

AHSC to open new facility by 35th anniversary

By Julie Stegeman
The Asian Reporter

The Asian Health & Service Center (AHSC) is working toward moving to a new permanent home. The organization, founded in 1983 as the Chinese Social Service Center, serves as a bridge between Asian and American cultures while working to reduce healthcare inequity and improve healthcare quality for all Asians. Over the years, the organization has expanded and moved twice to larger locations in southeast Portland and also added sites in Beaverton and downtown Portland.

While the main focus of the nonprofit organization is health, the group also operates the Yu Miao Chinese Immersion Preschool and an addiction treatment program, coordinates programs for senior citizens, holds talks and clinics, and provides classes and workshops highlighting a diverse range of Asian art and culture topics.

AHSC, whose annual budget exceeds \$2 million, employs 42 multilingual and bicultural workers from China, Hong Kong, South Korea, Taiwan, Vietnam, and the United States. In 2014, the organization provided benefit services to more than 5,000 community members through 46,000 service encounters. The center's current location, a rented 12,000-square-foot, two-story building located at 3430 S.E. Powell Boulevard, is increasingly inadequate to support current projects and much-needed program growth.

With nearly three-quarters of Oregon's rapidly expanding Asian population living in the Portland metropolitan area, AHSC



NEW FACILITY NEEDED. The Asian Health & Service Center (AHSC) is working toward moving to a new permanent home. The organization, founded in 1983 as the Chinese Social Service Center, originally occupied 600 square feet in the basement of the Chinese Presbyterian Church in southeast Portland (top photo). In 1999, AHSC moved to a 3,000-square-foot building on S.E. 35th Place (bottom photo); in 2002, the center took up 9,000 total square feet within the same building. (Photos courtesy of the Asian Health & Service Center)

anticipates that demands for service will increase over the foreseeable future. AHSC predicts over the next 10 years that Portland's Asian population will increase by 47 percent.

The new 30,500-square-foot facility will be located in the Lents neighborhood of Portland, near the Lents Town Center/Foster Road MAX station as well as a bus

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Asian Health & Service Center Timeline

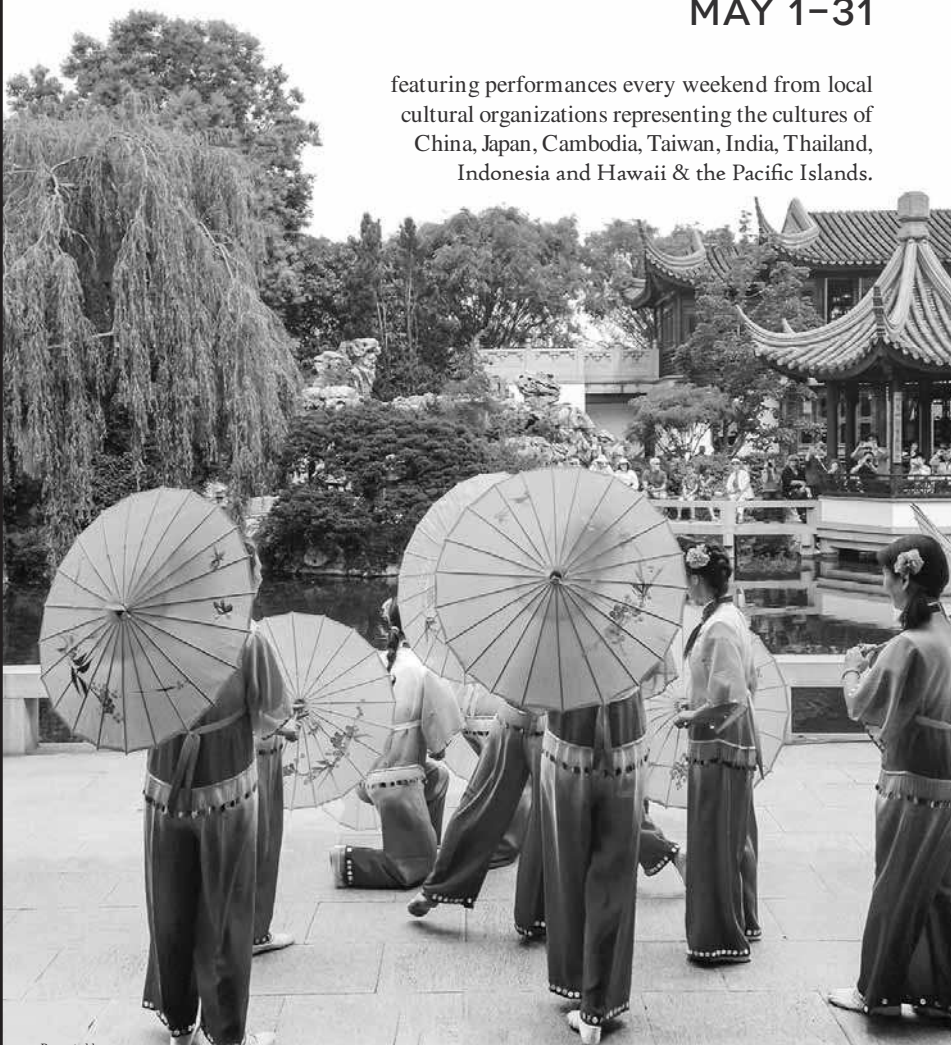
- 1983**
AHSC is founded as the Chinese Social Service Center in the basement of the Chinese Presbyterian Church in southeast Portland
- 1996**
The organization becomes the Chinese Service Center
- 1999**
The center moves to a 3,000-square-foot building on S.E. 35th Place; the Yu Miao Chinese Immersion Preschool opens
- 2001**
AHSC opens an office in Beaverton and also partners with the National College of Natural Medicine to open the Chinese Medicine Clinic in Portland.
- 2002**
The center expands to cover 9,000 square feet of the building and changes its name to the Asian Health & Service Center
- 2007**
The Yu Miao Chinese Immersion Preschool further expands and becomes Oregon's first certified Chinese immersion preschool and daycare program in Oregon.
- 2008**
AHSC moves to its current 12,000-square-foot building at 3430 S.E. Powell Boulevard
- 2009**
AHSC adds a senior Asian lunch program
- 2014**
The center opens another site in downtown Portland



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