

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kimberly Situ, 617-357-4499, kim@cpaboston.org

MEDIA ADVISORY: AIM TO RECLAIM: The Chinatown Library Campaign

Boston (August 14, 2015) – Chinese Youth Initiative (CYI) of the Chinese Progressive Association (CPA) is hosting “AIM TO RECLAIM: The Chinatown Library Campaign,” a public community event replicating services and resources that can be provided by a Chinatown branch library. Chinatown’s public library branch was demolished in 1956 during urban renewal for the construction of the Central Artery. Since then, the community has campaigned for a library to return to Chinatown.

Currently, Chinatown is the only neighborhood in Boston that does not have a public branch library. In June 2015, CYI in partnership with the Chinatown Cultural Center Committee (CCC) presented a community vision for a Chinatown Branch Library based on focus groups conducted with youth, parents, and elderly. Some major themes from this vision are that community members see a Chinatown Library providing a community cultural space, gathering space, education preparedness, resources for immigrant families, as well as entertainment and fun.

Through “AIM TO RECLAIM: The Chinatown Library Campaign,” CYI will provide a temporary library space that responds to the themes from the community’s vision, raise awareness about the need for a branch library to return to Chinatown, and highlight how public space should be utilized for community use. CYI and CCC see opportunity for the city to establish a Chinatown Branch Library in the City-owned China Trade Center building with interim services available in other community spaces.

There will be a bookshelf set up as a temporary library at the Boston Chinatown Gate with a shaded canopy for reading, on Monday, August 17, 2015 from 10:30 am – 12:30 pm and Wednesday, August 19, 2015 from 10:30 am – 3:30 pm. There will be an information table about the Chinatown Library Campaign, book readings every half hour, coloring pages and activity books for kids, and free bookmarks. This event is open to all ages, and everyone is welcome to sit down, read a book, and enjoy the community use of public space.

WHAT: AIM TO RECLAIM: The Chinatown Library Campaign

WHO: Chinese Youth Initiative of Chinese Progressive Association, Chinatown community members and supporters

WHERE: Boston Chinatown Gate (Surface Road and Beach Street)

WHEN: Monday, August 17, 2015 at 10:30 am – 12:30 pm and Wednesday, August 19, 2015 at 10:30 am – 3:30 pm

###