



MUSEUM OF CHINESE IN AMERICA LAUNCHES MOCA SPIKE 150 INITIATIVE HONORING 150th ANNIVERSARY OF TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD

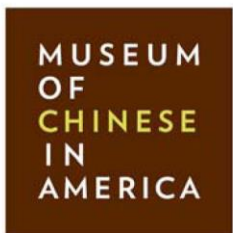
Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer,
NYC City Council Speaker Corey Johnson
and Council Member Margaret Chin
to make special announcements

[New York, NY] April 8, 2019 – The Museum of Chinese in America (MOCA), a national cultural institution dedicated to telling the untold stories in the making of America through the lens of the Chinese immigrant experience, announces today that it has launched **MOCA Spike 150: *Running Forward With Our Stories***, an historic initiative to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the completion of the first Transcontinental Railroad in the U.S.

To honor the contributions, resilience, and grit of the Chinese and Irish laborers who helped build America exhibiting the courageous spirit of all immigrants in America, the MOCA Spike 150 initiative will rally **1,500** runners to collectively run **15,000** miles in a symbolic cross-country relay starting on May 10, 2019 at Promontory Summit in Utah—150 years to the day that a golden spike was driven to complete the last link in the Transcontinental Railroad—and ending on November 3, 2019 with the TCS New York City Marathon. More information is available at www.mocaspikes150.org.

Media are invited to cover the official launch event of MOCA Spike 150 this **Saturday, April 13, 2019** which MOCA will declare as **MOCA SPIKE 150 DAY**. In honor of MOCA Spike 150, Museum admission will be free to all on Saturday, April 13, 2019. MOCA SPIKE 150 DAY will feature:

- a **7-Mile Run** starting and finishing at MOCA that will follow the route of the historic first mini-marathon organized in New York City's Chinatown in 1976 to celebrate the U.S. Bi-Centennial. The run will start at 9 a.m.; the last runner is expected to finish at 11:00 a.m.;
- Remarks from Manhattan Borough President **Gale Brewer**;
- Remarks from NYC City Council Speaker **Corey Johnson** and Council Member **Margaret Chin**.



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Media should RSVP to press@mocanyc.org to attend the MOCA Spike 150 launch event, which will be held in the lobby of the Museum of Chinese in America at 215 Centre Street. Reporters will have the opportunity to meet runners from the Tri-State area who are supporting the MOCA Spike 150 initiative so far this year and members of MOCA’s official 2019 TCS NYC Marathon team.

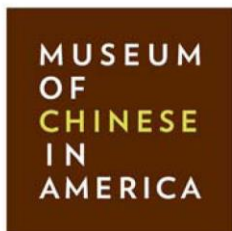
“Chinese railroad workers were among the first Chinese immigrants to the United States. Their backbreaking labor was crucial to the building and completion of the Transcontinental Railroad, yet 150 years later, their story remains underappreciated and untold,” said **Nancy Yao Maasbach**, President of the Museum of Chinese in America. “MOCA Spike 150 is an inclusive celebration across America and around the world that showcases the power of tenacity and of these unsung heroes. We invite runners of any skill level to participate in the relay and non-runners alike to join us in telling and sharing these stories.”

Runners of any skill level are invited to participate in MOCA Spike 150. Marathon runners can become an official **MOCA Spike 150 Ambassador** and run to raise money for MOCA as their charity of choice.



Members of the general public can participate in the 25-week MOCA Spike 150 physical and virtual relay in which amateur runners, running clubs, families or volunteers can join the MOCA Spike 150 club on the [Strava app](#) and run or walk any distance (at least 1 mile preferred) and upload their photo and caption to the app. A MOCA Spike 150 website map will capture the mileage data and move a virtual “Golden Spike” from Promontory Summit, Utah to New York City, as volunteers’ miles accumulate.

MOCA Spike 150 will also provide the Museum the opportunity to highlight and connect untold stories of immigrant experiences throughout the country. Members of the public are invited to follow us at @mocaspike150 where the Museum has launched a “150 Stories” educational campaign on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, and in Chinese on WeChat and Weibo. For this social media campaign, the Museum will tell 150 stories about the untold history of Chinese people in the U.S. based on research from MOCA’s Collection.



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.

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