

2026 AAPI Commission Youth Council Showcase

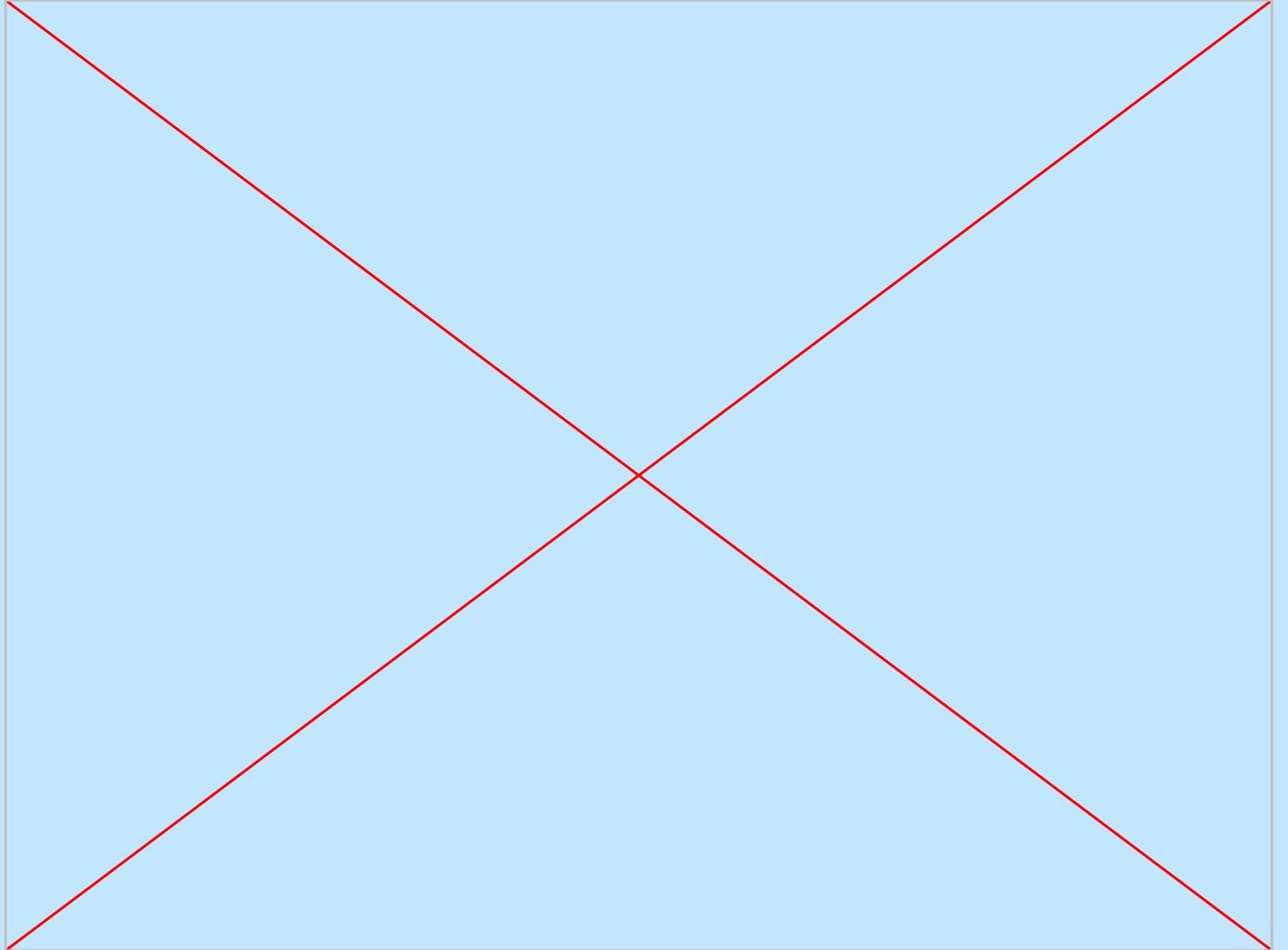


Event Opening by
**Shubhecchha
Dhaurali** ,
Director of
Programs &
Research





Video from
Ashley Shan ,
Youth
Council
Coordinator
(2022-2026)



Opening
Remarks by
**Bahara
Hussaini** ,
AAPI
Commission
Secretary



Youth Council Project Presentations



David Guo
Lexington
Grade 11





AAPI Youth Athletic Equity Initiative

Advancing Athletic Equity, Representation, and Opportunities for AAPI Youth

David Guo
MA AAPIC Youth Council Member

Project Vision and Mission

Advancing AAPI Youth Representation and Opportunity in Athletics including basketball, running, and other sports.

We are dedicated to empowering AAPI youth to overcome biases and structural barriers, ensuring they achieve their shining moments on the court and field.



The Need for Athletic Equity for AAPI Youth

To drive systemic change, we must address the structural barriers facing AAPI youth in athletics.

Focus Areas

- Overcoming inherent biases in athletic representation.
- Strengthening AAPI youth community-building in athletics.
- Leveraging the power of sports
 - Deepening AAPI cultural heritage engagement.
 - Promoting cross-cultural understanding.
 - Nurturing the healthy growth and leadership development of AAPI youth.



Strategic Goals: Empowerment and Systemic Change

This project drives systemic change through a dual approach.

Goal 1: Grassroots Advocacy

Empowering youth on the ground through professional training, community events, and direct athletic participation. We focus on building leadership from within the community to ensure sustainable engagement.

Goal 2: Public Policy Reform

Developing concrete, evidence-based public policy proposals for AAPI youth athletic equity and advocating for their adoption into Massachusetts state law. Translating field needs into legislative impact.



Launched Digital Hub: The Dragon Digital Platform

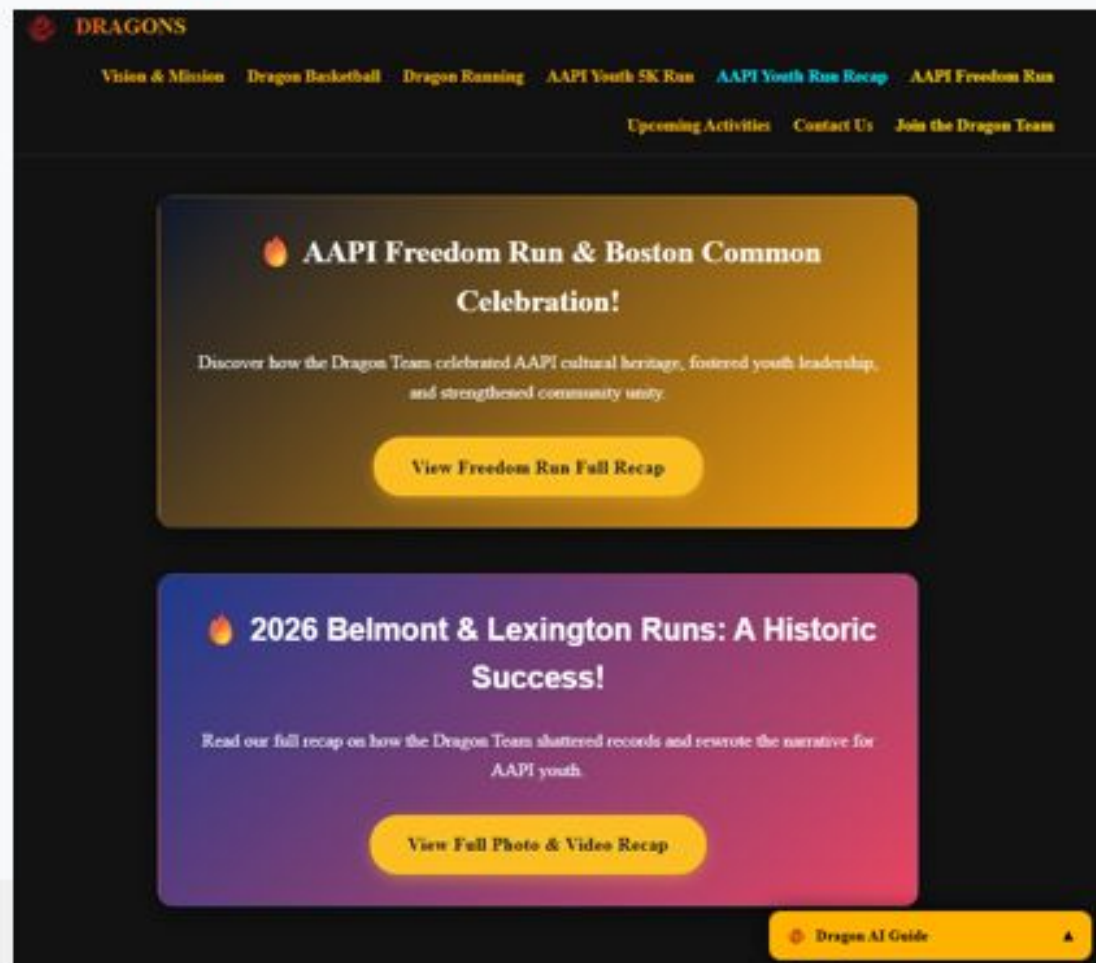
Centralized hub for project updates and AAPI youth engagement

The digital platform is currently live and serves as the central hub for the initiative.

Key Features:

- Centralized team registration.
- Regular project updates and AAPI youth achievement highlights.
- Dedicated sections for the AAPI Youth Run, Dragon Running Team, and Dragon Basketball Team.
- The "Unsung Heroes" storytelling campaign.

PlatformURL: <https://dragons.pythonanywhere.com/>



Community Engagement: The "Unsung Heroes" Campaign

Recognizing community members supporting AAPI youth in sports.

The "Unsung Heroes" section on the web platform focuses on storytelling and profiling those who uplift AAPI youth youth.

Status Update

- Focused on storytelling and profiling community heroes.
- A true role model has been identified and secured for the campaign.
- The first in-depth profile interview has been successfully conducted and content developed.



Robert Soparkar

The in-depth profile interview captures the essence of grassroots advocacy and the impact of mentorship on the next generation of AAPI athletes.



Scaling Impact through Fundraising and Organizational Support

Fueling athletic equity through community and institutional backing

Total Raised To Date

\$1,500+

Individual & UCACF Grants

Key Funding Partners

- **United Chinese Americans (UCA):** \$1,500 grant recipient
- **Community Contributions:** Holiday fundraising from AAPI families

Supporting Organization and Donors



Joint the 2026 AAPI Youth 5K Run

100%

**Financial barriers shattered
(Reimbursements & Free Gear)**

Exclusive Benefits



100% Registration Fee Reimbursement



Free Dragon Team Athletic T-Shirt



Professional Pre-Race Training Sessions

- * Join Dragon Team to receive Dragon Team code to have the signup fee covered.
- * Select "Dragon Team" and apply code during the 5K Run sign up.



AAPI Youth Running Initiative and Impact

Metrics for the running team

The Dragon Youth Running Team was formed through extensive community outreach across several towns.

Impact Metrics

- 4 Training Sessions Completed
- Over 100 AAPI youth and family members participated.
- Participation well exceeded our initial target of 20+ individuals.
- Town representation: Sudbury, Lexington, Belmont, Newton, Wellesley, and Chelmsford.

100+

AAPI youth & family participants



High-Profile Endorsement: B.A.A. CEO Jack Fleming



Jack Fleming

CEO, Boston Athletic Association

Strong Support

- Jack Fleming attended the inaugural training session, offering direct encouragement to youth participants.
- The B.A.A. manages the historic Boston Marathon, bringing institutional prestige to the initiative.
- Fleming's presence validated the importance of AAPI youth representation in high-performance sports.



Event Highlight: 2026 AAPI Youth 5K & 2K Run (Belmont)

Sunday, May 3

Success Metrics & Support

- Nearly 500 total event participants.
- **Support Provided:** Free registration, professional training, water, and snacks.

The initiative continues to reduce financial and logistical barriers for AAPI youth athletes through comprehensive community race-day support.



2nd Largest

Registered team at entire event



2026 AAPI Youth 5K Run (Lexington)

MAY
10

Lexington, MA

Lexington 5K Run

Sunday, May 10

3rd Largest

Registered team at entire event





Voice of the Project: Media Impact & Outreach

Amplifying the project's voice, reach and impact

Proactive engagement to increase project visibility.

- Speaking in MA State House
- Speaking on Stage at Boston Common
- Interview with EA TV
- Interview with BARTV
- Heroes at [Illuminate Heritage project at Lexington](#)
- Interview with the Belmont Voice.
- Dragon Youth Web Platform

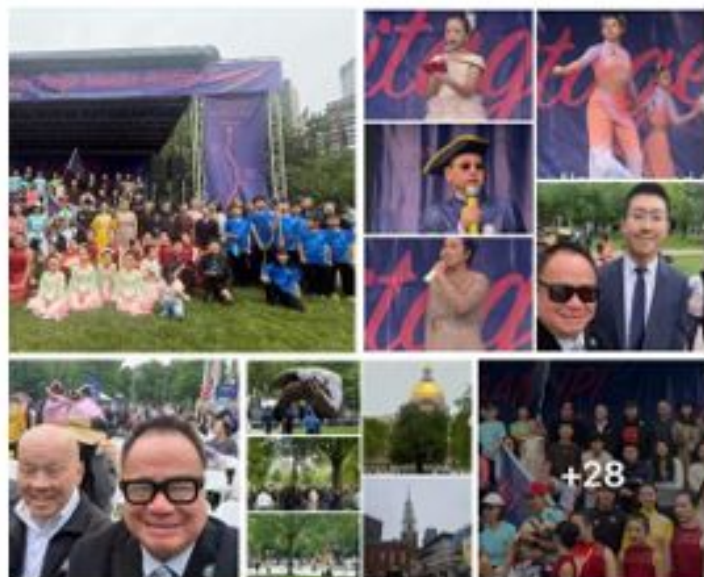




Coco Alinsug, City Council President of... ***

12h · 🌐

2026 AANHPI Heritage Festival: I am honored to be invited as guest speaker and get to repre... See more



Young finishers Preston Stegmaier, Brandon Wang, Elias Montelongo, Emilie Dinu, Sophia Dinu and Nicolas Vasilev, and Andrew Vasilev, show off their medals and post-race snacks at the Belmont track following the fifth annual AAPI Run. (Julianne Snow Gauron/Belmont Voice)

The Belmont Voice

Friday, May 8, 2025 9

Annual Asian and Pacific Islander 5K



Runners surge from the start line at the 5th annual AAPI 5K at the Belmont track Sunday. The community race drew runners of all ages in celebration of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. (Julianne Snow Gauron/Belmont Voice)



The female finishers Ailing Wang, Kabrina Preston, and Katie Carr receive their awards alongside Bianca Pisci at the 5th annual Belmont AAPI Run. (Julianne Snow Gauron/Belmont Voice)



Scaling Impact: From Bunker Hill to Boston Common

Culminating event: The Freedom Run on May 23.

Empowerment Platform

- AAPI youth competing on the historic Freedom Trail.
- Youth speaking publicly at the podium at Boston Common finish line.
- Demonstrating leadership and raising community voices.





AAPI Youth Athletic Equity Initiative



AAPI Youth Awards & Celebration

Celebrating the outstanding leadership, dedication, and athletic achievements of incredible AAPI youth



Concluding Phase I: Empowering AAPI youth. Bridging communities.

- ❑ **The Freedom Run leading to the Boston Common main stage was a monumental success!**
- ❑ **Through dedication, athletic spirit, and a deep connection to our heritage, AAPI youth stepped up to the starting line—and onto the main stage.**
- ❑ **Our collective participation had a profound impact:**

It significantly advanced youth leadership development, strengthened the AAPI youth community, celebrated our rich cultural heritage, and actively promoted inter-cultural understanding. We recognized our future leaders with certificates and awards to celebrate their commitment and growth.



We didn't just show up, we made history.

- ❑ For too long, AAPI youth have faced systemic barriers and stereotyping in athletics. The Dragon Team is changing that narrative.
- ❑ Dragon youth sports initiatives and well-organized activities contributed to record AAPI youth participation at both the Belmont and Lexington runs!

100+

Youth & family members braved
the elements

2nd

Largest registered team out of
nearly 500 runners at Belmont

100%

Financial barriers shattered
(Reimbursements & Free Gear)



Next steps

Phase #2 key focus areas

- ❑ **Basketball Initiatives - Fall 2026**
 - **Basketball for Peace**
- ❑ **Fostering inter-community understanding through inter-community tournaments - Fall 2026**
- ❑ **Supporting Public Policy Reform: Advancing State Bill H.2222**

Vision & Mission

Breaking Barriers

Advocating for AAPI youth to shatter structural barriers and excel in competitive sports and high school varsity teams.



Building Bridges

Fostering mutual understanding and bridging cultural gaps between communities through Athletics.



Leadership & Health

Developing civic leadership, resilience, and maintaining a healthy mind and body.



Advancing Athletic Equity, Representation, and Opportunities for AAPI Youth

David Guo

MA AAPIC Youth Council Member

davidguo0202@gmail.com

<https://dragons.pythonanywhere.com>



**Diya
Bhandari**
Norwood
12th, Senior





My Profile



AAPI Inclusion in School Curricula

2026 AAPI Youth Council Project by Diya Bhandari
Norwood, MA | Norwood High School '26



My Why





Home

My Library

Reading List

Book Store



My Profile

Project Details: Objective

Pushing for the inclusion of AAPI authors, narratives, and voices in school curricula and beyond

INTEGRATION

Choosing school-appropriate
AAPI works to integrate into
Norwood High School's
summer reading curriculum
and beyond

SHOWCASE

Adding AAPI works into
Norwood High School's Digital
Catalog & Partnering with
the NHS Asian Cultural Club
to host "blind book dates",
showcasing AAPI works
throughout the month of May

TOOLKIT

Creating a toolkit that
summarizes my project while
highlighting the importance
of AAPI representation in
both schools and literature in
general



Home

My Library

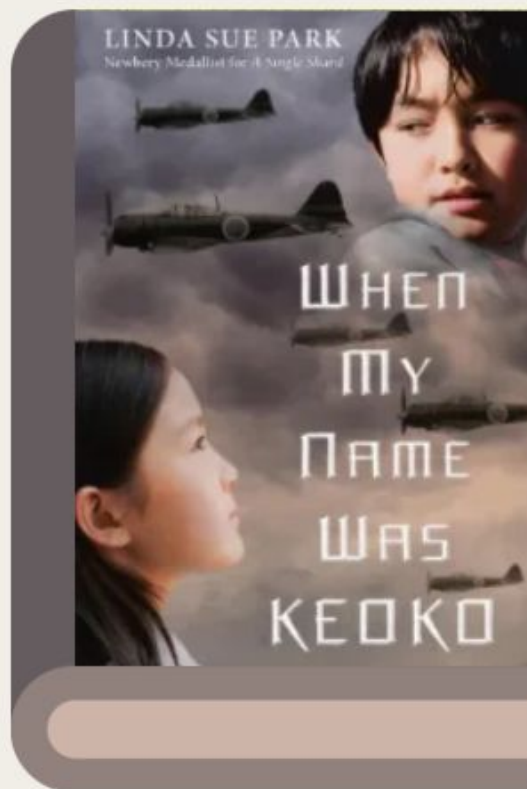
Reading List

Book Store



My Profile

Books successfully integrated into NHS' reading curricula



When My Name Was Keoko

By Linda Sue Park | 2002 | Historical Fiction



Sun-hee and her older brother Tae-yul are proud of their Korean heritage. Yet they live their lives under Japanese occupation. All students must read and write in Japanese and no one can fly the Korean flag. Hardest of all is when the Japanese Emperor forces all Koreans to take Japanese names. Sun-hee and Tae-yul become Keoko and Nobuo. Korea is torn apart by their Japanese invaders during World War II. Everyone must help with war preparations, but it doesn't mean they are willing to defend Japan. Tae-yul is about to risk his life to help his family, while Sun-hee stays home guarding life-and-death secrets.



Home

My Library

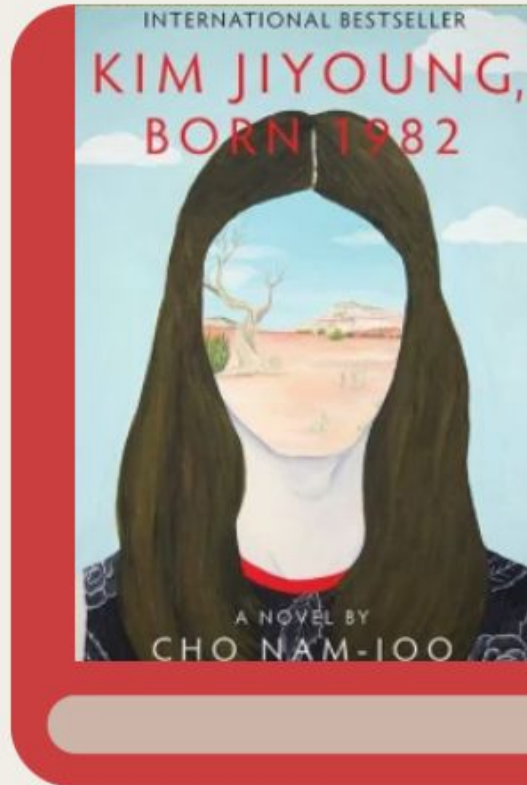
Reading List

Book Store



My Profile

Books successfully integrated into NHS' reading curricula



Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982

Cho Nam Too | 2016 | Fiction



In a small, tidy apartment on the outskirts of the frenzied metropolis of Seoul lives Kim Jiyoung. A thirtysomething-year-old “millennial everywoman,” she has recently left her white-collar desk job—in order to care for her newborn daughter full-time—as so many Korean women are expected to do. But she quickly begins to exhibit strange symptoms that alarm her husband, parents, and in-laws: Jiyoung impersonates the voices of other women—alive and even dead, both known and unknown to her. As she plunges deeper into this psychosis, her discomfited husband sends her to a male psychiatrist. In a chilling, eerily truncated third-person voice, Jiyoung’s entire life is recounted to the psychiatrist—a narrative infused with disparate elements of frustration, perseverance, and submission.



Home

My Library

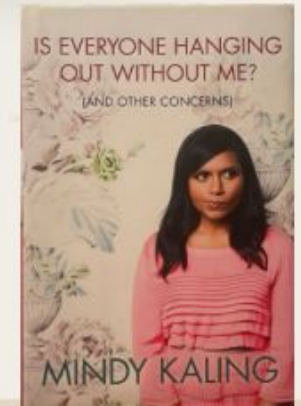
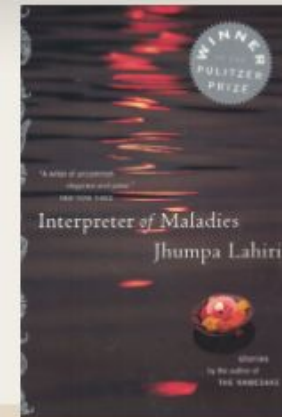
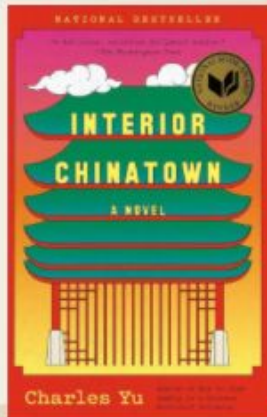
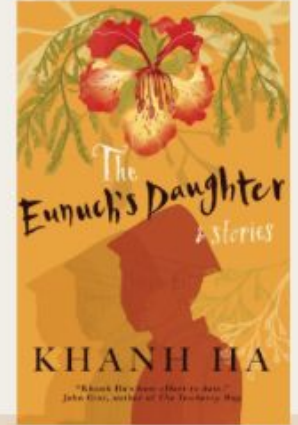
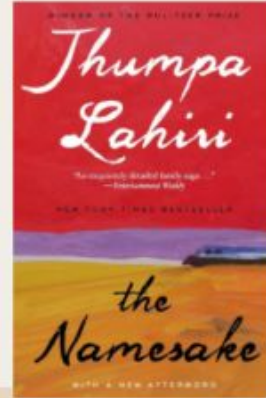
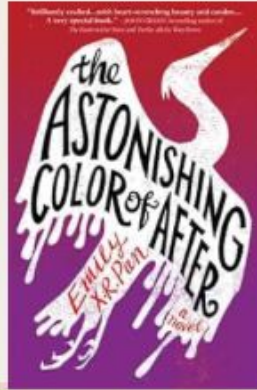
Reading List

Book Store



My Profile

AAPI Heritage Month Showcases

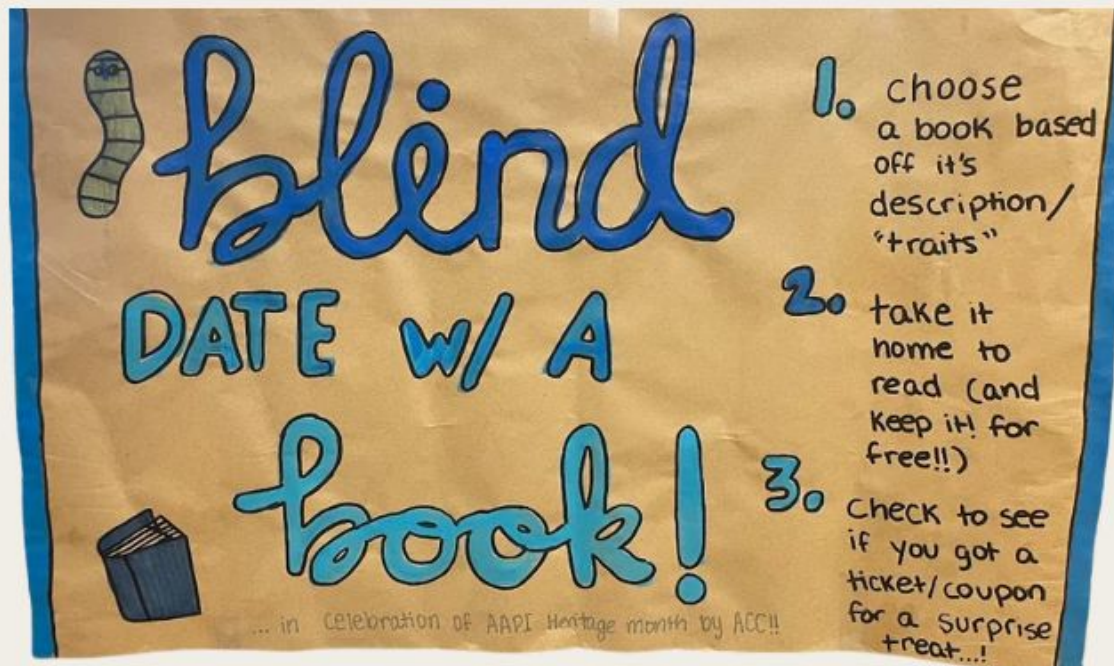
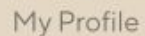




My Library

Reading List

Book Store





Home

My Library

Reading List

Book Store



My Profile

Toolkit



Demonstrate why
AAPI representation
in school reading
matters.



Support educators in
creating a more
inclusive reading
curriculum.



Showcase a student-
led project to
encourage other
youth across MA to
make change in their
communities



Thank You!





**Rachel
Roblinski**
Monson
Senior

PROJECT DETAILS

FUNDING

Fortunately, my event didn't require much funding. I purchased a few stationary supplies to use during my event, because I wanted it to feel more hands on and collaborative.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

I was lucky enough to partner with both the Palmer Public Library and my school, allowing me to put on my community event twice free of charge!

GOALS

My overall goal of this event was to bridge the gap between patient and provider. I wanted to create a space in healthcare where there is a mutual understanding of each other creating less fear and distress and better quality of care.

**Anthony
You-Cheng
Lu**
Natick
Grade 12



Link:

<https://canva.link/x7rxfdxuqdkzqrh>

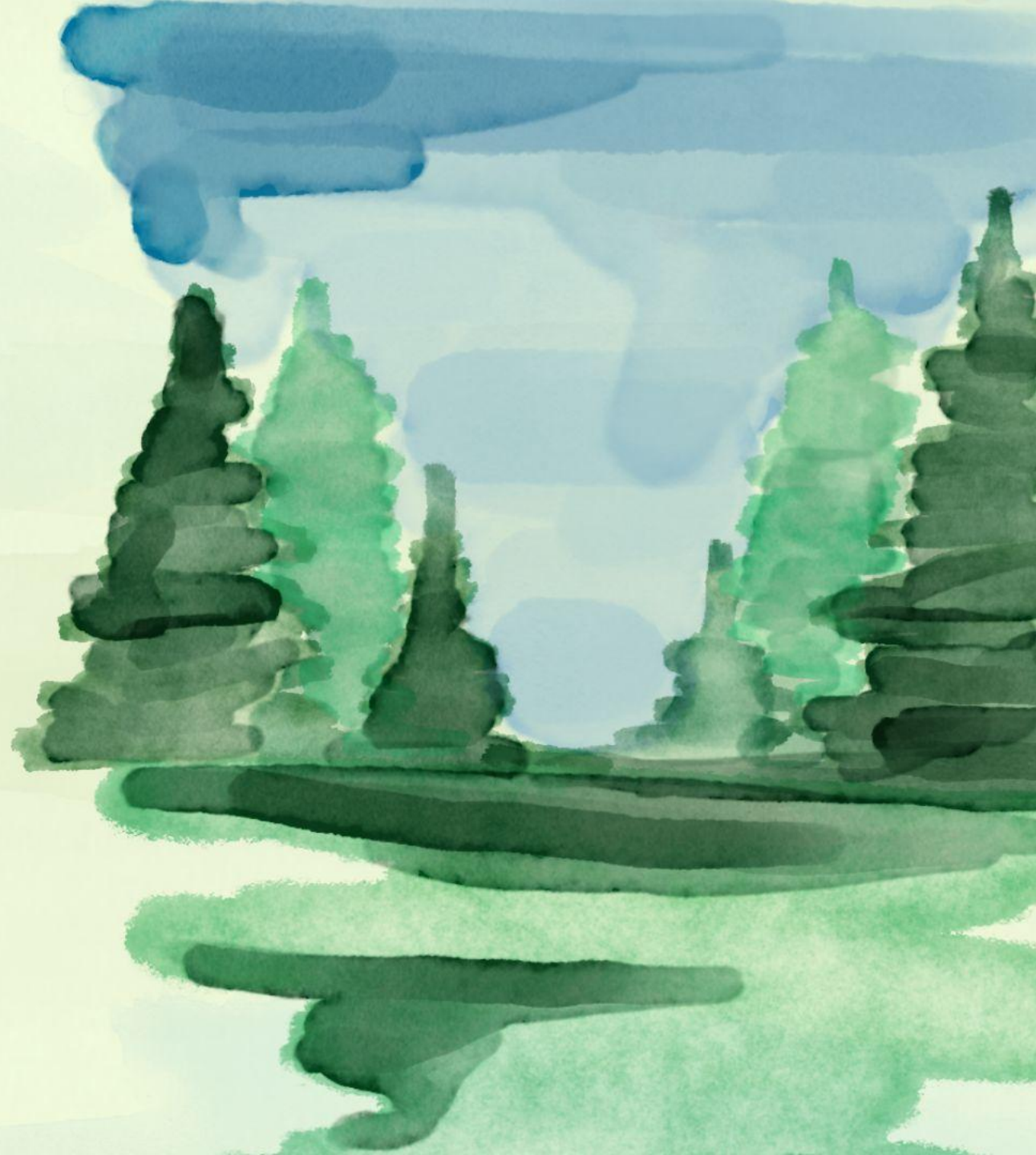
Chahat Kalia
Somerville



Presented by: **Chahat Kalia**

Community Tree Project

AAPI Commission Youth Council





What Is The Community Tree?

For my project, I decided to build an interactive art piece. I designed a community tree and had the help of students from Somerville High School's DAY Club to build it. It was then installed at the Somerville-Cambridge Asian festival and made it so that people could write messages on it to show pride in their cultural identity or hopes/messages for the future. This was to foster connection between the AAPI Community in Massachusetts.



Why this?



AAPJ youth often do not see their stories or cultural identities represented publicly in our communities. A lack of visibility can make it difficult for young AAPJ people to feel recognized or even connected. My project serves as a way to connect the AAPJ community in Massachusetts through a collaborative art piece



Materials Used



Two concrete form blocks (8ft)

Stacked on top of each other and used for the base of the tree



Artificial leaves

To act as leaves and fill the tree



Bamboo sticks

To use as branches for the tree



Spray paint

Painting the bamboo sticks the same color as the bark



Artificial bark

Put around the base of the tree and making the tree more realistic



Wooden flowers & butterflies

for people to write messages on and then hang from the tree



Step-by-Step Instructions:



Added faux bark around the concrete form blocks after cutting them to size.



Secured the two blocks together by aligning and attaching three PVC pipes to one block and three birch dowels to the other.



Cut the top of one block into 16 triangular pieces and assembled them into a dome-shaped canopy.



Used bamboo sticks as branches, carefully aligning holes and inserting them into the structure.



Finished by spray-painting the branches and adding the leaves



Presenting at the festival



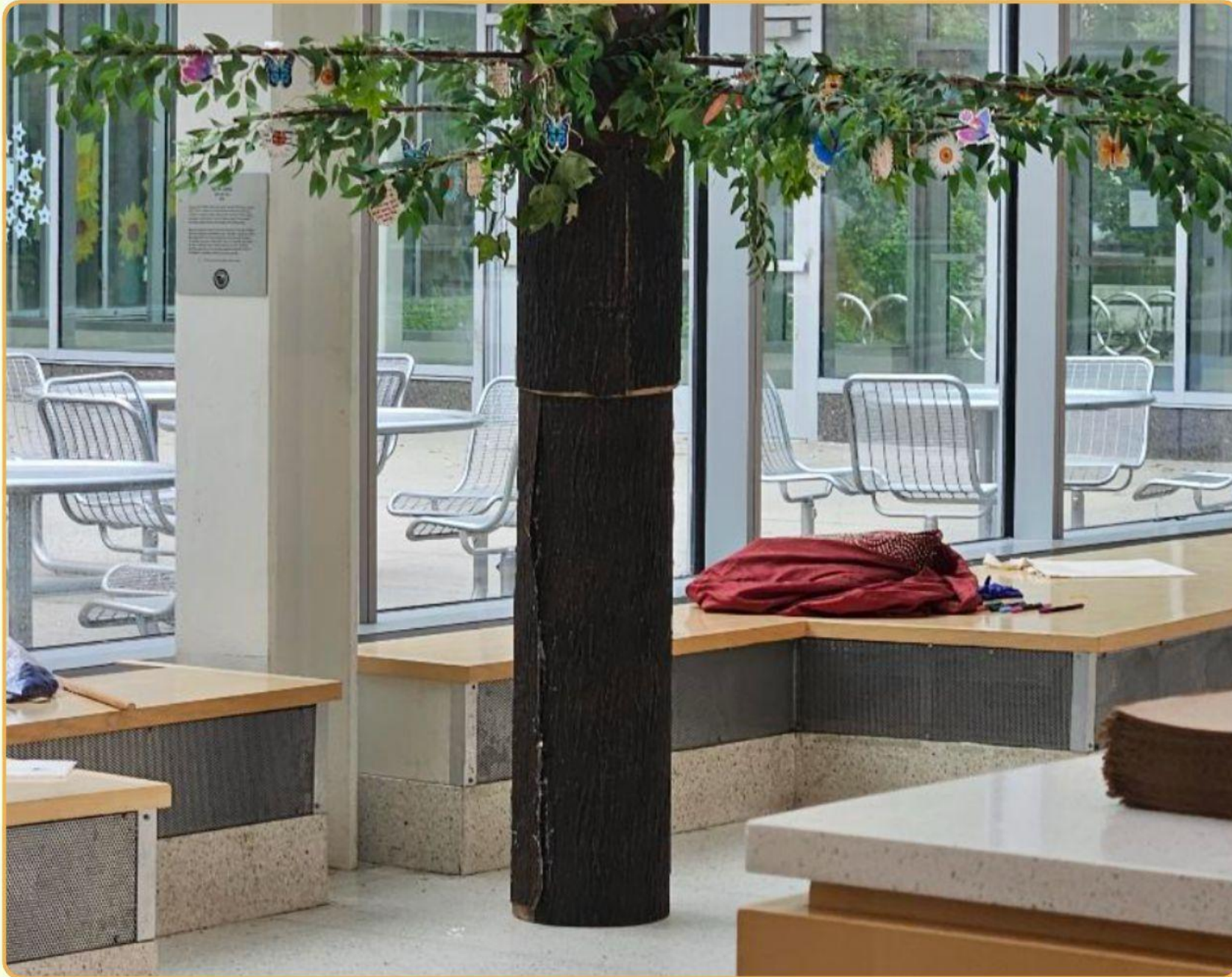
Community Impact



- Fostered connection and dialogue among diverse AAPI individuals and families across Massachusetts through a collaborative art experience
 - Connected individuals across ages, from young children to the elderly to engage in AAPI advocacy
- Increased the visibility of AAPI voices and experiences in a public community setting
- Collected dozens of community-written messages that reflected shared values, experiences, and aspirations
 - Over 40 messages were included in the tree



My Tree!



From a possibility to reality



A watercolor illustration of a forest scene. On the left, several evergreen trees of varying heights and shades of green are depicted. A long, dark shadow of a dinosaur is cast across the grassy foreground. The background features soft, hazy green hills and a pale yellow sky with faint, colorful circular accents. On the right side, there are more trees, including a large, leafy deciduous tree. The overall style is soft and artistic.

Thank You



Emily Wu
Lexington
12th

Rewriting the
Narrative:
Amplifying AAPI
Veteran Experiences

Presented by Emily Wu

Made with
Castify

**Ying Kay
Leung**
Belchertown
12th



Voices of Who We Are

Ying Kay Leung



Introduction

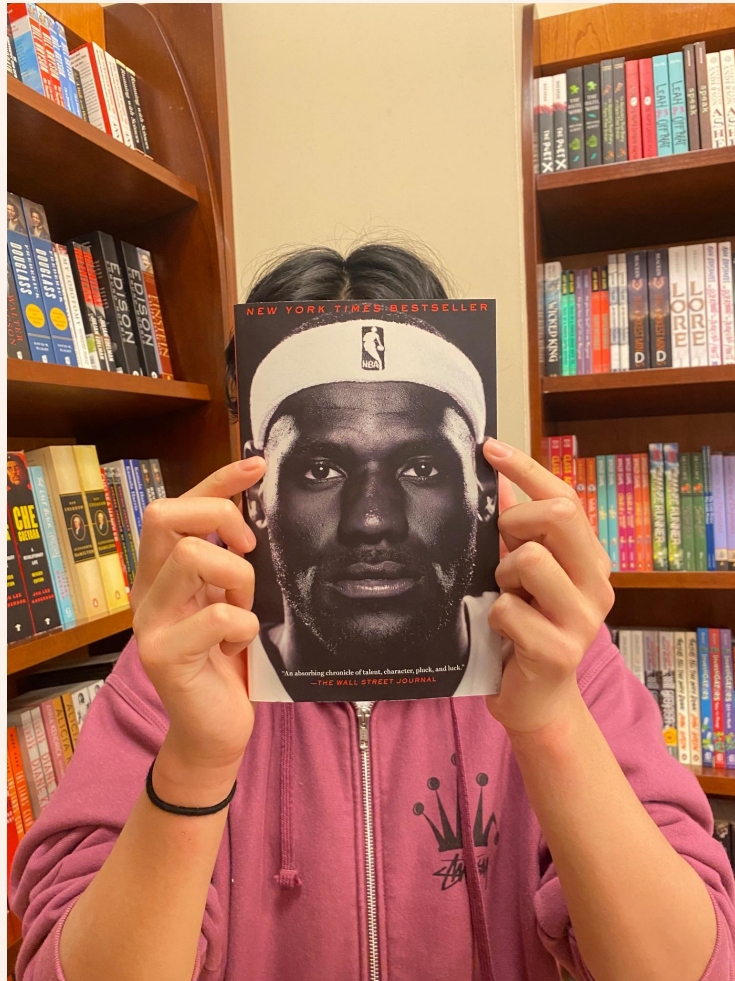
Name: Ying Kay Leung

Ethnicity: Chinese

School: Northfield Mount Hermon, Senior

Hometown: Belchertown, Hampshire
County



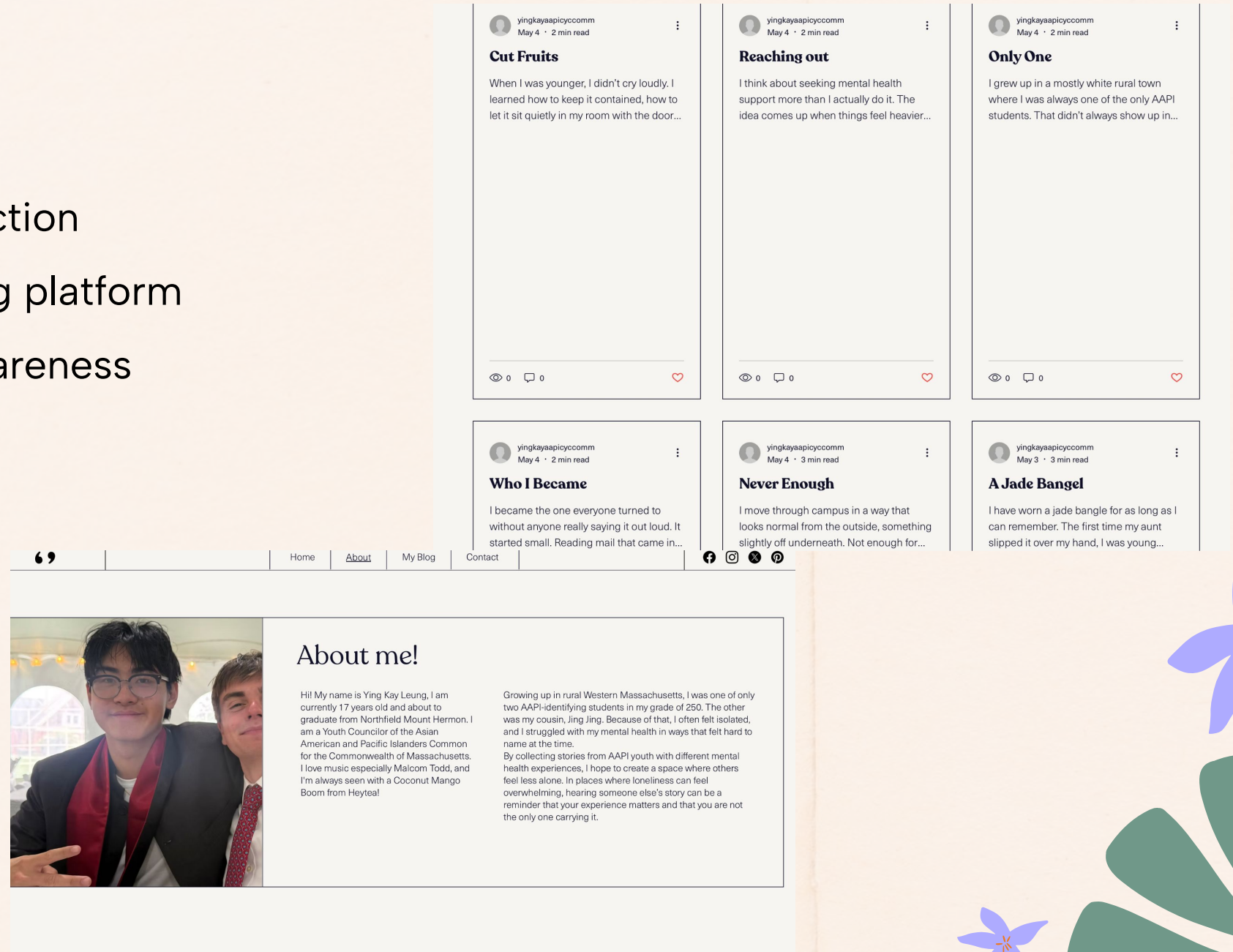


Inspiration

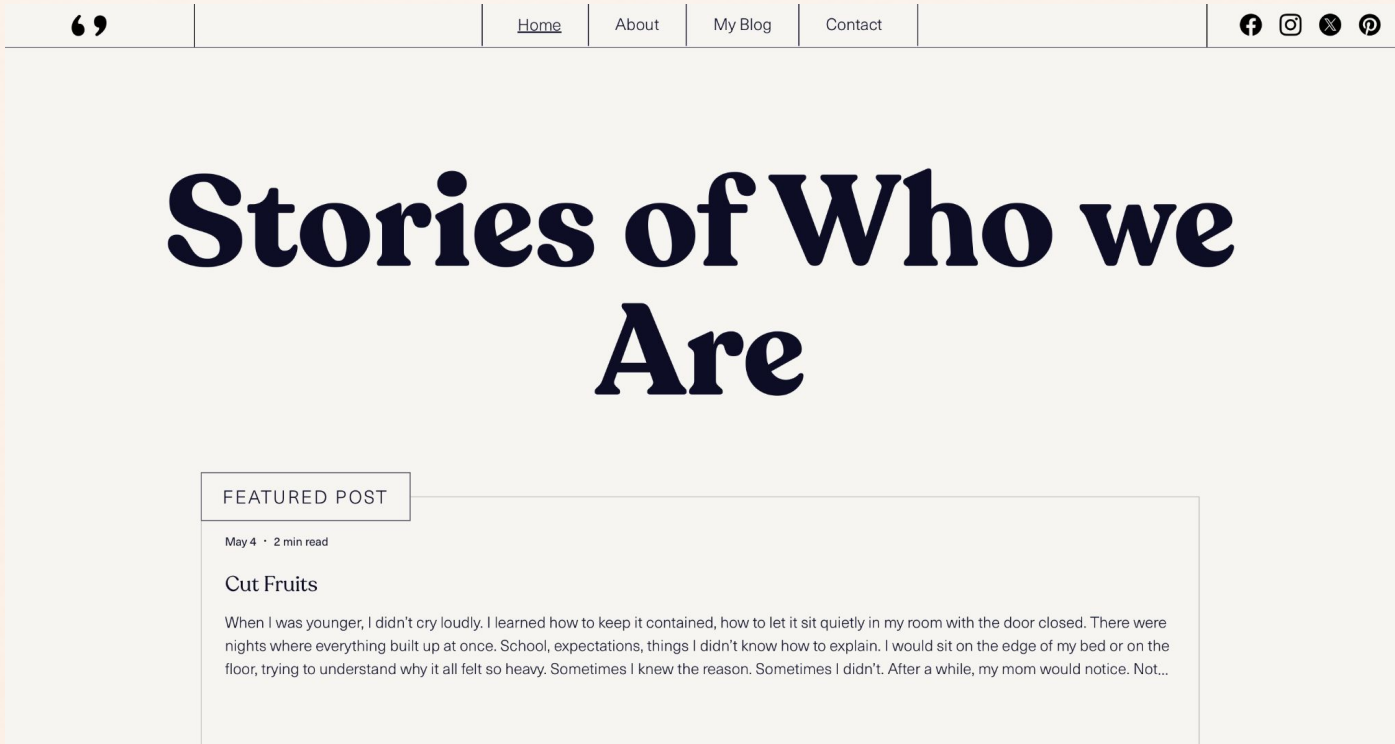
- Identity & isolation
- AAPI youth mental health stigma
- Family pressure & expectations
- Storytelling & community healing

Project details

- Youth story collection
- Digital storytelling platform
- Mental health awareness



Project impact



- Increased awareness
- Reduced stigma
- Stronger community connection
- Empowered youth voices

Next steps

- collect more stories
- market outwards

Contact info:

leungyingkay07@gmail.com

+1 (413)-388 3715



Skye
Morishita
Boston
Sophomore



RED CROSS FOOD FOR ME

Skye Morishita

Partnering with the Boston Red Cross Food Pantry to better understand and support AAPI
community members



**American
Red Cross**

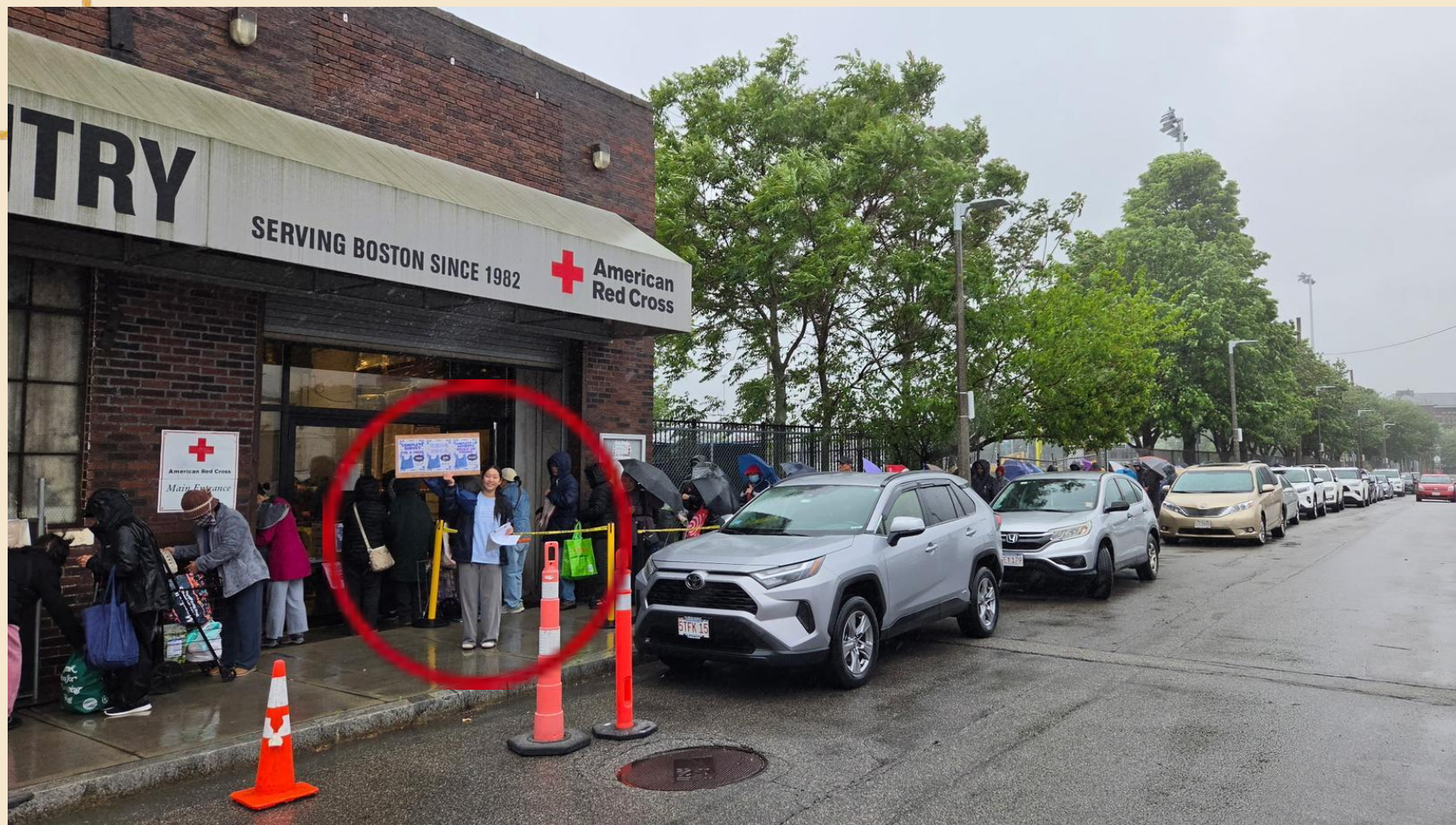
Boston Food Pantry

Why Red Cross?

- Combat food insecurity in their diverse clientele base, including a large AAPI portion
- Limited information about client experiences and whether current services reflected the needs of the community

- Volunteer work for the past two years for the Boston Food Pantry
- Dedicated Red Cross Leadership
 - Sharon Curry, Floor Director
 - David Andre, Director of the Food & Nutrition Programs





Boston Food Pantry – Client Feedback Survey

Thank you for sharing your feedback. Your responses help us improve our services and better support the community.

1. Does the food you receive fit your household's dietary, cultural, or religious needs?

- Always 😊
- Usually 😊
- Sometimes 😊
- Rarely 😊

2. Are the pantry hours, location, and lines easy for you to manage?

- Very easy 😊
- Somewhat easy 😊
- Difficult 😊
- Very difficult 😊

3. If access is difficult, what would make it easier for you? (Select all that apply)

- Better transportation options / closer location
- Shorter wait times / lines
- Different hours (weekends or evenings)
- Language translation support
- Feeling more safe or comfortable sharing information

4. Do staff and volunteers treat you with respect, dignity, and welcome your background?

- Always 😊
- Usually 😊
- Sometimes 😊
- Rarely 😊

5. What is one thing we do WELL that we should keep doing?

6. What is one thing we could CHANGE to better support your family or community?

Optional:
Preferred language _____

English

波士頓食品分發處 (Boston Food Pantry) – 受訪群眾回饋問卷

感謝您分享您的寶貴意見。您的回答將幫助我們改善服務，並更好地支持社區。

1. 您收到的食品是否符合您家庭的飲食、文化或宗教需求？

- 總是符合 😊
- 通常符合 😊
- 有時符合 😊
- 很少符合 😊

2. 食品分發處的開放時間、地點和排隊情況對您來說方便安排嗎？

- 非常方便 😊
- 比較方便 😊
- 不方便 😊
- 非常不方便 😊

3. 如果您覺得前來領取有困難，什麼調整會讓您更方便？（可多選）

- 更好的交通選擇 / 更近的地點
- 更短的等待或排隊時間
- 不同的開放時間（週末或晚上）
- 語言翻譯協助
- 在填寫或分享個人資料時感到更安全或更自在

4. 工作人員和志工是否尊重、體面地對待您，並尊重和歡迎您的文化背景？

- 總是如此 😊
- 通常如此 😊
- 有時如此 😊
- 很少如此 😊

5. 有哪一件事是我們做得很好、應該繼續保持的？

6. 有哪一件事是我們可以改變，以更好地支持您的家庭或社區的？

選填：首選語言 _____

Chinese (traditional)

Despensa de Alimentos de Boston – Encuesta de comentarios de los usuarios

Gracias por compartir sus comentarios. Sus respuestas nos ayudan a mejorar nuestros servicios y a brindar un mejor apoyo a la comunidad.

1. ¿Los alimentos que recibe se adaptan a las necesidades dietéticas, culturales o religiosas de su hogar?

- Siempre 😊
- Normalmente 😊
- A veces 😊
- Raras veces 😊

2. ¿El horario de la despensa, la ubicación y las filas son fáciles de manejar para usted?

- Muy fácil 😊
- Algo fácil 😊
- Difícil 😊
- Muy difícil 😊

3. Si el acceso es difícil, ¿qué lo haría más fácil para usted? (Seleccione todas las opciones que correspondan)

- Mejores opciones de transporte / una ubicación más cercana
- Tiempos de espera o filas más cortos
- Un horario diferente (fines de semana o por la tarde/noche)
- Apoyo con la traducción de idiomas
- Sentirme más seguro(a) o cómodo(a) al compartir información

4. ¿El personal y los voluntarios lo/la tratan con respeto, dignidad y acogen con agrado su origen cultural?

- Siempre 😊
- Normalmente 😊
- A veces 😊
- Raras veces 😊

5. ¿Qué es lo que hacemos BIEN y que deberíamos seguir haciendo?

6. ¿Qué es lo que podríamos CAMBIAR para apoyar mejor a su familia o comunidad?

Opcional: Idioma de preferencia _____

Spanish



66

**Individual surveys
completed!**

- 
- **45 AAPI client voices documented**
 - **Identified desire for culturally relevant foods**
 - **Findings can inform future pantry decisions**



**COMPLETE
SURVEY
FOR A PRIZE**



FREE!

LIMIT ONE PER
HOUSEHOLD

This poster features a decorative border of blue and yellow flowers. The main text is in bold, blue and purple capital letters. A blue shopping bag icon is positioned to the left of a dark blue hexagonal badge containing the word 'FREE!'. Below the badge, the text 'LIMIT ONE PER HOUSEHOLD' is written in black capital letters.



**完成问卷
领取礼品**



免费!

每户限领一份

This poster features a decorative border of blue and yellow flowers. The main text is in bold, blue and purple Chinese characters. A blue shopping bag icon is positioned to the left of a dark blue hexagonal badge containing the characters '免费!'. Below the badge, the text '每户限领一份' is written in black Chinese characters.



**COMPLETE LA
ENCUESTA
RECIBA UN
PREMIO**



Gratis!

LÍMITE DE UNO
POR HOGAR

This poster features a decorative border of blue and yellow flowers. The main text is in bold, blue and purple capital letters. A blue shopping bag icon is positioned to the left of a dark blue hexagonal badge containing the word 'Gratis!'. Below the badge, the text 'LÍMITE DE UNO POR HOGAR' is written in black capital letters.

Next Steps

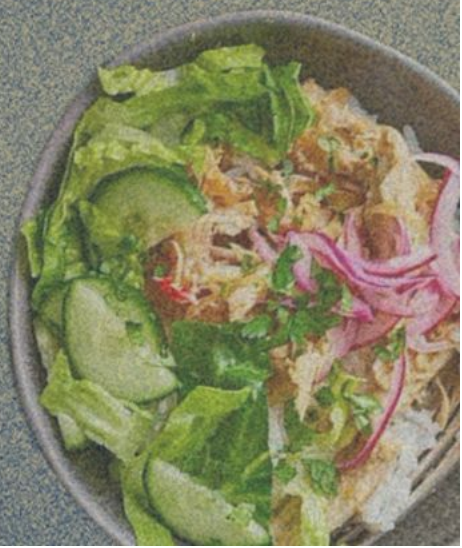
- 1 Continue to explore partnerships with local grocery stores and other sources for food donations
- 2 Work with leadership at Red Cross to develop ideas for incorporating more culturally relevant foods during major cultural holidays
- 3 Continue gathering client feedback to guide future improvements.

Thank You!

Please feel free to contact me with any additional questions at skymorishita@gmail.com!

**Anika Nina
Isabelle
Mabano**
Norwood
Senior





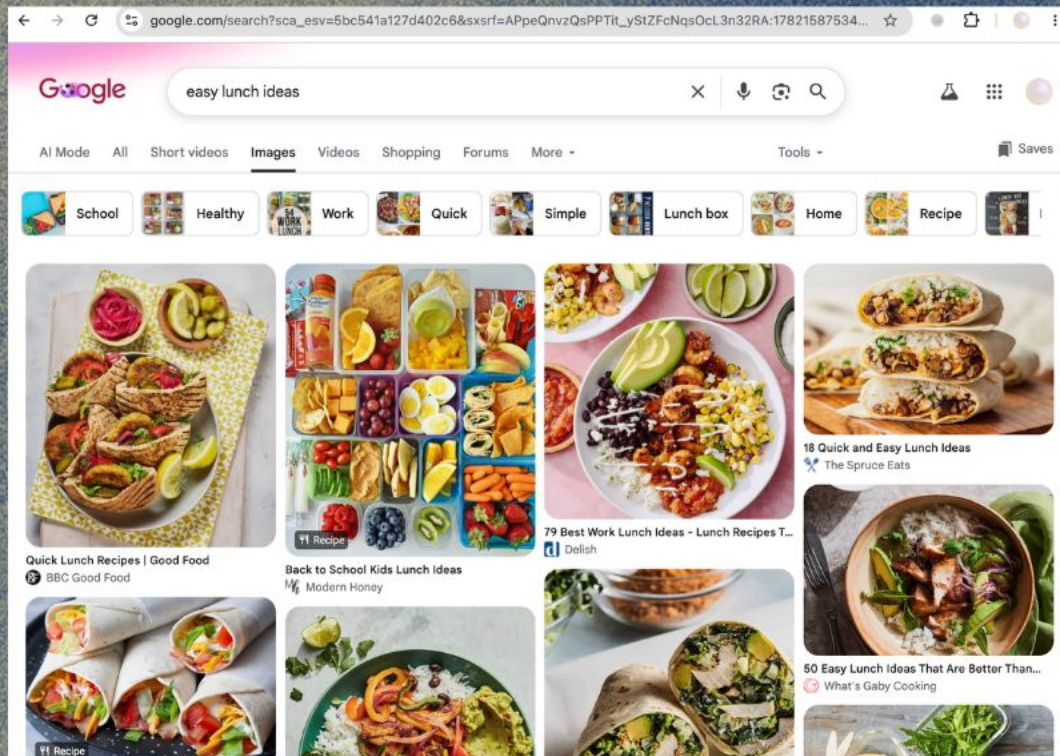
Nourished by Culture

Presentation by Anika Mabano

introduction • project • impact • closing

storytime:

I felt guilty pushing away, “forgetting” about food
tied to my heritage under the guise of eating
healthier



sweetgreen



CAVA



goals:

Highlight healthy
AAPI dishes

Feature hand-picked healthy AAPI foods,
ranging from mainstream to niche.

Source helpful
nutritional data

Provide resources for seeking out
nutritional data using existing reliable
databases (for ingredients) like USDA
FoodData Central

Provide cultural
context

Dishes + recipes are sourced through
AAPI community members, who are
interviewed in detail regarding the dish!

collect:

While this project exists on a *website*, the real conversations I had with my peers sparked real reflections!

**list of possible questions to ask

Personal Identity + Story

- What dish did you choose, and what culture does it come from?
- What does this dish mean to you personally? (memory, person, moment)
- When do you usually eat this dish? (daily, special occasions, comfort food, etc.)
- Did your relationship with this dish change growing up in the U.S?

Dish Breakdown

- What are the main ingredients in this dish?
- How is it typically prepared?
- Are there any variations (family style vs. traditional vs. modern)

Health Framing

- Why would you consider this dish "healthy" (superstitions, etc..)
- Are there specific ingredients that make it feel nourishing or balanced?
- How does this dish compare to what people usually think of as "healthy food"?

Cultural Misconception

- Do you think people misunderstand this dish or your cuisine in general?
- Have you ever felt like your cultural food was seen as "unhealthy"? Why?

Credits

- Would you like to be credited on the site? If so, how? (name, initials, anonymous)
- Are you okay with your town/county being shared alongside it?

:: Press 'space' for AI or '/' for commands

build:

- my goals were intentional design and easy modularity!

```
> dish.culture  Aa ab .* ? of 1  ↑ ↓ ≡ ×
1  'use client';
2
3  import { useParams } from 'next/navigation';
4  import Image from 'next/image';
5  import Link from 'next/link';
6  import { dishes } from '@/data/dishes';
7  import IngredientCard from '@/components/IngredientCard';
8  import NutritionDisplay from '@/components/NutritionDisplay';
9
10 export default function DishPage() {
11   const params = useParams();
12   const dishId = params.id as string;
13   const dish = dishes.find((d) => d.id === dishId);
14
15   if (!dish) {
16     return (
17       <main className="min-h-screen bg-cream px-5 py-20 sm:px-6">
18         <div className="mx-auto max-w-4xl text-center">
19           <h1 className="text-serif text-3xl text-[var(--color-text)]">
20             Dish not found
21           </h1>
22         </div>
23       </main>
24     );
25   }
26 }
```

**built on visual studio code, hosted on vercel

Nutritional Profile

ENERGY

320

kcal

BALANCE

38g

carbs

FIBER

4g

gut health

Balanced macronutrients

Sesame oil has he

Diverse vegetables add micronutrients

**placeholder info



**collab with artist in the works!





thank you!

feel free to ask questions or email me
@anika.mabano@gmail.com

introduction • project • impact • closing • thank you!

Grace Zhang
Natick
Senior



AAPI UNMUTED

YOUTH COUNCIL



PROJECT RECAP

GRACE ZHANG
NATICK HIGH SCHOOL

GRACE YUEYAN ZHANG

张悦言

**“WOW, THAT’S A
MOUTHFUL.”**

**“I’M GOING TO
BUTCHER THIS.”**

**"CAN I CALL YOU
SOMETHING ELSE?"**

NAME-BASED MICROAGGRESSIONS

MISPRONOUNCING, RE-NICKNAMING,
OR MOCKING A NAME

2023 STAATUS INDEX

80%

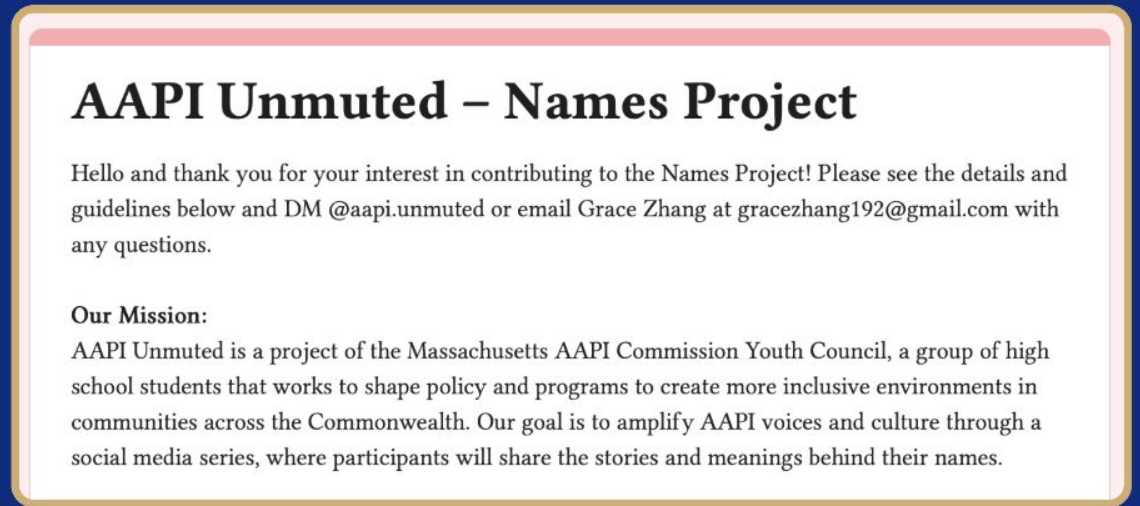
OF ASIAN AMERICANS
FEEL LIKE THEY DON'T
FULLY BELONG IN THE U.S.



NAME
PRONUNCIATION
MEANING
STORY

LAUNCH

created Instagram account
& designed submission form



PROMOTION

developed monthly incentive
campaigns & shared with 27 AAPI
orgs across MA

☐	☆	➤	To: capaymoveme.	Collaboration Opportunity: AAPI Unmuted Series - Dear Coalition for Asian Pacific ...	📧	Apr 6
☐	☆	➤	To: dekyongj	Collaboration Opportunity: AAPI Unmuted Series - Hi Jampa, My name is Grace Zh...	📧	Apr 6
☐	☆	➤	To: yunakyi12	Collaboration Opportunity: AAPI Unmuted Series - Hi Yuna, My name is Grace Zhan...	📧	Apr 6
☐	☆	➤	To: janeshen04	Collaboration Opportunity: AAPI Unmuted Series - Hi Jane, My name is Grace Zhan...	📧	Apr 6
☐	☆	➤	To: akshathpran.	Collaboration Opportunity: AAPI Unmuted Series - Hi Hyacinth, My name is Grace ...	📧	Apr 6
☐	☆	➤	To: admin, youthprogram	Collaboration Opportunity: AAPI Unmuted Series - Dear VietAID Team, My name is ...	📧	Apr 6
☐	☆	➤	To: info	Collaboration Opportunity: AAPI Unmuted Series - Dear New England JACL Team, ...	📧	Apr 6
☐	☆	➤	To: info	Collaboration Opportunity: AAPI Unmuted Series - Dear BOSFilipinos Team, My na...	📧	Apr 6
☐	☆	➤	To: iagb	Collaboration Opportunity: AAPI Unmuted Series - Dear IAGB Team, My name is Gr...	📧	Apr 6
☐	☆	➤	To: info 2	Inbox Collaboration Opportunity: AAPI Unmuted Series - Dear Korean Cultural Soc...	📧	Apr 6
☐	☆	➤	To: info 2	Inbox Collaboration Opportunity: AAPI Unmuted Series - Dear Vietnamese Americ...	📧	Apr 6

AAPI UNMUTED

OPEN FOR SUBMISSIONS!

**YOUR NAME MATTERS.
SHARE ITS STORY.**

**NEXT 10 PARTICIPANTS
WILL RECEIVE A
\$10 GIFT CARD OF THEIR CHOICE!**

1. LEARN MEANINGS OR STORIES
BEHIND YOUR NAME
2. RECORD A 1-2 MINUTE VIDEO
IN PORTRAIT MODE
3. SUBMIT THROUGH THE FORM
HERE & IN BIO!



CAMBRIDGE-SOMERVILLE ASIAN FESTIVAL

presented to community members &
recorded 7 episodes in-person



EPISODE 1

Grace Zhang



EPISODE 2

Anika Nina



EPISODE 3

Anthony Lu



EPISODE 4

Nyneishia



EPISODE 5

Shubhecchha



EPISODE 6

Fasha



EPISODE 7

Min-Jae



EPISODE 8

Sugandha



EPISODE 9

Nina Kamaria



EPISODE 10

Tina



EPISODE 11

Krystal



EPISODE 12

Bhavika



EPISODE 13

Harman



7 AAPI ETHNICITIES REPRESENTED
9,853 VIEWS • **269** LIKES

**CONTINUE COLLECTING NAME STORIES FROM
AAPI COMMUNITY**

**SHARE STORY COLLECTION AT SCHOOL AND
COMMUNITY EVENTS**

PROMOTE LANGUAGE & IDENTITY SURVEY

**CREATE REPORT ON THE IMPACT OF LANGUAGE
ON AAPI YOUTH**

tal tina min
e anika niña anthony
bhhecchha sasha harman kna
krystal tina min-jae sugandha
grace anika niña anthony nyna
vika krystal tina min-jae suga
nina grace anika niña antho
bhhecchha sasha ha
min-jae sug
anth

THANK YOU!



Jason Yin
Weston
Grade 12

Youth AAPI Resource Navigator Program

Jason Yin

A program that helps immigrant
families navigate school, civic,
and community resources in
Massachusetts



Bhavika Kalia
Somerville
Junior



AAPIC YOUTH COUNCIL SHOWCASE

AMPLIFYING AAPI VOICES

THROUGH INCLUSIVE CURRICULUM

Presented by:
BHAVIKA KALIA

JUNE 23RD, 2026

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

- Current member of AAPIC Youth Council
 - Past experience in AAPI Advocacy → Dear Asian Youth Chapter Lead
- Felt invisible at times, especially with Somerville High School (SHS) having only ~5% Asian population
 - Desire to address gaps within the current school curriculum
- Original idea → Crafting a proposal to establish an Asian American History/Experiences course



PROJECT OVERVIEW

Working to amplify AAPI voices through implementing culturally inclusive and comprehensive lessons into pre-existing curricula at Somerville High School.



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission



COLLABORATIONS

CONNECTED WITH BOTH THE SOMERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL AND THE CAMBRIDGE RINDGE AND LATIN SCHOOL HISTORY DEPARTMENT



MEETINGS

MET WITH MS. JENNY CHUNG, TEACHER OF THE ASIAN AMERICAN EXPERIENCES HONORS COURSE AT CRLS



WORKSHOPS

ATTENDED AN ONLINE WORKSHOP FROM THE YURI EDUCATION PROJECT, BEYOND MARGINS: AAPI HISTORY 101



STEPS TO SUCESSSS

UNDERSTANDING HOW TO INTEGRATE INCLUSIVE CURRICULUM

-Learning practical ways to integrate AAPI history into schools using YURI's TRACE method (Professional learning, advising, and curriculum development)

-Priority areas determined: Model Minority Myth background, Beginning of birthright citizenship with United States v. Wong Kim Ark



Meeting with Ms. Chung!

OUTCOMES

LESSON CREATION & INCORPORATION

Case Study

LA Chicano Student Walkouts (1968)
Young Lords Hospital Occupation (1970)
Greensboro Sit-Ins (1960)
Montgomery Bus Boycotts (1955)
March from Selma to Montgomery
504 Sit-Ins for Disability Rights (1977)
United Farm Workers Strike and Grape Boycott (1965)
Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (1964)
Stonewall (1969)
Women's Strike for Equality (1970)
Third World Liberation Strikes (1968)
The Yellow Power Movement (1960s-1970s)

Simple additions can also be made! For instance, adding the Third World Liberation Strikes & the Yellow Power Movement as case studies

- Worked closely with SHS's 10th Grade History Department
 - Recognized that all high school students must take U.S. History Themes
- Determined key units where AAPI-focused lessons could be integrated
 - Unit 4: Immigration & Unit 7: Civil Rights Movement
- Utilized online resources
 - Immigrant History Initiative
 - AAPI History Hub
 - South Asian American Digital Archive (SAADA)

EXAMPLE LESSONS

ASIAN AMERICANS & BIRTHRIGHT CITIZENSHIP

Citizenship & Identity

Who gets to be American?

An exploration of how Asian Americans shaped citizenship in the United States and challenged exclusionary policies, redefining who is considered American



Landmark Asian American Supreme Court Cases

HOW THEREFORE of the said facilitate his rn. WE THE UNDERSIGNED do hereby certify that Wong Kim Ark is well known to us.

On this day of 1900, Eight Hundred and ninety-four before me, ROBERT J. ... said City and County, duly commissioned and sworn, ...

TOO BRUNETTE TO VOTE HERE

THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

Case Name: _____ Group Members: _____

WHO GETS TO BE AMERICAN?

Today we are exploring how laws have defined who is included and excluded as Americans through analyzing significant Supreme Court Case outcomes.

Write 3-4 sentences summarizing the case (What happened? Who is involved? What law is being challenged?)

Do Now - Videos

Introduction to Wong Kim Ark & Bhagat Singh Thind

As you watch, take notes on...

- Who is this person?
 - Where were they born?
 - What is their background?
- What problem did they face?
 - What law or policy affected them?
 - Why were they denied rights?
- What was their argument?
 - What did they claim about being American?
- What did the government say?
 - How did the law define them?
 - Were they successful?

Exploring key cases (United States v. Wong Kim Ark & United States v. Bhagat Singh Thind) and how they directly influenced modern birthright citizenship

CROSS-RACIAL SOLIDARITY MOVEMENTS

CROSS-RACIAL SOLIDARITY & ASIAN AMERICA

CROSS-RACIAL SOLIDARITY MOVEMENTS

& the Formation of Asian American Identity

Immigrant History Initiative

STOP GENOCIDE Peace Now

Asian Americans & Activism

Photo: Asian Americans for Peace rally for an end to the Vietnam War through the streets of Los Angeles Little Tokyo on July 12, 1970. Photo: NBC News

Name: _____ Date: _____

The South Asian Influence - Note-Taking Worksheet

Read the South Asian Influence on the Civil Rights Movement

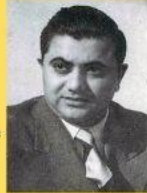
Complete the Note-Taking Worksheet paying close attention to key themes and main ideas

Write a summary of the text in 2-3 sentences:

Read the South Asian Influence on the Civil Rights Movement

Complete the Note-Taking Worksheet paying close attention to key themes and main ideas

Write a summary of the text in 2-3 sentences:




Left: Krishnaswami Sridharan (1911-1960) was a journalist and poet who spent twelve years studying in the United States. Sridharan was a disciple of Mahatma Gandhi. Right: This is an image of a 1964 fair housing protest in Seattle, Washington. Two protesters sit in front of Picture Floor Plans, Inc., a realtor office.

Name: _____ Date: _____

South Asian Influence on the Civil Rights Movement

Read the South Asian Influence on the Civil Rights Movement

Complete the Note-Taking Worksheet paying close attention to key themes and main ideas

Write a summary of the text in 2-3 sentences:

Examining how South Asians influenced non-violent tactics, along with how the Asian American movement stemmed from the Black Power movement

COMMUNITY IMPACT

SCHOOLWIDE

- Lessons I created will be implemented into the US History Themes Course this upcoming school year
 - 10th grade SHS students are required to take this course → Lessons will reach ~300 students each year
- Fostered strong connections with SHS History Department, including both educators and History Department Head
 - Striving to continue working with them to spearhead more initiatives

★ Received recognition from SHS through the “Highlander of the Quarter” award for my leadership in advocating for inclusive curriculum

cool textbook!



Donnellan, Shannon

To: Kalia, Bhavika

Wed 5/26/2026 9:25 AM

You replied on Tue 5/26/2026 10:59 AM

Wanted to share this cool virtual new virtual textbook with you! Can't wait to integrate some of it into US history next year!

<https://wwwFOUNDATIONSANDFUTURES.org/#table-of-content>

Shannon Donnellan (she/her)
sdonnellan@k12.somerville.ma.us
Social Studies Teacher
Somerville High School



Educators
wanting to
continue
integrating AAPI
education!

COMMUNITY IMPACT

CITYWIDE

- Presented my Youth Council Project to the Somerville School Committee
 - Highlighted the significance of inclusive curriculum
- School Committee members extended their gratitude for my presentation
 - Ward 7 Vice Chair Leiran Biton shared, "Thank you for that vulnerability and for turning those feelings into action."
- Group of local AAPI advocates were empowered by my work
 - Tina Lu, founder of the Somerville Asian Family Network (SAFN) and Somerville Public's Engagement Coordinator at SFLC is spearheading an AAPI education subcommittee this summer as a result of being inspired by my presentation/comments



★ My work was recognized by The Somerville Times and was featured in a past edition of the newspaper



NEXT STEPS

BROADENING IMPACT AND REACH

CREATING MORE AAPI-FOCUSED LESSONS

Currently working on lessons surrounding the Dot Busters Gang in New Jersey and the novel *Made in Asian America: A History for Young People*

EXPANDING REACH

In the future, I hope to expand to more classes (other history courses and/or English courses) to reach a larger population of students and utilize an interdisciplinary approach

ELECTIVE PROPOSAL

Striving to continue working with the SHS History Department to spearhead the creation of a proposal for an Asian American History and/or Experiences Elective

THANK YOU SO MUCH!



ANY QUESTIONS?

Please reach out with any questions!

Bhavika Kalia: bhavikakalia98@gmail.com, 857-396-9727

Vienna Dschung

PRESENTATION

EMPOWER'S EXPANSION

Growing Empower Initiative to Other Schools



Presented By:
Vienna Dschung

Website:
empowerinit.org





Juliet Dong
Acton
Senior



CERTIFICATE S OF ACHIEVEMENT T



**THANK
YOU!**