



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

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One Ashburton Place
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Boston, MA 02108
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Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 5th, 2024

3-4 PM

Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84418338003?pwd=yINyI3ZlMkNB4S8WWJqXwKjPtJrX5t.1>

*Please note that this meeting will be recorded

The meeting will be held via teleconference in compliance with the Governor's Executive Order on the Open Meeting Law and COVID-19.

Attendance:

Commissioners: Emma Chen-Banas, Gary Yu, Moana Bentin, Saatvik Ahluwalia

Staff: Jennifer Best, Lizette Sta. Maria, Shubhecchha Dhaurali

1. Call to Order

Subcommittee Chair Moana Bentin calls the meeting to order at 3:04 PM.

2. Discussion of top 20 graded grant applications

The matrix had not been fully graded, so the subcommittee talks through the refugee-serving applicants. The subcommittee uses preliminary high, medium, low ratings on subjective matters like project descriptions and location.

- 1975 A Vietnamese Diaspora Healing Initiative: Low
- ARISE: High
- Amherst Media: Low
- Angkor Dance Troupe: Low
- AARW: High
- Boston New Hope Academy: Medium
- Boston Refugee Youth Enrichment Program: Medium
- Chinese Culture Connection: Low
- Commonwealth Seminar: Low/Medium
- Cultural Empowerment Organization: Low
- DIEWC: Low
- Hanh My Foundation Corp: Low
- International Institute of New England: High → YES, selected
- Massachusetts Baptist Multicultural Ministries: High
- Massachusetts Afghan Alliance: High
- Mystic Valley YMCA: Low
- National Asian Women's Association: No, not selected.
- North Shore AAPI Coalition: Low
- OUTnewcomers: Low
- Political Asylum Immigration Representation (PAIR) Project: High → YES, selected
- Proleung Khmer A 50 Year Journey of Remembrance: Medium/Low
- Quincy Asian Resources, Inc.: Low due to high funding already
- Refugees & Immigrants Cultural Empowerment Massachusetts: High
- Rohingya Green Nature Society: Low, unclear where the money will be spent might be outside MA
- Springfield Vietnamese Cultural Association: Low



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- The Association of Vietnamese Traditional Martial Arts: Low
- The South Asian Workers Center: Low
- Vietnamese American Community of Massachusetts: Low
- Vong Tay Cha Me Viet/ The Circle of Vietnamese Parents: Medium/Low
- Wutabon, Inc.: Low due to funding

3. Recommendation of 10 applicants to award \$5,000 grants to (VOTE)

Commissioner Moana Bentin makes a motion to award \$5,000 to each of the following organizations: Advocacy for Refugee & Immigrant Services for Empowerment (ARISE), Asian American Resource Workshop (AARW), International Institute of New England, Massachusetts Baptist Multicultural Ministries Inc., Massachusetts Afghan Alliance, Political Asylum Immigration Representation (PAIR) Project, Refugees & Immigrants Cultural Empowerment Massachusetts, Boston New Hope Academy, Boston Refugee Youth Enrichment and \$2,500 to each of the following organizations: Proleung Khmer and The Circle of Vietnamese Parents. Commissioner Saatvik Ahluwalia seconds.

Yes: Gary Yu, Saatvik Ahluwalia, Emma Chen-Banas, Moana Bentin

The motion passes unanimously.

4. Future agenda items

Commissioner Saatvik Ahluwalia makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Gary Yu seconds.

Yes: Saatvik Ahluwalia, Gary Yu, Emma Chen-Banas, Moana Bentin.

The motion passes unanimously. The meeting is adjourned at 4:02 PM.



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