

Final Proposal & Recommendations

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Part 1: Our Problem

A major problem that our client, Jason Chou, faces is the issue of the lack of disaggregated data about the Asian American/Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. Lacking disaggregated data means millions of people under that umbrella are grouped into one category called AAPI. This is important for many reasons, particularly the health care since certain diseases and health issues are more susceptible to a particular ethnicity rather than AAPI as a whole, but the data categorized all different ethnicities into one. This then leads to a lack of data of a particular ethnicity. When the data becomes disaggregated, everyone benefits because the gathered data will be accurate and those in need can receive proper help. Our key audience is both young professionals and those who identify as AAPI in Boston. The information on the website and documentary could also be used by nonprofits that produce and use non-disaggregated data. Both the video and website will bring awareness to this problem.

Lacking a sense of completion was a common theme amongst our group members about the assigned interviews. Gabriel felt as if he wanted to know more of what Auntie Amy Chin Guen was going to do with her time. Ruixi agreed but felt less strongly. Katelyn felt she understood the basic story of how the Obamas met, but felt as it was necessary to hear more about it. Emma and Tiffany were satisfied with the amount of information they received and they did not feel like they needed to hear more. Although the interviews may not have provided a full sense of completion, they all were interesting and engaging. This made the viewer feel like they got a glimpse of the interviewee's lives. All group members felt like they knew the person by the end of the video.

In terms of the websites, all the group members were not satisfied with what they were presented. Katelyn felt as if her website on the Asian American Commission was not visually

appealing and did not want to continue navigating the website. Similarly, Tiffany felt the Boston Chinatown Atlas geared only towards one racial group, and is unable to relate the information well. Gabriel felt his website, A Journey Through Chinatown, was hard to navigate. If the creators updated their page and made the maps more interactive, it would have the potential to be an interesting website. Ruixi felt her website would improve if the creators arranged the information into different pages/categories as she was overwhelmed by all the information on one page. Emma, on the other hand, felt that her website, 8centric, was good, but it was rather unclear as to what the meaning of the website was.

What makes these interviews and websites effective is whether or not the website was not aesthetically pleasing, then it still wouldn't be successful. Some websites also had an issue with information overload. The information could have been distributed onto separate pages with an organized structure. On the same lines, the interviews were effective on the whole since they were all engaging and were able to tell the story in a way that made the interviewee seem interesting and was able to form a bond with the viewers.

Part 2: Our Themes

The first theme is about the problems the AAPI community are currently facing. Asian Americans are treated unfairly because of their background even though the individuals grow up in the United States. Peter Kiang said in the interview, “the black-white analysis of race is really deep, and Asian Americans grow up here, who were born here, they face a lot of racial harassment and bullying when they’re kids and that really affects them. So I think that’s one side of it. I think immigrant refugee generation has a different kind of struggle for access to services for support with language, culture, discrimination in the workplace” (time code 6:44-7:15). Asian Americans are not treated as equals in society while Asian immigrants have difficulties adapting to the overall lifestyle because there is no initial guidance. Leverett Wing discusses another problem the AAPI community is dealing with, which is the “voter apathy, or the unwillingness to get involved, or making civic engagement a lower priority than it should be” (time code 8:04-8:16). Leverett Wing continues to explain that individuals who identify as AAPI do not realize the great amount of impact they are capable of. Even the simplest act of voting can make a change, but the community is not willing to go that far.

The second theme is “how organizations try to solve the problems.” This theme is mentioned by all interviewees, but Janelle Chan was able to provide specific details. Chan has worked with the Asian American community and Asian Community Development Corporation which is based in Boston’s Chinatown. She wants to help citizens be engaged and be involved in civic participation through these organizations. She believes the MBTA, or public transportation in general, is the key to achieve higher levels of involvement and engagement. She said that in the interview: “And transit, public transit, is a key asset to Asian Americans. Studies have shown: folks who are low income or moderate income tend to travel on public transportation, out

of choice, or because that is only option. And this is a key asset for all of us who try to maintain, to both have have the MBTA help connect people literally, as well as figuratively. And so the MBTA is a big part of equity, it's a big part of regional growth, and economic development for the Asian American community as well as many,many others" (time code 17:09-17:52). She also mentioned that the MBTA is sustainable and green. "Now, how we are continuing to be green and connecting and really push for smart growth, is that we're also adding, or actually replacing, a third of our buses." (time code 19:23-19:37) It helps people build stronger connections with their jobs and family, as well as being able to stay in touch with society. In addition to public transport, low income housing is also a new challenge to new immigrants. Both Jason Chou and Janelle Chan mentioned affordable housing. Jason Chou said " but the politics around affordable housing is in order for housing to be affordable they you need to have market rate houses to help compensate the costs."

The third theme is "how influential people are bringing awareness to the aforementioned issues." Peter Kiang mentioned many names of influential people, as did Janelle Chan. In Leverett Wing's interview, he mentioned Michelle Wu, Daniel Koh, and Tommy Chang, who advanced progress within the AAPI community in Boston, particularly through progress in government representation. He saw tremendous growth in the area:

"We didn't get an elected official in the State House who was Asian American until the 21st century. Now, you go back to the 1990s when I was pretty much the only staffer, now we've got five state representatives, we've got one state senator, we've got a Boston City council president, Michelle Wu, we had the chief of staff for Boston Mayor Marty Walsh, Daniel Koh, the superintendent of Boston Public Schools, Tommy Chang. We have made considerable progress at the state level, but there is still more to be done" (time code 6:23-7:02).

Jason Chou discussed four particular people whom he thought had been contributing to the progress of the AAPI community: Caroline Chang, Paul Lee, Professor Peter Kiang, and Professor Shirley Tang. Shirley Tang was particularly influential because Jason Chou shared that she was “the reason I’m involved with so many nonprofits... and decided perhaps there’s another route for me” (time code 16:11-16:47).

The fourth theme focuses on the “plans and the ideas for action which will encourage everyday people to be more involved”. It is discussed by Jason Chou and Leverett Wing in their interviews as they both discuss their hopes for successful actions in the future. First, Jason mentions in his interview how young people can become more involved with non-profits near them; “There’s more than enough nonprofits; there are too many nonprofits out there actually, and they all need some sort of assistance, and they all have jobs to fill.” (time code 8:48-9:10). In a similar fashion, Leverett Wing also mentions how one of the largest obstacles the AAPI community faces in voter apathy, “one of the biggest obstacles that I’ve noticed is, and there are a lot, but one of the biggest ones I’ve noticed is just apathy. Voter apathy, of the unwillingness to get involved, or making civic engagement a lower priority than it should be” (time code 7:54-8:16). Both interviewees mentioned the importance of getting involved and giving your voice, which could therefore make positive changes for the future of the AAPI community.

Historical Document Analysis

The group analyzed a range of historical documents; six reports, two videos, three college applications, two newspaper articles, one advertisement, the census and one photo. They were produced between the 1970s-1990s. These documents focus on events that occurred in the 1970s and 1990s specifically focusing on the AAPI group. The documents also talk about how Asian Americans have been presented in videos and in images.

The photo and articles talked about the different workshops that were available for Asians/Asian Americans, how Asians were represented in films, and how the city of Boston wanted to cut funds for an Asian center. The reports were focused on the population division by race. The census also shows us the growth of AAPI group. The college application forms stated what the University needed at that time. The video talks about what life was like for Asian Americans and the struggles that came with their identity. The other video described how life was like for Japanese Americans that lived in California during the World War II. Many people were forced to live in Japanese Internment camps. It showed how Japanese Americans, who were young at the time, didn't understand why they suddenly weren't allowed to be at home and why they were not considered to be American. In this way, the video brings direct evidence of struggles of one group that fits into AAPI.

The U.S. State census and college application from the 1980s, showed the terminology used for those who identify as AAPI. The census from the U.S. Bureau shows that the categories for AAPI population grew from the 1970s - 1980s. During this time, there was a shift in the amount of categories that were offered in the AAPI group. There were five categories in 1970, but by 1980 there were thirteen. Not only that, but the government separated Asian Americans

and Pacific Islanders into two distinct categories. It took significant time for the U.S government to start paying close attention to the AAPI group.

Recommendations: Documentary -- Organized Themes

For our documentary, it would be logical to organize the themes in the same given order(1,2,3,4). This is because the themes coincidentally go from a general significant problem to smaller and more specific solution. It would flow together like a chart. Starting with the first theme, we have problems the AAPI community are facing, such as: the black-white tension with little consideration of Asian minority, racial harassment/ bullying, immigrants' access, and lack of civic engagement. The second theme is how organizations attempt to solve problems, such as public transportation and low-income housing. The third theme is how influential people bring awareness to these issues, which we've seen through the interviews in government representatives and the UMass Asian Studies Program. Lastly, we have plans for action, which is mostly through involvement with non-profits.

This would be the most effective way for us to present our themes because having it in this order will allow the audience to create a relationship with the interviewees. One of the main issues that our group had with the interviews we had previously watched was a scarce amount of information, ranging from background information to what simply happened after the interview.

With this arrangement of the themes, the audience can start of learning about the problems, which could already get them interested and attached. Then, by showing how the problems are trying to be solved by big groups, they can get more background information about what is currently being done or accomplishments in the past. Having the influential people introduced next will provide context that targeted audience can make a difference as well, which could potentially inspire them to take action towards the future with the information they learn

from the final theme (working with non-profits). With this set-up, the audience will receive all of the information they need and feel personally attached, which are two key aspects that will make this structure a success.

Recommendations: Documentary -- One Theme

The theme that we think the documentary should focus on is our fourth theme, which is plans/ideas for action to get more everyday people involved and aware of the issues. To properly showcase this theme, we will be focusing on the interviews of Jason Chou and Leverett Wing. These two interviews really put weight on getting your voice out there, which is crucial for our ideas to get more people involved.

In Jason's interview, he says "there's more than enough non-profits; there are too many nonprofits out there actually, and they all need some sort of assistance, and they all have jobs to fill" (time code 8:48-9:10). Jason has such great insight in his interview about what the individual can do since he has so much experience working with non-profits, so he can accurately give advice. This authenticity can be reassuring to the viewer.

Leverett takes a different approach to the same topic in his interview. Rather than saying how people can be supportive, he mentions how you can get involved in the public sector and how important it is to vote to help get your voice heard. He says, "one of the biggest obstacles that I've noticed is, and there are a lot, but one of the biggest ones I've noticed is just apathy. Voter apathy, of the unwillingness to get involved, or making civic engagement a lower priority than it should be" (time code 7:54-8:16). This aspect is something that people aren't as aware of as they should be, especially young people. Since our target audience is young adults in the APPI community of Boston, this quote in particular could be insightful since maybe a viewer wasn't aware of how much they really could change through voting.

Additionally, the documentary will have a narrator, who we would try to get to be one of the influential members in the AAPI community in Boston to additionally add to the personal touch. One key aspect that we're keeping in mind is how our key audience will take the information that we put out there. Sure, it's great that there are issues that we want to solve, but it is important who we put as the voice so that the intentions are clear and the message is well received. There will also be a link in the documentary during key parts that will take the viewer to our website with the corresponding page to what just happened in the documentary. This way, there can be a completely interactive experience since our goal is getting people aware/involved.

Another item that we particularly want to include is one of the documents we found, Letter/report on Asian parents' communication workshop (held on January 25, 1981). This is an important document because it showcases how even back in the 80's, there was initiative to bring the AAPI community together and bring awareness within the community itself. It would be a great comparison to show how things were done back then and how there is still a need for it today.

The combination of these aspects would make for a successful documentary because we will create a relationship with the viewer. It would be both well received by our key audience, but other audiences would be able to view it and form an attachment to the video's message as well, especially with young adults who are more likely to want to speak out against injustices. We would keep the documentary engaging and also provide ample background to eliminate as much confusion for the viewer as possible. Having this documentary would be most successful out of the different themes that we have, especially in the effort to solve our problem.

Recommendations: Website

For our website, we think it is critical to have it be as interactive as possible. Having the audience be involved in the page encourages them to be involved in the problem we are trying to solve as well. When an individual clicks on the website, they will be brought to the homepage.

The first thing displayed on the website is a slideshow composed of 4 different parts. The first slide will show a quote stating “Boston, it is time to raise awareness”. This invites the audience to be intrigued and have the want to get involved and share awareness.

The second slide is titled “hear from those making a change in the community”, and shares interviews from various people: Leverett Wing, Jason Chou, Peter Kiang, Janelle Chan. In these interviews, they speak about the various problems the AAPI community face, the people who have influenced them, and how everyone can get involved to make a change. Providing these videos to the viewers allows them to be inspired by the faces who are currently making a difference.

The third slide will show each document that we have found for our research. These primary sources show the problem of disaggregating data in the AAPI community, and how it has been a problem for many years. Each document, photo, or video shown will have a title and description accompanied by it.

The fourth and final slide will display the documentary we will have made. The documentary will explore our four themes, the first theme being the problems the AAPI are currently facing, the second theme being how organizations solve these problems, the third theme being how influential people are bringing awareness to these issues, and the fourth being the plans and the ideas for action which will encourage everyday people to be more involved. This documentary will bring together the interviews, the historical documents, our themes, and

how to get involved all into one video. The website will be linked in the documentary itself, so if the video is seen in various places, viewers can go directly to the website to learn more.

The homepage of the website also consists of a bar on top which has the following tabs: Home, About, Get Involved and Contact Us. The “Home” page brings the viewer back to the home page if they are exploring the various pages on the site. The “About” page displays all the research we have conducted, our proposal, our themes, and what we conclude from all of this, which is: why the act of disaggregating data in the AAPI community is needed. The “Get Involved” page will allow the person to view various ways to get involved in their community. Different organizations and influential people in the community will have their contact information available to those interested. The “Contact Us” page will provide the email and phone numbers of the organization or members who made the website. When the user moves their mouse over each tab, the text will darken, and they can then click the link of the tab to direct them to that page.

Much like the documentary, our website will focus on the theme: the plans and the ideas for action which will encourage everyday people to be more involved. In order to make a change, it is essential for individuals to come together and share their voices. We hope to encourage this by sharing our website with numerous people and hope that they would share it to their friends and family as well, in order to have a larger impact in solving the problem at hand.

Appendices

The Website

OUR WEBSITE

Each slide on the home page is displayed on the website in a revolving order. Slides change automatically after three seconds.

Slide One



Slide Two



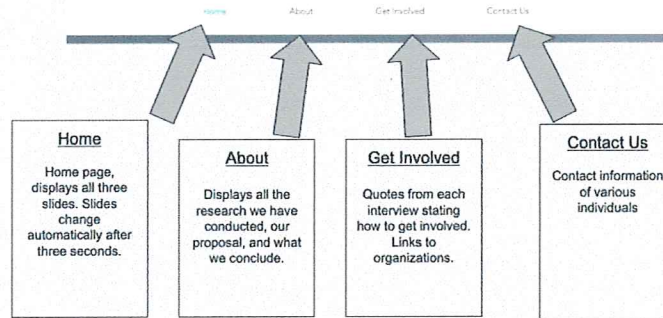
Slide Three



Slide Four



OUR WEBSITE / Hyperlinks

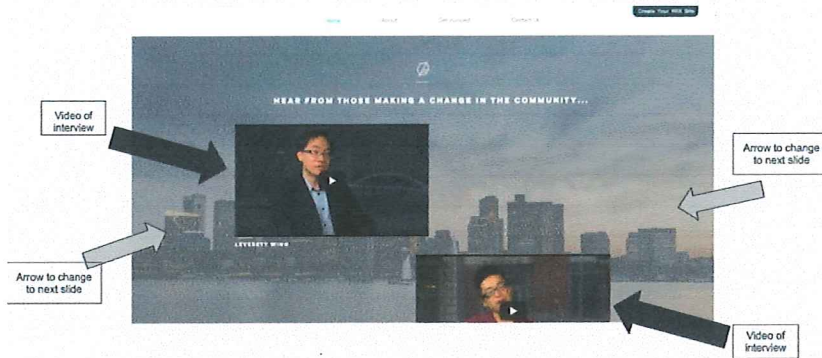


OUR WEBSITE / Slide One



The Website cont.

OUR WEBSITE / Slide Two



OUR WEBSITE / Slide Three



OUR WEBSITE / Slide Four



Appendices

Historical Documents

Images

1. Photo of 1974-75 College Entrance Information (Suffolk University); Photo of 1974 Application for Admission (Suffolk University)
2. Photo of 1982 College Entrance Information (Suffolk University); Photo of backside of 1982 Application for Admission (Suffolk University)
3. Photo of 1984 College Entrance Information (Suffolk University); Photo of backside of 1984 Application for Admission (Suffolk University)
4. What does it mean to be "Authentically" Asian American? (Williams.edu)
5. Raiders of the Lost Ark II: Looking for an Oriental Boy (audition advertisement)

Newspaper article

1. Boston Asians Ask No Cuts For Center (Boston Globe)

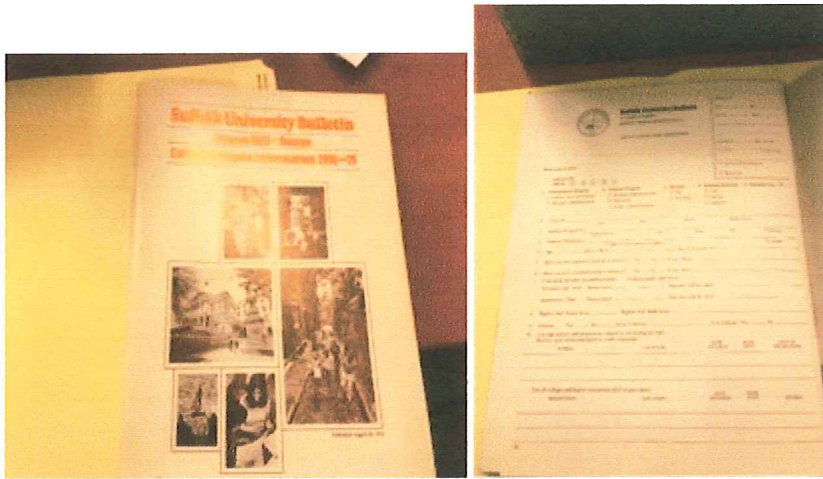
Videos

1. The Japanese American (Handel Film Corporation)
<https://archive.org/details/japaneseamericanmontebello601apc>
2. Guilty by Reason of Race (NBC; Films Inc)
<https://archive.org/details/guiltybyreasonofracereel2>

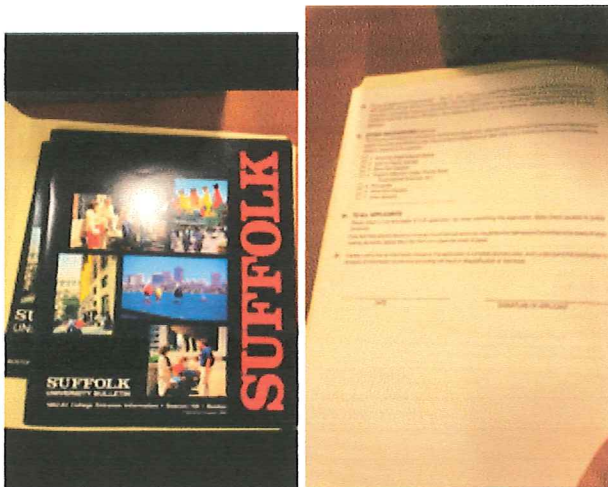
Miscellaneous

1. Letter, report on Asian parents' communication workshop (held on January 25, 1981) (Northeastern University)

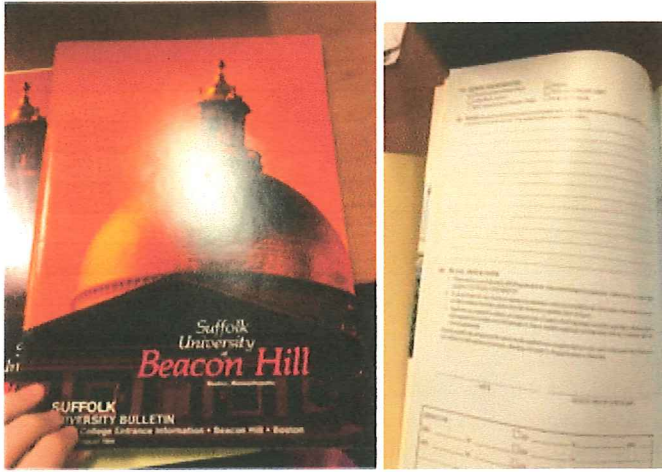
Appendix 1 Photo of 1974-75 College Entrance Information (Suffolk University); Photo of 1974 Application for Admission (Suffolk University)



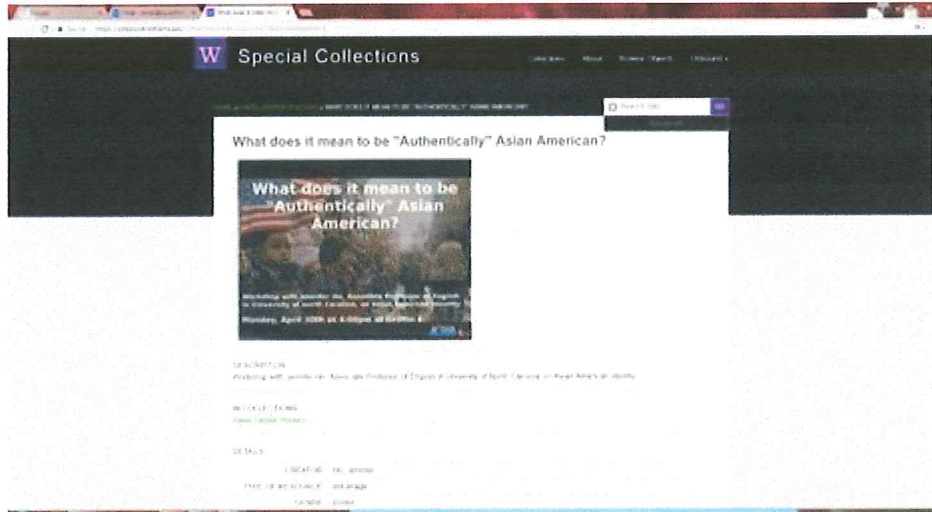
Appendix 2 Photo of 1982 College Entrance Information (Suffolk University); Photo of backside of 1982 Application for Admission (Suffolk University)



Appendix 3 Photo of 1984 College Entrance Information (Suffolk University); Photo of backside of 1984 Application for Admission (Suffolk University)



Appendix 4 What does it mean to be "Authentically" Asian American? (Williams.edu)



Appendix 5 *Raiders of the Lost Ark II: Looking for an Oriental Boy* (audition advertisement)

RAIDERS of the LOST ARK II
Looking for an
ORIENTAL BOY
between age 9 & 12
who speaks English and is available to film from mid Apr. to Aug. 83 in
India, London & Spain.
He will play a leading part as the sidekick of Indiana Jones (Harrison Ford)
Must be athletic and street-wise.

OPEN AUDITIONS to be held at the
MAGGIE BASSETT STUDIOS
322 Howland Ave.
1 bl. N. of Dupont, 2 bl. E. of Bathurst
on **SUNDAY, MARCH 13** from **10 A.M. to 4 P.M.**
Please bring snapshot to leave at audition

Appendix 6 *Boston Asians Ask No Cuts For Center* (*Boston Globe*)

Fearing a budget cut in July could curtail or end community programs, members of Boston's Chinese community yesterday pleaded for renewal of the \$80,000 a year City Hall now spends at the Quincy School.

"For this amount Boston stands to lose the only Asian multiservice center in the country," Richard Ning of the Quincy School Community Council, said at a press conference in the school complex.

He said 2200 persons a week use the school's gym, swimming pool or day care facilities or take English or automechanics classes or guitar lessons. The complex includes an elementary school, the Chinatown Little City Hall and the South Cove Community Health Center.

"Many youths will be out in the streets instead of studying here," Eddie Wu, a junior at Charlestown High School, said.

Luu Kim Lan, a 64-year-old Chinese refugee from Vietnam, said through an interpreter that she is learning English at the community school and gets bilingual escorts when she goes grocery shopping.

The city now spends \$1.5 million a year for 18 community schools like the Quincy, with total participation of 30,000 people every week. Across-the-board cuts in this and other city budget items are being considered by Mayor Kevin

White, but his spokesmen said yesterday no decision has been made. Whatever recommendation.

Appendix 9 Letter, report on Asian parents' communication workshop (held on January 25, 1981) (Northeastern University)



CITYWIDE PARENTS' ADVISORY COUNCIL

TO: CPAC MEMBERS AND CO-CHAIRS
FROM: SUSAN YAN FUNG, ASIAN FIELD COORDINATOR
DATE: JANUARY 27, 1981
SUBJECT: REPORT ON ASIAN PARENTS' COMMUNICATION WORKSHOP
(held January 25, 1981)

The Asian Parents' Communication Workshop took place on Sunday, January 25, 1981, at one o'clock in the auditorium of the Chinese Merchants Association.

The formal agenda started with a Chinese folk dance, "April Shower," presented by Jennifer Choi of the Charlestown High Chinese Bilingual Program. It was followed by the introduction of guests and speakers with a briefing of the school closing news, how it is going to affect the Asian students, and what parents can do in getting a better education for their children.

Isabel Yee explained how she works with parents and students in the Chinese Bilingual Program. Then Libby Chiu reported on: 1) how parents assisted in the State Bilingual Audit, 2) the proposed changes in the Lau Compliance Plan, 3) development of the Chinese Bilingual Curriculum, 4) the increase in the Chinese bilingual population (up 200 since September), and 5) the financial constraint of the Boston Public Schools and how it is affecting the educational plans.

Anna Wong Yee introduced the teachers who were present and reported on the Asian parents' effort in identifying and resolving transportation problems. A transportation reporting form was developed and distributed to the parents for the purpose of collecting detailed information on transportation.

Eddie Wu, a senior at Charlestown High, shared with the audience his point of view as a student.

Raffael DeGrutolla commented on the latest accomplishment of the Chinese Bilingual Program, which reflects the importance of parental participation.

Mr. Bill Chan, our guest speaker, indicated that the Asian Community needs to have more say in terms of providing adequate service to children in the Boston Public Schools.