



Rooted & Rising:

Celebrating Belonging, Legacy & the Power of Community

YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR 2026 GALA

CREATING BELONGING...

Depends on infrastructure to support it, built over years by people who come together, organize, and advocate to open up city conversations, civic processes, decision-making, and the creative life of this community.



Belonging doesn't happen on its own.



OUR JOURNEY

In 2014, community members in Malden came together to mobilize against systemic racism and the displacement of AAPI elders from public spaces. As anti-Asian incidents continued in the years that followed, a collective call emerged—across Malden and surrounding communities—for a space rooted in visibility, dignity, and cultural expression.

When AAPI communities have a home for belonging, cultural expression, leadership, healing, and civic power, we can transform the systems that shape our lives.

OUR COMMUNITY POWER

At GMAACC, building power is a collective act. We show up for each other and for our communities. We dream, shape, and create our future together. We build bridges across AAPI and broader communities, strengthening solidarity through connection, culture, and care.



OUR NEW HOME

Last year, we celebrated the historic milestone of acquiring a permanent home for GMAACC. This past year, we listened to our community, welcomed new voices, and expanded partnerships as we envisioned what the AAPI Community and Cultural Center could become. Together, we affirmed a shared vision: a place where our stories, cultures, and aspirations come together—rooted in our heritage and shaped by the community that made it possible.

OUR GALA celebrates this historic milestone: our new home for GMAACC.

After more than a decade of organizing, advocacy, and coalition-building, we are planting deep roots, and we invite you to be a part of this next bold chapter.

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2026 Annual Gala

Friday, September 18, 2026

6:00PM Guest Check-In & Reception | 7:00PM Dinner & Program

The Royal Sonesta Boston

40 Edwin H Land Blvd, Cambridge, MA 02142

Festive or Cultural Attire Welcome

Emcees: Jim Braude, Boston Public Radio & Chef Tracy Chang, Chef/Owner PAGU

HONORING *For their tireless devotion and remarkable contributions to the Greater Malden AAPI Communities*

**Dr. Elaine Li Shiang &
The Late Dr. Frederick P. Li**
*Lifetime Community
Impact Award*

Lawrence K. Cheng, AIA
Humanitarian Award

**Asian American Lawyers Association
of Massachusetts (AALAM)**
*Public Service for
Community Power Award*

HONORARY HOST COMMITTEE

Honorary Chairs: U.S. Senator Edward J. Markey and U.S. Democratic Whip Congresswoman Katherine Clark

Honorary Host Committee:

Helen Chin Schlichte • Hon. Mayor Gary Christenson • Paul W. Lee • Chef Irene Li • Chef Laurence Louie • State Representative Steven Ultrino • State Representative Erika Uyterhoeven • Leverett Wing • Hon. Paul M. Yee (Ret.) • Emily Yu

JOIN US

Sponsorships Opportunities: Due by August 28

Tickets: RSVP by Sept. 4



[givebutter.com/c/
GMAACC-GALA-2026](https://givebutter.com/c/GMAACC-GALA-2026)



Event questions
events@gmaacc.org



More Information
www.gmaacc.org

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