

What lessons can Lexington learn about capitalizing on the presence of a growing number of Asian residents from other communities with large Asian population?

### **Background – Recommendation of the Subcommittee on Demographic Change**

*“We recommend that the Lexington 2020 Vision Committee continue to monitor and report on demographic trends and civic participation by Asian residents. In addition, we recommend that it investigate the experiences in other US communities, with larger percentages of Asian residents and demographics similar to Lexington’s.”*

### **Objectives for a project to investigate experiences in other communities**

1. Identify practices and initiatives that might be considered for adoption in Lexington to
  - a. increase the civic engagement of its Asian residents.
  - b. benefit from the diverse cultures and experiences of its Asian residents
2. Identify experiences of communities with large Asian populations which Lexington should avoid replicating

### **Project deliverables**

1. Using Census Bureau data, identify communities whose Asian populations exceed 20% of the total population.
2. Conduct a literature/internet search for data and information on relationships between the Asian communities and other communities, focusing on practices or initiatives that proved to be effective in enriching the life of the community as a whole or engaging the Asian communities in civic activities.
3. Prepare an interim report.
4. Use the lessons learned in Step 2 to select communities to be studied in greater detail. In narrowing the list of candidates for study, consider communities whose demographics resemble Lexington’s in terms of population, percentage of Asian residents, mix of Asian residents and median family income.
5. Conduct an intensive study of these communities, including Town documents, newspaper reports and interviews with community leaders.
6. Summarize findings and recommendations in a final report no later than 18 months after launching the project.

### **Project team structure and operations**

1. Appoint a leader for the subcommittee.
2. Use the structure of the Subcommittee on Demographic Change – a combination of members of the 20/20 Vision Committee, members of CAAL and IAL, and other interested residents – as a guide in structuring the team.
3. Amend the draft charter if the team believes it needs to be modified; secure approval for any changes from the 20/20 Vision Committee.
4. Construct and follow a project plan.
5. Record meeting minutes, focusing primarily on decisions made and action items.
6. Report on progress at the regular meetings of the 20/20 Vision Committee.