



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Asian American Commission

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Ekta Saksena*

Executive Director
Yasmin Padamsee Forbes

One Ashburton Place
12th Floor
Boston, MA 02108
www.aacommission.org

Meeting Minutes

June 3, 2021, 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm

Meeting will be held via teleconference in compliance with the Governor's Executive Order on the Open Meeting Law and COVID-19

Present Commissioners are marked with a *. Absent Commissioners are highlighted

Staff present: Executive Director Padamsee Forbes, Intern Sarah Lin
Members of the Public: NIL

Attachments:

- Agenda with Grants
- Grants
- Conflict of Interest forms

1. Call meeting to order

The Chair calls the meeting to order at 6:12 pm. The meeting is recorded.

Meeting held to review the recommendations from the grant's subcommittee. Over the past couple of weeks, the grant subcommittee met and reviewed 23 grants submissions. The committee also provided recommendations for the submitted proposals and in the agenda included the request amount and then what AAC recommended funding. Due to potential conflict of interest, the AAC Chair said that the Commission would vote on for each individual grant. As the grants requests are discussed, Commissioners are welcome to raise any questions or comments.

Chair Hyun read Commissioner Bharath's message supporting the work undertaken by the grant's committee.

Discussion of grants

1. Greater Malden Asian American Community

Requested \$1000, the grants sub committee recommended funding \$500.

Commissioner Douangmany Cage supports the funding.

Chair called for the motion Commissioner Chiemruom moved, Commissioner Prasad seconds.

Yes: Commissioner Chiemruom , Commissioner Douangmany Cage, Commissioner Prasad, Commissioner Solar, Commissioner Saksena, and Chair Hyun

Abs: Commissioner Kupel

Six in Affirmative and one Abstention. Motion passes.

2. Chinese Culture Connection, Inc.

Requested \$1000, the grants sub committee recommended funding \$1,000.

Chair called for the motion Commissioner Saksena moved, Commissioner Chiemruom seconds.

Yes: Commissioner Chiemruom , Commissioner Douangmany Cage, Commissioner Prasad,



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Commissioner Solar, Commissioner Saksena, and Chair Hyun
Abs: Commissioner Kupel

Six in Affirmative and one Abstention. Motion passes.

3. National Federation of Filipino American Associations

Requested \$1000, the grants sub committee recommended funding \$1000.

Chair called for the motion Commissioner Douangmany Cage moved, Commissioner Prasad seconds.

Yes: Commissioner Chiemruom , Commissioner Douangmany Cage, Commissioner Prasad, Commissioner Kupel, Commissioner Saksena, and Chair Hyun

Abs: Commissioner Solar

Six in Affirmative and one Abstention. Motion passes.

4. Ekal USA

Requested \$750, the grants sub committee recommended funding \$750.

Chair called for the motion Commissioner Prasad, Commissioner Saksena seconds.

Yes: Commissioner Chiemruom , Commissioner Douangmany Cage, Commissioner Prasad, Commissioner Solar, Commissioner Saksena, Commissioner Kupel, and Chair Hyun

Seven in Affirmative. Motion passes.

5. NOVA Boston

Requested \$1000, the grants sub committee recommended funding \$750.

Chair called for the motion Commissioner Prasad, Commissioner Saksena seconds.

Yes: Commissioner Chiemruom , Commissioner Douangmany Cage, Commissioner Prasad, Commissioner Solar, Commissioner Saksena, Commissioner Kupel, and Chair Hyun

Seven in Affirmative. Motion passes.

6. CALex (Chinese Americans of Lexington)

Requested \$1000, the grants sub committee recommended funding \$1000.

Chair called for the motion Commissioner Prasad, Commissioner Saksena seconds.

Yes: Commissioner Chiemruom , Commissioner Prasad, Commissioner Kupel
Commissioner Solar, Commissioner Saksena, and Chair Hyun

Abs: Commissioner Douangmany Cage

Six in Affirmative and one Abstention. Motion passes.

7. 7-Generations Movement Collective

Rejected

8. Chinese Americans of Massachusetts (CAMA)

Requested \$1000, the grants sub committee recommended funding \$1000.

Chair called for the motion Commissioner Chiemruom moved, Commissioner Prasad seconds.



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Yes: Commissioner Chiemruom , Commissioner Prasad, Commissioner Solar,
Commissioner Kupel, Commissioner Saksena, , and Chair Hyun

Abs: Commissioner Cage

Six in Affirmative and one Abstention. Motion passes.

9. Greater Boston Chinese Golden Age Center

Requested \$1000, the grants sub committee recommended funding \$1000.

Chair called for the motion Commissioner Saksena moved, Commissioner Chiemruom seconds.

Yes: Commissioner Chiemruom , Commissioner Prasad, Commissioner Solar,
Commissioner Kupel, Commissioner Saksena, Commissioner Cage, and Chair Hyun

Seven in Affirmative. Motion passes.

10. RMD MA

Requested \$1000, the grants sub committee recommended funding \$500.

Chair called for the motion Commissioner Prasad moved, Commissioner Saksena seconds.

Yes: Commissioner Chiemruom , Commissioner Prasad, Commissioner Solar,
Commissioner Kupel, Commissioner Saksena, Commissioner Cage, and Chair Hyun

Seven in Affirmative. Motion passes.

11. Sharon Chinese Association

Requested \$1000, the grants sub committee recommended funding \$750.

Chair called for the motion Commissioner Prasad moved, Commissioner Saksena seconds.

Yes: Commissioner Chiemruom , Commissioner Prasad, Commissioner Solar,
Commissioner Kupel, Commissioner Saksena, Commissioner Cage, and Chair Hyun

Seven in Affirmative. Motion passes

12. Boston Little Saigon

Requested \$1000, the grants sub committee recommended funding \$750.

Chair called for the motion Commissioner Cage moved, Commissioner Saksena seconds.

Yes: Commissioner Chiemruom , Commissioner Prasad, Commissioner Solar,
Commissioner Kupel, Commissioner Saksena, Commissioner Cage, and Chair Hyun

Seven in Affirmative. Motion passes

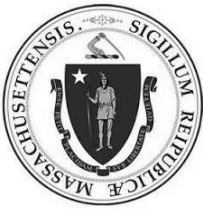
13. Community Upliftment Program, Inc.

Requested \$1000, the grants sub committee recommended funding \$1000.

Chair called for the motion Commissioner Prasad moved, Commissioner Saksena seconds.

Yes: Commissioner Chiemruom , Commissioner Prasad, Commissioner Solar,
Commissioner Kupel, Commissioner Saksena, Commissioner Cage, and Chair Hyun

Seven in Affirmative. Motion passes



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14. Unity Farm Sanctuary

Rejected as they were not directly working with AAPI groups.

15. India Society of Worcester

Requested \$1000, the grants sub committee recommended funding \$750.

Chair called for the motion Commissioner Chiemruom moved, Commissioner Saksena seconds.

Yes: Commissioner Chiemruom , Commissioner Prasad, Commissioner Solar, Commissioner Kupel, Commissioner Saksena, Commissioner Cage, and Chair Hyun

Seven in Affirmative. Motion passes

16. Springfield Vietnamese Cultural Community

Requested \$1000, the grants sub committee recommended funding \$500.

Chair called for the motion Commissioner Chiemruom moved, Commissioner Saksena seconds.

Yes: Commissioner Chiemruom , Commissioner Prasad, Commissioner Solar, Commissioner Kupel, Commissioner Saksena, Commissioner Cage, and Chair Hyun

Seven in Affirmative. Motion passes

17. PHA-Nepal

Rejected as organization was not Massachusetts based. However, the AAC would like to assist Nepal especially due to the escalating Covid 19 cases.

18. Federation for Children with Special Needs

Requested \$1000, the grants sub committee recommended funding \$500.

Chair called for the motion Commissioner Prasad moved, Commissioner Saksena seconds.

Yes: Commissioner Chiemruom , Commissioner Prasad, Commissioner Solar, Commissioner Kupel, Commissioner Saksena, Commissioner Cage, and Chair Hyun

Seven in Affirmative. Motion passes

19. Chinese Friends of Needham, Inc.

Requested \$750, the grants sub committee recommended funding \$500.

Chair called for the motion Commissioner Chiemruom moved, Commissioner Prasad seconds.

Yes: Commissioner Chiemruom, Commissioner Prasad, Commissioner Solar, Commissioner Kupel, Commissioner Saksena, and Chair Hyun

Abst: Commissioner Cage,

Six in Affirmative, one Abst. Motion passes

20. India Association of Greater Boston (IAGB)

Requested \$1000, the grants sub committee recommended funding \$1000.

Chair called for the motion Commissioner Chiemruom moved, Commissioner Prasad seconds.



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Yes: Commissioner Chiemruom, Commissioner Prasad, Commissioner Solar, Commissioner Kupel, Commissioner Saksena, and Chair Hyun

Abst: Commissioner Cage

Six in Affirmative, one Abst. Motion passes

21. Boston Chinese Family Support organization

Requested \$1000, the grants sub committee recommended funding \$500.

Chair called for the motion Commissioner Prasad moved, Commissioner Chiemruom seconds.

Yes: Commissioner Chiemruom , Commissioner Prasad, Commissioner Solar, Commissioner Kupel, Commissioner Saksena, Commissioner Cage, and Chair Hyun

Seven in Affirmative. Motion passes

22. One in a Billion Productions Inc.

Rejected as not centered on AAPI communities.

23. Urban Edge

Requested \$1000, the grants sub committee recommended funding \$1000.

Chair called for the motion Commissioner Saksena moved, Commissioner Chiemruom seconds.

Yes: Commissioner Chiemruom , Commissioner Prasad, Commissioner Solar, Commissioner Kupel, Commissioner Saksena, Commissioner Cage, and Chair Hyun

Seven in Affirmative. Motion passes

Commissioner Cage requested more information on why the 7-Generations Movement Collective's proposal was rejected. It was rejected as there are other opportunities of funding available for similar projects.

The podcast is focused on AAPI leaders and will assist in purchasing equipment and the endeavor of a Kamai woman in the Western Mass area. Need to support the AAPI community and an initiative of the Kamai community. Vital opportunity to uplift people's voices in the area. The Chair added that we have limited funding and we had to cut somewhere. We can follow up with organizations. Commissioner Prasad said we were looking to move away from an organization supporting equipment as other organizations providing direct service delivery.

It was approved to expend the \$15,250 to various organizations. If no comments, the Chair requested to adjourn the meeting.

The Chair motions to adjourn. Commissioner Solar motions to adjourn, Commissioner Cage seconds.

Yes: Commissioner Prasad, Commissioner Solar, Commissioner Kupel, Commissioner Saksena, Commissioner Cage, and Chair Hyun Abs: Commissioner Chiemruom

Motion passes. The meeting is adjourned as of 6:38 pm.