 p.m.) on FEBRUARY 27, 2025. Immediately thereafter, in a designated room, the Bids will be opened and read publicly.

These contracts are for systemwide track infrastructure improvements on the red, orange, blue, and green lines. Work will include replacement of ties, rail, restrained rail along both tangent, curved and restrained curve track, special trackwork, removal and replacement of broken or lock spike plates with pandrol plates, insulators and C-Bonds (where called for or where damaged by Contractor), contact rail replacement, ballast replacement (full depth and spot), joint elimination, thermite welding, direct fixation and floating slab repairs including concrete repairs and replacement, surface line and tamping and track stabilizing where directed on both Light Rail and Heavy Rail portions of the MBTA system. CWR will require thermite welding and destressing in accordance with MBTA standards during scheduled surges. Work may require early action items like weekly meetings with contractors to plan and schedule work, moving rail, pre plating ties, site walks to finalize work limits, materials delivery, materials staging, equipment movement, schedule update, etc. Contractor will be required to remove all surplus materials generated by the project and all existing debris currently within the project limits. Debris to be removed will be confirmed during planned preconstruction site walks.

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On behalf of the MBTA, thank you for your time and interest in responding to this Notice to Bidders Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority

Phillip Eng  
General Manager & CEO of the MBTA

February 5, 2025

## Affordable Housing Lottery The Asher

90 & 100 Chestnut Street, Ashland, MA  
YOU CAN COMPLETE AND SUBMIT A LOTTERY APPLICATION ONLINE HERE:



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

**Affordable Unit Rents**

Twelve (12) 1 Bedrooms at \$2,228; Six (6) 2 Bedrooms at \$2,428

Rents subject to change in future years. Tenants will be responsible for the cost of the following utilities: electric heating, cooking, hot water, electricity, water, and sewer. Free surface parking space is available for residents. Pets are permitted, subject to restrictions

The Asher is a brand-new rental development located in Ashland. The community will include two elevator-serviced buildings with a total of 174 rental units. 18 affordable apartments which will be leased to households with incomes at or below 80% of the area median income. All units feature modern finishes and in-unit laundry. Outdoor community amenities include a resort-style saltwater pool, an outdoor kitchen with grilling, lounge areas, a firepit, and a dog park. Indoors, residents will enjoy a state-of-the-art fitness center, private work from home spaces, a billiard area, and a pet spa.

**Maximum Household Income Limits**

\$91,200 (1 person), \$104,200 (2 people), \$117,250 (3 people), \$130,250 (4 people)

**Public Info Session:** March 25, 2025 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:** April 23, 2025 at 2:00 pm

Completed Applications must be completed online, or postmarked, by this date. Applications postmarked by the deadline must be received within 5 business days.

**Lottery:** May 8, 2025 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 **The Asher** 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 x3, then leave a message or postal mail SEB Housing, 257 Hillside Ave, Needham MA 02494. For TTY Services dial 711. Free translation available. Traducción gratuita disponible. Tradução livre disponível.

YOU CAN COMPLETE AND SUBMIT A LOTTERY APPLICATION ONLINE HERE:

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



# Time to Brush Up on Kids' Dental Health

By Cheen Loo

One of the most common questions I hear as a pediatric dentist is, "When should I start bringing my child to the dentist?"

I remember a dad walking into my office, his chubby-cheeked one-year-old daughter perched on his hip. He glanced around, a bit unsure, and asked, "So... am I too early? Too late?"

I smiled. "Actually, you're right on time."

He raised an eyebrow. "Wait—you're telling me my baby, who barely has any teeth, already needs a dentist?"

I chuckled. "Yep! Baby teeth matter. Early visits help catch any issues before they start, and they also help kids get comfortable with the dentist."

The American Dental Association (ADA) celebrates National Children's Dental Health Month every February, highlighting the importance of good oral health in children. Good habits started early will help children keep healthy, bright smiles for life. Here are some oral health tips to keep every child's smile bright and healthy:

Your child's first dental visit should happen when their first tooth appears, or latest by their first birthday. Early check-ups allow dentists to monitor tooth development, prevent cavities, and answer parents' questions about oral health. As your child starts teething, the dentist will be able to monitor progress. Regular visits every six months help keep baby teeth healthy, and baby teeth matter. These early teeth help children eat, speak, and hold space for adult teeth. Without regular six-month check-ups and good oral health habits at an early age, small cavities can lead to much larger problems. Cavities in baby teeth can cause pain, infections, and even problems with adult teeth. I always

encourage patients and their parents to treat baby teeth as carefully as they would adult teeth.

Early childhood tooth decay is the most common chronic childhood disease, affecting more children more than asthma. According to the ADA,



over 40% of children have tooth decay by kindergarten, and a recent poll found that only three in five parents of children ages 4 to 17 said their child brushes their teeth the recommended two times a day. Children with poor oral health are also three times more likely to miss school due to dental pain.

**Healthy Habits Start Early**

- Wipe your baby's gums with a damp cloth after feeding.
- Start brushing with fluoride toothpaste as soon as the first tooth appears. Brush twice a day using a smear (the size of a grain of rice) of fluoride toothpaste for children under 3, and a pea-sized amount for children ages 3 and up. Always supervise young children while brushing as they are more likely to swallow toothpaste.
- Start to floss daily when a child's teeth touch. Parents should continue flossing their child's teeth until they can floss independently.
- Limit sugary drinks and choose water instead.
- Offer tooth-friendly snacks like cheese or yogurt instead of sticky, sugary treats.
- Visit the dentist every six months for check-ups.

Now is a great time to schedule your child's dental visit with a dentist. Let's start early with our children to promote a lifetime of healthy teeth and gums.

*Cheen Loo is chair and professor of pediatric dentistry at Tufts University School of Dental Medicine*

**招标请求**

EV00015511  
Breeze Outlaw  
[breeze.outlaw@boston.gov](mailto:breeze.outlaw@boston.gov)

波士顿市规划部门 (City of Boston Planning Department) / 萨福克县 (County of Suffolk) 由其规划总监 (Chief of Planning) (以下简称“官员”) 代表, 邀请投标人提交密封投标文件, 以执行一般描述为\*\*“规划学院” (Planning Academy), 并特别列于招标请求 (Request for Proposal)\*\* 中的工作内容。投标文件可通过访问波士顿市采购网站 (City of Boston's Procurement website) <http://www.boston.gov/departments/procurement>, 并点击供应商门户 (Supplier Portal) 下载事件编号 EV00015511 (Event Number EV00015511) 的投标文件。本项目的工作范围 (Scope of Work) 在详细规格中进一步说明, 包括但不限于以下内容: 波士顿市规划部门 (City of Boston Planning Department) 寻求具备社区联系和教育学专业知识的合格顾问团队 (consultant team) 提供咨询服务 (consultant services), 以开发和实施一个为期八周 (每周约2小时) 的“规划学院” (Planning Academy) 项目。本合同将按照马萨诸塞州总法第 30B章 (M.G.L. CH 30B) 进行, 预计持续12个月。投标文件 (Bid Documents) 将于2025年2月24日 (星期一) 上午9:00 开始提供, 投标书最迟须在2025年3月21日中午12:00前提交。

规划总监 (Chief of Planning): Kairos Shen  
(2025年2月24日及3月3日发布)

## Job Corner

### South Cove Community Health Center

**Position: Dental Assistant, FT Boston**

Salary: \$24 per hour

To apply: [Careers@scchc.org](mailto:Careers@scchc.org)

### Position: Unit Secretary-Imaging Department (FT) Boston

Salary \$20 per hour

To apply: [Careers@scchc.org](mailto:Careers@scchc.org)

### Position Unit Secretary (FT) Boston

Salary: \$20 per hour

To apply: [Careers@scchc.org](mailto:Careers@scchc.org)

### Maloney Properties

**Position: Administrative Assistant, FT**

Prior administrative experience is required. Prior experience in property management is a plus. Proficiency in Microsoft Office, Word, Excel, and Outlook is required.

Experience with Yardi is a plus. Bilingual Mandarin/Cantonese and English are required.

To apply: <https://recruit.hirebridge.com/v3/application/applink.aspx?cid=6584&am.p>

### UMass Amherst

**Position: University Surveyor and GIS Administrator (Hybrid Opportunity), FT**

Bachelor's degree in geographic information systems or related field with eight (8) years of experience working with GIS Technology.

Four years of experience may be substituted for a Bachelor's degree for twelve (12) years of progressive experience working with GIS technology.

Demonstrated competency in the most current release of AutoCAD, Autodesk Map, and AutoCAD Civil 3D.

To apply: <https://careers.umass.edu/amherst/en-us/job/526428/university-surveyor-and-gis>

### Position: Research Fellow - Research Software & Research Computing Facilitation, FT

Bachelor's degree in a field with a significant research computing component plus experience with research or software development in a field with a significant research computing component.

Proficiency with Linux or Unix operating systems and command line.

Proficiency in at least one high-level programming language (e.g., Python, R, C, C++, Julia, Matlab).

Salary: \$70,000 - \$110,000

To apply: <https://careers.umass.edu/amherst/en-us/job/526428/university-surveyor-and-gis>

### 7 News WHDH

**Position: PT Writer, Boston**

At least two years of major market writing experience

To apply: <https://wvhdh.com/>

### Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy

**Position: Horticulturist, Full Time, Boston**

A horticulture degree or a related field, completion of a certificate program, and relevant experiences are all considered during the review and selection of candidates.

A good candidate will have a combination of formal education and three (3) years of practical experience performing general horticulture maintenance; working at a public garden or park is favorable. A high level of plant knowledge, including identification and nomenclature, and landscape design is significant and relevant to this position.

Salary Range: \$52,000-\$55,000 per year

Please email a one-page cover letter, resume, and 3 references to:

[careers@rosekennedygreenway.org](mailto:careers@rosekennedygreenway.org) with the job title in the subject line.

### Boston Medical Center, MA

**Position: Clinical Nurse Manager FT, Brockton**

BSN or RN with a Bachelor's degree in another field is required, a Master's Degree in a relevant field is preferred.

Licensed to practice professional nursing as a Registered Nurse in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts required

Minimum 5 years nursing experience preferred. Must have 1+ year(s) recent clinical experience

in the assigned specialty.

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

### Position: Marketing Specialist

Undergraduate degree in business, communications, or design required. 1-2 years in social media management, marketing, or creative development

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

### Position: General Service Associate - 40 Hrs, 11:00 PM -7:30 AMM, and Rotating Weekends

Work requires the ability to read, and 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](mailto:caroline.cafer@bmc.org)

### Position: Inpatient Registered Dietitian, FT

Bachelor's degree required in Nutrition or related discipline (e.g. Public Health Nutrition, Dietetics/ Nutrition Education, Exercise Physiology, Food and Nutrition, Food Safety, Food Science, Food Service System Management). Licensed (LDN) by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Division of Professional Licensure is required by the department.

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

### Liberty Woods 280 Liberty Street, Hanson, MA Affordable Housing Lottery [www.sebhousing.com](http://www.sebhousing.com)

**Five 2 Bedroom Condos for \$185,400**

**The first affordable homes will be ready in Spring of 2025**

**One Household Member Must be 55+ Years of Age**

This is a lottery for the first five (5) affordable **age-restricted (55+)** condominiums being built at Liberty Woods, a new, 56 unit residential development in Hanson, MA. These 5 homes will be sold at affordable prices to households with incomes at or below 80% of the area median income and where at least one household member is age 55 or above. Nine additional affordable homes will be built in the future. Affordable units are interspersed throughout the development in either a 3 unit or 2 unit building, and provide two floors of living, thoughtful layouts, a two car garage and driveway, large kitchen islands, two and a half bathrooms, 96% efficiency forced hot air and air conditioning, and Rinnai On Demand gas fired water heaters. Units will contain LVT flooring throughout the first floor and lower level, fiberglass tubs and showers, and high-definition laminate countertops.

#### Maximum Household Income Limits:

\$68,500 (1 person), \$78,250 (2 people), \$88,050 (3 people), \$97,800 (4 people)

#### The Maximum Household Asset Limit is \$275,000.

**Public Info Session:** February 26, 2025 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:** March 31, 2025 at 2:00 pm

Completed Applications and Mortgage Pre-Approvals must be delivered by this date.

**Lottery:** April 14, 2025 at 6:00pm 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 Liberty Woods 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) 782-6900x2 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

## KEOLIS

**Join Us At The Commuter Rail • Now Hiring Conductors**

The operator of the MBTA Commuter Rail, Keolis Commuter Services, is now hiring conductors across the system. Work as part of a team responsible for the safe movement of train passengers. Verify and collect fares, and provide exceptional customer service. *Candidates of all backgrounds are encouraged to apply.*

**Apply today at [www.keolisna.com/careers](http://www.keolisna.com/careers)**

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



# Events Calendar

## Walking Tour

Address: Cambridge

To get more information visit: <https://cambridgeblackhistoryproject.org/walking-tour/>

Sign up for a walking tour around Cambridge to learn more about the influential Black woman who inhabited Cambridge in the 19th century.  
Price: Free

## Curling at Seaport

Date: February 28, 2025

Address: Seaport, 85 Northern Avenue, Boston, MA 02110

Event Link: <https://www.meetboston.com/event/curling-at-seaport/83168/>

Don't miss out on the opportunity to learn a niche sport and have fun with friends

Price: Free, RSVP

## Comedy Party @ Democracy Brewing!

Date: Every Tuesday in February

Time: 8:00 pm

Address: Democracy Brewing, 35 Temple Place Boston, MA 02111

Event Link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/comedy-party-democracy-brewing-tickets-1147547759239?aff=>

Standup Comedy and craft beers are brewed right in the heart of Downtown Boston.

Price: \$10.00 – \$15.00

## Comedy Night at Bleacher Bar: Free Comedy Show!

Date: Every Tuesday

Time: 8 – 10 pm

Address: Spontaneous Celebrations, 45 Danforth Street Boston, MA

Event Link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/comedy-night-at-bleacher-bar-free-comedy-show-tickets->

Enjoy an evening of comedy, delicious food, and drinks as some of Boston's best comedians take over Bleacher Bar at Fenway!

Price: Free, RSVP

## BostonPop-Upp Market

Date: Saturday, February 22

Time: 12 - 5 pm

Address: Sunset Cantina, 916 Commonwealth Avenue Boston, MA 02215

Event Link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/boston-pop-up-market-tickets-1225135034869>

Explore a curated selection of handmade goods from local makers, enjoy the music, and soak in the creative atmosphere.

Price: Free, RSVP

## Underground 23 Concert Scene

Date: Saturday, February 22

Time: 7-9 pm

Address: 23 Main Street Malden, MA 02148

Event Link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/underground-23-concert-scene-tickets-1225417529819?aff=>

Join us at 23 Main St to rock out with some amazing local bands and expe-

rience the thrill of live drama right before your eyes.

Price: Free, RSVP

## Wild Surroundings: Kinetic in Concert

Date: Saturday, February 22

Time: 7:30-99 pm

Address: MIT Building W18, 201 Amherst Street Cambridge, MA 02139

Event Link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wild-surroundings-kinetic-in-concert-tickets-1203447065569?aff=>

Enjoy an immersive performance experience at MIT's Thomas Tull Concert Hall featuring world premieres of works by Evan Ziporyn and Miguel Zenón.

Price: Free, RSVP

## Live Performance with NKBLOT!

Date: Friday, February 21 · 6 - 8:30 pm EST

Time: 7:309 pm

Address: Fenway Community Center, 1282 Boylston Street #123 Boston, MA 02215

Event Link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/live-performance-with-ink-blot-tickets-1242863200289?aff=>

Experience the electrifying live performance of!NKBLOT! and prepare to be amazed.

Price: Free, RSVP

## Live Performance with NKBLOT!

Date: Friday, February 21 · 6 - 8:30 pm

Time: 7:309 pm

Address: Fenway Community Center, 1282 Boylston Street #123 Boston, MA 02215

Event Link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/live-performance-with-ink-blot-tickets-1242863200289?aff=>

Experience the electrifying live performance of!NKBLOT! and prepare to be amazed.

Price: Free, RSVP

## The Bach Society Orchestra

Date: Saturday, February 22

Address: Paine Hall, 3 Oxford Street Cambridge, MA 02138

Event Like <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-bach-society-orchestra-tickets-1225777105319?aff=>

BachSoc invites you to join us for our first concert of 2025, featuring works by Bernard Herrmann, Haydn, Delius, and Ethan Chaves '26.

Price: Free, RSVP

## Boston Language Exchange | Make Friends, Learn Languages & Culture

Date: Every Friday

Time: 5:30 pm

Address: SOJUba, 1265 Boylston St Boston, MA 02215

Event link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/boston-language-exchange-make-friends-learn-languages-culture>

Come and make new friends in a fun, casual atmosphere. No matter which country or background, you will feel welcome.

Price: \$5

## Live Music Sundays

Date: Every Sunday

Time: 2 – 5 pm

Address: Samuel Adams Boston Brewery, 30 Germania St Boston, MA 02130

Event Link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/live-music-sundays-tickets-505318750987?aff=>

Intro: Get ready to enjoy originals and covers by local Boston musicians.

Price: free admission

## Comedy Night at Rosebud Bar & Kitchen

Date: Every Tuesday

Time: 7 pm – 10 pm

Address: Rosebud Indian-American Bar & Kitchen, 381 Summer Street Somerville, MA 02144

Event Link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/comedy-night-at-rosebud-bar-kitchen-free-tickets>

Enjoy a night of comedy at Rosebud Bar & Kitchen for new line-ups of comedians each week!

Price: Free, RSVP

Price: \$20

## Hideout Comedy Wednesdays!

Date: Every Wednesday

Time:: 7 – 9 pm

Address: The White Bull Tavern Lunch, Dinner, Late Night, Karaoke, Comedy & Dj's, 1 Union Street Boston, MA 02108

Event link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/hideout-comedy-wednesdays-tickets-875959206567?aff>

Come get a taste of the absolute BEST stand-up comics working today. These comedians are all pros, many having had their comedy featured in places like Comedy Central, Funny or Die, Netflix, and more.

Price: Varies based on ticket type

## Comedy at King's (Free!) - Boston, MA

Date: Every Sunday

Time:: 7:30 - 9 pm

Address: Kings Dining & Entertainment, 50 Dalton Street Boston, MA 02115

Event link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/comedy-at-kings-free-boston-ma-tickets-294302455567?aff>

Experience the country's funniest stand-up comedians, in Boston's bustling Back Bay neighborhood!

Price: Free

## Up All Night Band at The Great American Beer Hall

Date: Saturday, February 22

Time: 9 pm

Address: The Great American Beer Hall, 142 Mystic Avenue Medford, MA 02155

Event link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/up-all-night-band-at-the-great-american-beer-hall-tickets->

Join us for an unforgettable night of live music with Up All Night Band at The Great American Beer Hall!

Price: Free, RSVP

### NOTICE OF COMMUNITY MEETING

The Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) of Tufts University/Tufts Medical Center will hold an Open Meeting to the public on **Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at 5:00pm**. The meeting will be held remotely via Zoom teleconference:

- To attend **by computer**, go to the following link at the time of the meeting: <https://tufts.zoom.us/j/99357597895?pwd=qxV8ZSDZPMknr9X9EcRyFJ4dWJUjZ.1>
- To attend **by phone**, call 1-646-931-3860 and enter **Meeting ID: 993 5759 7895** and **Passcode: 740630**

The Tufts University/Tufts Medical Center IBC regulates research, teaching, and training that involves potentially biohazardous materials on all campuses of Tufts University, the Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging, and Tufts Medical Center. It is responsible for ensuring that this work is conducted in compliance with National Institutes of Health Guidelines and local regulations, and with proper concern for the safety of personnel, the environment, and the surrounding communities.

Members of the community are encouraged to attend this open meeting to learn more about the IBC, its regulatory functions, and biosafety risk management. Questions or comments are welcome before or after the meeting and can be submitted to [IBC-Office@tufts.edu](mailto:IBC-Office@tufts.edu), or they may be asked during the meeting itself. For more information, please contact the Tufts IBC Office by email. The IBC website can be found here: <https://viceprovost.tufts.edu/about-ibc>.

Read the  
Sampan.  
Go to  
[sampan.org](http://sampan.org)  
now!

# All Immigrants Have Rights, Say Attorneys

By Esther Wang

Despite the fear and chaos created across the U.S. as immigration raids detain and deport more and more people, those living in the U.S. still have constitutional and legal protections, such as against illegal searches and warrantless home entries. That was a key takeaway from the media briefing “ICE Is Knocking. What Are Your Rights?” conducted by Ethnic Media Services.

Just in the past few weeks, more than 200,000 people have been arrested by Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and at least 8,000 have been deported, said journalist Sunita Sohrabji, a health editor, who hosted the event. Most of the people arrested have been of South and Central American origin, although some were of Chinese, Russian, and Indian

origin. Several media outlets have reported that a deportation flight to India had detainees handcuffed for 40-hours straight and the Trump administration is setting up a detention center in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. With ICE instructed to arrest 1200-1500 people daily, there is rising alarm about how the agency will try to meet their new “quota.”

Speaking from her experience with La Resistencia, an organization focused on combating the subpar conditions detainees face in detention centers, Maru Mora-Villalpando talked about the hunger strikes she has seen as detained immigrants try to appeal to the public. Although a grievance system is technically in place, Mora-Villalpando argued that ICE often returns no effective response, if they give one at all. Ac-

cess to the grievance system is also restricted to those who know how to operate tablet technology and understand English; for those who fail to meet these criteria, there is virtually no channel for them to communicate their grievances to the authorities, she said during the briefing. With the detainees unable to make themselves heard, they often resort to hunger strikes in order to draw attention and potential change. In the last year alone, Maru notes, La Resistencia counted 14 hunger strikes, with the high likelihood of more.

In most cases, the detainees demand better food, clean clothing and adequate medical attention. Hygiene, in particular, has become a pressing issue, she said of the raids.

The talk also featured Viridiana Carrizales, founder of ImmSchools; Amanda Alvarado-Ford, deputy directing Actor of the Immigration Institute of the Bay Area; and Oscar Sarabia Roman, staff attorney at the American Civil Liberties Union’s Immigrants’ Rights Project.

Several of the experts offered practical advice. If ICE agents knock at your door, said Amanda Alvarado-Ford, an immigration attorney, first do not panic and remember your rights. Even undocumented immigrants in the U.S. are entitled to protections under the U.S. Constitution, such as the right to remain silent and to be free from unlawful searches and seizures. In particular, Alvarado-Ford warned about the practice of expedited removal, in which Customs and Border Protections rapidly deport individuals in a time span that can be as short as a day. But if an undocumented immigrant has been in the U.S. for more than two years, they have the right to a hearing before a judge. In addition, if an undocumented individual has submitted applications for asylum or a visa, it can be beneficial to have photo evidence at hand, such as in a phone, to demonstrate to ICE agents that a process is pending.

Of particular importance, she noted, is to remember that individuals have the right to insist upon a judicial warrant before opening the door to ICE agents. Often, ICE agents will show a warrant signed by an immigration official; this is not valid, she said. Only a judicial warrant signed by a U.S. District Court judge gives ICE agents the authority to enter. If the ICE agent doesn’t have a judicial warrant, one can assert the right to speak to an attorney (even if they don’t have one now) and ask the agents to leave the premises. A similar process applies in workplace locations; ICE agents can enter public spaces, but need a judicial warrant to enter private spaces meant only for employees.

But children face a particular risk, Viridiana Carrizales explained. She spoke of her personal experience as an undocumented immigrant as a child with undocumented parents.

She personally experienced how U.S. schools were not the safe havens for undocumented children that they should be, and her organization, ImmSchools, aims to change that to make sure that schools and parents across the country understand how to protect kids better. In particular, the 1982 Supreme Court decision Plyler v. Doe and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act state that every child in the U.S., regardless of their immigration status, has the right to be in school until they complete high school. Schools don’t have the authority to ask students or their parents about their immigration status, and the only way a student’s records can be accessed by an immigration official is if they have a judicial warrant—which they often don’t.

Approximately 5.5 million children in the school system are undocumented or live with an undocumented parent, Viridiana revealed. Thus, it is of paramount importance that undocumented children stay in school. Otherwise, if parents take their children out of school for fear of their safety—as many have already started doing—the education and future of these children will be harmed.

Oscar Sarabia Roman ended the briefing by discussing how the ACLU is pushing back against the Trump administration. The organization has filed lawsuits against three of President Trump’s executive orders that attack birthright citizenship, prevent seeking asylum at the border, and advocate for expedited removal.

Birthright citizenship—which states that every individual born on U.S. soil becomes a U.S. citizen—is enshrined in the 14th Amendment of the Constitution. With Trump’s executive order against it, many couples who are expecting are in fear that their children will be denied citizenship and consequently basic rights such as healthcare and the ability to work legally.

The second executive order, which stops individuals from seeking asylum at U.S. borders, are putting thousands at risk, Oscar maintained. By turning these individuals away, the U.S. is forcing them to return to countries where they have very credible fears of persecution. Trump’s order also overreaches his presidential authority; no president has the ability to unilaterally go against protections Congress has passed and that U.S. courts have sustained, he said.

Finally, Oscar argued that Trump’s executive order for expedited removal is fueling mass deportation and ripping American communities apart. Due process gives immigrants the right to a hearing, which expedited removal—by deporting immigrants as fast as within a single day—denies. Many, including Oscar, see this as an attack on the Constitution and on fundamental American values.

## 经济实惠出租单位 YARMOUTH – DENNIS – BARNSTABLE – FALMOUTH 准备租房者一般等候名单

鼓励拥有租房券的平等住房或机会家庭申请

READY RENTER 计划现正接受其可负担租赁单元一般候补名单的申请。一般候补名单用于填补 Yarmouth (30 个单元)、Dennis (24 个单元)、Barnstable (5 个单元) 和 Falmouth (21 个单元) 现有的分散地点可负担租赁单元。单元包括单间公寓、一居室、两居室和三居室单元。有一个四居室单元。一些单元位于公寓楼内，其他单元是复式公寓或独栋住宅。

月租金取决于卧室数量、单位面积 (平方英尺)、住房计划和补贴。有些月租金包含水电费，有些则不包含。单间公寓的月租金从 798 美元到 1,440 美元不等。一居室公寓的月租金从 934 美元到 1,616 美元不等。两居室公寓的月租金从 1,350 美元到 1,831 美元不等。三居室公寓数量有限，目前最高租金为 2,168 美元。四居室公寓的最高租金为 2,641 美元。对于丹尼斯经济适用房信托 (DAHT) 拥有的公寓，租金是您实际家庭收入的 27%，但不低于单间公寓 997 美元、一居室 1,140 美元和两居室 1,281 美元。

为了符合资格，您的家庭收入不得超过设定的收入限制。对于大多数单位，计划收入限制为地区收入中位数的 80%：1 口之家为 68,500 美元，2 口之家为 78,250 美元，3 口之家为 88,050 美元，4 口之家为 97,800 美元，5 口之家为 105,650 美元，6 口之家为 113,450 美元。有些单位的计划限制略低，为地区收入中位数的 65%：1 口之家为 57,590 美元，2 口之家为 65,845 美元，3 口之家为 74,035 美元，4 口之家为 82,290 美元，5 口之家为 88,920 美元，6 口之家为 95,485 美元。其他要求适用。

申请表可在以下地点领取：Town of Yarmouth, Main Lobby or the Affordable Housing Office, 1146 Route 28, South Yarmouth, MA 02664。若要申请表通过邮寄或电子邮件发送给您，请联系：Mary Waygan, 雅茅斯镇，508-398-2231 x1275 mwaygan@yarmouth.ma.us

信息发布会：

2025 年 2 月 12 日下午 6:30  
Dennis Police Station Training Room, 90 Bob Crowell Rd, South Dennis, MA 02660。此地点可进入。请于 2025 年 2 月 5 日前拨打 508-398-2231 x 1275 申请合理住宿。

2025 年 2 月 20 日下午 1 点，  
Yarmouth Town Hall Hearing Room, 1146 Route 28, South Yarmouth, MA 02664。通过 Zoom 进行远程访问：<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85702838325> 此位置可访问。请在 2025 年 2 月 13 日前拨打 508-398-2231 x 1275 以请求合理的住宿。

2025 年 3 月 6 日下午 6 点 (从 2025 年 3 月 11 日起重新安排)  
Yarmouth Town Hall Room A, 1146 Route 28, South Yarmouth, MA 02664。此位置可进入。请于 2025 年 2 月 27 日前拨打 508-398-2231 x 1275 申请合理的住宿。

将填妥的申请表寄回/邮寄/投递至：Plymouth Redevelopment Authority, 26 Court Street, Plymouth, MA 02360

申请截止日期和时间：2025 年 4 月 9 日下午 4 点 申请必须在此处列出的截止日期和时间之前送达或邮寄。截止日期和时间之前邮寄的申请必须在截止日期后 5 个工作日内收到。

有关申请或计划的所有问题，请直接联系：Mary Waygan, Ready Renter Program, 雅茅斯镇，508-398-2231 x1275 [mwaygan@yarmouth.ma.us](mailto:mwaygan@yarmouth.ma.us)

要获得此计划的考虑，您必须使用 2025 年 Ready Renter General 候补名单申请表进行申请，并在 2025 年 4 月 9 日下午 4 点之前将完整的申请表连同所有必需的文件一起提交至 Plymouth Redevelopment Authority，地址为 26 Court Street, Plymouth, MA 02360。成功的申请者将通过抽签进行排名。抽签将包括在本广告列出的截止日期之前收到的所有合格申请。抽签后，将使用抽签名单来选择经济适用房出租单元的租户。在抽签时未被安排在单元中的合格申请人将按照抽签顺序被列入未来经济适用房空缺的候补名单中。

鼓励拥有租房券的家庭申请。  
这是一个平等的住房机会。

### Affordable Housing Lottery The Devon at Weiss Farm 168 Franklin Street, Stoneham, MA

YOU CAN COMPLETE AND SUBMIT A LOTTERY APPLICATION ONLINE HERE:



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

#### Monthly Rent Amounts

Seven (7) Studios - \$2,131; Twenty-Four (24) 1 Bedrooms - \$2,426

Twenty-Six (26) 2 Bedrooms - \$2,717; Eight (8) 3 Bedrooms - \$3,005 or \$3,009

Rents subject to change in future years. Tenants will pay the cost of gas heat and hot water, electric cooking, electricity, water, and sewer. One free parking space is included in the rent. Pets are permitted, subject to restrictions. Two pet limit per unit. Pet fee is \$50/month for cats and \$75/month for dogs.

The Devon at Weiss Farm is a newly constructed residential community of 259 apartments and townhomes located in Stoneham. Sixty-five (65) affordable units will be made available through this process to households earning no more than 80% of the Area Median Income. Sixty-three (63) of the affordable apartments will be located within three 5-story multifamily buildings. Each multifamily building is equipped with an elevator and will contain a mix of affordable apartments. An additional two (2) affordable apartments are townhomes which are located in separate, smaller buildings on the property. Apartments are bright and sunny with oversized windows, luxurious finishes, central air conditioning, and in-home washers and dryers. Residents will enjoy use of the community's clubhouse and fitness center, resident lounge, work from home spaces, maker studio, outdoor grills, seasonal swimming pool, parking, and smoke-free and pet-friendly living.

#### Maximum Household Income Limits

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

#### Public Info Session: March 18, 2025 at 6:00 pm via Zoom

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

#### Application Deadline: April 11, 2025 at 2:00 pm

Completed Applications must be completed online or postmarked by this date. Applications postmarked by the deadline must be received within 5 business days.

#### Lottery: April 29, 2025 at 6:00pm via Zoom

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

Attendance is not required at Info or Lottery sessions. To view the recorded sessions at a later date, please search for The Devon at Weiss Farm 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) 782-6900x1 and leave a message or postal mail SEB Housing, 257 Hillside Ave, Needham MA 02494. For TTY Services dial 711. Free translation available.

Traducción gratuita disponible. Tradução livre disponível.

YOU CAN COMPLETE AND SUBMIT A LOTTERY APPLICATION ONLINE HERE:

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



### Affordable Housing Lottery Court Crossing 132 Court Street, Plymouth, MA

Ten (10) 1 Bedrooms at \$2,324

Tenants will be responsible for the cost of the following utilities: electric heating, cooking, hot water, electricity. Water, sewer, and trash removal charges are included in the rent. Free parking is available for residents. One pet per household is permitted, subject to restrictions. Rents subject to change in future years.

Court Crossing is a brand-new rental development located in downtown Plymouth. There will be a total of 10 rental units within the building, all of which will be affordable apartments leased to households with incomes at or below 80% of the area median income. The apartments are conveniently located near the waterfront, local restaurants, shops, and museums. All units feature in-unit laundry, vinyl plank flooring, stainless steel appliances, quartz countertops and onsite parking.

#### Maximum Household Income Limits

\$91,200 (1 person), \$104,200 (2 people)

#### Public Info Session: March 12, 2025 at 6:00 pm via Zoom

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

#### Application Deadline: April 8, 2025 at 2:00 pm

Completed Applications must be delivered, or postmarked, by this date. Applications postmarked by the deadline must be received within 5 business days.

#### Lottery: April 24, 2025 at 6:00 pm via Zoom

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

Attendance is not required at Info or Lottery sessions. To view the recorded sessions at a later date, please search for Court Crossing 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 x3, then 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.



### Affordable Housing Lottery Artemas 5 Air Force Road, Everett, MA

YOU CAN COMPLETE AND SUBMIT A LOTTERY APPLICATION ONLINE HERE:



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

#### Affordable Rent Amounts

Twelve (12) Studios: \$2,035; Twenty-Eight (28) 1 Bedrooms: \$2,303; Nineteen (19) 2 Bedrooms: \$2,541  
\*Rents subject to change after first year. Tenants will pay for utilities: electricity (which is also used for heat and hot water in all units and for cooking in Studio units), gas cooking in 1BR & 2BR units, water, and sewer. Parking is available for residents for \$150/month per space. Pets are permitted. Two pet limit per unit. \$75/month pet fee.

Artemas is a brand-new development located in Everett. There will be fifty-nine (59) affordable apartments within the community that will be rented to households with incomes at or below 80% of the area median income through this application process. Units feature stainless steel appliances, quartz kitchen countertops, walk-in closets and showers, and wood-inspired flooring. Community amenities include multiple courtyards, a pool, fitness center, dog park, fire pits, grilling stations, resident lounge, club room with billiards, package lockers, and work-from-home spaces. The community is located less than one mile from the Wellington MBTA Orange Line station and is convenient to many local businesses and restaurants. First units are expected to be ready in April 2025.

#### Maximum Household Income Limits

\$91,200 (1 person), \$104,200 (2 people), \$117,250 (3 people) \$130,250 (4 people)

#### Public Informational Session

March 6, 2025 at 6:00 pm via Zoom

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

#### Application Deadline

March 31, 2025 at 2:00 pm

Applications must be completed online or postmarked by this date. Applications postmarked by the deadline must be received no later than 5 business days after the deadline.

#### Lottery

April 15, 2025 at 6:00pm via Zoom

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

Attendance is not required at Info or Lottery sessions. To view the recorded sessions at a later date, please search for Artemas 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) 782-6900x1 and leave a message or postal mail SEB Housing, 257 Hillside Ave, Needham MA 02494. For TTY Services dial 711. Free translation available.

Traducción gratuita disponible.

YOU CAN COMPLETE AND SUBMIT A LOTTERY APPLICATION ONLINE HERE:

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



### Affordable Housing Lottery

### NOBO 860 Broadway Saugus, MA

Sixteen 1BRs at \$2,315, Nine 2BRs at \$2,562

\* Rents subject to change after first year of lease. Tenants will pay for electricity (which is also used for heat, cooking, hot water), water, and sewer charges. One free parking space is included.

NOBO is a brand-new development located in Saugus. The community will contain a total of 245 rental units. 25 of the units will be affordable and will be rented to households with incomes at or below 80% of the area median income through this application process. The property's expansive clubhouse will feature a large, state-of-the-art fitness center with a yoga and cycling studio, resident lounge, and a juice/coffee bar area. The patio area will round out the luxurious amenities with a resort-style pool for residents to enjoy during the warmer months, an outdoor grill area, and a dog walk area. NOBO will offer a carefully planned mix of 1-and 2-bedroom units designed with the utmost attention to detail. From the chef-inspired kitchens with modern cabinetry and quartz countertops to the cutting-edge smart products woven throughout every apartment, every choice was carefully thought out to provide the ultimate living experience. Units are expected to be ready in the Spring of 2025.

#### Maximum Household Income Limits

\$91,200 (1 person), \$104,200 (2 people), \$117,250 (3 people), \$130,250 (4 people)

#### Application Deadline: April 7, 2025 at 2:00 pm

Completed Applications and Required Income Documentation must be delivered or postmarked by this date. Applications postmarked by the deadline must be received within 5 days.

Public Info Session: March 13, 2025 at 6:00 pm via Zoom. Go to Zoom.com, Join, or call (646) 558-8656 and enter Meeting ID: 818 9317 7595, Passcode: 088159

Lottery: April 23, 2025 at 6:00 pm via Zoom. Go to Zoom.com, Join, or call (646) 558-8656 and enter Meeting ID: 857 2736 5609, Passcode: 276410

Attendance is not required at Info or Lottery sessions. To view the recorded sessions at a later date, please search for NOBO 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) 782-6900x1 and leave a message or postal mail SEB Housing, 257 Hillside Ave, Needham MA 02494. For TTY Services dial 711. Free translation available. Traducción gratuita disponible.



**AFFORDABLE  
ONE BEDROOM CONDOMINIUM -  
(BY LOTTERY)**

**28 Juniper Street, apt 82, Brookline, MA**  
(638 sq. ft.) ("as is condition")  
Includes storage space and outdoor parking space.



Located near Brookline Village and Brookline Avenue. Third-floor access through stairs.  
Within walking distance of the MBTA "D" line and Bus routes 60, 65, and 66

Qualified households must complete a Preliminary Application, available at <https://www.brooklinema.gov/218/Affordable-Housing-Affordable-Housing-Opportunities> or by request from **Linda Hickey**, Housing Planner, at [lhickey@brooklinema.gov](mailto:lhickey@brooklinema.gov)

The unit will be offered only to a "first-time homebuyer" earning up to 80 percent of area median income who meets the following income and asset qualifications:

Number of Persons In Household	Maximum Annual Household Income	Discounted Affordable Price	Monthly Real Estate Taxes and Condo Fees <sup>2</sup>
1	\$ 91,200	\$215,722	RE Taxes \$19 Condo Fee \$358
2	\$104,200		

1. With few exceptions, applicant(s) should not have had an ownership interest in residential property within the past 3 years.
2. Estimates, subject to change. Condo Fee includes heat, hot water, gas, and parking.

**Book Review**

***In Sayaka Murata's***

By Christopher John Stephens

Sometimes the thrill of a strange novel comes in fits and starts. It's less thrilling in its explosive consistency than it is in its ability to sustain a mood, to build and maintain a premise. Sayaka Murata's new novel *Vanishing World* succeeds in more ways than it probably knows. It's a novel of suppositions. It's a speculative dystopian story in which society reproduces solely by artificial insemination. Traditional reproduction between a husband and wife is considered incest. As we come to understand late in the novel, "Men and women are now all the same, all wombs in service of the human race."

Call it speculative fiction, alternate reality, or science fiction, *Vanishing World* succeeds in every way as it lulls the reader into a disturbing complacency. Amane is a young woman raised by parents who brought her into the world the old fashioned way. It's a fact that repulses everybody else in society but intrigues Amane. The act of "loving" and the concept of "love" is manifested through anime characters or random partners, from childhood through adulthood. Matrimonial partners are found but they function

as siblings. Of all her anime fixations, Amane is adamant:

"None of them are at all disposable! All my lovers are important to me...they're all my heroes. Falling in love with them made me who I am..."

It's this idea of love and a woman's purpose in society that speaks through every element of Murata's literary sensibility and overall perspective. She reflected on this during a 2020 interview after the release of her breakthrough novel *Convenience Store Woman*.

"I was shocked when I was in university and people told me I had to search for a rich marriage partner and think about having children. If that's all university was for, what was the point of getting qualifications?"

The power of *The Vanishing World* rests in much more than just its strange premise. The 47 year old Murata spent nearly twenty years as a convenience store employee, in a relationship with a much older manager, pretending to "...act the way I thought a cute woman should act with an excess of femininity..."

**INCOME RESTRICTED RENTAL OPPORTUNITY  
71 SPENCER AVE, CHELSEA, MA 02150**

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS for  
One 1BR unit

AVAILABLE	PARTICULARS	AMI	RENT
(1) One Bedroom	3rd Floor	80% AMI	\$2442

You may qualify for a unit at 71 Spencer, if your annual income is equal to or less than:

Household Size	30 % AMI Max	50 % AMI Max	80 % AMI Max
1 Person	\$34,300	\$57,100	\$91,200
2 Person	\$38,200	\$65,300	\$104,200
3 Person	\$44,100	\$73,450	\$117,250
4 Person	\$48,950	\$81,600	\$130,250



Applications will be available ONLY ON THESE DAYS:  
February 13, 2025 to April 13, 2025

Reasonable Accommodations made -  
contact the Developer at 978-869-6363.

**TO APPLY ONLINE**



Scan the QR code with your phone or visit <https://bit.ly/3SU9CgV>

Use and Occupancy Restrictions apply. Preferences apply. Households should contain 1-4 persons.

The phone/computer versions are in English, Spanish, Bosnian, and Mandarin Chinese. For more info or reasonable accommodations, call or 978-869-6363 TTY/TDD: 711

**Equal Housing Opportunity**

IMPORTANT: You may only submit one application per household. Duplicate applications will be discarded and only one application per household will be accepted.

71 Spencer Ave, Chelsea, MA 02150



**Affordable Housing Lottery**

Alden's Reach

Miter Drive, Plymouth, MA

3 Bedroom Homes for \$323,600 (\$288/month condo fees)

**Alden's Reach** is a unique residential development located at the western end of Kathleen Drive in Plymouth MA. The development will eventually consist of 172 homes, a pool, pool building, victory gardens, half-court basketball court, and a tot lot. The project is situated off the desirable Shallow Pond Estates Subdivision in the Manomet section of Plymouth and sits on about 46 wooded acres of land with approximately 15 acres of open space. The project borders 3,000 Acres of Conservation and Town-owned property providing extensive walking paths. Affordable homes will come in a variety of unit styles and will be situated throughout the development. This lottery is for the four (4) affordable units being offered in Phase 2A of this development, on Miter Drive.

**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)

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

**Public Info Session**

March 20, 2025 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**

April 14, 2025 at 2:00 pm Completed Applications and Mortgage Pre-Approvals must be received by this date.

**Lottery**

April 30, 2025 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 Alden's Reach 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

Book Review

# World, Love Is Stranger Than Fiction

Her homeland of Japan had changed since she was a child. More than three million women had entered the workforce in the second decade of the 21st century. 68% of both sexes felt no need to marry. Women made up only 1% of senior managers, 4% of boardroom directors, and 10% of politicians in the nation's lower house.

It's within this socio-political context that *The Vanishing World* is propelled. Amane is a young woman who craves carnality in a society where physical intimacy is not prioritized. "Sex and love will soon disappear altogether," we learn. "Now that babies are all made by artificial insemination, there's no need to go to all that trouble."

Murata understands that Amane's is the best voice through which to tell this story, and that's what makes it so jarring. The routine, mundane way she relates the act of physical intimacy makes the reader see it as purely an obligatory function. Amane gets set up by a matchmaker at twenty-five and quickly runs away after he tries to consummate the marriage. Once divorced, Amane continues to experiment and explore.

She'd been repulsed by the traditional manner in which she's been born, but carnal desire and a sense of adventure gets the best of her.

Eventually, with a new partner by her side, she starts the process of going to Experiment City (Paradise-Eden). Once there, a series of randomly selected men will be picked to receive an artificial womb and carry a fetus to term. Amane is deeply connected with her partner Mizuto. They share love in traditional and numerous ways. "I've cursed you with love and sex, remember it!" she yells at him during a down period in their relationship. Mizuto soon tells Amane the truth. He finds intimacy difficult. They remain together, but solely as husband and wife in this society in which intimacy is considered incest.

Once we get to Experiment City, (Part Three), *Vanishing World* evokes Ira Levin's *The Stepford Wives* and Kazuro Ishiguro's *Never Let Me Go*. Like those novelists, Murata knows how to create a sterilized and antiseptic world of fluorescent lights and pure, wrinkle-free fabric. In Experiment City, all the children born of artificial insemination and

from a man's artificial womb are perfect. These kodomo-chans are all "...dressed in white smocks...hair cut in identical bobs reaching just below their ears." Their gender identity was difficult to distinguish, but their warm disposition and beatific grins were in keeping with how they addressed the adults. In Experiment City, everybody was addressed as "Mother." The ideal of "equality," it seems, had been reached.

There's nothing sentimental about *Vanishing World*. For Amane, "...the system we called 'family' was just one of many systems we had for breeding..." She fears she is fitting into the world of Experiment City far too well. If there's any line that best encompasses this novel, it's this: "Normality is the creepiest madness there is." In the story's prologue Amane and her partner considered themselves the opposite of Adam and Eve, but by the end they had returned to paradise. The only problem is the finality. Their fates had been sealed:

"Men and women were now all the same, all wombs in service to the human race.

The inaudible music of rightness played over our heads, controlling

us."

Who are the monsters in this novel? Who are the humans? Amane's mother reminds her daughter that you can't run away from your instincts to love, to procreate in the most natural way. If we are all monsters, then we still live under the dictates of normalcy.

As with all novels dependent on mood and tone and an effective English translation, the translator needs to be a sympathetic and reliable partner in the process, Ginny Taply Takemori understands that the most effective translation is equal parts interpretation. "By trying to be too faithful to the original," she reflects, "you can actually betray it..." You make way in English for a voice that's doing something that hasn't been done before, even in Japanese." Takemori is a sympathetic partner in the process of bringing *Vanishing World* to the English-speaking world. This is a chilling, difficult novel to absorb, not in the words used or the worlds explored, but rather the stability of its routine plot. In a world where Vice President J.D. Vance tells a crowd of March for Life supporters at a January 2025 rally "I want more babies in America," the darkness of Sayaka Murata's *Vanishing World* seems closer to reality in 2025.

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