

THE POWER OF *US*

Amplifying AAPI Visibility & Belonging
2020-2025 Impact Report

BY COMMUNITY, *FOR* COMMUNITY

“ The Asian Community Fund was created to be a permanent resource for our community, a permanent platform for our voices, a permanent launchpad for generations of leaders. ”

Mayor Michelle Wu
City of Boston

A Letter from ACF Leadership

Dear friends,

In 2020, a group of dedicated community leaders founded the Asian Community Fund (ACF) with a bold vision: to **expand the visibility, leadership, and collective power** of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities across Massachusetts.

Launched during the dual crises of COVID-19 and anti-Asian hate, ACF was created to meet an urgent moment while **building long-term infrastructure for equity and opportunity**. Since our founding, we have galvanized grassroots philanthropy, expanded partnerships, and strengthened the systems that support AAPI leadership and collaboration across the region.

Now, as we mark five years of impact, **we are proud to share this milestone report**. We thank the many donors, institutional funders, and community partners who have helped shape ACF into a powerful engine for good. With your support, we are creating a future where AAPI residents have the opportunity to grow social, economic, political, and cultural capital. Join us in building and sustaining this movement. Together, we can achieve belonging and prosperity for all who call Massachusetts home.



Paul W. Lee
Chair & Co-Founder



Danielle Kim
Executive Director

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THE POWER OF THE ASIAN COMMUNITY FUND

Launched in 2020, the Asian Community Fund (ACF) at the Boston Foundation 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.

Today, Asian Americans are the fastest growing and most diverse racial group in Massachusetts, contributing billions of dollars to the local economy. And yet for far too long, our community has been marginalized and overlooked. **ACF was created to meet this challenge head on.** Since our founding, ACF has convened thousands of residents, incubated vital statewide coalitions, and catalyzed millions of dollars in new giving for AAPI residents.

The Asian Community Fund **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.

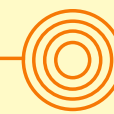
FIRST & ONLY
AAPI-Focused Fund
in Massachusetts

10% OF RESIDENTS
in Greater Boston
Are AAPI

ONLY 0.34%
of All Philanthropic Funding
Goes to AAPI Communities*

*The 2025 AANHPI Funding Snapshot, Asian Americans Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy (AAPIP).

THE POWER OF *PARTNERSHIPS*



FOUNDING YEAR

ACF is formalized as a **field of interest fund at the Boston Foundation**, thanks to the leadership of Paul W. Lee, Helen Chin Schlichte, and Stephen Chan. An Advisory Committee is developed to shape the vision for the region's first-ever AAPI focused fund. Founding supporters join the call to seed ACF, raising an initial \$1 million to power the fund's operations.

2021 | *YEAR 1*

ACF hires its first Director. Committees and working groups are initiated to produce a **new seminal research report** on needs of AAPI residents in Greater Boston and build ACF's grantmaking and civic leadership strategy. ACF anchors the region's inaugural list of Most Influential AAPI Leaders and mobilizes its first grants and convenings to **respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and the surge of anti-Asian hate**.

2022 | *YEAR 2*

ACF launches the **Asian Business Empowerment Council (ABEC)**—a statewide hub and champion for Asian-owned businesses, closing an important gap in the state's business ecosystem. ACF releases its first open grantmaking cycle, distributing resources to 35 non-profits, including frontline organizations focusing on COVID-19 recovery and community partners working together as a part of ACF's **AAPI Mental Health Collaborative**.

2023 | *YEAR 3*

ACF introduces signature convenings, including the **#ShopAAPI Holiday Night Market** and the **AAPI Arts & Culture Summit**, creating new platforms to strengthen networks and elevate AAPI leadership. A new statewide coalition, the **AAPI Arts & Culture Collaborative**, emerges from ACF's leadership to unify the region's cultural sector and amplify AAPI visibility.

2024 | *YEAR 4*

ACF hosts the inaugural **Asian Community Fund Gala**, which quickly grows into the largest annual gathering of AAPI leaders and allies in our region. ACF also expands its role as a convener and connector across industries, formalizing a partnership with **Asians in Biotech** to advance leadership development for AAPI professionals across the life sciences sector.

2025 | *YEAR 5*

ACF reaches a **new level of scale and impact**, exceeding \$12 million to date raised for our local AAPI community and supporting 115 Asian-serving non-profits statewide through grantmaking. ACF continues to **mobilize key policy coalitions**, advocating to strengthen our region's cultural and business sectors and permanently establish Fred Korematsu Day in Massachusetts.

Impact by the Numbers



461
donors and funders invested



\$12.1M
raised in total gifts and commitments



\$2.3M
in funding distributed to AAPI nonprofits



135
Asian-serving orgs receiving grants



4,217
community members engaged through events



65
community convenings hosted



THE POWER OF *COLLECTIVE ACTION*



Convener

ACF convenes AAPI leaders and allies, building powerful bridges across communities, industries, and geographies.



Catalyzer

ACF catalyzes transformative change by igniting bold ideas, seeding innovations, and anchoring community initiatives.



Capacity Builder

ACF strengthens the AAPI ecosystem by investing in organizations, advancing research, and championing advocacy.

FORGING OUR FUTURE *TOGETHER*

“ This is our moment—we cannot allow the forces of hate and ignorance to divide us. Helping our fellow AAPI today will assure that future generations can stand on our shoulders to achieve what we all want—a decent life for our families. As the first of its kind in New England, we cannot afford to ignore the Asian Community Fund’s call to action. ”

Liz Cheng

*Former General Manager of TV, GBH and WORLD Channel
ACF Supporter*

Asian Business Empowerment Council

The [Asian Business Empowerment Council \(ABEC\)](#) is a hub and champion for Asian American and Pacific Islander businesses across Massachusetts. We support AAPI businesses by tackling challenges, expanding opportunities, and leading efforts to build a strong ecosystem where they have the resources and support needed to thrive.



Advocate

We champion AAPI businesses through policies that break down barriers and drive growth.



Build

We support AAPI business expansion through funding, resources, and workforce solutions.



Educate

We provide AAPI businesses with essential tools for long-term success.



Collaborate

We bring AAPI entrepreneurs and partners together to strengthen networks and enhance visibility.



600
Asian-owned
businesses connected

57
local #ShopAAPI
market vendors

100+
business leaders at inaugural
AAPI Capital Summit

“ Before the Council existed, there was not a central organization that supported all the Asian businesses. ... The work that the Council has laid down for the past few years is the foundation for future years and future businesses to come. ”

My Lam
Owner and Founder, Nicoya Construction

AAPI Arts & Culture Collaborative

The [AAPI Arts & Culture Collaborative](#)—a key initiative of the Asian Community Fund—**convenes and catalyzes the AAPI arts and culture community** across Massachusetts to take collective action and drive policy and systems change. Since its formalization in summer 2024, the Collaborative has engaged 290 AAPI arts leaders, creatives, and allies across the state; commissioned the first-ever statewide inventory of the AAPI culture sector; and mobilized working groups focused on three strategic pillars:



STRATEGIES



Asset Mapping



Narrative Change



Advocacy & Funding

290

artists and cultural leaders mobilized

85

working group members engaged

\$500K

in grants awarded to support cultural organizations

“ The AAPI Arts & Culture Collaborative not only amplifies the rich cultural tapestry of AAPI communities statewide, but it also serves as a model for advancing a more inclusive and equitable arts and culture sector. ”

Michael J. Bobbitt

Former Executive Director, Mass Cultural Council



AAPI Mental Health Collaborative

The AAPI Mental Health Collaborative at ACF supports local AAPI community organizations in developing and **expanding innovations that address the behavioral health needs of local AAPI residents.** In partnership with our AAPI nonprofit partners, we are working collectively to increase collaboration across the sector, share learnings, and address systemic barriers to treatment and care.

MILESTONES



SUMMER 2022

ACF launches the AAPI Mental Health Collaborative, solidifying a partnership with 13 AAPI-serving community organizations and investing in their capacity to participate in this initiative.



FALL 2022

The Collaborative begins to meet regularly, with each conversation focused on a different aspect of the mental health ecosystem. Members identify addressing the workforce pipeline and increasing support for AAPI mental health counseling students as the Collaborative's priority.



FALL 2023

A new pilot program launches to expand supervisory capability at three frontline AAPI community organizations and invest in cultivating and retaining multilingual AAPI counseling staff.



NOW

As part of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation's 2025-2026 Racial Justice Cohort, the Collaborative is working to address three areas of need: 1) expanding opportunities for staff training and mental health first aid, 2) broadening the pipeline of multilingual/multicultural clinicians and student interns, and 3) creating a pool of resources to cover private-pay sessions.



Advocacy

The Asian Community Fund invests in advocacy work to **strengthen the collective power and voice of AAPI communities** across Massachusetts. Through our policy strategy, ACF is driving progress on issues that matter—from anchoring the statewide coalition working to **recognize Fred Korematsu Day in Massachusetts** to testifying in support of inclusive education, business equity, and the state's growing cultural sector.

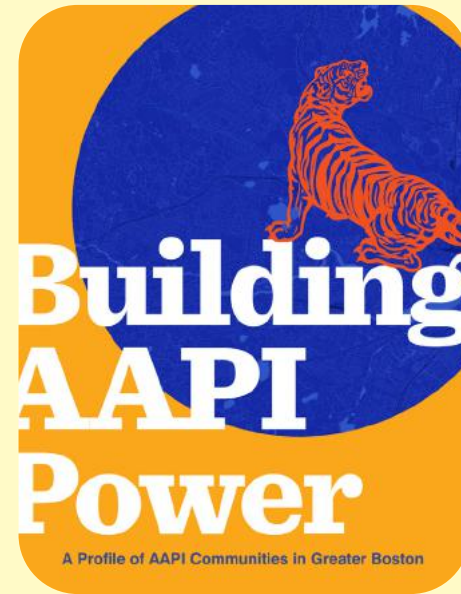
We also play a role in strengthening the capacity of community leaders, creatives, and small business owners to engage in advocacy efforts. By cultivating civic leadership and **deepening engagement in the policymaking process**, we are helping ensure that AAPI perspectives are represented and reflected in decisions that shape our communities.

Research

At the Asian Community Fund, we believe that advancing equity for AAPI communities begins with being seen and understood. Since our inception five years ago, ACF has helped **commission five research reports centering AAPI voices and stories.**

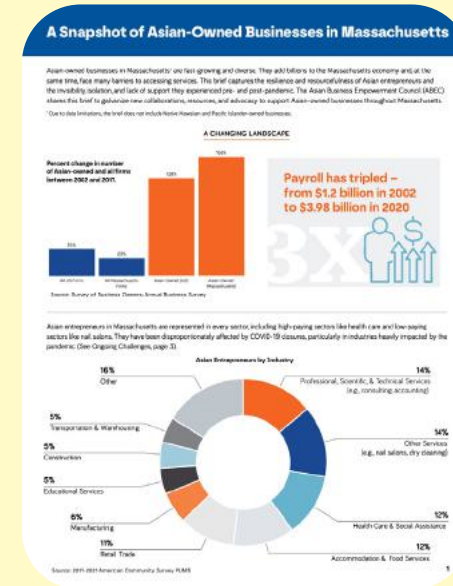
Too often, AAPI residents are rendered invisible in mainstream research and policy-making. Furthermore, the use of aggregate racial categories can mask the wide range of lived experiences, languages, cultures, and needs within our diverse and growing population.

By collaborating with community organizations and research partners, we are **deepening understanding of the strengths and experiences of AAPI residents** across Massachusetts. When you support the Asian Community Fund, you are investing in a future where AAPI communities are not only included—but driving the conversation.



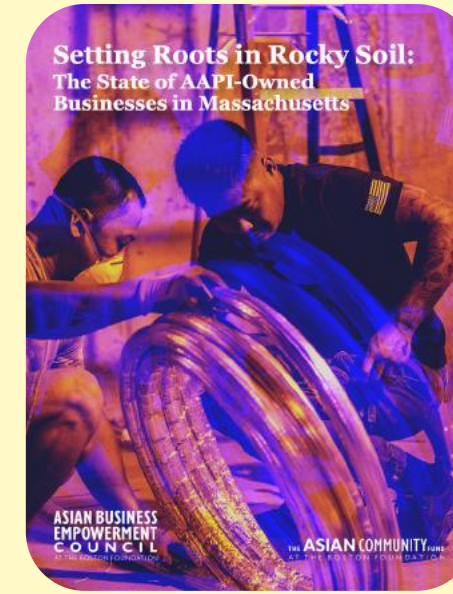
Building AAPI Power

AAPI communities in Greater Boston are rapidly growing and deeply diverse, but broad data often masks significant disparities within the population. This report by Boston Indicators and the Asian Community Fund **provides a more nuanced community profile, elevating inequities in income, representation, and opportunity** while underscoring the need for disaggregated data and targeted strategies to support AAPI communities.



Business Snapshot

Asian-owned businesses in Massachusetts have experienced tremendous growth and are having an increasingly significant impact on the state's economy. Yet many entrepreneurs continue to face barriers. This brief report outlines these challenges and **calls for greater access to capital, targeted outreach and language services, and disaggregated data collection** to better support and advocate for the needs of AAPI-owned businesses.



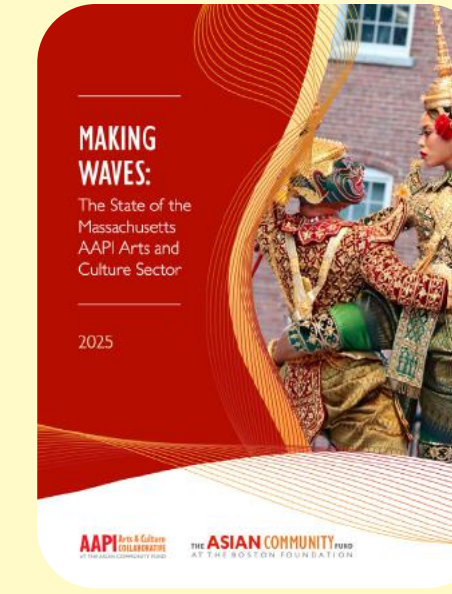
Setting Roots

This multi-year study led by the Asian Business Empowerment Council (ABEC) at the Asian Community Fund **examines the complex challenges and opportunities facing AAPI entrepreneurs.** Local AAPI businesses have grown by 187 percent in the past two decades, yet this progress masks diverse challenges shaped by sector, immigration history, and language—disrupting the narrative of uniform success.



No Longer Invisible

A lack of visibility presents real consequences for Massachusetts Asian and Pacific Islander American (APIA) communities, in terms of political representation, services, and support. This community survey report, produced by a collaborative team of APIA-serving organizations and MassINC Polling Group, **sheds light on how local residents are faring across a wide swath of political, social, and economic issues.**



Making Waves

This first-of-its-kind report **marks a significant milestone in advancing the visibility of AAPI artists and cultural organizations** in Massachusetts. It brings together the results of a statewide survey of 150 AAPI creative professionals, one-on-one interviews, and listening sessions aiming to highlight the strengths, challenges, and opportunities of the region's AAPI cultural sector.



Grantmaking

Through its grantmaking, the Asian Community Fund strives to catalyze new partnerships, respond to urgent community needs, and expand the capacity of the local AAPI nonprofit, business, and cultural sectors. As the first and only fund in Massachusetts exclusively dedicated to supporting AAPI residents, **the Asian Community Fund has distributed over \$2.3 million total in grants since its founding in 2020, supporting 135 organizations statewide.** We are proud to partner with these community nonprofits in uplifting prosperity and well-being for AAPI residents.

“The significance of your grant cannot be overstated. With your support, we will be able to advance our mission and continue our vital work in creating new events and in-person free workshops for Indian and South Asian seniors. Together, we can create a brighter future for our community and beyond.”

Pratima Penumarthy
CEO, Volunteering for Seniors, Inc; ACF grantee

ACF's Grantee Partners

1975: A Vietnamese Diaspora
 Commemoration Initiative
 826 Boston, Inc.
 AAPIEC Inc
 ACE NextGen Boston
 Advocacy for Refugee and
 Immigrant Services for
 Empowerment, Inc (ARISE)
 Andover Chinese Cultural
 Exchange, Inc.
 Angkor Dance Troupe, Inc.
 ArtsEmerson
 Asian American Ballet Project
 Asian American Civic Association,
 Inc. (AACA)
 Asian American Playwright
 Collective
 Asian American Resource
 Workshop, Inc. (AARW)
 Asian American Service
 Association, Inc.
 Asian American Women's
 Political Initiative (AAWPI)
 Asian Community Development
 Corporation (ACDC)

Asian Pacific Islanders Civic Action
 Network (APIs CAN)
 Asian Sisters Participating in
 Reaching Excellence (ASPIRE)
 Asian Task Force Against Domestic
 Violence, Inc. (ATASK)
 Asian Women for Health, Inc.
 Azerbaijan Cultural Center, Inc.
 Belmont Pan-Asian Coalition
 Bibim Together
 Boston Asian American Film
 Festival (BAAFF)
 Boston Bhangra, Inc.
 Boston Chinatown Neighborhood
 Center (BCNC)
 Boston Chinese Musicians
 Association
 Boston Chinese Photography
 Association, Inc.
 Boston Festival Orchestra
 Boston Little Saigon
 Boston Okta Korean Business
 Association
 Brookline Asian American
 Family Network (BAAFN)

CAIR-MA, Inc.
 Cambodian American Literary
 Arts Association
 Cambodian Mutual Assistance
 Association of Greater Lowell, Inc.
 (CMAA)
 Cambridge Chinese Choral Society
 Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center
 Chinatown Business Association
 Chinatown Community Land Trust,
 Inc. (CCLT)
 Chinatown Main Street
 Chinese American Association
 of Lexington, Inc. (CAAL)
 Chinese Association of Western
 Massachusetts (CAWM)
 Chinese Consolidated Benevolent
 Association of New England (CCBA)
 Chinese Culture Connection, Inc. (CCC)
 Chinese Economic
 Development Council
 Chinese Historical Society
 of New England (CHSNE)
 Chinese Progressive
 Association-MA (CPA)

ACF's Grantee Partners (con't)

CHUANG Stage, Inc.
 Coalition for Anti-Racism
 and Equity, Inc. (CARE)
 Commonwealth Seminar
 Community Partners
 International
 Community Protection Initiative
 Company One, Inc.
 Cultural Empowerment
 Organization
 Educational Divide Reform
 ElevAsian
 Enhance Asian Community
 on Health, Inc. (EACH)
 Fan Chinatown, Inc.
 Friends of Indian Senior Citizens
 Organization (FISCO)
 Greater Boston Chinese Golden
 Age Center, Inc. (GBCGAC)
 Greater Boston Legal Services, Inc.,
 Asian Outreach Center (GBLS AOC)
 Greater Malden Asian American
 Community Coalition
 (GMAACC)

Harvard Graduate School of
 Education, Let's Talk!
 Harvard Square Philippine
 American Alliance (HSPAA)
 India Association of Greater
 Boston Inc. (IAGB)
 India Society of Worcester (ISW)
 Indian Community of Needham
 Indian Circle for Caring USA,
 Inc. (ICC)
 Indras Artistic Creations, Inc.
 Iskwelahang Pilipino, Inc.
 Japan Society of Boston, Inc.
 JB Line, Inc.
 Korean-American Citizens League
 of New England (KACL-NE)
 Korean Cultural Society of Boston
 Kwong Kow Chinese School, Inc.
 LASA Foundation Inc.
 LearnQuest, Inc.
 Little Ant World
 Lucky Knot Arts
 Mabazza Foundation, Inc.
 Massachusetts Afghan Alliance

Massachusetts Asian American
 and Pacific Islander Commission
 Massachusetts Asian Restaurants
 Association (MARA)
 Massachusetts Asians and Pacific Islanders
 for Health (MAP for Health)
 Massachusetts Baptist Multicultural
 Ministry
 Massachusetts Immigrant & Refugee
 Advocacy Coalition (MIRA)
 Mather Elementary School's Vietnamese
 Dual Language Program
 Meher Foundation Inc
 Merrimack Valley Immigrant and
 Education Center
 MITHAS: MIT Heritage of the Arts
 of South Asia
 NAAAP Boston
 Nazda Alam Foundation for
 Muslim WM Civic Engagement
 & Leadership
 New England Bangladeshi
 American Foundation, Inc.
 (NEBAF)

New England Intercollegiate
 Vietnamese Student Association
 Newton Cantonese School Inc.
 Newton Chinese Language School
 No Worker Left Behind Inc.
 OCA-APAA-NE
 Off-Kendrik Inc
 Pakistan Association of
 Greater Boston (PAGB)
 Panethnic Pourovers
 Philippine American Mainstream
 Advocacy for Nonpartisan
 Associations (PAMANA)
 Political Asylum Immigration
 Representation Project, Inc. (PAIR)
 Potencia
 Prabasi Inc.
 Quincy Asian Resources, Inc. (QARI)
 Quincy Votes
 Refugees & Immigrants Cultural
 Empowerment Massachusetts, Inc.
 (RICEMA)
 Revere Youth in Action
 Ricesticks and Tea

Saffron Circle
 Saheli Boston
 Sahiyo
 Shishu Bharti School Inc.
 South Asian Workers Center (SAWC)
 South Cove Community
 Health Center, Inc.
 Southeast Asian Coalition
 of Central Massachusetts (SEACMA)
 Springfield Vietnamese
 Cultural Association, Inc.
 Stage Ensemble Theatre
 Unit, Inc. (SETU)
 Taiwan Film Festival, Inc.
 The Circle of Vietnamese Parents
 (Vòng Tay Cha Mẹ Việt)
 TiE Boston
 The Flavor Continues
 TurkicStan Center
 UMass Boston, Institute for
 Asian American Studies
 UMass Amherst, Asian and Asian
 American Arts and Culture
 Program (AAAACP)

Urban Impact Initiative Massachusetts
 Vermilion Theater
 Vietnamese American Civic
 Association, Inc. (VACA)
 Vietnamese American Community
 of Massachusetts, Inc.
 Vietnamese American Initiative for
 Development, Inc. (VietAID)
 Vietnamese American Volunteer
 Association of Boston, Inc.
 Volunteering for Seniors, Inc.
 Wah Lum Kung Fu Academy
 White Snake Projects, Inc.
 William James College, Inc.
 Women of Color
 Entrepreneurs (WOCE)
 Women Who Win, Inc.



THE NEED IS URGENT AND *EVER-CHANGING*



“ I am proud of the important work ACF is doing to generate solutions to uplift the diverse AAPI community in Massachusetts. These grants mean stability and inclusion for a community that brings a lot of potential and economic vitality to our state. ”

Governor Maura Healey
Commonwealth of Massachusetts



THE POWER OF GIVING

\$500,000+

Barr Foundation*
 Eastern Bank Foundation*
 Four Lucky Dogs*
 Paul W. Lee*
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 formerly Tufts Health Plan
 Foundation, Inc.
 State Street Corporation

*Founding Supporter

\$100,000-\$499,999

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The **Asian Community Fund** is powered by a vibrant network of donors, supporters, and partners, unified in our shared commitment to strengthen the AAPI community across Massachusetts. **We express our sincere appreciation** to the following individuals, families, and institutions for contributing to the Asian Community Fund between 2020 and 2025.

Rebecca A. Lee*

William & Leslie Lee*

South Cove Community Health
 Center / Asian Healthcare
 Foundation of Massachusetts*
 Marian A. Tse & James S. Lee*

\$50,000-\$99,999

Abry Partners
 Boston Bar Foundation, Inc.
 Thomas & May Y. Chin
 Joe and Selina Chow*

“The Asian Community Fund is leading the way in AAPI representation and narrative change in Boston, Massachusetts, and beyond.”

Raj Sharma

Founder, The Sharma Group | ACF Supporter

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“The Asian Community Fund does incredible work in the Commonwealth, and their work is a testament to the power of what we can achieve when we come together. The ACF’s work to build connections, celebrate culture, and invest in leadership is helping to shape a welcoming and vibrant future.”

Reshma Kewalramani M.D., FASN

Chief Executive Officer & President, Vertex Pharmaceuticals

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\$10,000-\$24,999 (con't)

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 Cissy Young & Andrew Henderson

“ Our state is so grateful to have ACF investing in leadership, connection, and resources, so that our AAPI diaspora is not only seen, but celebrated here in Massachusetts and beyond. ”

Yvonne Hao

*Chief Operating Officer & General Partner, Flagship Pioneering;
 Former Massachusetts Economic Development Secretary*

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Goodwin Procter LLP

Helen Chin Schlichte
Co-Founder and President Emerita
South Cove Manor

Renee Inomata (In Memoriam)
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Casner & Edwards, LLP

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Stephen Chan
Senior Advisor for Partnerships
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Senior Director,
Asian Business
Empowerment Council



Maggie Wong
Development Officer

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT NOW MORE THAN EVER

AAPI and immigrant communities in Massachusetts are at an inflection point, and the need has never been greater. **Make a gift to the Asian Community Fund** and help close the resource and visibility gap for one of the region's fastest-growing populations. Every dollar stays local, invested in our community.

Ways to Give



Make a contribution today

Act now. Every gift counts, and your contribution powers our grantmaking, partnerships, and convening efforts. You can also direct your donation to an initiative like the Asian Business Empowerment Council or the AAPI Arts & Culture Collaborative.



Create a legacy for tomorrow

Shape the future. Add the Asian Community Fund to your will or trust, or create your own fund—in your name, in honor of loved ones, or anonymously. Making a legacy gift is one of the most powerful actions you can take to fuel AAPI leadership for generations.



Sponsor our gala and signature events

Invest in connection. ACF's signature convenings draw some of the most dedicated changemakers from across sectors, and your sponsorship helps power a more inclusive, thriving region. Reach out to explore visibility and partnership opportunities.

“ We are hopeful and proud to be at the forefront of changing perceptions, at a time when philanthropy is just beginning to recognize the chronic underinvestment in AAPI-serving organizations and address it. ”

Paul W. Lee

Chair and Co-Founder, Asian Community Fund



DONATE TODAY



THE POWER OF US

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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AT THE BOSTON FOUNDATION

asiancommunityfund@tbf.org
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Boston, MA 02116

Sustaining Sponsor:



Photography: Brightside Media
(formerly Nicole Chan Photography),
Lee-Daniel Tran, and Three Circles Studio

Graphic Design: Sheila Vo

Cover Illustration: Yuko Okabe (she/they)

Yuko Okabe plays at the intersection of illustration and community engagement. An illustrator by training, Okabe uses research and stories to visualize the relationships between humans and systems. As a facilitator, they design platforms for community artmaking that invite people to contextualize the care they need to thrive.



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



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asiancommunityfund.org

