



Harold Lui

Community Service Award

A devoted community advocate, a path-breaking leader, and an inspiring mentor, Harold Lui began his social work career at Hamilton-Madison House in 1964, first as a youth worker and then Assistant Director overseeing all programs at the House. Under the leadership of then Executive Director Tom McKenna, Harold played a key role in the House's service expansion and community engagement.

During his tenure from 1964 to 1972, Harold was also paving Hamilton-Madison House's deepening relationship with the growing Chinatown community. In an era of heightened social activism for justice, economic opportunity, and social services in Chinatown and the community lacking established professional service organizations, Hamilton-Madison House was ready to serve its new immigrant neighbors and to be a resource to the community. Harold was instrumental in forging community partnerships that have created significant and long lasting impact. In 1965, Harold was one of the founders of the Chinese-American Planning Council, which is now the nation's largest Chinese-American social service organization. He served briefly as its Board President and later one of its three co-managing directors from 1978 to 1984. In 1971, the Chinatown Health Clinic was created as an outgrowth of an unprecedented community health fair organized by a group of volunteers to provide health education and screenings to the medically underserved Chinatown residents. Hamilton-Madison House offered its support and served as the Health Clinic's initial fiscal sponsor. From 1986 to 1994, Harold was the executive director of the Health Clinic, which has since been renamed the Charles B. Wang Community Health Center.

Harold's leadership in the community has been widely acknowledged. During the late 1970s and early 1980s, Harold was a key participant of an interagency working group that tried to address the lack of mental health services in New York's Asian American community. Working closely with two Hunter social work professors, Dr. Angela Shen Ryan and Dr. Irving Weisman, the group successfully secured commitment from the New York State Office of Mental Health to launch an unprecedented Asian American Mental Health Demonstration Project in 1982. Hamilton-Madison House became the project sponsor, and those services have continued as part of Hamilton-Madison House's core services today. Similarly, in 1971, Harold was an active participant of a major community protest against a developer who had refused to hire Chinese workers for the big Confucius Plaza construction project. That defining moment in Chinatown led to the formation of Asian Americans for Equal Employment, the predecessor of Asian Americans for Equality. During the 1990s, Harold was the Chairman of the Board of the Chinatown History Project. He provided stability in a challenging time of the organization, which has since become the present day Museum of Chinese in America.

A second generation Chinese American born and raised in New York, Harold has consistently provided a strong voice for immigrants. He believes in a society where immigrants are welcomed, treated fairly, and given opportunities to become productive and contributing citizens. He has worked hard to build bridges between new and old neighbors. He values collaboration and has always been willing to make extra efforts to bring community groups together in order to have a stronger voice for the community.

Harold Lui is a proud graduate of Hunter College and Hunter College School of Social Work. His exemplary community social work has earned him many awards and recognitions over the years. In 1992, he became the first Chinese American social worker inducted into the Hall of Fame of Hunter College. He has been a wonderful mentor to generations of Chinese American social workers. Those who have known and worked with Harold over the years warmly regard him as the "dean" of Chinese American social workers. Hamilton-Madison House is proud to honor Harold Lui for his decades of outstanding community service.