



Boston Chinatown  
Neighborhood Center  
波士頓華埠社區中心

# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



**JULY 1, 2019 – JUNE 30, 2020**

# ABOUT BCNC

Since 1969, Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center (BCNC) has been a vital presence in Greater Boston and beyond, empowering Asians and new immigrants to build healthy families, achieve greater economic success, and contribute to thriving communities. We provide a broad range of innovative and family-centered programs and services to more than 13,000 children, youth, and adults every year from four locations in Boston and Quincy.



*Ben Hires, CEO. Photo: Edward Chang*



## **This year, together we accomplished:**

- Opening a Boston Public School Universal Pre-K classroom and providing 20 four-year-old children with free high quality early education
- Expanding Adult Education by adding a Level 0 beginner English class in Quincy for 40 adult immigrants who speak little to no English
- Training North Quincy High School staff on needs of Asian American youth and families
- Welcoming our new CEO, Ben Hires
- Providing individual case management and counseling to 138 children, youth, and adults

# OUR RESPONSE TO COVID-19



## WITH YOUR SUPPORT, WE RESPONDED:

Asian immigrants, particularly those who are low-income, were disproportionately affected by COVID-19. Chinatown's Asian community eclipsed a 40% unemployment rate, more than double the statewide peak, reflecting how many are employed in the service industry as well as the broader anti-Asian sentiment. Financial and socio-cultural stress put heavy strain on the mental health of children, youth, and adults.

### SINCE MARCH

- All BCNC programs and services continued in a virtual format
- 300 families received immediate financial assistance
- 950 people received individual consultation on mental, physical, and financial health
- Thousands received Chinese language resources on health and basic needs
- Four times as many youth and adults needed counseling or case management services

### IN JULY

- Reopened full-day in-person childcare for preschool and school-aged children from working families
- Youth leaders wrote an open letter urging public school leadership to respond to anti-Asian racism

### IN SEPTEMBER

- All programs began the new school year with virtual, in-person, or hybrid models
- Opened a full-day in-person learning hub for school-aged children
- Collaborated with other partners on the *We Love Boston Chinatown Resiliency Campaign*
- Pao Arts Center expanded the annual *Experience Chinatown Arts Festival* to a month-long series of outdoor performances and art installations to uplift the neighborhood



**“BECAUSE OF YOU, I AM MORE CONFIDENT ABOUT MY FUTURE. BECAUSE OF YOU, MANY OTHER NEW IMMIGRANTS HAVE BETTER LIVES IN AMERICA. BECAUSE OF YOU, EACH STUDENT HERE HAS A CHANCE TO PURSUE THEIR DREAM.”**

**- ALLI, ADULT EDUCATION STUDENT**



Alli and her family

Alli came to the United States a year ago from Guangzhou, China, with her daughter and son. **Alli wanted her children to have the opportunity to study in the U.S. but was worried about making a living because she didn't speak any English.** Fortunately, she heard about BCNC from an international student who sat next to her on her flight from China to Boston.

**On her second day in the U.S., Alli walked 45 minutes to BCNC Quincy to register for English classes.** Since then, her life changed. After just one year, Alli speaks basic English, has given speeches at virtual events, and has even found a job. “For the first time, I feel that living in the United States is not that difficult,” she shared.

During the pandemic, BCNC staff regularly called and emailed to check if Alli and her family were safe, had enough food, or needed any help. Alli felt BCNC staff were always very patient with students in teaching English and about American life. Alli says she'll never forget how they helped her as a new immigrant.

**THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT**

**338 ADULT IMMIGRANTS GAINED ENGLISH AND WORKFORCE SKILLS AND RECEIVED CAREER ADVISING.**



# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

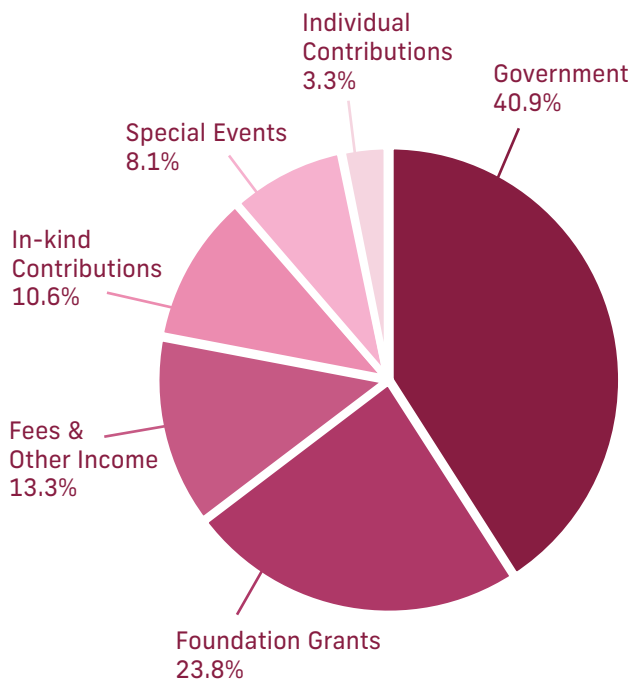
FISCAL YEAR 2020

JULY 1, 2019 - JUNE 30, 2020

## REVENUE & SUPPORT

Government	\$ 2,663,196
Foundation Grants	\$ 1,550,163
Fees & Other Income	\$ 869,652
In-kind Contributions	\$ 691,822
Special Events	\$ 527,458
Individual Contributions	\$ 215,622

**TOTAL \$ 6,517,913**



## OPERATING EXPENSES

### PROGRAMS

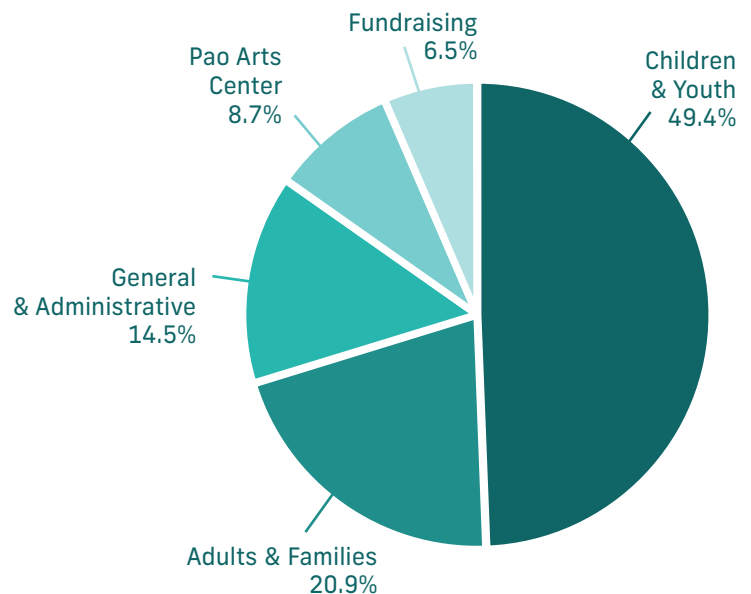
Children & Youth	\$ 3,210,639
Adults & Families	\$ 1,356,061
Pao Arts Center	\$ 567,887

### ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT

Fundraising	\$ 422,802
General & Administrative	\$ 941,681

**TOTAL \$ 6,499,070**

**Change in Net Assets \$ 18,843**



# The Boston Globe

## Coalition of students urge school leaders around Boston to address anti-Asian racism

By Deanna Pan Globe Staff, Updated September 29, 2020, 7:43 a.m.



Mandy Sun, left, and Sarah Xu, both 17 and seniors at Boston Latin School, recently released an open letter to school leadership in Boston, Quincy, and Malden, urging educators to take action to address anti-Asian racism fueled by the coronavirus pandemic. MATTHEW J. LEE/GLOBE STAFF

**“BCNC EMPOWERS YOUNG PEOPLE LIKE ME AND GUIDES THEM TO A CLEARER VISION OF THEIR FUTURE.”**

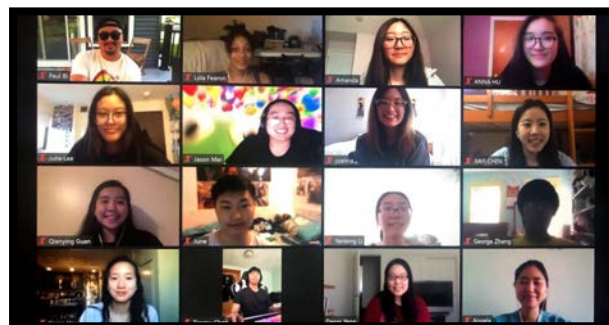
– MANDY, YOUTH LEADER

Mandy is a high school senior in Boston. She grew up in Chinatown and Quincy, and as children, Mandy and her brother went to BCNC’s afterschool program while their parents were working.

When COVID-19 ignited extreme anti-Asian rhetoric, Mandy began to understand the extent of racism against Asian Americans. **Mandy was scared after seeing videos of violence towards Asians.** Once routine errands became scary. Mandy also was shocked that her peers were defending the use of the phrase “Chinese virus.” Even her parents, who have lived in the US for over 20 years, felt rejected by the US and feared that a stranger would be physically violent towards them.

This summer, **Mandy worked with other BCNC youth to write an open letter urging their school leaders to address anti-Asian racism.** The letter received over 300 signatures of support and coverage from the Boston Globe and GBH News. Most importantly, this letter led to conversations with school leaders on how to bring about change.

BCNC gave Mandy a voice to express her concerns. **She feels empowered as a youth leader and activist.** Because of this experience, she hopes to continue working in her community and to create change through her future profession - whether that be in public service, law, or education.



**THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT**

**THIS YEAR, 170 YOUTH GAINED LEADERSHIP SKILLS AND 100% OF HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS BECAME THE FIRST IN THEIR FAMILY TO GET INTO COLLEGE.**



**PAO**  
ARTS CENTER

# PROTECTING THE CULTURAL VITALITY OF CHINATOWN



Experience Chinatown Performance by Aznjuhube ft Jeff La.  
Photo: Katie Medrano-Escobar, The Loop Lab

**“EXPRESSING ONESELF THROUGH ART IS PRETTY FUNDAMENTAL TO JUST FEELING ALIVE.” – AZNJUJUBE (JK WONG), ARTIST**

The mission of Pao Arts Center is to **celebrate and strengthen the Asian Pacific Islander (API) community** of Chinatown and Greater Boston through access to culturally relevant art, education, and creative programs. Pao Arts Center is a program collaboration between BCNC and Bunker Hill Community College.

In 2020, your support leveraged arts, culture, and creativity to amplify and uplift the community.

- Shifted programs to virtual or socially distanced outdoor programming
- 1,500 visitors enjoyed live music performances in Chin Park and public art installations at local businesses in September
- 100 contributed to a community sourced Love Letters to Boston Chinatown public mural



Love Letters Community Mural

*“Dear Chinatown: You are what made so much of my precious memories with friends and family possible. My family, my friends, and of course me too, had so many happy moments with your presence. I wish that you live long so more people can share this happiness of having you in their lives.”*

*– Love Letter to Boston Chinatown submission*



Cynthia Woo, Director, Pao Arts Center



*We Love Boston Chinatown Resiliency Campaign*



**Boston Chinatown  
Neighborhood Center**  
波士頓華埠社區中心

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[bcnc.net/donate](https://bcnc.net/donate)



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