



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Asian American Commission

ANNUAL REPORT

PREPARED BY
JENNY CHIANG, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



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ABOUT THE COMMISSION

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

The year 2019 marks the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Asian American Commission's (AAC) 13th year in the community and my second year with the AAC. This year has been historic for the Commission; we expanded our staffing capacity for the first time in history, elected a geographically and ethnically diverse executive leadership team, and invested resources to further engage with AAPI communities in Western Massachusetts.

This report highlights AAC's staple programming throughout the year, including the Eighth Annual Young Leaders Symposium, the Fourth Annual Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Civil Rights Forum, and the Thirteenth Annual Unity Dinner. These signature events throughout the year help us illuminate challenges facing the AAPI community and strengthen partnerships to fuel new initiatives and understanding.

In 2020, the AAC hopes to continue advocacy efforts in Western Massachusetts and cultivate best practices to strategically invest in building AAPI visibility throughout the Commonwealth. The AAC plans to implement community listening sessions, strengthen partnerships, and focus efforts on collective impact to ensure voices in the community are being heard.

It has been a privilege to work alongside some of the most passionate, dedicated, and supportive Commissioners, community leaders, and elected officials. The AAC is especially grateful to the State Treasurer's office for housing the AAC over the years. I'm excited for what's ahead of us and honored to continue carrying on the legacy of the AAC.

Sincerely,



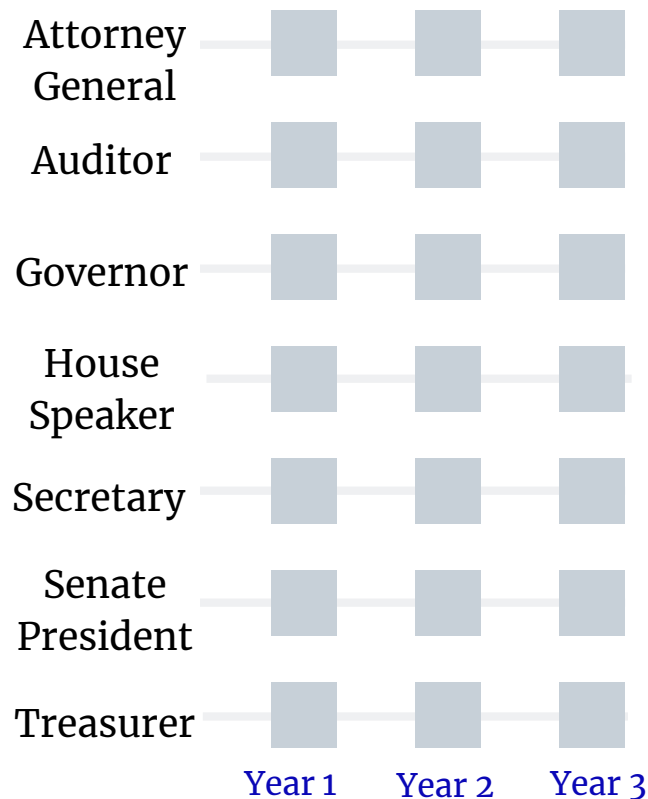
Jenny Chiang
Executive Director

COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

| First | Last | Career Field | Appointing Authority | Term Ends |
|------------|-----------------|--------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Jonjy | Ananth | Health | Senate President | 2019 |
| Meenakshi | Bharath | Community | Senate President | 2021 |
| Bora | Chiemruom | Business | Attorney General | 2021 |
| Mary | Chin | Community | Governor | 2019 |
| Loan | Dao | Education | Auditor | 2019 |
| Vira | Douangmany Cage | Community | Treasurer | 2021 |
| Gilbert | Ho | Community | Secretary of State | 2018 (holdover) |
| Ivy | Ho | Education | House Speaker | 2019 |
| Vanna | Howard | Community | Auditor | 2020 |
| Pralhad | KC | Community | Governor | 2020 |
| Nate Bae | Kupel | Community | Attorney General | 2021 |
| Mabel | Lam | Health | Treasurer | 2020 |
| Mary K. Y. | Lee | Law | Governor | 2020 |
| Wingkay | Leung | Community | Secretary of State | 2018 (holdover) |
| Nina | Liang | Government | Auditor | 2019 |
| Chung | Liu | Community | Senate President | 2019 |
| Dimple J. | Rana | Community | House Speaker | 2021 |
| Anil | Saigal | Education | Treasurer | 2019 |
| Philjay | Solar | Law | Auditor | 2019 |
| Kimberly | Truong | Community | 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, 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. Commissioners who have served the max term may be on holdover until a replacement is appointed. 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.

FINANCIALS

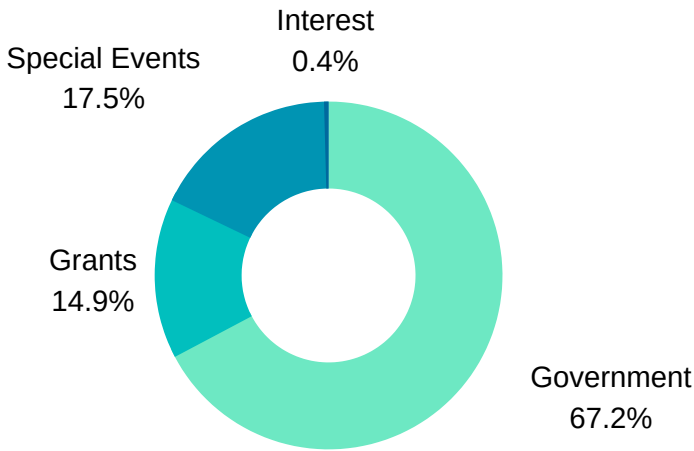
Calendar Year: January 1, 2019 - December 31, 2019

*Note: Government funding reflects FY 20
(July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020)

REVENUE

| | |
|--------------------|-----------|
| Government* | \$150,000 |
| Grants & Contracts | \$33,200 |
| Special Events | \$38,933 |
| Interest Income | \$993 |

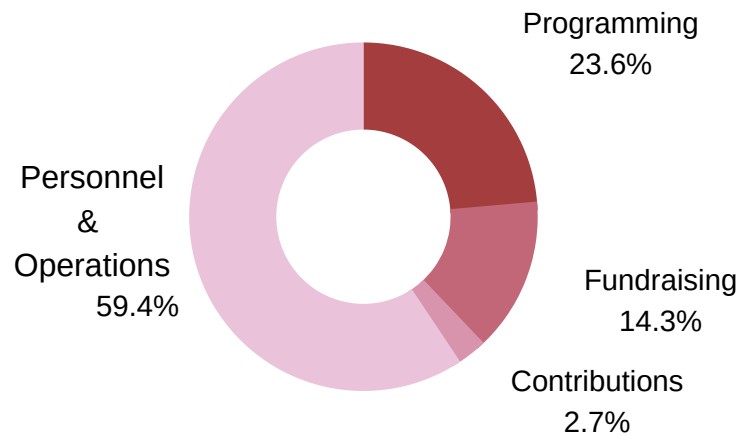
| | |
|--------------|------------------|
| Total | \$223,066 |
|--------------|------------------|



EXPENSES

| | |
|---|----------|
| Personnel & Operations* <i>(as of December 31, 2019)</i> | \$63,252 |
| Programming | \$25,156 |
| Fundraising | \$15,206 |
| Contributions | \$2,925 |

| | |
|--------------|------------------|
| Total | \$106,539 |
|--------------|------------------|



2019 SUPPORTERS

Aeon Counseling & Consulting
 Asian American Civic Association
 Asian American Resource Workshop
 Asian Community Development Corporation
 Bunker Hill Community College
 Casner & Edwards, LLP
 Eastern Bank
 East West Bank
 Enterprise Bank
 Harvard University
 Korean American Citizens League

Dr. Mabel S. Lam
 Leader Bank
 Lowell Community Health Center
 Mary K.Y. Lee
 Meenakshi Bharath
 National Association of Asian American Professionals - Boston
 South Cove Community Health Center
 Tai Tung Pharmacy & Realty
 Tufts Medical Center
 UMass Lowell Asian American Studies
 WGBH



In partnership with the Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center, the AAC hosted its 8th Annual Young Leaders Symposium (YLS) on Saturday, October 5, 2019. The morning started off with welcome remarks from our keynote speaker, Tony DelaRosa, educator, motivational speaker, DEI consultant, writer, poet, and overall cultural broker.

We welcomed youth and young professionals from across the Commonwealth for a day of leadership development and networking. Participants learned how to use research data to create social/policy change with workshop facilitators Tanvee Varma and Cordelia Zhong, connected with AAPI professionals during lunch, explored standing out in the interview process with Tram-Anh Nguyen and Adam Gianan, and practiced leading with authenticity with Harris Zhao and Kelly Shan.

We were excited to announce our scholarship winners: Jiajia Zhang (Amherst College), Lily Tang (UMass Amherst), Lina Huang (Tufts University), Linh Huynh (UMass Amherst), and Anne Marie Porter (Middlesex Community College). This year's scholarships were made possible by the support of WGBH and Asian American Commissioner, Mabel S. Lam, PhD. Our scholarships recognize 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.

YOUNG LEADERS SYMPOSIUM



A A P I CIVIL RIGHTS FORUM



The 4th Annual Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Civil Rights Forum was held on Tuesday, October 29 at the Federal Reserve Plaza in Boston.

We welcomed over 280 participants and offered 15 different panels on critical issues affecting AAPI communities.

We were honored to welcome our keynote speakers Co-Dean David Lopez of Rutgers University, Natasha Warikoo of Harvard Graduate School of Education, and Asian American actor Christopher Sean. During lunch, we honored our two Unsung Hero awardees, State Representative Tackey Chan and Dr. Elisa Choi for their dedication and passionate work serving AAPI communities.

Each year, our goal is to bring together Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders from all across the Commonwealth to enjoy a day of learning, networking, and connecting with other AAPIs who are creating change in their communities, and raise awareness of other prominent issues that affect AAPI communities.



FINANCIAL LITERACY



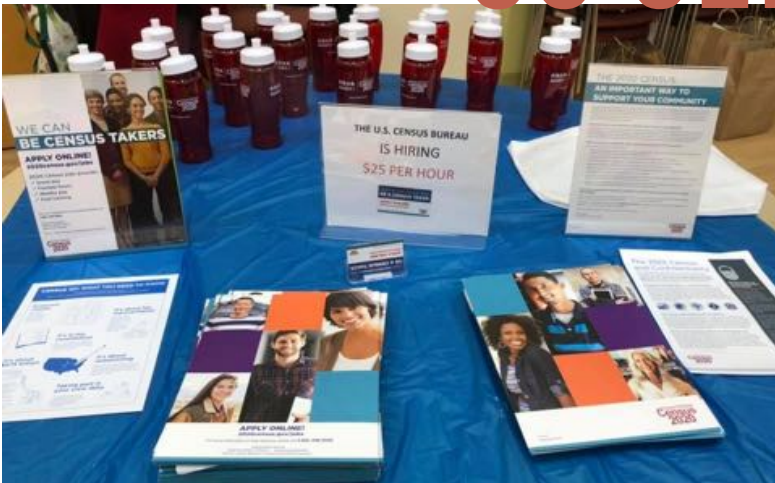
On Wednesday, March 27, the AAC partnered with East West Bank in Chinatown to kick off a series of financial literacy workshops offered for free to the community. The kickoff event featured guest speaker Justin Kang, Vice President of Economic Growth for the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce. Attendees were able to schedule individual meetings with a Small Business Administration (SBA) Officer to learn more about starting their own business.

SMALL BUSINESS

In partnership with the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), the AAC hosted two workshops in Lowell and Springfield designed help small business owners and managers focus on running a successful business. Studies have shown that complaints of employment discrimination can lead to morale issues in the workplace and negatively impact creativity and productivity. The workshop covered topics including anti-discrimination statutes, affirmative action for private businesses that receive federal funds, workplace safety standards, and wage and hour.



US CENSUS



The AAC Legislative Committee hosted a job fair in Malden for citizens to apply for positions with the 2020 Census. The U.S. Census Bureau is recruiting to fill thousands of positions across the country looking to hire a diverse workforce to assist with an accurate count in the 2020 Census. Representatives from the US Census Bureau were present to help individuals apply for jobs and answer questions about the Census.

UNITY DINNER

The Unity Dinner serves to celebrate the achievements of Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders 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 at our Thirteenth Annual Unity Dinner.

Community Hero Award

The Bhutanese Society of Western Massachusetts aims to provide necessary services to the community to help strengthen the resettlement program effectively and successfully.



Leadership for Inclusion & Diversity Award

Saffron Circle is a group of multi-generational Asians committed to creating positive social change in the Greater Boston Asian community.

Lifetime Achievement Award

Dr. Jean Wu's teaching focuses on explaining structural inequities of race and class and the development of curriculum and pedagogy that best help learners to understand and practice community-based race and class justice work. In mentoring numerous generations of Asian Americans, she sees the continuing power of our own stories to move hearts and minds across generations and boundaries to build communities that center compassion and actively work for liberation from injustice.





We welcomed remarks from our featured speakers, Rep. Tackey Chan, Rep. Tram Nguyen, Rep. Maria Robinson, Sen. Dean Tran, Rep. Donald Wong, and State Treasurer and Receiver General Deborah Goldberg



Keynote Speaker

Dr. Vichet Chhuon is an Associate Professor of Education and Asian American Studies at the University of Minnesota. He is a leading scholar on immigrant education, racialization in schools, identity, and motivation.



"Forward Together: Our Heritage, Diversity, and Identity"



House Bill 2861 Lobby Day

An Act ensuring equitable representation in the Commonwealth



Transcontinental Railroad: 150th Anniversary

Recognizing the descendants of the Chinese railroad workers



Census 2020

Meeting with the Asian Caucus and Secretary of State Census Division