

THE **ASIAN COMMUNITY** FUND
AT THE BOSTON FOUNDATION



*Advancing Equity, Visibility,
and Solidarity*



ABOUT THE ASIAN COMMUNITY FUND

The Asian Community Fund (ACF) at the Boston Foundation is the first and only philanthropic fund in Massachusetts dedicated to activating, convening, and supporting the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. Launched in 2020, ACF is a permanent resource designed to galvanize and unite the diverse ethnicities within our community, incubate new partnerships, and build a stronger advocacy voice. The Fund seeks to mobilize and support AAPI residents, businesses, and community organizations, and collaborate with other communities of color and oppressed communities to overcome injustice and racism.

THE VISION

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The Asian Community Fund aims to be the connective tissue that bridges our region's rich landscape of AAPI residents, businesses, and community organizations. We see a future where AAPI residents in Massachusetts and our neighbors overcome systemic gaps in health and wealth, to thrive together.

Our Approach

Research shows that in the past 30 years, just 0.2% of philanthropic funding has gone to the AAPI community, during a time when AAPI residents have grown to 7.2% of the national population and nearly 10% of the population in Greater Boston. ACF's work focuses on strengthening community capabilities and building a organizing platform to support and advance AAPI interests.

ACF partners closely with nonprofit organizations, funders, government leaders, and the business community to incubate new partnerships and programming, galvanize Asian philanthropy, and advance systemic change.

As a field of interest fund at the Boston Foundation, ACF benefits greatly from the robust infrastructure, top-notch investment team, and civic leadership platform of one of the largest and oldest community foundations in the nation.





ACF IS A CONVENER

Over the past year, the Asian Community Fund has emerged as a go-to connector and activator of diverse AAPI residents and community organizations, building powerful bridges across different Asian ethnicities and urban and suburban communities. A sampling of ACF's 2022 programs and community events can be found below.

2022 Event Highlights

- **MARCH 24, 2022** – Organized the region's signature town hall, *We Rise Together: Asian Resilience, Power, & Solidarity*, to commemorate the one-year anniversary of the Atlanta spa shooting and outline action steps to advance AAPI community power. Headlined by Boston and Cambridge Mayors Michelle Wu and Sumbul Siddiqui, the event featured 14 local and national AAPI speakers, provided live translation in four Asian languages, and reached 565 community members – 68% of whom had never before attended a Boston Foundation event.
- **APRIL 14, 2022** – Convened a Massachusetts AAPI stakeholder briefing and listening session for Krystal Ka'ai, Executive Director of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (WHIAANHPI), in partnership with APIAVote and Commonwealth Seminar.
- **MAY 5, 2022** – Co-hosted an AAPI Heritage Month celebration and small business walking tour for Congresswoman Katherine Clark, in partnership with the Greater Malden Asian American Community Coalition, South Cove Community Health Center, and the U.S. Small Business Administration. The walking tour included stops at three Malden businesses – Ming's Restaurant, Maria's Hair Salon, and Wah Lum Kung Fu & Tai Chi Academy – and highlighted the ongoing needs facing small business owners coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic.



- **MAY 15, 2022** – Organized an AAPI Celebration Day Rally on Boston Common, in partnership with the New England Chinese American Alliance (NECAA), the Coalition for Anti-Racism, Equity, Justice in Education (CARE), and 30+ AAPI-led organizations statewide.
- **MAY 26, JUNE 2, & JUNE 9, 2022** – Delivered three Bystander Intervention Trainings to Stop Anti-Asian Harassment, in partnership with Right to Be, Asian Americans Advancing Justice – AAJC, the MA House Asian Caucus, and MA AAPI Commission. This training series, simultaneously translated in three Asian languages, empowered 500 AAPI residents, allies, and supporters across the region with concrete steps that they can take if they experience or witness incidents of anti-Asian hate.
- **SEPTEMBER 10, 2022** – Coordinated a small business walking tour and community listening session in Quincy for August Moon Festival, in partnership with City Councilor Nina Liang and South Cove Community Health Center. Government officials including Speaker Ronald Mariano, State Senator John Keenan, Representative Tackey Chan, Quincy Mayor Thomas Koch, and City Council President Noel DiBona attended the event.
- **OCTOBER 27, 2022** – Hosted a virtual kick-off forum for the Asian Business Empowerment Council, highlighting the voices and stories of local AAPI business owners and featuring a panel comprised of Cambridge City Manager Yi-An Huang, Boston's Chief of Economic Inclusion & Opportunity Segun Idowu, and Irene Li, the owner of Mei Mei Dumplings.



ACF IS A CATALYZER

As an incubating foundation, the Asian Community Fund mobilizes the AAPI nonprofit and business ecosystem to address shared challenges, build partnerships, and expand innovations. In 2022, ACF seeded and launched two new initiatives, catalyzing powerful connections and building robust networks for collaboration, knowledge sharing, and shared advocacy.

AAPI Mental Health Collaborative

Since March 2022, ACF has convened two dozen AAPI nonprofit organizations, mental health experts and advocates to identify gaps and opportunities in addressing the mental and behavioral health needs of AAPI residents. Feedback from these preliminary meetings revealed a collective desire to continue these discussions and co-develop solutions.

In June 2022, ACF formalized this network as the **AAPI Mental Health Collaborative**, seeding the initiative with \$130,000. Specifically, ACF is supporting capacity of 12 local AAPI nonprofits to meet monthly over one year to identify, co-develop, and pilot potential mental/behavioral health innovations. From these discussions, AAPI nonprofit leaders have conceptualized and developed an initial pilot project to address the workforce development gap of multilingual, multicultural clinical supervisors. With a commitment of \$50,000, ACF will support the launch of this pilot project in 2023 and fund a pool of secondary clinicians who can provide supervision across AAPI community nonprofits.

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS





Asian Business Empowerment Council (ABEC)

In May 2022, ACF formally launched the Asian Business Empowerment Council (ABEC) – a new venture, grown out of ACF’s strategic pillar focused on small business technical assistance and advocacy. ABEC aims to coordinate and unify a vibrant community of business owners, entrepreneurs, service providers, and advocates to build a strong collective voice for Asian-owned businesses across Massachusetts.

ABEC’s launch was also the focus of Shirley Leung’s column: “Local Asian American Business Owners Get Group to Call Their Own” in the *Boston Globe* on May 30, 2022. In the year ahead, ABEC plans to seed new research on the economic impact of Asian-owned businesses, mobilize a strong base of AAPI business leaders, and advocate for increased access to capital and technical assistance opportunities.

**ASIAN BUSINESS
EMPOWERMENT
COUNCIL**
AT THE BOSTON FOUNDATION



As my husband and I are both self-employed and Asian Americans, it was the first time I truly felt like I belonged in a group. Thank you for lifting our voices and bringing awareness to the resources available here in Massachusetts.

– Small Business Owner & Attendee of
10/27 ABEC Forum





ACF IS A CAPACITY BUILDER

In 2022, ACF also supported existing AAPI-led nonprofit organizations through grantmaking, program design and implementation. ACF issued its first round of grantmaking in June 2022, announcing an investment of \$235,000 to 33 community organizations serving the local AAPI community and advancing an equitable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Importantly, half of these organizations have never previously received grant funding from the Boston Foundation, suggesting that ACF is effectively reaching and supporting emerging AAPI-led community organizations that otherwise might not be on the radar of more mainstream philanthropy.

2022 GRANTEES

- Asian American Resource Workshop (AARW)
- Asian Community Development Corporation (ACDC)
- Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence (ATASK)
- Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center (BCNC)
- Boston Little Saigon
- CAIR Massachusetts
- Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association (CMAA)
- Chinatown Business Association
- Chinatown Main Street
- Community Protection Initiative (fiscal sponsor: CMAA)
- Educational Divide Reform, Inc.
- Enhance Asian Community on Health, Inc.
- Friends of Indian Senior Citizen Organization (FISCO)
- Greater Boston Chinese Golden Age Center
- Greater Malden Asian American Community Coalition (GMAACC)
- India Association of Greater Boston
- Iskwelahang Pilipino
- Japanese Bostonians Support Line (JB Line), Inc.
- MA Asian + Pacific Islanders (MAP) for Health
- New England Bangladeshi American Foundation (NEBAF), Inc.
- Pakistan Association of Greater Boston (PAGB)
- Philippine-American Mainstream Advocacy for Nonpartisan Associations, Inc. (PAMANA)
- Quincy Asian Resources, Inc. (QARI)
- Ricesticks and Tea (fiscal sponsor: Asian American Civic Association)
- Saffron Circle (fiscal sponsor: Boston Foundation)
- Saheli
- South Asian Workers' Center
- Southeast Asian Coalition of Central Massachusetts (SEACMA)
- Vietnamese American Community of Massachusetts, Inc.
- VietAid
- Volunteering for Seniors, Inc.
- Women of Color Entrepreneurs, Inc. (fiscal sponsor: Impact Hub)
- Women Who Win



OUR SUPPORTERS

The Asian Community Fund is powered by a growing network of individual and institutional donors, working together to catalyze powerful partnerships across the region's AAPI nonprofit and business sectors. We are deeply grateful for their vision, leadership, and generosity. The following list reflects all gifts and pledges to ACF as of December 2022.

\$1,000,000+

- Eastern Bank Foundation
- The Four Lucky Dogs Foundation

\$250,000-\$999,999

- Barr Foundation
- The Boston Foundation
- Paul W. Lee
- Point32 Health Foundation

\$100,000-\$249,999

- Anonymous
- Baiwan Fund I
- Nick and Eva Chau
- Helen Chin Schlichte
- Jeffrey Hsi and Amy Wagenfeld
- Dwight and Kirsten Poler

\$50,000-\$99,999

- Anonymous (2)
- Asian Healthcare Foundation of Massachusetts
- Thomas and May Y Chin
- Selina and Joseph Chow
- John and Stephanie Fan
- Vincent W. Lau
- Rebecca A. Lee
- South Cove Community Health Center, Inc.



As our world becomes more difficult to navigate, we AAPI must come together to help those of us who suffer from the inequities of background and circumstances. This is our moment – we cannot allow the forces of hate and ignorance to divide us. Helping our fellow AAPI today will assure future generations can stand on our shoulders to achieve what we all want – a decent life for our families. As the first of its kind in New England, we cannot afford to ignore the Asian Community Fund's call to action.

- Liz Cheng

General Manager of TV, GBH and WORLD Channel
Donor to the Asian Community Fund





\$25,000-\$49,999

Anonymous
 Stephen Chan and Timothy Schofield
 Hung and Jill Tsui Cheng
 Jeffrey and Daria Cho
 Clark R. Smith Family Foundation
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 Renee Inomata and Paul Lee
 Sarah G. Kim
 Debbie Lau Kee
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 L. Owen Smith
 Elaine Tung and Dave Corcoran
 Nancy Wang Adams and Scott A. Schoen
 Tom and Linda Workman
 Perry Wu and Grace Kao
 Diane Young-Spitzer and Lorry Spitzer
 Emily K. Yu



As a first generation business owner and son of immigrants, I had no role models and mentors within my family to advise me on how to run a business. What helped me the most has been the guidance from other AAPI professionals in my community who have taken the initiative to ensure that I succeed professionally and personally. The Asian Community Fund rests on these same principles, and I support the ACF because it allows me to pay it forward.

- Vincent W. Lau
 Managing Partner, Clark Lau LLC
 Donor to the Asian Community Fund



\$5,000-\$24,999

Anonymous
 Alice L. McDougall Donor Advised Fund
 Liz Cheng
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 In honor of Kwang Lim and Hesung Koh
 Richard Lui and Helen Chin Lui
 The Morrison & Foerster Foundation
 David and Ivy Nagahiro
 Northern Trust Corporation
 Bruce and Emily Stangle
 Geoffrey and Annamarie Why

\$1,000-\$4,999

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 Renee Lin
 Tammy Lin
 RSF Social Finance
 Ed Sevilla
 Suhrbier Family Fund
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 Lisa Wong



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Up to \$999

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Alan Strauss
Nancy Upp Potter
Paul Watanabe
Edward and Barbara Wierzbicki
Shaw Yang
Gilbert Yap
Christina Yoon
Larry Yu
Kelly Zamarian

YOUR CONTRIBUTION SUPPORTS:

- Public forums and convenings that foster a sense of belonging and raise awareness of the challenges and opportunities facing the AAPI community
- New partnerships that leverage the strength of the AAPI nonprofit and business sectors to advance policy change
- Community-wide trainings that empower AAPI residents and our allies to respond in the face of heightened anti-Asian racism and violence
- Grantmaking to nonprofit organizations that provide critical services to our diverse AAPI community

ACF LEADERSHIP

The ACF is overseen by a six-person Steering Committee that supports the strategy development, execution, and oversight of the Fund's activities. The **Steering Committee** includes:

Paul W. Lee, Chair
Retired Partner, Goodwin Procter LLP; Director, The Boston Foundation

Helen Chin Schlichte
Former Public Administrator; Co-Founder and President Emerita, South Cove Manor

Renee Inomata
*Partner
Casner & Edwards, LLP*

Stephen Chan
*Chief of Staff
Northeastern University*

Raj Melville
*Executive Director
Deshpande Foundation*

Ed Sevilla
*Senior Vice President
Grenzebach Glier + Associates*

The Steering Committee is supported by an **Advisory Committee** comprised of the following leaders from the AAPI community:

Kimberly Blakemore
*Director of Environmental Sustainability
Analog Devices*

Sarah G. Kim
*General Counsel
Office of the MA Treasurer and Receiver General*

Shu (Nick) Chau
*Founder and President
Tai Tung Realty, Inc.*

Elaine Ng
*Executive Director
TSNE MissionWorks*

Pam Y. Eddinger, Ph.D.
*President
Bunker Hill Community College*

Imari Paris Jeffries
*Executive Director
Embrace Boston*

Peter Nien-chu Kiang, Ph.D.
*Professor and Director of the Asian American Studies Program
UMass Boston*

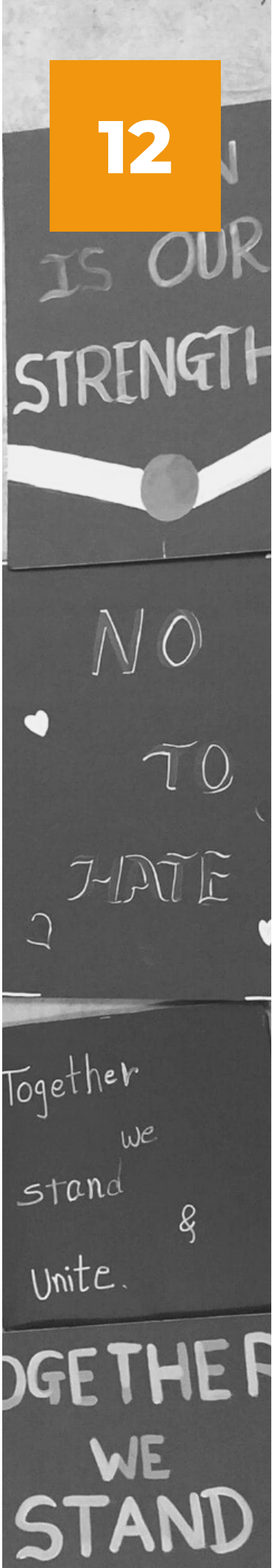
Sophan Smith
*Executive Director, Lowell
EforAll (Entrepreneurship for All)*

Jeffrey Hsi, Ph.D.
*Shareholder
Wolf Greenfield & Sacks, P.C.*

Two full-time **Staff Members** manage the operations and objectives of ACF and ABEC. As Director of the Asian Community Fund, Danielle Kim oversees the strategic goals and deliverables of ACF, including fund development, convening, grantmaking, and program incubation.

In May 2022, ACF hired Qingjian (Q.J.) Shi as the Director of the Asian Business Empowerment Council to cultivate and coordinate the AAPI business community, advance economic empowerment, and increase opportunities for economic growth and success. In 2023, ACF intends to hire a Program Associate to support ACF/ABEC's operations and expand our outreach and convening capacity.

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THE OPPORTUNITY

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This is a critical moment for the AAPI community locally and nationally. The past two years have seen a rise in anti-Asian violence and exposed the limited public understanding of and resources devoted to meeting the diverse needs of AAPI residents, especially low-income, limited English proficient and immigrant communities. In Greater Boston, with now nearly 1 in 10 residents and 1 in 3 people of color identifying as AAPI, the opportunity and need to build collective power and advocacy capacity for our fast-growing community has never been greater.

JOIN THE MOVEMENT

With your help, AAPI leaders will be at the table with decision makers in Boston and throughout Massachusetts and included in the board rooms, legislative chambers, and community spaces where policies are made. To achieve this vision, ACF is launching a fundraising campaign with a working goal of \$10 million to ignite transformational investments and partnerships within the local AAPI nonprofit and business ecosystem.

Together, we can drive new resources, research, and advocacy that make every AAPI resident in our region feel seen, heard, and treasured. Join ACF in building this movement and harnessing the collective power of the local AAPI community.





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**ASIAN BUSINESS
EMPOWERMENT
COUNCIL**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:



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