

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

INAUGURAL
GALA

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2024
AT 5:30PM-9:00PM

THE WESTIN COPLEY BOSTON
10 HUNTINGTON AVENUE
BOSTON, MA 02116



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and leaders for making tonight's event possible.

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2024 INAUGURAL GALA

The Asian Community Fund's Inaugural Gala is a signature event for Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) leaders and supporters in Massachusetts. We are delighted to celebrate the region's most prominent Asian American leaders and allies and help amplify AAPI visibility, representation, and narrative change.

SCHEDULE

5:30PM - Cocktail Hour

Featuring guest chefs Tracy Chang of Pagu
and Laurence Louie of Rubato

With music provided
by Vivian "ViolinViiv" Luo

6:30PM - Dinner & Speaking Program

Honoring Geeta Aiyer of Boston Common Asset
Management and Bob Rivers of Eastern Bank

Featuring performances by StyleMe Dance Studio,
Boston Bhangra, and Angkor Dance Troupe

Keynote Address: Mayor Michelle Wu, City of Boston

Event Emcee: Liz Cheng, GBH and WORLD

8:30PM - Dessert Reception

WELCOME LETTER FROM ACF LEADERSHIP

In the 1870s, the first Asian residents—namely Chinese laborers from California—came to Massachusetts to work at the Sampson's Shoe Factory in North Adams. They, like the immigrants that followed from India, Vietnam, South Korea, Cambodia, the Philippines, and other countries, demonstrated great strength and tenacity in the face of anti-immigrant sentiment, hostility, and exclusionary policies. While the migration pathways and lived experiences of Asian communities vary greatly, our stories and collective prosperity remain intrinsically linked.

Today, Asian Americans are the fastest growing and most diverse racial group in Greater Boston, contributing billions of dollars to the Massachusetts economy. And yet for far too long, our community has been marginalized and overlooked. In fact, over the past 30 years, a mere 0.2% of total philanthropic funding has gone to support AAPI residents.

The Asian Community Fund (ACF) at the Boston Foundation was launched in 2020 to address many of the historic hurdles facing local AAPI communities and to help galvanize our collective power. Since our inception, we have convened over 4,000 residents across our events, catalyzed new community coalitions, and strengthened the capacity of our AAPI nonprofit sector by deploying over \$1,000,000 in grants to date.

This year's Inaugural Gala represents an important milestone in this historic effort to amplify AAPI leadership and philanthropy. ACF aims to be the connective tissue that unifies our region's rich landscape of AAPI residents, businesses, and community organizations. We see a future where AAPI residents across Massachusetts and our neighbors overcome systemic gaps in health and wealth, and thrive together.

We can't do this work alone—and in partnership with our nonprofit and business partners, government leaders, and donor community, we are creating a future where AAPI residents have the opportunity to build social, economic, political, and cultural capital. We hope you will join us in building and sustaining this movement. Together, we can achieve belonging and prosperity for all who call Massachusetts home.

Sincerely,



PAUL W. LEE
Chair and Co-Founder



DANIELLE KIM
Executive Director



ABOUT THE ASIAN COMMUNITY FUND

The **Asian Community Fund 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 the AAPI community, incubate new partnerships, and build a stronger advocacy voice. ACF anchors vital community coalitions including the Asian Business Empowerment Council, the AAPI Arts and Culture Collaborative, and the AAPI Mental Health Collaborative. Together, we are working to elevate AAPI leadership and belonging and build a stronger advocacy voice.





Impact by the Numbers

2,000

Attendees engaged
at our community
events and convenings
in FY24

600

Asian-owned
businesses connected
to a statewide coalition
advocating for economic
growth and success

Over \$6,000,000

Resources raised for the AAPI nonprofit and
business sectors since our founding in 2020

250

AAPI arts and culture
leaders mobilized to
elevate AAPI visibility
and narrative change

86

AAPI organizations
supported through our
grantmaking program
since 2022

GALA CO-CHAIRS



RAJ SHARMA

TBF Board Member

Founder & Managing Director
**The Sharma Group at Merrill
Private Wealth Management**



RENEE INOMATA

**ACF Steering
Committee Member**

Partner
Casner & Edwards, LLP

HOST COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Emily K. Yu



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

MICHELLE WU

Mayor, City of Boston

Michelle Wu is a daughter of immigrants, a Boston Public Schools mom, and the first woman and person of color to be elected Mayor of Boston. A fierce believer in the power of community and collaboration, she is committed to building a Boston where housing is affordable, transit is accessible, growth is sustainable, and every community has the resources and opportunities to thrive.



EMCEE

LIZ CHENG

General Manager, TV and Streaming, GBH & WORLD

Liz Cheng is a media pioneer, overseeing television and streaming at GBH as well as the national nonfiction service WORLD Channel. She is also Co-Executive Producer of *Stories from the Stage*, and Co-Host of the SFTS podcast and 89.7 radio program. She serves on the Board of Directors for the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless, The Partnership, and the United Way of Massachusetts Bay.





AAPI HONOREE

GEETA AIYER

Founder & President

Boston Common Asset Management

Geeta Aiyer, President and Founder of Boston Common Asset Management, will be recognized as the inaugural AAPI Honoree for her remarkable work as an entrepreneur, business leader, and social activist, whose advocacy spans environmental and social justice.

When Aiyer created Boston Common Asset Management in 2003, she was inspired by the belief that public equity investing is the most effective vehicle for generating corporate impact because equity ownership gives investors a voice with unique access to company management. Under Aiyer's leadership, Boston Common Asset Management, which managed \$4.3B in assets as of June 30, has built a strong investment record and meaningfully improved the policies and practices of portfolio companies through proactive shareholder engagement. A member of the South Asian-American community, Aiyer has outstanding achievements in championing business equity and women's leadership and continues to be recognized for her efforts in promoting social and environmental responsibility both nationally and globally.

In 2022 she was awarded TiE Boston's Lifetime Achievement Award, and in 2023 TIME named Aiyer to the inaugural TIME 100 Climate list, recognizing the 100 most innovative leaders driving business climate action.

From 2015-2017, Aiyer was on the Board of UN PRI, becoming the first US asset manager elected to serve. Today, she serves on the boards of the Natural Resources Defense Council's (NRDC) and the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR). She is also the Chair and Co-Founder of Direct Action for Women Now Worldwide (DAWN), a nonprofit that works with local organizations to address gender-based violence.



ALLY HONOREE

BOB RIVERS

*Executive Chair &
Chair of the Board of Directors*
Eastern Bank

Bob Rivers, Executive Chair and Chair of the Board of Directors at Eastern Bank, will be recognized as the inaugural Ally Honoree for his committed partnership and advocacy in supporting AAPI communities and entrepreneurs of color.

A 40-year community banker who started his career as a teller, he is a graduate of Stonehill College. In addition to his leadership of Eastern Bank, Greater Boston's leading local bank and the largest bank-owned independent investment advisor in Massachusetts, Rivers is involved extensively in the community. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, Massachusetts Business Roundtable, The Lowell Plan, and The New England Council. He also is a member of the Board of Trustees of Stonehill College, the Advisory Boards of the JFK Library Foundation, Lawrence Partnership and UTEC, as well as the Boston Women's Workforce Council and The Boston Club, in addition to providing support and guidance to numerous other non-profit organizations.

Rivers also serves as a Co-Chair of the Massachusetts Business Coalition for Early Childhood Education, comprised of more than 100 Massachusetts companies and business associations focused on raising awareness about the need for a more robust and sustainable network of early childcare and education. A co-founder of Eastern's innovation hub, Eastern Labs, which has pioneered new products with fintech's and advanced digital banking services, Bob also serves on the Advisory Board of the Mass FinTech Hub. In 2023, he was appointed to the Federal Reserve's Federal Advisory Council. Rivers has been recognized by many organizations for his work in championing diversity and social justice and has been regularly named among the Top 10 "Most Influential People in Boston" by Boston Magazine, and to the Boston Business Journal's Power 50 list.

CULINARY EXPERIENCE

Culinary Partner

Rubato



LAURENCE LOUIE

Guest Chef

Culinary Partner

PAGU



TRACY CHANG

Guest Chef

SEATED DINNER

First Course

Garden Field Greens

*Red Onions, Toy Box Tomatoes, Shredded Carrots,
Radishes, Crispy Quinoa, Sesame Dressing*

Main Entrees

Orange & Honey Glazed Duck Breast

*Celeriac Puree, Broccolini, Baby Carrots,
Hazelnut Dukkah*

White Miso Atlantic Salmon

*Garlic Fried Rice, Roasted Bok Choy,
Baby Carrots, Teriyaki Syrup*

Spiced Chickpea Stew

*Coconut Milk, Turmeric, Pan-Fried
Masala Tofu, Steamed Basmati Rice*

EVENT PARTNERS

Performers

VIOLINVIIV



BOSTON BHANGRA

AAPI Vendors

*Chaba Florist, Floral Arrangements

*ChopValue, Awards

Encore, Audio/Visual

Illuminaria, Centerpieces

*Lee-Daniel Tran Photography and *Tommy Lam Media, Photography

*Sheila Vo Design, Graphic Design

Opalite Media, Videographer

PEAK, Event Rentals

*Printing & Graphic Services, Printer

The Westin Copley Place, Boston, Venue

Saphier Events, Event Consultant | *Event Manager: Jodie Martin

* Denotes AAPI Vendors

LEADERSHIP DONORS

(as of September 2024)

The Asian Community Fund is powered by the partnership and generosity of our donors. We are grateful for their support in uplifting AAPI and immigrant communities throughout Massachusetts. The following Leadership Donors have made gifts totaling \$50,000 or more since our founding in 2020.

\$500,000+

Barr Foundation

Eastern Bank Foundation

Four Lucky Dogs

Paul W. Lee

State Street Foundation

\$100,000+

Baiwan Fund I

The Boston Foundation

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Helen Chin Schlichte

Sandy and Paul Edgerley

James S. Lee & Marian A. Tse

Rebecca A. Lee

William and Leslie Lee

Point32Health Foundation

Dwight and Kirsten Poler

South Cove Community Health Center / Asian Healthcare Foundation of Massachusetts



\$50,000+

Thomas and May Y. Chin

Joe and Selina Chow

The Clark R. and Trina H. Smith Family Fund

Fan Family Foundation

Renee Inomata and Paul Lee

Vincent W. Lau

Chinh H. Pham and Lauren McVay

Phi Lambda US Charitable Trust /
Phi Lambda Boston Subchapter

Emily K. Yu

ASIAN COMMUNITY FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

We thank the following individuals for their steadfast leadership in overseeing the Asian Community Fund's strategy and operations.

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Retired Partner, Goodwin Procter LLP

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*Senior Advisor for Partnerships,
City of Boston*

HELEN CHIN SCHLICHTE

*Co-Founder, President Emeritus,
South Cove Manor Nursing and
Rehabilitation Facility*

ANU CHITRAPU

Senior Vice President, Bank of America

RENEE INOMATA

Partner, Casner & Edwards, LLP

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*Retired Executive Director,
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DANIEL PARK

General Counsel, TScan Therapeutics

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ADA CHU

Head of Risk Strategy, MassMutual

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Community College*

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& Sacks, P.C.*

IMARI PARIS JEFFRIES, PH.D.

President & CEO, Embrace Boston

PETER NIEN-CHU KIANG, PH.D.

*Professor and Director of the Asian
American Studies Program,
College of Education & Human
Development, UMass Boston*

Members (con't)

SARAH G. KIM

*Deputy Treasurer and General Counsel,
Office of the Massachusetts State
Treasurer & Receiver General*

SOPHAN SMITH

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

ELAINE NG

*Executive Director,
TSNE MissionWorks*

OUR TEAM

The Asian Community Fund has a dynamic team of four full-time staff members working to elevate AAPI leadership and representation. Please reach out to learn more about opportunities for collaboration.



DANIELLE KIM

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

AAPI Arts & Culture
COLLABORATIVE

**ASIAN BUSINESS
EMPOWERMENT
COUNCIL**



**The Boston
Foundation**

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For more information

To learn more about how you can participate in building the Asian Community Fund at the Boston Foundation, please contact **Danielle Kim** at danielle.kim@tbf.org.



