



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Asian American Commission

## 2012 Annual Report

[www.aacommission.org](http://www.aacommission.org)

Prepared by:  
Jason Chou, Executive Director

## About the Commission

The Asian American Commission (AAC) is a Massachusetts Commission established under section 68 of chapter 3 of the Massachusetts General Laws, which went into effect on October 29, 2006. The AAC was formed in recognition of the General Court's findings that Asian Americans constitute the fastest growing minority population in both the Commonwealth and the United States, that they represent a diverse population within the Commonwealth, and that many members of the Asian American community have overcome great hardship and made outstanding contributions to the educational, economic, technological, and cultural well being of the Commonwealth, but still face many challenges in their efforts for full social, economic, and political integration within the Commonwealth.

The AAC is a permanent body dedicated to advocacy on behalf of Asian Americans throughout Massachusetts. The Commission's goal is to recognize and highlight the vital contributions of Asian Americans to the social, cultural, economic, and political life of the Commonwealth; to identify and address the needs and challenges facing residents of Asian ancestry; and to promote the well-being of this dynamic and diverse community, thereby advancing the interests of all persons who call Massachusetts home.

## Contents

About the Commission & Contents	2
Letter from Jason Chou, Executive Director	3
Commission Memberships	4
Population in Massachusetts	5
Programs	
Young Leaders Symposium	6
Resource Fair	7
Unity Dinner	8



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Asian American Commission

## COMMISSIONERS

### Chair

Paul W. Lee

### Vice Chair

Geoffrey G. Why

### Treasurer

Karen Tseng

### Secretary

Kenneth An

Joel Buenaventura

Yan Jennifer Cao

Chun-Fai Chan

Chris Chanyasulkit

Kajal Chattopadhyay

Kay Dong

Kenneth Fong

Om Ganda

Gilbert Ho

Grace Lee

WingKay Leung

Vesna Nuon

Priti Rao

Paul D. Shaw

Evelyn Tang

Sophy Theam

Larry Wong

### Executive Director

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Letter  
December 2012

Dear Friends,

This month marks my two year anniversary with the Commission. I owe everything that I have achieved to a talented roster of Commissioners who are truly remarkable leaders in their respective fields. During the past two years, two Commission members successfully campaigned in becoming the first Asian American members elected to the House of Representatives in Massachusetts.

The Commission's goal is to promote the welfare of Asian Americans. It is a formidable task to address every issue facing Asian Americans. However, the Commission is well-suited to handle these issues because it is the only state body whose sole purpose is to work with the Asian American communities. In order to take on these challenges, we collaborate with government and nonprofit agencies working side by side with them in finding solutions. Through these established relationships, we have seen progress in Asian American communities.

Within this report, you will find two programs that we launched this year. The first program was the Resource Fair where partnering federal, state, and nonprofit agencies attended local festivals hosted by various Asian American organizations in MA. These events created a junction for residents and officials to discuss issues prevalent in Asian American communities in Massachusetts. The second program was the Young Leaders Symposium, held in September, which gave students and young professionals an opportunity to understand the operations of the government and to network and learn about internship and job opportunities.

I am proud of what the Commission has accomplished so far, but understand there is more work to be done. Each small success we achieve sparks our conviction in overcoming daunting challenges that Asian Americans face. I'm grateful to the many individuals and organizations for their support. I am excited for what 2013 brings and look forward to continue working with everyone in achieving common success.

Sincerely,

Jason Chou  
Executive Director

## Commission Memberships

First	Last	Career Field	Appointing Authority	Expiration
Kenneth	An	Government	Senate President	2013
Joel	Buenaventura	Law	House Speaker	2013
Yan Jennifer	Cao	Health	Auditor	2014
ChunFai	Chan	Education	Auditor	2012
Chris	Chanyasulkit	Community	Governor	2013
Kajal	Chattopadhyay	Law	Governor	2012
Kay	Dong	Business	Secretary	2014
Ken	Fong	Government	Governor	2014
Om	Ganda	Health	Senate President	2014
Gilbert	Ho	Community	Secretary	2013
Paul	Lee	Law	Treasurer	2012
Grace	Lee	Law	Treasurer	2013
WingKay	Leung	Community	Secretary	2012
Vesna	Nuon	Government	Senate President	2012
Priti	Rao	Community	Auditor	2013
Evelyn	Tang	Law	Attorney General	2014
Sophy	Theam	Community	Treasurer	2014
Karen	Tseng	Law	Attorney General	2013
Geoffrey	Why	Law	Attorney General	2012
Larry	Wong	Business	House Speaker	2012

7 appointing authorities,  
each may appoint  
3 Commissioners

21 Commissioners  
may be appointed

Attorney General

Auditor

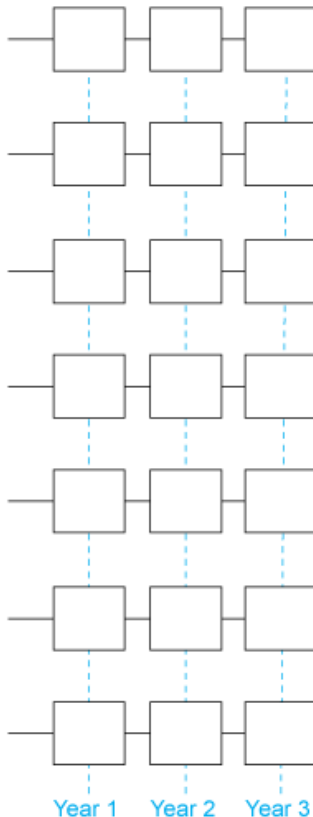
Governor

House Speaker

Secretary

Senate President

Treasurer



Commissioners are appointed by the following appointing authorities: Attorney General, Auditor, Governor, House Speaker, Secretary, Senate President, and Treasurer. Each may appoint three individuals for a total of 21 Commissioners.

At the end of each year, seven Commissioners' terms will expire. They may be renewed or be replaced. Each Commissioner is limited to two consecutive terms with a maximum of six years of service. This staggered system ensures that many have the opportunity to serve.

Nominations for members are solicited by the appointing authorities and the Commission during August 1 to September 16 of each year. Appointments are ultimately decided by the seven appointing authorities.

## Population in Massachusetts

Asian American Subgroups	Population in 2000	Population in 2010	% Change 2000-2010	% of all 2010 Subgroups
Chinese	82,028	118,164	44.10%	33.8%
Indian	43,801	77,177	76.20%	22.1%
Vietnamese	33,962	42,915	26.40%	12.3%
Cambodian	19,696	25,387	28.90%	7.3%
Korean	17,369	24,110	38.80%	6.9%
Filipino	8,273	12,309	48.80%	3.5%
Japanese	10,539	9,224	-12.50%	2.6%
Pakistani	2,145	6,205	189.30%	1.8%
Taiwanese	2,364	4,502	90.40%	1.3%
Laotian	3,797	3,632	-4.30%	1.0%
Thai	2,141	3,529	64.80%	1.0%
Nepalese		2,580		0.7%
Bangladeshi	573	2,109	268.10%	0.6%
Sri Lankan	651	1,034	58.80%	0.3%
Hmong	1,127	992	-12.00%	0.3%
Burmese		923		0.3%
Indonesian	730	847	16.00%	0.2%
Bhutanese		425		0.1%
Malaysian	218	357	63.80%	0.1%
Other Asian, not specified	4,019	5,729	42.50%	1.6%
Other Asian, specified	614	275	-55.20%	0.1%
<b>TOTAL ASIAN (one ethnicity)</b>	<b>234,047</b>	<b>342,425</b>	<b>46.30%</b>	<b>97.9%</b>
<b>TOTAL ASIAN IN MA</b>	<b>238,124</b>	<b>349,768</b>	<b>46.90%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: 2010 Census & Umass Boston Institute for Asian American Studies

### Highest Population Densities of Asian Americans



The 2010 Census listed Massachusetts with a population of 6,547,629. People identified themselves as Asian was 349,768.

Asian American is a term that constitutes many subgroups. There are many commonalities across them as well as significant differences.

Six cities with the highest number of Asian Americans are Boston, Quincy, Lowell, Cambridge, Malden, and Worcester.



## Young Leaders Symposium



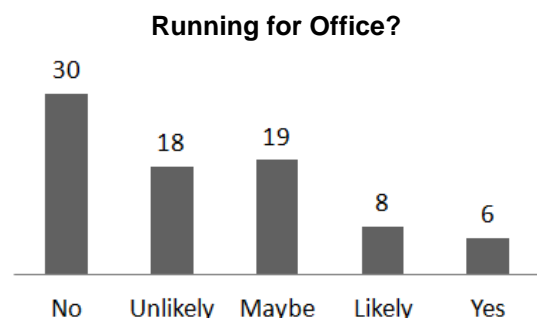
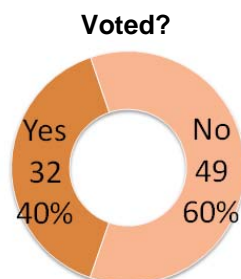
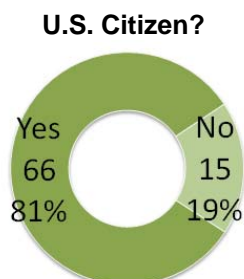
The Commission launched its inaugural Young Leaders Symposium on September 21, 2012. Over 100 students and young professionals participated in this half day event to hear topics on running for office, careers in government, Asian American representation in politics, nonprofit initiatives, and more.

Asian Americans continue to be heavily underrepresented in government. At the same time, there are over 15,000 Asian American college students, and more than 1,500 Asian American members of young professional networks, in the Greater Boston area. Through the symposium, the Commission seeks to identify and support the development of future Asian American leaders.

Treasurer Steven Grossman, Secretary Richard Davey of Massachusetts Department of Transportation, Commissioner Julian Tynes of Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination, Commissioner Geoffrey Why of Telecommunications and Cable, and author Beverly Flaxington spoke on the subject of leadership. During the lunch session, over a dozen federal and state agencies took part in networking with the attendees to provide insights on internship and career opportunities.

At the end of the symposium, the Commission challenged the young leaders to do something significant for their community. A "Rising Star" award will be presented at the next symposium to one individual and/or group that demonstrates an outstanding achievement.

Below are sample statistics of the 81 registrants who filled out an extended survey.



The Commission is interested in following the progress of the 14 respondents who answered "likely" and "yes."

## Resource Fair



The traveling Resource Fair, launched on February 12, 2012, brings information on state and federal resources to Asian American residents around Massachusetts. These resources include information and support on topics such as transitional assistance, consumer protection, career planning, health awareness, small business administration, housing opportunities, veterans' services, and more. The Commission developed its replicable Resource Fair model to bring our government closer to the people it serves. Many of these events had over 10,000 attendees.

Representatives from various agencies will be in attendance to provide information on their services and to answer questions. Bilingual speakers will be available to help with translations as needed. It will be an opportunity for Commissioners to meet members of the community and to bring concerns to our elected officials.

The Commission provides the following free services to the agencies: translation of agencies' brochures, onsite translators, table booths, tote bags, and promotional materials.

### List of partnering agencies:

- Department of Correction
- Department of Public Health
- Department of Telecommunications & Cable
- Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
- Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling
- Massvote
- Office of Consumer Affairs & Business Regulation
- US Citizenship and Immigration Services



In 2012, the Commission brought its Resource Fair to Boston's Chinatown, Lowell, and Quincy. Other targeted areas are Malden, Lynn, Springfield, and Worcester.



## Unity Dinner

Annual Leadership Award Recipients  
Full biographies are available online



2009 - Jim Yong Kim  
President of  
Dartmouth College



2010 - Joseph W. Chow  
Executive Vice President of  
State Street Corporation



2011 - Laura J. Sen  
President and CEO of BJ's  
Wholesale Club, Inc.



2012 - Nitin Nohria  
Dean of  
Harvard Business School

The Unity Dinner serves to celebrate the achievements of Asian Americans around the commonwealth and to raise the funds to carry out the Commission's advocacy work. Each year's theme explores a trend that heavily influences our economical, political, and social standings.

For 2012, we celebrated "Emerging Asian American Entrepreneurs" hosted by Co-Chairs Francis E. Chin, Dr. Om Ganda, and Vinit Nijhawan. It was no surprise that we recognized the extraordinary achievements in the business and academic world of Nitin Nohria, Dean of Harvard Business School. Dean Nohria is a true inspiration to the Asian American community. In addition, an outstanding group of Asian American entrepreneurs, Joe Chung, Chiang J. Li, Niraj Shah, Jo Tango, and Sushil K. Tuli, were highlighted to exhibit the important role that Asian Americans are playing in all sectors of the Massachusetts entrepreneurial community.

### 2012 supporters

The Boston Foundation  
State Street

Asian American Lawyers Association of MA  
Asian Community Development Corporation  
Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence  
Chin & Curtis, LLP  
Chinatown Main Street  
Korean-American Citizens League of NE  
Leader Bank

Light of Cambodian Children, Inc.  
MAP for Health  
NAAAP Boston  
Novo Nordisk  
Organization of Chinese Americans  
Paul W. Lee  
Quincy Asian Resources, Inc.  
South Shore YMCA

