



October 23, 2020

Board of Directors
Museum of Chinese in America
215 Centre Street
New York, NY 10013

Dear MoCA,

We, as members of The W.O.W. Project, wholeheartedly condemn the Museum of Chinese in America's (MoCA) collusion with the building of a prison in the Chinatown community. In the past, we have hosted paper-making workshops at MoCA that center around Asian American identity and history. MoCA's acceptance of a community "give-back" deal that supports the building of a new jail in Chinatown is a betrayal of our values. MoCA's actions have dishonored the histories and legacies of resistance and activism here in Chinatown, and will only enforce systems of displacement, anti-Blackness, and mass incarceration. We believe deeply in the idea of art-making and cultural activism as regeneration, and supporting the building of a prison is the opposite of resistance, regeneration, and possibility: it upholds the carceral state that criminalizes Black and brown folks, and it is important for us to hold MoCA accountable and to question and interrogate how art spaces can truly benefit and build with the community.

We stand in solidarity with every community member who has been courageous enough to write a letter demanding MoCa reject the jail concession deal. We call on MoCa to live out its professed values with accountability and transparency by first issuing a public statement. Silence will only continue to divide us.

Sincerely,

The W.O.W. Project team