THE HISTORY OF ASIAN AMERICANS IN GREATER BOSTON DATES BACK MORE THAN A CENTURY AND A HALF and this community now represents the fastest growing—and arguably the least understood—group in our region. Many of us in the Asian American community have worked hard to build successful lives, often in the face of daunting obstacles, and are economically and educationally advanced. Others, less visible, face myriad challenges and, in some cases, severe social and economic distress.

WE ARE BUILDING A NEW FUND, a permanent endowment that will make grants to nonprofit organizations serving immigrant, low-income and economically disadvantaged Asian Americans. In the process, we will raise the visibility of the assets and the needs of this growing and diverse demographic group.

THE GOAL OF THE ASIAN COMMUNITY FUND is to increase the visibility of the Asian American community and expand resources for nonprofits that serve disadvantaged Asian Americans.
The Challenge of a Highly Diverse Community

“Asian American” suggests a degree of homogeneity that obscures the complexity of our community. Made up of many ethnic groups, Greater Boston’s Asian Americans include large populations of Chinese, Indian, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Korean, Filipino, Japanese, Nepalese and Pakistani Americans, all speaking different languages. This diversity extends to educational attainment and income levels.

Meeting the Needs of Asian Americans

Through research and stakeholder engagement, we have identified numerous areas of need in the Asian American community that will be addressed by the Fund over time:

- Immigration assistance and social services
- Language translation and ESOL classes
- Affordable and safe housing
- Education—from early education through K-12 to college completion
- Economic development—from job training to small business support
- Elder services
- Health and mental health care
- Violence prevention

FOR MORE INFORMATION about how to participate in building the Asian Community Fund at the Boston Foundation, please contact Stephen Chan at stephen.chan@tbf.org or 617-338-1712