

## Museum of Chinese in America Design and Building Fact Sheet

The Museum of Chinese in America's (MOCA) new 13,200 square foot facility, designed by Maya Lin, spans the block between Centre and Lafayette Streets from east to west and Howard and Grand Streets from north to south—linking Chinatown with the contemporary art worlds of SoHo and Nolita. MOCA's new home symbolizes the institution's growth from its roots as the New York Chinatown History Project to its expanding identity as the preeminent museum of Chinese American culture and history in the United States.

The main entrance is located on Centre Street, with a façade of wood, concrete and bronze that offers an elegant street face. As visitors enter the lobby, they are greeted with a bronze tile "Journey Wall" which reveals the breadth of the Chinese American Diaspora. The tiles are inscribed with the places of origin and the current homes of Chinese American families throughout the fifty states, illustrating that these families do not just live on the east and west coasts or in big cities, but have made their homes all across the country.

The Core Exhibit revolves around the Museum's historic sky-lit courtyard, which Maya Lin has left deliberately raw and untouched as a reminder of the past and also to evoke a Chinese courtyard house. Every year a prominent Chinese American artist will be invited to install a work in the courtyard. Projected onto the windows facing the courtyard are the Core Portraits: short biographic films of Chinese Americans from the 1850s through the present day. From within the courtyard, the changing faces of these Chinese Americans are visible as a collective family.

Two large windows, one facing Lafayette Street and one facing Centre Street, provide sightlines into the MOCA facility. From Lafayette Street, an archival film of Chinatown is projected onto the window, and visitors can look through to see a historic Chinatown store. Also visible from Lafayette Street is the Cultural Center, which will be used by visitors and staff as a research center and as a space for public programs. The Cultural Center connects to gallery space for exhibitions and lectures. From Centre Street, the window opens to the MOCA Salon, a space where visitors will be invited to tell their stories online via interactive display kiosks and become part of a digital archive of Chinese Americans. The lower level of the facility houses administrative offices as well as a classroom, meeting rooms, and a workshop space.

MOCA's new home incorporates sustainable design elements and strategies throughout and is expected to achieve a Silver LEED rating.

**Construction Cost:** \$3.25 million (\$235 per square foot)

**Designer:** Maya Lin Studios

**Architects:** Bialosky+Partners

**Project Management:** Beckelmen+Capalino

**General Contractor:** NY Construction

**Core Exhibition Design:** Matter Architecture Practice/ MGMT. Design

**Audiovisual:** Videasonics