

# 2021 Heart of the Community Dim Sum Breakfast



## Friday, June 11, 2021



Asian Community  
Development Corporation  
亞美社區發展協會

Building Homes. Empowering Families. Strengthening Communities.

# 34 Years of Investing in People and Communities

For over 30 years, ACDC has been committed to improving the quality of life and economic mobility of Asian immigrant and Asian American youth and families.

We acknowledge that the most recent rise in racism against Asians is part of a long, harrowing history of violence against immigrant and BIPOC communities. In addition to the physical attacks, violence manifests in other forms, including the lack of affordable housing, rising income inequality, and debilitating gaps in language access. Alongside community partners, ACDC mobilizes youth and adults to dismantle systems that perpetuate poverty and marginalize community voices through leadership development and civic engagement.

The pandemic will impact the communities we serve for some time to come. ACDC's community programs, such as Building Blocks, engage low-income households in building pathways to their financial goals and developing generational wealth. Asians have the largest income gap of any race, and many of our clients struggle to establish economic stability, despite mainstream portrayals of Asians as the successful model minority. Since last November, our staff has provided multilingual assistance to residents applying for rental or mortgage relief, allowing households that experienced a job loss or significant decrease in income to stay in their homes.

In collaboration with our partners, we distributed over \$160,000 in emergency financial aid this year to 300 families through the Asian Community Emergency Relief Fund (over \$320,000 was distributed in 2020). ACDC worked with Asian American Resource Workshop, Chinese Progressive Association, Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association of Lowell, Greater Boston Legal Services – Asian Outreach Unit, and VietAID to identify families in need. Our partners at Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence and South Asian Workers' Center supported expanding the Fund's reach.

As part of our anti-gentrification efforts, we connect local artists with residents to collaborate on placekeeping projects to transform their neighborhoods. In partnership with artist Lily Xie, "Washing" featured resident stories about the history of the I-90 and I-93 highways in a two-day event of outdoor video projections. This summer, alongside artist Gianna Stewart and Chinatown residents, we installed Hudson Street Stoop's "Storytell & Sway" to assert cultural representation while bringing joy to the neighborhood through bench swings inscribed with residents' quotes in their native languages.

Only by working together can we foster inclusive and equitable recovery. We hope you will join us as ACDC continues building and preserving affordable homes, empowering families, and strengthening communities by donating at [www.asiancdc.org/donate](http://www.asiancdc.org/donate).

In solidarity,



Angie Liou  
Executive Director

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## PROGRAM

### Welcome

Janet Wu *Anchor, WCVB-TV's On the Record*

Paul W. Lee *Board President, ACDC*

Angie Liou *Executive Director, ACDC*

### Video Presentation

### Inspiration Award

Presented by Mai Du *Founder & Chief Instructor, Wah Lum Kung Fu & Tai Chi Academy; ACDC Board Member*

Honoree City of Malden Accepted by Mayor Gary Christenson

### Panel Discussion

A.J. Kumar *Co-founder & Organizer, Malden Neighbors Helping Neighbors; Director of Carbon Experimentation, Indigo Ag; Board Member, The Humanist Chaplaincy at Harvard and MIT*

Zayda Ortiz *Co-leader, Mystic Valley Progressives - Massachusetts Chapter; Founding Member, Malden Neighbors Helping Neighbors*

Andrea So *Assistant Principal at Richard J. Murphy K-8 School; Co-founder & Board President of the Greater Malden Asian American Community Coalition (GMAACC)*

### Panel Q+A

### Closing



Eastern Bank is committed to recognizing  
the good in our communities and  
celebrating the work of the  
**ASIAN COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

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DIM SIM BREAKFAST**

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to empower change and create  
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## EMCEE

### Janet Wu



**JANET WU**, an Emmy winning political and investigative reporter, is co-host of WCVB's "On The Record." Janet previously served as WCVB's NewsCenter 5 Massachusetts political reporter for over thirty years.

Janet has been a key member of WCVB's political unit and received a prestigious Emmy at the 2015 Emmy® Awards presented by the National Academy of Televisions Arts and Sciences (NATAS) Boston/New England chapter.

Also in 2015, she received the 'Inspiration Award' from the Asian Community Development Corporation for her consummate work as a political reporter. Janet was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Emerson College at the 2011 commencement, and in 2010, she was inducted into the Massachusetts Broadcasters Hall of Fame. In addition, Janet was a member of the team at WCVB honored on multiple occasions with the coveted Walter Cronkite Award for Excellence in Political Journalism. Before coming to Channel 5, Janet was the State House reporter for WGBH-TV, Boston's public television station.

Janet, a native of Bridgewater, NJ, received a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. She is fluent in the Cantonese dialect of Chinese. Janet is married and has two children.

## INSPIRATION AWARD

### City of Malden



**THE CITY OF MALDEN AND THE MALDEN REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (MRA)** moved swiftly and aggressively to prevent evictions and support its residents through a multipronged approach throughout the pandemic.

Under Mayor Gary Christenson's leadership, Malden was one of the first communities to create a city-wide rental assistance program when the state program could not keep up with community needs. The City and the MRA negotiated with landlords to reduce rent debt owed by tenants.

Additional efforts included creating a court-based eviction prevention program in partnership with local nonprofits, providing tenants with legal aid, advocacy, landlord-tenant mediation, and direct rental assistance.

The City also established a local eviction moratorium that prevents evictions from being enforced except for a public health or safety issue.

In February, the Boston Globe lauded the City's efforts, noting that "no city has done more" to prevent COVID-era evictions than Malden.



**PANEL SPEAKER**  
**A.J. Kumar**



**A.J. KUMAR** is the Director of Carbon Experimentation at Indigo Ag where he leads the design of large-scale field trials to study regenerative agricultural systems potential for sequestering carbon in soil and leads technology exploration to identify ground-breaking technologies to enable carbon markets to scale faster.

Prior to Indigo, A.J. was the Chief Scientific Officer at Jana Care where he led the development of multiple low-cost, point-of-care rapid blood tests for chronic diseases. He has a PhD in Applied Physics from Harvard University, has authored over 20 publications, and is inventor on 10 patents and patent applications.

On March 14, 2020, A.J. joined several local residents to help form Malden Neighbors Helping Neighbors, a mutual aid group in Malden, MA to support the community in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The group has worked with other organizations and community volunteers to provide food and supply deliveries, sew and distribute masks and sanitizer, distribute computers to students, prevent evictions, provide comfort calls, and assist with equitable vaccine access.

**PANEL SPEAKER**  
**Zayda Ortiz**



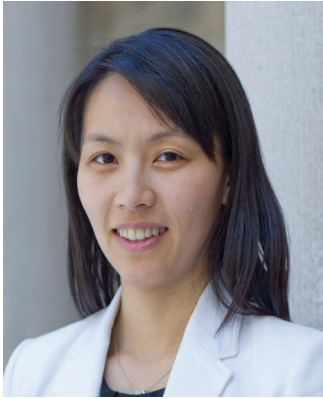
**ZAYDA ORTIZ** is the co-leader of Mystic Valley Progressives - Massachusetts Chapter. Zayda is a founding member of Malden Neighbors Helping Neighbors and an active member of Malden Community Organizing for Racial Equity.

Growing up in Tulsa, Oklahoma, the child of Mexican Immigrants, she learned the value of public service and helping others within their community and diverse neighborhood. Zayda has carried those lessons throughout her life and harnessed them into her advocacy work in Malden and across the state.

She is a passionate advocate for immigrant rights and increasing representation of people of color in all aspects of our government and society. Organizing and creating partnerships within the Mystic Valley is critical work to create a more just, inclusive society and a more engaged population within our region and beyond.

## PANEL SPEAKER

### Andrea So



**ANDREA SO** is the Assistant Principal at Richard J. Murphy K-8 School and has been a public school educator since 2008. Born and raised in Hong Kong, Ms. So immigrated to the Greater Boston area when she was in high school. She attended Northeastern University for her B.S. in Mathematics and Music, and her Master's degree in Secondary Mathematics Education. In 2015, Ms. So received her second Master's degree in School Leadership from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Ms. So has served as a Teacher Leader, Instructional Coach in Boston Public Schools, and most recently as Assistant Principal at Edwards Middle School. She brings with her the expertise in Restorative Practices, Interdisciplinary Project Based Learning, working with students with special needs, and coaching teacher teams.

Additionally, Ms. So is one of few certified Kung Fu instructors in the country. She has won numerous national and international titles in Kung Fu and Tai Chi. She coaches an award-winning performance and competition team of students in Kung Fu, Tai Chi, Lion Dance, and Dragon Dance. Ms.

So also identifies as a community activist. She is involved with many local grassroots organizations and organizing committees, and is the co-founder and current Board President of the Greater Malden Asian American Community Coalition.

## Visit the Hudson Street Stoop Storytell & Sway Exhibit now!



66 – 88 Hudson Street  
Boston, MA 02111

### A Modern-day Stoop to Connect Neighbors

We're proud to announce ACDC's newest project in Chinatown – Hudson Street Stoop, a rotating public art initiative to transform One Greenway Park into an activated and inclusive neighborhood "stoop." Our goals are to create art that reminds working-class individuals and families that they belong and that honors the rich history of Chinatown. ACDC collaborates with Chinatown residents and local artists to create interactive, rotating public art installations every 18 months.

This year's Hudson Street Stoop installation, Storytell & Sway by local artist Gianna Stewart, was developed in collaboration with Chinatown residents. The installation is made of socially distanced bench swings inscribed with residents' quotes in their native languages and adorned with playful bells purchased from Chinatown shops.



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ACDC for years of  
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Empowering Families, and  
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## Asian Community Development Corporation

and its commitment to creating and  
preserving affordable neighborhoods for  
Asian American communities throughout  
the Greater Boston area.

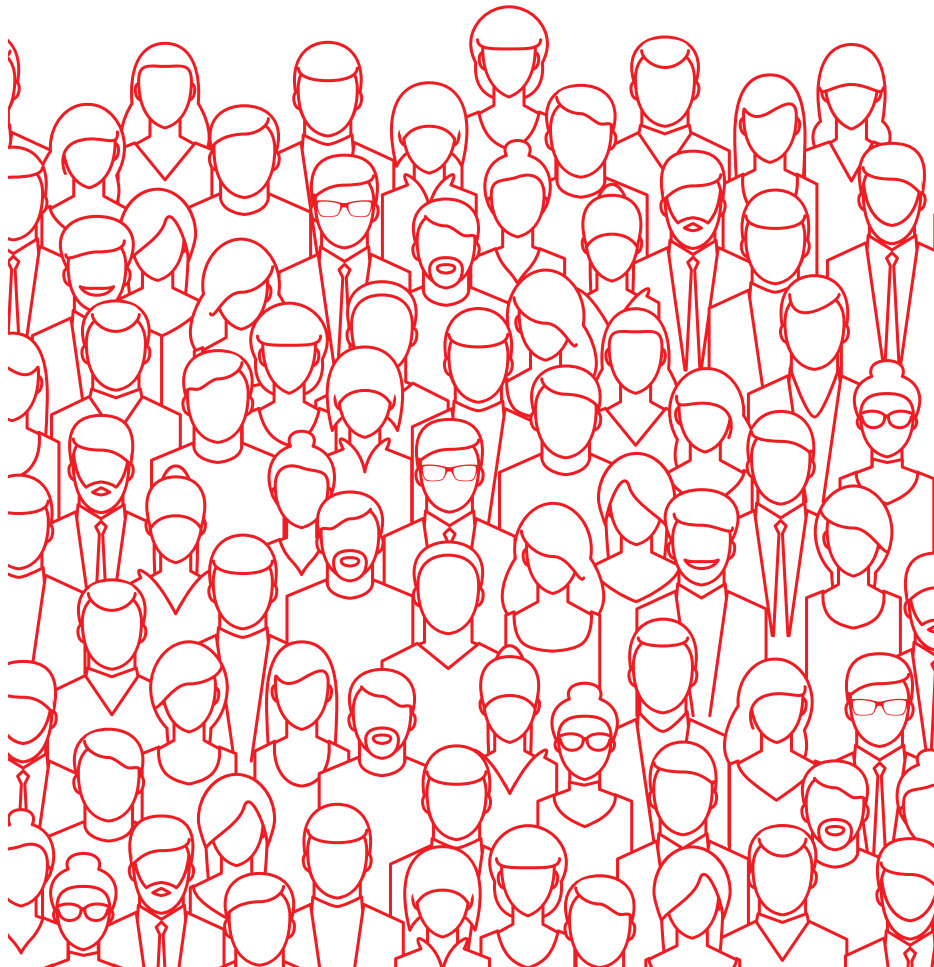
Congratulations to the **City of Malden**,  
recipient of the Inspiration Award.



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Pleased to support  
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to celebrate Asian CDC  
and their commitment  
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to new heights.



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## Thank you to ACDC for all you do to preserve and expand affordable housing, empower families, and strengthen our Chinatown community.

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- Braintree OB/GYN 塔夫茨醫療中心婦產科: 781-843-2229
- Asian General Pediatric and Adolescent Clinic  
亞裔兒科及成人門診: 617-636-1337
- Chinese Language Appointment Scheduling Access Line  
中文預約服務熱線: 866-779-9387
- Interpreter Services/Other Hospital Services  
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## We build lasting relationships with clients and their communities

Proud to once again support ACDC in their mission to deliver affordable housing in Boston.



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**The Boston Foundation** is delighted to support the 2021 Heart of the Community Dim Sum Breakfast. Thanks to ACDC for your powerful and groundbreaking work. We are proud of our own Asian Community Fund, co-founded by Paul Lee, who also co-founded ACDC. And we stand in solidarity with all of Greater Boston's Asian Americans against the ignorance and hatred that drives any kind of violence toward our treasured friends and communities.

For more about the Boston Foundation, visit [tbfb.org](https://tbfb.org)

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# Building vibrant communities together

Oxford properties is proud to partner with ACDC in this virtual celebration of important work across the pandemic.

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Photo by LD Tran

## SAVE THE DATE: FILMS AT THE GATE

Friday, August 27 to Sunday, August 29

At the Chinatown Gate in Boston

Films at the Gate is a placekeeping project organized by ACDC youth.

Saluting ACDC & the City of Malden  
at the Heart of our Community



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May Chu <i>Building Blocks Manager</i>	Michelle Zhang <i>Operations Manager</i>
Celina Fernando <i>Youth Programs Associate</i>	Emily Zheng <i>AmeriCorps Massachusetts Promise Fellow - Youth Programs Associate</i>
Jeena Hah <i>Director of Community Programs &amp; Design</i>	Julia Zhu <i>Housing Counselor</i>
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Total tax savings*	\$500
Final out-of-pocket donation	\$500

\*Situations vary. Please consult with your tax advisor.

For more information email [citc@asiancdc.org](mailto:citc@asiancdc.org).