



CITY OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS  
Office of the Mayor  
Thomas M. Menino

For Immediate Release:  
Tuesday, November 16, 2010

For More Information Contact:  
Press Office, (617) 635-4461

## **Mayor Menino Announces 2010 We Are Boston Gala Awardees**

### ***Three Community, Two Youth and One Corporate Leader Chosen for outstanding commitment to Advocating for Diversity***

Mayor Thomas M. Menino and his Office of New Bostonians (ONB) today announced the winners of the fifth annual We Are Boston Gala Awards, honoring individuals and organizations that have made outstanding contributions in promoting Boston's rich diversity and fostering the full integration of New Bostonians in all aspects of life in Boston. Mayor Menino will present the awards at the fifth Annual We Are Boston Gala on Friday, December 10 at the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center.

"These award winners demonstrate the many ways in which individuals and businesses can help to celebrate Boston's diversity and immigrant contributions every single day," said Mayor Menino. "Their commitment to nurturing open dialogue and promoting cultural awareness in all of our neighborhoods is an outstanding example of the leadership necessary to ensure that new immigrants have full access to the civic, economic, social and cultural life of Boston."

Along with honoring attorney and advocate Mrs. Victoria Reggie Kennedy, the wife of the late Senator Edward Kennedy with the We Are Boston Leadership Award for her many accomplishments and contributions, Mayor Menino and ONB are also thrilled to honor the following exceptional awardees:

- **Citizen's Bank** with the *Corporate Courage Award*, for demonstrating consistent commitment in creating opportunities for Boston's diverse communities to thrive and be successful.
- **Helen Choi**, retired advocate with Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence and **Frederica Williams** of Whittier Street Health Center with the *Community Pioneer Award*, both recognized leaders and contributors in their communities who demonstrate

consistent commitment and leadership in promoting cross cultural awareness and collaboration, and empowering immigrant communities.

- **Margot Stern Strom** of Facing History and Ourselves with the *New Bostonians Champion Award*, for demonstrating consistent commitment in nurturing a dialogue and inspiring action to facilitate the full integration of immigrants in Boston and beyond.
- **Kiara Cordero and Shu Ming Huang** with the *Youth Action Award* for translating the perseverance, courage and idealism of New Bostonians into action and making significant contributions to empower their communities.

Since its inception in 2006, the We Are Boston Gala has been ONB's flagship annual event. The gala has attracted thousands of friends and supporters over the years, to celebrate and support the dreams, drive and contributions of the immigrant and diverse communities of Boston and across the Commonwealth.

This year's event is made possible by the generosity of many long time corporate and media supporters, including State Street Corporation, 1199 SEIU United Healthcare Workers East, Target, Tufts Medical Center, UGL Services, Citizen's Bank, Century Bank, Arbella Insurance Group Charitable Foundation, Rasky Baerlein Strategic Communications, Inc., Brazilian Times Newspaper, Tele Kreyol and Radio Nha-Terra. A detailed list of sponsors for this year's event may be found on the event's website at [www.wearebostongala.info](http://www.wearebostongala.info).

Over 1,000 city, community and corporate leaders are expected to join Mayor Menino on Friday, December 10, 2010 at the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center for a night of intimate networking, inspiring messages and special cultural performances and cuisine, reflecting various cultures, including Brazilian, Haitian, Middle Eastern and Asian. The event will also feature a special tribute to those who worked with the City of Boston to provide relief to the Haitian community in the wake of the devastating earthquake of January 12, 2010.

Proceeds from the 2010 We Are Boston Gala will help support the English for New Bostonians project, a city-private-community partnership providing access to English classes, the New Bostonians Summit Initiative, and other crucial programs to more than one thousand New Bostonians, enabling them to be full participants in Boston.

For more information about the gala, visit [www.wearebostongala.info](http://www.wearebostongala.info) or call 617-635-2980.

### **About the Mayor's Office of New Bostonians**

In 1998, City of Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino created his Office of New Bostonians (ONB) to ensure that new immigrants have full access to the civic, economic, social and cultural life of Boston. MONB established a nationally-recognized model for assisting newcomers in overcoming the barriers and challenges of immigration.

Every year, ONB assists over 1,000 new Bostonians by connecting individuals to English language classes, helping them open new business, promoting free immigration advice from volunteer lawyers, and offering employment and homeownership counseling, which allow new Bostonians to contribute socially and economically to the city in a myriad of ways. Visit [www.cityofboston.gov/newbostonians](http://www.cityofboston.gov/newbostonians) or call 617-635-2980 for more information.

###