



2018

ANNUAL REPORT



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Asian American Commission

PREPARED BY

**JENNY CHIANG,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

www.aacommission.org

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The Asian American Commission (AAC) is a Massachusetts Commission established under section 68 of chapter 3 of the Massachusetts General Laws, which went into effect on October 29, 2006. The AAC was formed in recognition of the General Court's findings that Asian Americans constitute the fastest growing minority population in both the Commonwealth and the United States, that they represent a diverse population within the Commonwealth, and that many members of the Asian American community have overcome great hardship and made outstanding contributions to the educational, economic, technological, and cultural well-being of the Commonwealth, but still face many challenges in their efforts for full social, economic, and political integration within the Commonwealth.

The AAC is a permanent body dedicated to advocacy on behalf of Asian Americans throughout Massachusetts. The Commission's goal is to recognize and highlight the vital contributions of Asian Americans to the social, cultural, economic, and political life of the Commonwealth; to identify and address the needs and challenges facing residents of Asian ancestry; and to promote the well-being of this dynamic and diverse community, thereby advancing the interests of all persons who call Massachusetts home.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

COMMISSIONERS

Chairperson

Wingkay Leung

Vice Chairperson

Vira Douangmany Cage

Treasurer

Mabel Lam

Secretary

Dimple J. Rana

Jonjy Ananth

Nick Chau

Mary Chin

Elisa Choi

Loan Thi Dao

Gilbert Ho

Ivy Ho

Vanna Howard

Pralhad KC

Mary K. Y. Lee

Nina Liang

Chung Liu

John Naranja

Anil Saigal

Kimberly Truong

Ying Wang

Executive Director

Jenny Chiang

One Ashburton Place

12th Floor

Boston, MA 02108

www.aacommission.org

Dear Friends and Supporters,

The end of 2018 concludes my first full year as Executive Director of the Asian American Commission (AAC). I feel incredibly privileged to be on this journey to grow alongside the Commission. This past year we reflected on our historical collective impact and encountered new challenges that set a precedent for our strategic direction in the years to come.

Our dedicated team of volunteer Commissioners stem from unique ethnic and geographic backgrounds, which are integral to the Commission's success. We're also fortunate to have the support of our appointing authorities that work to ensure the Commission represents the best interests of Asian Americans throughout the Commonwealth.

This report highlights AAC's staple programming throughout the year including; the Seventh Annual Young Leaders Symposium, the Traveling Resource Fair, the Health and Human Services Community Advisory Roundtable, the Third Annual Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Civil Rights Forum, the Second Annual Advocacy Day, and the Twelfth Annual Unity Dinner. These fundamental events throughout the year intrinsically help us reveal challenges faced by the AAPI community and strengthen our partnerships to help us fuel new initiatives and understanding.

In 2019, the AAC hopes to concentrate efforts to advocate for increased AAPI visibility throughout the state. The AAC plans to continue expanding presence in Western Massachusetts, address problem gambling within Asian communities, and leverage local AAPI issues to the state legislature.

We are especially grateful to the continued support and collaboration from community leaders, elected officials, and sponsors that have allowed us create an impact in the Commonwealth. I'm excited to see what 2019 brings and look forward to building on our work together.

Sincerely,



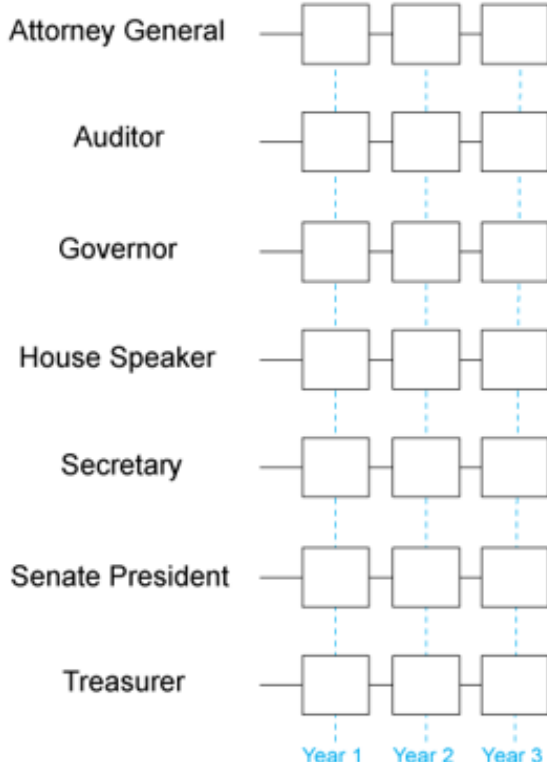
Jenny Chiang
Executive Director

COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

First	Last	Career Field	Appointing Authority	Term Ends
Joniv	Ananth	Health	Senate President	2019
Nick	Chau	Real Estate	Attorney General	2018
Mary	Chin	Community	Governor	2019
Elisa	Choi	Health	Treasurer	2018
Loan T.	Dao	Education	Auditor	2019
Vira	Douangmany Cage	Community	Senate President	2018
Gilbert	Ho	Community	Secretary of State	2019
Ivy	Ho	Education	House Speaker	2019
Vanna	Howard	Community	Auditor	2020
Pralhad	KC	Community	Governor	2018
Mabel	Lam	Health	Treasurer	2020
Mary K.Y.	Lee	Law	Governor	2020
Wingkay	Leung	Community	Secretary of State	2018
Nina	Liang	Government	Auditor	2019
Chung	Liu	Community	Senate President	2019
John	Naranja	Law	Auditor	2019
Dimple J.	Rana	Community	House Speaker	2018
Anil	Saigal	Media	Treasurer	2020
Kimberly	Truong	Education	House Speaker	2020
Ying	Wang	Law	Attorney General	2020

7 appointing authorities,
each may appoint
3 Commissioners

21 Commissioners
may be appointed



Commissioners are appointed by the following appointing authorities: Attorney General, Auditor, Governor, House Speaker, Secretary, Senate President, and Treasurer. Each may appoint three individuals for a total of 21 Commissioners.

At the end of each year, seven Commissioners' terms will expire. They may be renewed or be replaced. Each Commissioner is limited to two consecutive terms with a maximum of six years of service. This staggered system ensures that many have the opportunity to serve.

Nominations for members are solicited by the appointing authorities and the Commission from August 1 to September 16 of each year. Appointments are ultimately decided by the seven appointing authorities.



OUR LATEST NUMBERS

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

*Calendar year 2018
(January 1, 2018 - December 31, 2018)*

REVENUE

Government* \$80,000
 Grants & Contracts \$45,200
 Special Events \$40,405
 Interest Income \$719
Total \$166,324

EXPENSES

Programming \$20,264
 Fundraising \$14,022
 Contributions \$6,100
 Administrative Support \$55,503
Total \$95,889

*Note: government funding reflects FY19
(July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019)

2018 Supporters

South Cove Community Health Center
 Asian Community Development Corporation
 Association of Harvard Asian & Asian American Faculty & Staff
 Bunker Hill Community College
 Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association
 Castle Square Tenants Organization
 Chinatown Main Street
 Community Based Learning Program of Holyoke College
 Eastern Bank
 East West Bank
 Ekal Vidyalaya
 Element Care
 Enterprise Bank
 Five College, Inc.

John Hancock Financial Services
 Joslin Asian American Diabetes Initiative
 Korean-American Citizens League
 Law Offices of Trupti N. Patel & Associates
 Leader Bank
 Lowell Community health Center
 Philippine Medical Association of New England
 Tai Tung Realty & Pharmacy
 Tufts Medical Center
 Wheelock Family Theatre
 UMass Lowell Asian American Studies
 UMass Amherst Department of History
 UMass Amherst Massachusetts Society of Professors
 UMass Amherst Civic Engagements & Service Learning



YOUNG LEADERS SYMPOSIUM *"Leadership through Social Justice"*

In partnership with the Vietnamese American Initiative for Development, the AAC hosted its 7th Annual Young Leaders Symposium (YLS) on Saturday, September 22, 2018. The morning welcomed remarks from our keynote speaker, Dr. C.N. Le, Director of the Asian and Asian American Studies Certificate Program at UMass Amherst.

This year's theme was "Leadership through Social Justice." The opportunities featured throughout the day encouraged youth and young professionals to stay civically engaged and connected to their communities. The day featured workshops facilitated by AAC's Health & Human Services Committee, Coco Alinsug (Fenway Health), Jeffrey Lau & Wendy Jamsri, and A-VOYCE (Asian Community Development Corporation).

We were excited to announce our scholarship winners, Cindy Tao, Michelle Nguyen, and Julia Mei! This year, two additional scholarships were made possible by Asian American Commissioner, Mabel S. Lam, PhD. The additional scholarships were donated in memory of Dr. Lam's mother, May Thin Suey Lew. In the short 51 years of her life, May was a strong community supporter and advocate. In honor of May and her work, we considered candidates who wish to continue their studies towards a career in health, human or social services and/or civic engagement, and have a passion for giving back to the AAPI communities in Massachusetts.



HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES



The AAC's Health and Human Services (HHS) Committee continues its advocacy efforts this year to raise awareness about AAPI health disparities. We work to advocate on behalf of various behavioral health issues, including depression and suicide prevention, problem addictions (such as compulsive gambling), and other conditions affecting the AAPI community disproportionately (post-traumatic stress disorder in Southeast Asians).

On March 29, 2018, AAC convened its second annual Health and Human Services Community Advisory Group Meeting. The AAC welcomed community leaders and healthcare professionals to convene and discuss health issues seen within the AAPI community. The space provided an opportunity for the AAC and its partners to collectively target and build a better understanding of health issues apparent in the community and strategize collaborative efforts to address them



AAC was proud to continue its support of the 9th Annual Asian American Mental Health Forum, "My Identity, Our Community: Together Fostering Mental Wellness & Resilience in Today's World."



ADVOCACY DAY

The AAC convened its second annual Advocacy Day on Thursday, November 15 at the Massachusetts State House, Great Hall. Thank you to our cosponsors, Southeast Asian Resource Action Center (SEARAC) and the Office of Rep. Tackey Chan. The event convened Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) serving community-based organizations across the state for one-day legislative training facilitated by the Massachusetts Voter Table.

The morning session featured keynote speaker, Dr. Phitsamay Uy (University of Massachusetts Lowell), to speak on this critical political moment for AAPIs in Massachusetts. A panel discussion featured Dr. Elisa Choi (AAC), Cynthia Mark (Chief, Fair Labor Division, Office of Attorney General Maura Healey), and Bethany Li (Senior Staff Attorney, Greater Boston Legal Services Asian Outreach Unit). The panelists provided an overview of the impact of immigration policies, healthcare, and economic disparities, including housing, educational access, and worker exploitation on AAPI communities.

The afternoon session provided an opportunity for community organizations to gain skills on how to conduct legislative visits and effectively advocate for the needs of the community. Following the training, participants proceeded to legislative visits and shared information to legislators on the growing and diversifying needs of the Asian American community.





Sunday, February 11, 2018
Springfield Vietnamese Lunar New Year
The Cedars Hall, Springfield, MA

Saturday, April 28, 2018
Khmer New Year Community Fair 2018
Lynn Commons, Lynn, MA

Thursday, May 24, 2018
Eastern Bank Celebration of Asian American Women Leaders
Aloft Boston Seaport District



Saturday, June 23, 2018
2nd Annual Filipino Festival
Malden YMCA

Sunday, June 24, 2018
Southeast Asian Coalition's 15th Annual Asian Festival
Worcester State University, Worcester, MA



Sunday, August 12, 2018
Chinatown August Moon Festival
Boston Chinatown

Saturday, August 18, 2018
Lowell Southeast Asian Water Festival
Pawtucket Blvd, Lowell, MA

Sunday, August 19, 2018
Quincy August Moon Festival
Coddington St., Downtown Quincy

RESOURCE FAIRS

Our traveling resource fair launched in 2012 and serves to bring information about state and federal resources to AAPI residents across the Commonwealth. These resources include information and support on topics such as health awareness, small business administration, equal employment, and more. In 2018, AAC participated in resources fairs in Chinatown, Lowell, Lynn, Quincy, Springfield, and Worcester.



The 3rd annual AAPI Civil Rights Forum was held on Friday, Oct 26 at the Federal Reserve Plaza in Boston. The morning featured welcome remarks by Keynote Speakers, Kim Yonghyon (Consul General of the Republic of Korea), Rokuichiro Michii (Consul General of Japan), and Douglas Hsu (Director General, Taipei Economic and Cultural Office).

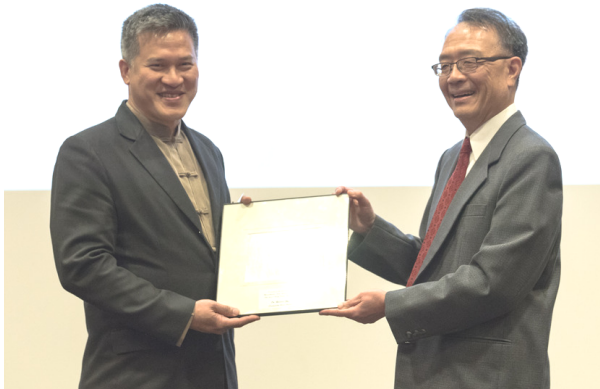
Ten panels took place throughout the day on topics including, Southeast Asians in Massachusetts, Model Minority Myth, Human Trafficking, and AAPI health disparities. The lunch panel featured Rep. Tackey Chan and Rep. Keiko Orrall representing the Massachusetts Asian Caucus.

Adele Free Pham, Director of 'Nailed It' helped close the day with clips of her documentary and a narrative of her journey as a mixed race individual exploring the success of the current Vietnamese American owned nail industry.



UNITY DINNER

The Unity Dinner serves to celebrate the achievements of Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders (AAPI) around the Commonwealth and to raise the funds to carry out the Commission's advocacy work. Each year's theme explores a trend that heavily influences our economic, political, and social standings. The AAC highlighted the extraordinary work of individuals and organizations within the Asian American community of the state at our Twelfth Annual Unity Dinner.



COMMUNITY HERO AWARD

Dr. Richard Chu, Five College Associate Professor of History: Professor Chu's research focuses on the history of the Chinese and Chinese mestizos in the Philippines and the different Chinese diasporic communities in the world, centering on issues of ethnicity, gender, and nationalism.

LEADERSHIP FOR INCLUSION & DIVERSITY AWARD

Wheelock Family Theatres' upholds commitment to diversity, accessibility, youth education, and professional development. The Wheelock Family Theatre's work helps provide an experience for any and all families with its multicultural and inclusive productions.



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

An education technology expert, Ranjani Saigal has helped oversee the introduction of various technology teaching programs and course management platforms at MIT. She is currently the executive director of Ekal Vidyalaya, non-profit organization involved in education and village development in rural areas of India.



*LUNAR NEW YEAR AT
THE STATE HOUSE*



SIGNING OF H.3360
*AN ACT DESIGNATING MAY AS ASIAN
AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER MONTH*



AAC LISTENING TOUR

UMASS CENTER, SPRINGFIELD, MA



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Asian American Commission**

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