



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

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## **Press Release 新聞稿**

### **Grand Opening of the BCNC Pao Arts Center**

***Arts Center will be a community unifier that preserves the rich Asian American legacy***

Boston (MA) - Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center (BCNC) will proudly open the Pao Arts Center on Tuesday, May 2, 2017 at 99 Albany Street, Boston, in the One Greenway building.

The Pao Arts Center is located at a historically important parcel of land, Parcel 24, which was once home to over 200 Chinatown families before they were displaced by the construction of highways. This reclamation of space celebrates both traditional artistic practice and supports contemporary artists. As metro Boston's newly dedicated Asian and Asian immigrant cultural space, the Pao Arts Center invites all Bostonians to experience cultural performances and exhibitions, exchange ideas with contemporary thought leaders, and support and amplify voices of underrepresented artists and community.

To mark the opening, BCNC will host several events open to the public, including:

- Sneak Peek, Tuesday, May 2, 3:00-6:00 pm
- Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, Saturday, May 6, 12:00-1:00 pm
- Grand Opening Celebration, Saturday, May 6, 1:00-7:00 pm

Formerly known as One Chinatown, the Pao Arts Center has been renamed in recognition of the generous support of Eleanor and Frank Pao. As active philanthropists, they have endowed many scholarships in higher education and the Boston Ballet School. The Pao Family business varies from hi-tech, to solar, to commercial real estate, and Eleanor has been a Board Member of Boston Ballet and the Celebrity Series of Boston.

Eleanor and Frank Pao share, "We felt that arts can enrich and transform our daily lives. We are thrilled to support this exciting new project and do something for the Boston community."

"Chinatown is an important neighborhood in the City of Boston," says Giles Li, BCNC Executive Director. "Chinatown has been home to countless immigrants to our country, and served as a place where newcomers could find a community that helped them adjust to life in America. As the city and the neighborhood changes, the Pao Arts Center sends a message to all people – long-time residents, new arrivals, transplants – that everyone is welcome, and everyone should belong."

The Pao Arts Center, located at 99 Albany Street in Boston, was developed by BCNC in partnership with Bunker Hill Community College (BHCC). The 5,000 square-foot space includes a theater, gallery, and classrooms. To support the Arts Center, BCNC received the prestigious National Creative Placemaking award from ArtPlace America in 2016, just one of 29 funded projects out of more than 1,400 applicants.

Partnerships and support from across sectors include the Barr Foundation, Liberty Mutual Foundation, Bunker Hill Community College, Tufts University School of Medicine, South Cove Community Health Center, and Asian Community Development Corporation. The robust Community Advisory Committee – with representatives ranging from health, sciences, and arts and culture – ensure that the Pao Arts Center has a holistic approach and impact on the community.

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### **About Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center**

Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center (BCNC) is the largest nonprofit social service provider dedicated to Asian families in the Greater Boston area, supporting over 2,000 children, youth, and adults each year at three locations in Boston and Quincy. The mission of BCNC is to ensure that the children, youth, and families we serve have the resources and supports they need to achieve greater economic success and social well-being. BCNC helps families access the resources and services available to them, provide opportunities for them to learn and acquire skills, and create a community of mutual support and encouragement. For more information, go to [www.bcnc.net](http://www.bcnc.net).