

Via Regular Mail and E-mail (nmaasbach@mocanyc.org)

Nancy Yao Maasbach

President

Museum of Chinese in America

215 Centre Street

New York, NY 10013

Via Regular Mail and E-mail (jchu@mocanyc.org)

Jonathan Chu

Co-Chair of Board of Directors

Museum of Chinese in America

215 Centre Street

New York, NY 10013

9/28/2020

Dear Ms. Maasbach and Mr. Chu:

I am a Occupational Therapist with a business on 139 Centre Street in Chinatown. I am outraged to learn that the Museum of Chinese in America accepted \$35 million as community give-back so Council Member, Margaret Chin, casted the deciding “yes” vote for Mayor DeBlasio’s jail plan to construct four modern and high tech jails, with the biggest and tallest jail right in her own district covering Chinatown.

With an approximate 17 years of construction for this skyscraper jail in Chinatown, not only will the local residents suffer disastrous health problems, businesses will also be driven to close from a significant drop in visitors to a Chinatown turned construction site. I will be closing my therapy practice when the jail construction begins because it’s not healthy or safe for my patients to see me in or travel through a huge construction site. As a medical professional, I am very concerned for the residents of Chinatown and nearby neighborhoods. Lower Manhattan is densely populated and this jail plan did not take into the health impact on the nearby residents, especially the elderlies.

How can you profit from killing your own community?

How can you still claim to represent Chinese in America when you consciously destroy an already struggling community of immigrant Chinese?

Chinatown is being gentrified out of existence where the Museum is located. And you, as leaders in our museum, actively join in by supporting a multi-billion dollar skyscraper jail. The lack of opportunities and investment in minority communities, and the discriminatory treatment of black and brown people have resulted in a disproportionately higher rate of incarceration. Is this the shameful history you aim to “preserve” and “present” as our American history?

I am against spending billions of tax dollars on jailing our young people. I support spending our tax dollars on childcare, healthcare, housing, education, and job training. These are investments that will create opportunities for people to better their lives. More jails are not the solution to societal problems. Our broken criminal justice system that is so discriminatory and unjust has given birth to

the Black Lives Matter movement. Your inability to see this and to be on the right side of history is very troubling since you are running a cultural institution - a history museum no less.

Please reject the \$35 million and any money associated with the construction of new jails. I will not support a MOCA that will betray our Chinese American history and the future of our black and brown children.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Josephine Wong', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Josephine Wong
Founder and owner
Focus Occupational Therapy PC