

BATTERY DANCE

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October 24, 2020

Nancy Yao Maasbach, President
Museum of Chinese in America
215 Centre Street
New York, NY 10013

Jonathan Chu, Co-Chair of Board of Directors
Museum of Chinese in America
215 Centre Street
New York, NY 10013

Dear Ms. Maasbach and Mr. Chu:

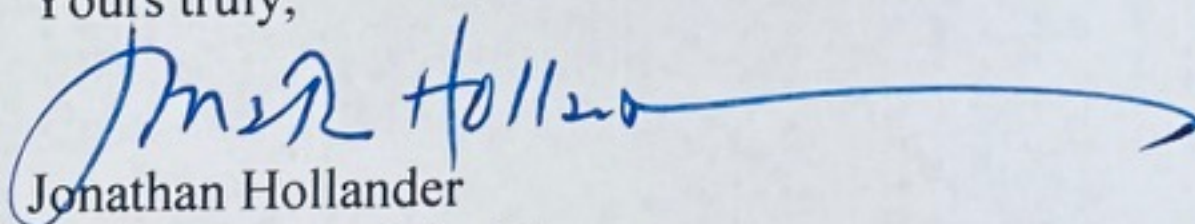
It has come to my attention that the Museum of Chinese in America is accepting \$35,000,000 from New York City that is tied to the disastrous plan to demolish the current Manhattan Detention Center and erect an XXL tower in its place.

It is impossible to see the huge capital grant to MoCA as anything other than a bald attempt to buy the Museum's silence on an issue that is clearly a devastating blow to the fragile Chinatown community. I find it deeply dispiriting to see an important arts institution such as MoCA bowing to political strong-arming. Should the Museum receive capital funds to secure its future? Yes, of course. Should that funding disguise a poison pill – namely the catastrophic Borough Based Jail plan? No, of course not.

I have been joining with neighboring residents, small businesses and arts organizations in speaking out against the misguided plan which has absolutely nothing to do with criminal justice. If improving conditions for incarcerated people were the priority, then an expedited plan to build new facilities at Rikers where demolition could be phased in and construction could start soon would have been adopted at a fraction of the 9 billion price tag for the BBJ. Likewise, funding would have been directed towards the retraining of corrections officers, the expansion of mental health facilities, the improvement of schools and community centers in areas where crime is rife. So no, I do not buy any of the false narratives cooked up by the City to explain and defend its plan and neither should you.

I implore you to publicly reject the capital grant and to speak out with the community in opposition to the BBJ.

Yours truly,



Jonathan Hollander
President & Artistic Director