

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Asian American Commission

## Executive and Staff Reports

**December 15, 2020**

Prepared by Interim Executive Director Jessica Wong

December Public Board Meeting  
Via ZOOM

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The AAC is a permanent body dedicated to advocacy on behalf of Asian Americans throughout Massachusetts.

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Asian American Commission

## Executive Committee Report

Submitted by Chairperson, Vira Douangmany Cage and Interim Executive Director, Jessica Wong – Commonwealth of Massachusetts Asian American Commission. The following activities and discussions have been made by Commissioners and ED since October 20, 2020.

### 1. COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENTS:

I-ED received an update from the Attorney General's office they are recommending Megha Prasad as the new appointee for the AG beginning January 2021. No further updates on the State Auditor's or the Secretary of State's appointees.

### 2. SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE:

I-ED compiled all scholarship applications and sent them to the scholarship committee for review. I-ED organized the scorecard, sent reminders, and held a meeting to select the 2020 YWLS scholarship recipients.

- May Thin Suey Lew-Lam & Chuck Hai Lam Scholarship: 7 applications
- COVID-19 Scholarship: 12 applications
- BIPOC Scholarship: 9 applications

### 3. STATE BUDGET UPDATE:

The AAC has been approved for the \$170,000 increase. Awaiting to pass through the Conference Committee and Governor Baker.

- Follow the FY21 budget updates: <https://malegislature.gov/budget>

### 4. ELECTIONS:

I-ED received and compiled all nominees acceptance statements and delivered to the entire Commission for review in accordance with election policy.

### 5. OPERATIONS CONSULTANT:

We are still awaiting to hear back from the Treasury HR department to onboard Jenny Chiang as a part time Consultant to assist with leadership transitions. The timeframe will be approximately four weeks to ensure transitions of succession planning runs smoothly.

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## 6. UPCOMING AAC EVENTS:

- 2021 Retreat – TBA
  - A survey will be distributed to collect feedback for planning purposes
- Swearing-in Ceremony – TBA

## Western Massachusetts Community Engagement Coordinator Report

Submitted by Brooke “Kamalani” Yuen – Commonwealth of Massachusetts Asian American Commission. The following activities and discussions have been facilitated by the Western Massachusetts Community Engagement Coordinator since the report on November 13, 2020.

### 1. AMHERST TIBETAN COMMUNITY:

WC met with the Amherst Tibetan Organization President, Thondup Tsering, to connect and learn more about their organization. They shared their organization’s missions, goals, and COVID-19 experiences. WC hopes to continue to support and meet with their upcoming board members to continue the conversations.

### 2. MYL GRANT:

WC assisted our Intern in applying for the MYL Grant for the new Translation project in the works. This project would translate a Constituent Services Guide into various AAPI languages present in Western MA.

### 3. COMMONWEALTH SEMINAR COLLABORATION:

WC collaborated with staff about the Commonwealth Seminar Collaboration. WC and Intern met to draft out what this could potentially look like for Western MA and the AAPI community. WC met with Leverett Wing, to brainstorm ideas and figure out what this would look like. WC and Intern created a presentation outlining the information behind what this could look like for the AAC so that it can be presented to the commission.

### 4. EDUCATION RESEARCH:

WC met with Commissioner Meena Bharath to discuss possible research opportunities. WC has been researching anti-racism role-playing programs with school-aged students, in hope to not

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reinvent the wheel. This research would be in the hopes that the Commission can figure out how this can be done for AAPI students in the public school system, and how this can be collaborated with other organizations for this to be implemented.

## **5. UMASS FINE ARTS CENTER:**

WC met with the Interim Program Director and Marketing Coordinator for the UMass Fine Arts Center Asian Arts and Culture Program. This meeting was an initial brainstorm meeting for an event that they are having in Feb/March 2021.

## **6. OUTREACH:**

WC updated the Commissioners and the Western MA community on upcoming initiatives in Western MA.

## **Marketing & Communications Coordinator Report**

Submitted by Sheila Vo - Commonwealth of Massachusetts Asian American Commission. The following activities have been facilitated by the Marketing & Communications Coordinator since the report on November 12th.

### **1.SOCIAL STATS:**

As of Thursday, December 10, 2020:

- Facebook - 1640 Followers, 1440 Likes (Up 4 Followers, 3 Likes)
- Instagram - 854 Followers (Up 40 New Followers)
- Twitter - 455 Followers (Up 1 Followers)
- Shares - 156 Shares in total

### **2. NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH GRAPHIC/PROGRAMMING**

Created graphics to highlight the Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander experience with the guidance of Western MA Coordinator, Kamalani Yuen. I created 3 infographics in total:

- What You Should Know About Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders
- How To Be An Ally to the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders Community
- Let's Talk About Mauna Kea

### **3. LETTERS TO STRANGERS VIRTUAL VOLUNTEERING EVENT GRAPHIC:**

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In collaboration with Commonwealth Seminar, we had a virtual community service event through the Letters to Strangers initiative on Tuesday, November 12th.

## 4. DECEMBER GRAPHICS:

Created a collection of graphics and templates for posting Mabel's feature

- Presenting the new Executive Committee
- Introducing Your New Commissioners (Jan. release)
- YLWS Scholarship Recipients
- Sign Up for Our Newsletter
- Visit & Volunteer at Community Fridges & Food banks in MA

## 5. PREPPING FOR 2021:

We are **undergoing a rebrand!** I am in the process of creating a new logo for the Commission as well as redesigning our presentations and booklets so that everything looks uniform and professional. Be on the lookout for the feedback round via email.

- Solidifying a list of topics, celebrations and events to design for in 2021
- At the end of the month I will begin to make graphics for January.  
Commissioners should have received an email in regards to feedback and input.

## 6. SCHOLARSHIP REMINDERS:

Emailed attendees updates and reminders to apply to scholarships

## 7. COVID-19 UPDATES:

Inform audience on the COVID-19 updates and restrictions in MA

## 8. OTHER:

- Drafted the **Quarterly Newsletter** to send out
- Attended meetings with other staff members to see if the information presented can be marketed or made into infographics
- Meet with staff to see what I can do better as a teammate
- Made edits and uploads to the website
- Managed social media accounts
- Gave shoutouts to partner organizations