



2023 Specific Impact Grant Application

Bid No. BD-23-1068-1068C-1068L-81256

All completed applications must be sent by January 31st to be considered for funding for the 2023 Grant Round. Please submit this completed form as well as any relevant attachments to MGCCMF@Massgaming.gov.

For more detailed instructions as well as the 2023 Application Guidelines please visit <https://massgaming.com/about/community-mitigation-fund/>

I. Project Summary
Legal Name of Applicant: City of Boston
Project Name (Please limit to 5 words): Pao Arts Center Cultural Programming
Amount Requested: \$493,500
Brief Project Description (approx. 50 words): Boston will provide healthy spaces of belonging for those most at-risk of problem gambling by partnering with Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center (BCNC)'s Pao Arts Center. The project proposed is an annual schedule of artistic, cultural, recreational, and social activities to build the social infrastructure of the Asian immigrant community.

II. Applicant Contact Information
Please provide below the manager for this grant and any other individuals you would like to be copied on all correspondence.
Grant Manager: Lisa Conley
Email Address: lisa.conley@boston.gov
Telephone Number: 617-635-3639
Address: Human Services Cabinet, Boston City Hall, Boston MA 02201
Contact II: Justin Mei
Role: Contracts and Invoice Management
Email Address: justin.mei@boston.gov
Telephone Number: 617-635-1455
Address: Human Services Cabinet, Boston City Hall, Boston MA 02201
Contact III: Inez Foster
Role: Resource Development
Email Address: inez.foster@boston.gov
Telephone Number: 617-635-3954
Address: Intergovernmental Relations, Boston City Hall, Boston MA 02201

III. Detailed Project Description & Mitigation

- 1) Please describe in detail the impact that is attributed to the operation of a gaming facility. Please provide documentation or evidence that gives support for the determination that the operation of the gaming facility caused or is causing the impact (i.e. surveys, data, reports).

In working-class communities of Boston, there is a lack of cultural and recreational spaces that cater to immigrant communities. Asian immigrants, primarily service industries workers, often find themselves in stressful, low-wage jobs that offer little hope for career advancement. Economic disadvantages and cultural differences lead to social isolation, heightening distress, loneliness, and alienation. Boston Chinatown is a neighborhood of concentrated poverty with many residents employed in low-paying jobs and lacking proficiency in English (Asian Americans Advancing Justice, 2013; Boston Public Health Commission, 2013).

Encore Boston uses cultural tools such as free Lunar New Year meals and Chinese performing artists to market to and lure Asian immigrants to their casinos. It is commonplace to see sizeable groups of service workers and residents gathering to ride Encore buses to casinos, which depart every 30 minutes, seven days a week. Many of the Chinese immigrant patrons constitute a population group vulnerable to gambling problems because of their disadvantaged work, turbulent family life, small social networks, and limited neighborhood-based resources for recreation.

Chinatown is often the first destination point for work and residence for immigrant workers and the elderly (Asian Americans Advancing Justice, 2013). Local immigrants may have enjoyed games combining varied degrees of skill and chance in private social settings as a form of socializing and leisure in their communities of origin in China. The social games were typically not commercialized and there was no lure of the “big win” from sophisticated and targeted ethnic marketing campaigns like Encore Boston’s Domestic Asian Marketing department. Because casinos are not present in China outside of Macau and most gambling is illegal, for most local first-generation immigrants from China their first exposure to casino gambling is Encore Boston.

Casinos understand recreational gambling can be one of the few outlets for entertainment available to immigrants. Encore Boston is located near the Orange Line T which is accessible to the Chinatown neighborhood and provides daily transportation from the Chinatown neighborhood. Encore Boston aimed to remove barriers to participate including transportation, and targeted meals, games, and entertainment. In Boston Chinatown, moreover, there are few programs and little space for residents to engage in recreational activities. This impact has increased accessibility to the Asian low-income immigrants, who are particularly vulnerable to problem gambling and the associated negative affects on their well-being and their families’ well-being.

For many immigrants employed in restaurants, eateries, and other ethnic businesses, there is little time for recreation or building connections after working long hours in physically demanding and low-paying jobs. Economic disadvantage and cultural difference lead to social isolation, which is increased when immigrants experience prejudice and discrimination, heightening distress, loneliness, and alienation.

2) *(If applicable)* Please explain how this impact was not anticipated in the Applicant’s Host or Surrounding Community Agreement.

3) Please describe what the Applicant is proposing and how the mitigation request will address the impact indicated.

The Asian CARES research report prepared in September 2021 for The Massachusetts Gaming Commission developed findings on how problem gambling manifests in the Asian community. One of the key takeaways from the report was that social and cultural loss and isolation due to immigration as well as unhealthy stress relief as some of the root causes of problem gambling of the AAPI community. Another risk factor for gambling becoming compulsive is the lack of alternative, healthy, culturally appropriate recreational and entertainment activities as well as prevention and intervention services. The impact of stress and social isolation results in susceptibility to the casino’s targeted marketing. The report also noted that ethnic specific and community-led organizations are best suited to provide programs, services, and interventions for problem gambling in the Asian community.

One of key recommendations of the report is investing in the neighborhoods where immigrants work, live, and play, by creating spaces of belonging for immigrant communities where they can go for recreational and social opportunities that are safe.

The support from this grant would provide much needed investment in the social infrastructure of the Asian immigrant community to provide much needed artistic, cultural, recreational, and social activities. With these funds, the city will be able to provide healthy spaces of belonging for those most at-risk by partnering with Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center (BCNC). BCNC established Pao Arts Center with support from the City of Boston and other community partners in 2017 at 99 Albany Street in downtown Boston, Pao Arts Center is Chinatown’s first arts and cultural center.

IV. Scope, Budget, and Timeline	
Applicant: City of Boston	Vendor Code: V6000192075
Total Amount Requested: \$493,500	Estimated Total Project Cost: \$493,500

Scope of Work
<p>Please include below a breakdown of the proposed work. The project scope should be sufficiently detailed to allow the review team to understand the steps required for project completion.</p> <p>In 2019, Chinatown community members responded to a community health and arts survey and it was found that nearly 50% of the respondents identified that arts and creative activities allowed them to reconnect with their cultural heritage and identity. By investing in culturally and linguistically relevant arts and creative programming through Pao Arts Center, BCNC will address social and cultural isolation by strengthening individuals’ connection to their identity, family, and neighbors, and provide healthy alternatives to stress relief, entertainment, and boredom. Furthermore, Pao Arts Center plays a critical role “in the maintenance and building of this thriving ecosystem by bringing arts, culture, and creativity into the center of community life in a way that supports the health, well-being, and vitality of this immigrant community” (Rubin et al. 2021, 139S).</p> <p>With a comprehensive slate of visual arts, performances, and educational offerings at Pao Arts Center, BCNC creates a safe community space with healthy recreational opportunities throughout the year. As a social service agency with dedicated arts space, BCNC provides community members with free and public positive arts and cultural opportunities, as well as culturally competent and linguistically appropriate resources to improve social determinants of health for the Asian immigrant population. BCNC provides services including: dual language Chinese and English childcare for working families, English classes and workforce programs for immigrants who are English language learners, and mental health support services including prevention programs, counseling, and case management led by Chinese speaking clinical staff.</p> <p>In 2022, BCNC piloted community recreational nights at Pao Arts Center where an average of 18 attendees every week participate in karaoke, ping pong, and dance. The recreational nights are staffed by bilingual staff who can also refer attendees to other services at BCNC or other community organizations. In addition, in the summer of 2022 Pao Arts Center successfully filled 3 bilingual classes of artmaking where a total of 64 attendees engaged in creative activities that incorporated mindfulness and stress reduction. There is great need and interest as indicated by the high levels of participation in these pilot activities with limited outreach.</p> <p>The proposed project is one year of cultural and arts programming that serves as healthy recreational and social offerings, at Pao Arts Center from July 2023 – June 2024, targeting Chinese speaking Asian immigrants.</p> <p>Funding would support staffing needed to execute the programming including:</p>

- 1.) Director (1 FTE) to oversee the execution of all programs and activities including the Lunar New Year and Experience Chinatown Arts Festival, exhibits, events, and classes, manage cross-sector social service strategies integration, and manage the evaluation of the programs.
- 2.) Visual Arts Manager (1 FTE) to oversee exhibitions and related public programming
- 3.) Performance Manager (1 FTE) to execute the Experience Chinatown festival and all outdoor and indoor performances
- 4.) Development and Communications Manager (.5 FTE) to outreach and market programs and events by building audiences and promoting programs on various English communication channels.

With support from this grant, BCNC would add an Engagement Coordinator at .5 FTE who would be bilingual in Chinese and English and would be responsible for outreach to the Chinese-speaking Asian community members and support the creation of a long-term community engagement strategy. The engagement strategy would include developing relationships with local senior center, associations, community groups, and businesses, employing tools such as Chinese language social media such as WeChat, attending events, and developing bilingual volunteer opportunities. Adding a dedicated staff member with language capacity will further ensure community members are aware of the cultural opportunities at Pao Arts Center.

The scope of work includes: exhibitions, performances, special events, and classes.

Exhibitions

Pao Arts Center will present 4 visual arts exhibitions a year (July – September, October – December, January-April, May – June) with bilingual Chinese and English labels and artists statements that give Chinese speaking immigrant access to culturally relevant art and artmakers. Each exhibit is accompanied by 2 public programs such as artists talks, family workshops, and artistic demos. Through these exhibitions, audience members create bonds, and understand that their experiences are not felt in isolation. The exhibit and public programs will be free and open to the public.

Examples of past exhibits have included solo or group shows that have tackled issues of identity, belonging, Chinatowns all over the world, intergenerational storytelling, and mental health. An example of an upcoming exhibit is in summer 2023, Amie Bantz, *Lunchbox Moments: Seek Understanding. Share Stories. Stop Hate Moments* will debut at Pao Arts Center. This collective, collaborative, intergenerational, and evolving exhibition is a visual representation of the Asian American experience, based around food, a relatable topic. Sharing stories and experiences empower often marginalized voices and raise awareness of the AAPI community.

Performances

Pao Arts Center will host up to 6 performances in the Center's theater and outdoors in a public area including music, plays, and films curated with Asian populations as the target audience.

The 2023-2024 season will include: *Found in Translation*, a collaboration between Asian American Theatre Artists of Boston (AATAB), and Chuang Stage. This is a three-part series of multilingual staged plays and community gatherings that amplifies the power and complexities of being multilingual,

immigrants, or identifying as Asian American in Greater Boston. From Hong Kong's 90s pop star Leslie Cheung and his queer revolution, to the retelling of the Hindu epic The Ramayana, these performances connect the pan-Asian community through multilingual conversations about race, language, identity, and our experiences when it comes to belongings and a collective more just future. Past performers have included *No-No Boy*, a multimedia concert uplifting AAPI history, pan-Asian dance, and film screenings.

Special Events

Pao Arts Center will organize 2 large-scale public festivals: Experience Chinatown, a month-long festival in August and September with 5 performances and events and 5-7 window murals at businesses in Chinatown, and a Lunar New Year Celebration in February that brings arts and cultural activities and workshops free and open to the public.

Experience Chinatown expands the notion of what it is like to be Asian American, and provides opportunities for people to connect, interact, and learn. Outdoor performances occur near the spot where Encore bus picks up their passengers and is a local spot where individuals play cards and games. A 2022 attendee commented, "It's just inspiring to see people like me performing to people like me" furthering that representation through creative activities can have more impact than mere entertainment.

Lunar New Year provides an opportunity for traditional crafts and cultural activities to be experienced by families young and old and opportunities for individuals to connect more with their heritage. Craft activities highlight the cultural aspects of Lunar New Year and are centered around our signature Lion Dance Workshop.

Classes:

Pao Arts Center hosts a variety of free and accessible community classes. Each week Chinese-speaking community members gather for free recreational activities including "soft ball" racquet ball, plaza dancing, Chinese zither class, karaoke, ping pong, and tai chi. These activities allow individuals to routinely connect with their friends, socialize, and be active. Many of these activities, for example, tai chi and plaza dance are additionally common recreational activities practiced outdoors in Asia.

The Center hosts a monthly low-cost brush painting classes conducted in Chinese where participants can learn about a new cultural practice or refine a skill they learned in childhood. The class is taught in all Chinese with English support.

The timeline for the 2023-2024 is:

July 2023

- Exhibit 1 with 1st public program – *Lunchbox Moments*
- Performance 1 - TBD
- Special Events: Planning for Experience Chinatown Arts Festival
- Outreach:
- Recruit and hire Engagement Coordinator
- Plan outreach strategy for programs and Experience Chinatown Festival

- Evaluation:
- Director begins to create evaluation strategy and identify third party evaluation team with support for Mass Gaming Commission

August 2023

- Exhibit 1 with 2nd public program
- Special Events: Install Experience Chinatown Arts Festival murals and execute performances
- Outreach - Execute outreach strategy

September 2023

- Special Events: Execute Experience Chinatown Arts Festival performances
- Evaluation: Director implements evaluation centering sense of well-being, connection to self, traditions, and each other, connection to Asian Community, intergenerational connection

October 2023

- Exhibit 2 - TBD
- Performance - Found in Translation Performance
- Outreach – Attend community meetings
- Classes - Execute Chinese Brush Painting Class

November 2023

- Performance - TBD
- Classes - Execute Chinese Brush Painting Class
- Outreach - Engagement Coordinator and Communications Manager begin refining and creating outreach strategy attends
- Evaluation - Director assesses program evaluations

December 2023

- All - Planning for spring activities
- Outreach - Planning engagement and communications strategy
- Evaluation – Revision of program evaluations
- Special Events: Plan Lunar New Year Festival

Jan 2024

- Exhibit 3 - TBD
- Special Events: Plan Lunar New Year Festival

Feb 2024

- Special Events: Execute Lunar New Year Festival
- Classes - Execute Chinese Brush Painting Class

March 2024

- Exhibit 3 – Public Program
- Performance - TBD
- Classes - Execute Chinese Brush Painting Class

April 2024

- Exhibit 3 – Public Program
- Performance - TBD
- Classes - Execute Chinese Brush Painting Class

May 2024

- Classes - Execute Chinese Brush Painting Class
- Evaluation - Wrap up evaluations

June 2024

- Performance - TBD
- Classes - Execute Chinese Brush Painting Class

Evaluation:

Past evaluation methods have included distributing audience surveys to participants including measurements focused around impact of participations on well-being, belonging, connection, and health and wellness:

- Increases my happiness
- Improves my health and wellness
- Helps me express my creativity, ideas, & identity
- Connect more with my cultures & its traditions
- Connect more to my family
- Connect more to Asian American community
- Allows me to Interact with people from different cultural backgrounds
- Allows me to connect with different generations
- Encourages me to care more for Chinatown & its residents
- Inspires me to advocate more for the Asian American community

BCNC will hire and work with a third-party consultant to refine questions asked of participants and measurements, as well as tools to collect data which may include: audience surveys, online surveys, participant interviews, and testimonials. A mix of qualitative and quantitative tools may be employed to determine impact of Pao Arts Center.

Proposed MGC Grant Budget

Please use the following table to outline the budget of your project. Include any requests for proposals, quotes, or estimates that would quantify the costs associated with the mitigation as an attachment. In determining the funding request, please round up to the nearest hundred dollars.

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Timeline	Description of Purchase/Work	QTY	Budget
STAFFING			
July 2023-June 30, 2024	Director (1 FTE), who oversees the visioning and impact of all activities, cross-sector social service strategies integration, and directly oversees cultural Lunar New Year festival and classes including 26% benefits	1	99,300
	Visual Arts Manager, (1 FTE), who oversees exhibitions and related public programming including 26% benefits	1	55,600
	Performance Manager (1 FTE), who executes Experience Chinatown festival, outdoor and indoor performances, including 26% benefits	1	55,600
	Development and Communication Manager (.5 FTE), who works on building audiences and promoting Pao Arts Center in Chinatown to English speaking community members, including 26% benefits	1	36,000
August 2023- June 30, 2024	Engagement Coordinator (.5 FTE), new position		35,000
EVALUATION			
September 2023 – June 30 2024	Consultant to collect data, conduct interviews and survey attendees		30,000

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PROGRAM EXPENSES	Exhibits - 4 per year - Artist Fees (\$3,000 per exhibit)	4	12,000
	Exhibits - Visual Arts Technical Installation Staff (\$2,500 per exhibit)	4	10000
	Exhibits - Visual Arts Supplies x 4 per year (paint, hardware, vinyl printing) \$2,500 each	4	10,000
	Exhibits - Workshop Supplies - \$250 per workshop	8	2,000
	Performances - Artists and Technical Staff (\$3,500 per event)	6	21,000
	Performances - Event Manager Hours (16 per event x 6 events)	96	2400
	Performances - Supplies (\$2,500 per event)	6	15,000
	Performances - Translation (\$1,000 per event)	6	6,000
	Special Events - Experience Chinatown Visual Artists (\$700 each)	10	7,000
	Special Events - Experience Chinatown Performance Artists (\$700 each)	10	7,000
	Special Events - Experience Chinatown Supplies (paint, vinyl printing, tables, project supplies, rentals)	1	10,000
	Special Events - Experience Chinatown Technical Staff	1	2,000
	Special Events - Lunar New Year Festival artist fees	6	3,000
	Special Events - Lunar New Year Technical Staff 20 hours x \$25 an hour	20	500
	Special Events - Lunar New Year supplies printing, crafts	1	1,500
	Classes - Artist Fees 12 per year x \$500	12	6,000
	Classes - Additional hours staff of support 8 per week average 48 weeks a year	384	9,600
	Classes - Supplies \$500 per event (12 per year)	12	6,000
OUTREACH			

	Outreach Supplies and Documentation	1	20,000
	Translation of Marketing Materials		16,000
TOTAL			493,500
Funding Source	Description of Purchase/Work	QTY	
In Kind Services			
Federal	.		
State			
Local Match			

V. Regional Incentive Award	
Are you applying for a Regional Incentive Award?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

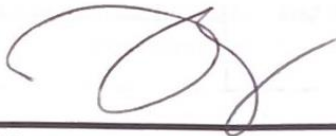
Partner Community Contact
Name: Ben Hires
Role: Chief Executive Officer, BCNC
Email Address: ben.hires@bcnc.net
Telephone Number: 617-249-2995 x1070
Address: 38 Ash Street, Boston, MA 02111

VI. Waiver	
If you are applying for a waiver, please submit the Waiver Form with your application. The form can be found at www.massgaming.com/about/community-mitigation-fund/forms/	
Are you applying for a waiver?	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

VII. Please provide a brief description of each attachment.
N/A

VIII. Applicant Certification

On behalf of the aforementioned applicant/municipality/governmental entity I hereby certify that the funds that are requested in this application will be used solely for the purposes articulated in this Application.



Signature of Responsible Municipal
Official/Governmental Entity

1/31/2023

Date:

Lisa Conley

(print name)

Deputy Chief, Human Services

Title:



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COMMUNITY
MITIGATION
FUND

Appendix D
WAIVER REQUEST FORM
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Any project which proposes to exceed the funding limit for a category or requires a variance from any other provision contained in the Guidelines must submit a waiver request with its application. The Waiver Request Form must set forth the specific provision of the Guidelines to which a waiver or variance is sought and shall state the basis for the proposed waiver or variance. The Waiver should be signed by a municipal official or other government official that has the authority to enter into a contract on behalf of that community or governmental entity.

Name of Applicant:	City of Boston		
Project Name:	Gambling Harm Reduction + Active Transportation		
Type of Grant:	Specific Impact		
Name and Title of Contact:	Inez Foster, Director of Resource Development		
Email Address:	inez.foster@boston.gov	Telephone:	617-635-3954

Waiver Request:

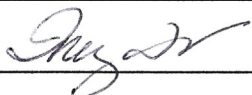
Fill in here:

The funding limit in this category is \$500,000 per Community. The City of Boston is submitting applications for two separate and distinct uses of funds for Special Impact Grants. Those requests total \$613,500.

The first is the Partner application with Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center, justified by the Guidelines, to wit: "Where demonstratable gambling related harms exist or have been identified in previous research studies, the Applicant may wish to apply for Community Mitigation Funding under the Specific impact Category." This is exactly the case made in the Partner application, and in a meeting with the Gaming Commission staff on January 19, 2023, which contributed to a more responsive application than the one submitted in 2022. The request is \$493,500.

The second is the Boston Transportation Department application for Active Transportation in Charlestown. This is a request to install two bike-share docks at the Sullivan Square rotary that would accommodate 38 BlueBikes. This work will be matched by City of Boston funds to install two additional BlueBikes docks there. The immediate benefit would be reduced traffic congestion in this area, as well as a low-cost and environmentally friendly alternative to single vehicle travel to and from the Encore impact area. The request is \$120,000.

We believe these two requests fit the purpose of the Community Mitigation Fund to help offset costs related to the operation of the gaming establishment. As there are no other categories of funding that fit these projects, we respectfully request a waiver of the funding limit.

Signed by: 

Title: Director of Resource Development, Intergovernmental Relations, City of Boston