



MUSEUM OF CHINESE IN AMERICA RECEIVES \$2.3 MILLION IN CAPITAL FUNDING FROM NYC CITY COUNCIL AND OFFICE OF MANHATTAN BOROUGH PRESIDENT

FY2019 Capital Grant Jumpstarts MOCA's Quest to Acquire Current Premises at 215 Centre Street

[New York, NY] April 15, 2019 – The Museum of Chinese in America (MOCA), New York City Council Speaker **Corey Johnson**, New York City Council Member **Margaret S. Chin**, and Manhattan Borough President **Gale A. Brewer** held a joint press conference on Saturday, April 13, 2019 to announce that MOCA has been allocated \$2.3 million in capital funding in the city's fiscal year 2019 budget to help the Museum acquire its current premises at 215 Centre Street.

MOCA is seeking to secure a permanent home to cement its position as a national cultural institution headquartered in New York City. MOCA is dedicated to telling the untold stories in the making of America through the lens of the Chinese immigrant experience. The capital funding in fiscal year 2019 comprises \$2.25 million allocated from the New York City Council and \$50,000.00 from the office of the Manhattan Borough President.

"New York is a city of immigrants, and MOCA reminds us of the struggles our ancestors had when they first came here. And that reminds us that we can't take the things we enjoy today for granted," said Speaker **Corey Johnson**. "Thanks to the incredible persistence and determination of Council Member Chin, the Council allocated \$2.25 million in capital funding for MOCA. This funding shows our commitment to helping MOCA to finding a permanent home, which it absolutely deserves."

"For years, the Museum of Chinese in America has worked to bring the vivid stories of the Chinese American experience to life," said Council Member **Margaret S. Chin**. "Working closely with Council Speaker Johnson, we proudly secured \$2.25 million to help MOCA to continue serving as a center for art, history and community organizing in the heart of Chinatown. Spaces like this celebrate the diverse cultural fabric that makes our City great, and I thank MOCA for its continued efforts to allow everyday New Yorkers and visitors to learn about the stories and struggles of the Chinese American immigrant experience through its unique exhibitions and affordable programs."



Contact: Edward Cheng
press@mocanyc.org
855.955.MOCA
www.mocanyc.org

“The story of immigrants is the story of New York City,” said Manhattan Borough President **Gale A. Brewer**. “And the role of Chinese immigrants is celebrated in a special form by the Museum of Chinese in America. I’m proud to have contributed to their capital project in how ever modest a way.”

“This tremendous public mark of support from Speaker Johnson, Council Member Chin, and Manhattan Borough President Brewer not only gives everyone associated with MOCA great encouragement to press on, but also serves as a testament of their leadership on redefining the American narrative to include the untold stories in the making of America,” said **Nancy Yao Maasbach**, president of the Museum of Chinese in America. “MOCA is proud to be a nationally-recognized institution residing in historic Chinatown, New York City; the largest population of Chinese Americans in the U.S. resides in the greater New York area.”

The capital funding was announced during the official kick-off of **MOCA Spike 150: *Running Forward With Our Stories***, an historic initiative by the Museum of Chinese in America to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the completion of the first Transcontinental Railroad and honor the contributions, resilience, and grit of the Chinese and Irish laborers who helped to build the railroad and build America. More information is available at www.mocaspike150.org.

For media inquiries, email press@mocanyc.org.

Press images are available [here](#). Photos must be credited to Museum of Chinese in America.

About Council Speaker Corey Johnson

Corey Johnson was elected by his peers to serve as Speaker of the New York City Council on January 3, 2018. He was re-elected in 2017 with 94% of the vote to represent Council District 3, which includes the neighborhoods of Greenwich Village, Chelsea, Hell’s Kitchen, Flatiron, West SoHo, Hudson Square, the Meatpacking District, Columbus Circle, Times Square, the Theater District, the Garment District and part of the Upper West Side. Corey has earned a reputation as a tenacious advocate for his constituents and a prolific legislator at City Hall. He has passed dozens of pieces of legislation, standing up for tenants, victims of domestic violence, transgender New Yorkers, those involved with our criminal justice system, and more. Corey has also been able to forge consensus on tough issues to achieve long-sought goals in Council District 3. He won the creation of a new public park in Chelsea and negotiated a landmark land-use agreement to save Hudson River Park’s Pier 40 and its athletic fields, while creating nearly 500 units of affordable housing and a new South Village Historic District. He is a member of the Council’s LGBT Caucus and is the only HIV positive elected official in New York State.

About Council Member Margaret S. Chin

Council Member Margaret S. Chin is the elected representative in the New York City Council for Council District 1, Lower Manhattan including Governors Island. A proud graduate of Bronx High School of Science and City College, she has lived in Lower Manhattan since 1963 and for over 30 years has worked in the community as an educator, advocate, and elected official. In the Council, Margaret is Chair of the Council's Committee on Aging, and is a member of the Committees on Housing and Buildings, Youth Services, Rules, Consumer Affairs and Standards and Ethic. She proudly co-chairs the Women's Caucus, and is a founding member of the Progressive Caucus and a member of the Black, Latino, and Asian Caucus. Margaret was first elected to the City Council in 2010.

About Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer

Gale A. Brewer is the 27th Borough President of Manhattan. Since she took office in 2014, she has successfully passed legislation to reform the deed restriction process, add 'caregivers' to the city's anti-discrimination law, remove criminal history questions from initial employment applications (the "Fair Chance Act"), and enforce requirements for street numbers on buildings in Manhattan (to aid emergency workers). She has also spearheaded community planning initiatives at the South Street Seaport, in East Midtown, and in other neighborhoods to address development and zoning issues. Brewer previously served on the City Council for 12 years, serving as the founding chair of the Technology Committee and leading the Government Operations Committee. There, the Council passed her legislation guaranteeing paid sick leave for most hourly employees, requiring all City data be published online, and protecting domestic workers from abusive practices. Prior to that, she served as Chief of Staff to Council Member Ruth Messinger, NYC Deputy Public Advocate, Director of the city's Federal Office, and Executive Director of the Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women.

About the Museum of Chinese in America (MOCA)

The Museum of Chinese in America (MOCA) aims to engage audiences in an ongoing and historical dialogue, in which people of all backgrounds are able to see American history through a critical perspective, to reflect on their own experiences, and to make meaningful connections between: the past and the present, the global and the local, themselves and others.

MOCA is a proud partner of the New York City IDNYC card benefit program and Culture Pass, a program for cardholders of Brooklyn Public Library, New York Public Library, and Queens Library in which New Yorkers 13 and older can reserve passes and get free admission to dozens of NYC cultural institutions.



215 Centre Street New York NY 10013 T 855.955.MOCA F 212.619.4720 E press@mocanyc.org
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Edward Cheng
press@mocanyc.org
855.955.MOCA
www.mocanyc.org

Hours

Monday: Closed

Tuesday to Sunday: 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Thursday: 11 a.m. – 9 p.m.

MOCA Free First Thursdays: Free gallery admission on the first Thursday of each month, made possible through the generosity of the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and J.T. Tai & Co. Foundation.

Admission

General Admission: \$12

Seniors (65 and older with ID), Students (with school ID): \$8

Children under 2 in groups less than 10: Free

Cool Culture families: Free

MOCA Members: Free