

Via E-mail (nmaasbach@mocanyc.org) & Physical Mail:

Nancy Yao Maasbach  
President  
215 Centre Street  
New York, NY 10013

Via E-mail (jchu@mocanyc.org) & Physical Mail:

Jonathan Chu  
Co-Chair of the Board of Directors  
215 Centre Street  
New York, NY 10013

November 5, 2020

Dear Nancy and Jonathan,

As your former employee and colleague, I am writing to you regarding the \$35 million that you recently accepted as concessions for a city-wide plan to build jails. I urge you to reject the funding, because you are undermining your integrity by doing so.

I am aware that you accepted this funding, because you want a permanent home for the museum. Though this wish is understandable, the way you received the \$35 million betrays MOCA's origins and harms the communities that you claim to support.

The Basement Workshop of the 1970s birthed MOCA. The Basement Workshop became active during the Asian American Movement, which emphasized building connections with other communities of color. You are turning your back on that legacy by receiving money from the jail-building plan, which has, and will, harm the Black community.

You cannot, with integrity, accept this funding and claim that Black Lives Matter, which you state on your website and social media channels.

You cannot, with integrity, accept this funding and claim that you care about the Chinatown community, whose members will struggle physically from the adverse health effects resulting from living near a construction site.

Yes, funding would help secure a permanent home for your museum. But it is your ethics— or in this case, your lack of it— that determines the strength of your connections to community members. In that regard, your future looks dismal.

It is your choice to realize, or not, that there is another way to secure funding for MOCA's physical space and preserve your honesty towards the public. This is not the way.

With urgency,  
Evelyn Kim

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October 30th, 2020

Dear MOCA Team,

My name is Evelyn Kim, and I was a Visitor Services Associate at MOCA from April 2017 until January 2018.

I learned that MOCA has accepted \$35 million, which is linked to a citywide plan to build 4 jails, including one in Chinatown. I am writing to urge you to: either 1) accept the funds and take down your public "Black Lives Matter" statement (on your website), or 2) reject the funds and stay honest in your claim that you support the Black community.

You are undermining MOCA's integrity by both accepting the funding and publicly stating that Black Lives Matter.

We all deserve clarity, on where you stand regarding racial justice and building an equitable world. By "we all", I mean you, as individuals who operate MOCA, and the communities you serve.

Indeed, funding is essential for you to maintain your amazing, much-needed programming. However, we, as individuals or institutions, do not exist in a vacuum-- everyone, and everything, is interconnected. This is why your acceptance of the \$35 million as part of the citywide prison plans will harm the Black community that you publicly claim to support on your website.

That's because it is Black people who suffer most from the existence of prisons, and from the criminal "justice" system. Black people are more likely to receive longer sentences than white people are for the same crimes (Source: The Washington Post). White Americans are far more likely to have used drugs, yet Black Americans are far more likely to go to jail for drug-related offenses. (Source: The Huffington Post).

By publicly claiming that you support the Black Lives Matter movement and accepting the \$35 million, you are harming your integrity as an institution. In this situation, I believe your integrity is more important than money.

With gravity and urgency,

Evelyn Kim