

Dear MOCA President and Board of Directors,

[Neighbors United Below Canal](#) is a community advocacy group of volunteers composed of residents, property owners and businesses who oppose the [Mayor's borough based jail plan](#). Having been to countless meetings, town halls and community board meetings, we examined virtually every aspect of the Mayor's plan. It is with this knowledge and our commitment to our community to amplify the voices of Chinatown that we made the decision to be a petitioner in an [article 78 lawsuit](#) along with [key witnesses](#) to stop the building of the mega-jail in Chinatown.

Neighbors United Below Canal (NUBC) , has [communicated our concerns](#) to you about the dangers [inherent in demolition and construction](#),

We are profoundly disappointed that your institution has chosen to ignore our warnings, and instead is actively profiting from mass incarceration by accepting \$35M directly connected to the Mayor's BBJ project.

Recently a group of local Chinese-American artists shared with us letters they had sent to MOCA expressing their concerns over your complicity in the City's incarceration expansion scheme.

- We agree with them in that you owe us an accurate account of [how and why MOCA received \\$35 million](#) as a part of the City's jail expansion plan in Chinatown.
- We need an explanation of why you engaged with the City in accepting this money, but never engaged the community on what it's repercussions would be.
- We demand to know why MOCA never joined their neighbors and long-time community members in raising concerns about the danger this construction poses to our seniors.
- We want a definitive statement from MOCA on whether you support expanding mass incarceration with the construction of the new jail, or if you support the No New Jails proposal.

NUBC, without the historic and institutional structure of MOCA, has successfully held numerous press conferences, town halls, and information sessions about health threats and criminal justice reform. We have presented at public hearings and Community Boards about the dangers of this toxic construction and the damage it will inflict on Chinatown and surrounding neighborhoods. We have been deeply involved in this struggle, recruited hundreds of members, and have earned the trust of thousands of residents, many of whom have supported MOCA in the past. We call on you to issue a public statement addressing the concerns above, hold a public forum so the community you claim to represent can speak directly with you, and we demand changes, whether in leadership or culture and the creation of a community advisory representation as part of your Board.

As protests against racial and social injustice continue nationwide, museums and institutions of learning have come under scrutiny. MOCA should not expect to be an exception given its decision to accept \$35M connected to mass incarceration.

The ruling by Hon. Judge John J. Kelley on 9/21/2020 in favor of N.U.B.C. and the other petitioners in our article 78 lawsuit has not only validated our concerns that we shared with you and thousands of other NY'ers, it highlights the need for an explanation from MOCA as to why you have chosen to accept monies directly related to the building of more jails in New York City. Advancing the expansion of jail building into communities is not desired by the majority of Chinatown.

MOCA has tried to diminish voices of dissent and it is for this reason that we have chosen to publish "Community Letters" to be shared with the public in the hopes that MOCA's leadership, Board of Directors and Trustees address the content of these letters in a public forum.

Neighbors United Below Canal leadership
Jan Lee
Chris Marte
Howard Huie