

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA ADVISORY: Chinatown Presents Its Vision for Future Library

Boston (June 4, 2015) – The Chinese Youth Initiative in partnership with the Chinatown (Lantern) Cultural Center Committee will host a Chinatown Library Community meeting on Monday, June 8 at the Josiah Quincy School to present residents, supporters, and city officials with the vision for a Chinatown Library developed through community focus groups.

Throughout the past year, Chinese Youth Initiative has continued to advocate for library services and a Chinatown Branch Library. Youth from the program met with almost all of the City Councilors' offices and State Representatives to ask for City and State funding for a Boston Public Library branch in Chinatown. Most recently, Chinese Youth Initiative conducted focus groups with youth, parents, and elderly to build a community vision for a Chinatown library with particular focus on services, spaces, and roles community members see a Chinatown Library providing.

Chinese Youth Initiative and the Chinatown (Lantern) Cultural Center Committee ask for a commitment from the Boston Public Library, the Mayor's Office and City Council to prioritize a Chinatown library within next year's budget:

- A planning grant for a Chinatown Branch Library to be added to the City of Boston's capital budget for the upcoming fiscal year
- City funded interim library services to be provided through the community cultural center planned at One Greenway while a Chinatown Branch is in the planning and construction stages

WHAT: Chinatown Library Community Meeting

WHO: Chinese Youth Initiative of Chinese Progressive Association and Chinatown Cultural Center Committee, residents, supporters, City officials

WHERE: Josiah Quincy School Cafeteria, 885 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02111

WHEN: Monday, June 8, 2015 at 6:30PM

WHY:

- Chinatown has been without a library since the 1950s and residents have voiced their needs for this community resource. Mayor Walsh has pledged to bring library services and a permanent branch to Chinatown.
- The Boston Public Library has expressed interest in exploring mixed use library branches and a Chinatown Branch Library as a potential project
- There is opportunity now to establish a Chinatown Branch Library within the City-owned China Trade Center building with interim services at One Greenway located at 66 Hudson Street
- The City budget will be voted on within the coming weeks and a line-item for planning or building of a Chinatown Branch Library would be a critical commitment to the Chinatown community, following up on the first feasibility and siting study completed in 2007