

**“Being a living history museum, we are so much about those stories, and it is through the stories that we can understand who we are, and other people can understand how similar our story is from other immigrants who have come, as well as what makes us distinct.” – Maya Lin, artist and designer of MOCA’s Journey Wall**

## Journey Wall: Frequently Asked Questions

### **1. What is the Journey Wall? And where is it located?**

This customized art installation by Maya Lin pays important—and stunning—tribute to individuals and families of Chinese heritage who journeyed from homes far away to the United States. Individual bronze Journey Wall tiles are personalized to relay personal or ancestral histories, and to link places of origin in China with current homes in America. It is highly visible in the lobby just inside the main Museum entrance, and is the central installation welcoming visitors. The geography represented by the wall highlights the fact that Chinese Americans have made their homes throughout the country, and are very much a part of the fabric of this nation.

Every Journey Wall family also becomes a part of the Museum’s oral history project. A team member from the Museum will schedule a two-hour oral history video interview. A copy of the video and the interview transcription are provided to the family as a keepsake for generations. Purchasing a Journey Wall tile is more than buying a physical object – it is an investment for posterity, etching a family’s story into the collective narrative of humanity. The tile and recorded interviews have a permanent archival home at MOCA, providing ease of access to shared family memories, and inviting future generations to connect with their roots.

### **2. Why is the Journey Wall important to the Museum?**

The Journey Wall figures prominently in how MOCA will serve as a bridge between the past and the present, the local and the national. It honors the personal journeys and legacies of people of Chinese descent in America, by providing a meaningful way for people to support the Museum, today, as a place for the stories of the Chinese American diaspora. Funds raised through the Journey Wall will create the critical foundation for sustaining MOCA’s mission, content, and educational work.

### **3. Where are oral history interviews conducted, and who conducts them?**

Oral history interviews can be conducted in settings with low background noise and sufficient lighting. To maintain the recording quality of the oral histories, in-person interviews are recommended. Interviews via Skype are also available as a second option. MOCA President Nancy Yao Maasbach is the point person for facilitating the interview.

### **4. What questions are asked in the oral history interview?**

Interviewees are asked to share about their family and to describe key elements and stories around their family’s journey. A pre-interview questionnaire is available to assist interviewees in recalling relevant dates, names, locations, and/or events.

### **5. What languages can the oral history interview be conducted in?**

The oral history interview can be conducted in Chinese or English.

### **6. What are the specifications for the tile’s inscription?**

Character limits as well as content placement can be found in MOCA’s Journey Wall materials. Please note that no professional titles will be included on the tile.

### **7. How have other families covered the donation amount for a Journey Wall tile?**

Many individuals have reached out to multiple members of their families to cover the donation amount for a Journey Wall tile.

### **8. Can I make pledge payments for my tile?**

Yes, pledges are payable for a period of up to 2 years.

### **9. Are there special events for the Journey Wall community?**

Yes, the Journey Wall community is a cornerstone community of the Museum. Every October, there is a special event just for Journey Wall family members. We hope that families will use this event and MOCA as a reason and place for reunion.

**10. Do I have to be Chinese American to reserve a tile?**

No, but the names/legacies honored on the Journey Wall must be that of a person of Chinese descent (individual or family). For example, a person who is not of Chinese descent can make a donation to MOCA, and honor a friend or colleague who is.

**11. I am part Chinese, can I get on the Journey Wall?**

Yes, the Journey Wall is designed to be inclusive of the diversity of the Chinese American diaspora.

**12. I am a Chinese adoptee, can my parents reserve a tile?**

Yes, the Journey Wall is designed to be inclusive of the diversity of the Chinese American diaspora.

**13. Who should I contact if I have additional questions?**

Please feel free to contact Gee-Wey Yue, Special Assistant to the President, at 917.484.4152 or [gyue@mocanyc.org](mailto:gyue@mocanyc.org)