

Museum of Chinese in America Leadership Biographies

S. Alice Mong, Director

Alice Mong became Director of the Museum of Chinese in America (MOCA) in July 2009, and is leading the 29-year-old organization's expansion into its new home, the leading national museum dedicated to preserving and presenting the history and culture of people of Chinese descent in America. Previously, she served as the Executive Director for the Committee of 100, a non-profit membership organization composed of distinguished Chinese American leaders committed to bridging the cultures of Asia and America and providing a forum for issues that Americans of Chinese and Asian descent face in bettering their lives in the United States. Under her leadership, the Committee grew its operating budget and raised more than \$3.5 million in 5 years.

Prior to this position, Ms. Mong served as Senior Investment Manager for Hantak Limited, the non-property investment subsidiary of the Hang Lung Group—a leading Hong Kong property company with major investments in Hong Kong and Shanghai. Earlier, she served as the Assistant to Chairman of Hang Lung Group, Ronnie C. Chan, where she was responsible for the organization of the 1997 handover festivities for the private guests of Chief-Executive Designate C.H. Tung, which included a delegation from the Committee of 100 and other prominent political, academic, and business leaders. Ms. Mong began her career as a Trade Specialist and then Manager for Asia Group at the International Trade Division, Ohio Department of Development where she helped build a strong coalition of support from the Ohio legislature, business and educational communities on issues pertaining to Ohio/China and Ohio/Asia activities. This led to an appointment by then Ohio Governor George Voinovich to become Managing Director of the State of Ohio Office of East/Southeast Asia based in Hong Kong to promote trade and business development for the state of Ohio.

A graduate of The Ohio State University in International Relations, Ms. Mong went on to earn an Executive MBA (joint degree) from Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University and Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. Ms. Mong was born in Taiwan and immigrated to the U.S. in 1973 with her family. She is fluent in Mandarin, and currently serves on the Metropolitan Museum's Multicultural Advisory Committee.

Jonathan K. Ligh, M.D., Chairman of the Board of Trustees

Dr. Jonathan K. Ligh is a vitreoretinal surgeon and also serves as an Assistant Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology at the New York University School of Medicine and an Adjunct

Senior Clinical Instructor of Ophthalmology at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine. He joined the Board of Trustees of the Museum of Chinese in America (MOCA) in 1998 and has served as Board Chair since 2004. Dr. Ligh is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons and the American Academy of Ophthalmology. He was a charter member of the Chinese-American Ophthalmological Society and was a past member of the Board of Directors for the Chinese-American Medical Society. He is currently on the Board of Kress Vision. Dr. Ligh received a Bachelor of Arts from New York University, his medical degree from New York University School of Medicine, and completed his ophthalmology residency at the Mount Sinai Hospital and Medical Center. He was also the Abe Meyer Fellow at the Jules Stein Eye Institute- UCLA Medical Center, where he completed his surgical and medical fellowship in diseases of the retina, macular, and vitreous.

Charles Lai, Museum Co-Founder

Charles Lai, Co-Founder of the Museum of Chinese in America, served as the Museum's Executive Director from 2003 until 2009. In 1980, Mr. Lai and John Kuo Wei (Jack) Tchen founded the New York Chinatown History Project to preserve and present the heritage of the Chinese in America, and shepherded the organization's expansion into MOCA, the leading museum in America devoted to Chinese culture and history in the United States. Mr. Lai has dedicated much of his career to cultural and community advocacy, and prior to his work with MOCA, he was the Director of Programs and Planning at the Asian American Federation of New York, where he led a citywide recovery and planning effort to address the impacts of the September 11th tragedy on New York's Asian American communities. Previously, he worked as the executive director of the Chinatown Manpower Project, an agency providing premier vocational training and adult literacy services. Mr. Lai held several positions with the Manhattan Borough President's Office, where he first worked as a community liaison, identifying and resolving community issues in Chinatown, the Bowery, the East Village, and the Lower East Side, eventually becoming Director of Policy and Budget. He has a Masters in Public Administration from Columbia University, School of International and Public Affairs.

John Kuo Wei Tchen, Museum Co-Founder and Co-Curator of the Core Exhibition

John Kuo Wei (Jack) Tchen is an educator, historian, curator, producer, and dumpster diver. Dr. Tchen is the founding director of the A/P/A (Asian/Pacific /American) Studies Program and Institute at New York University and a co-founder of the Department of Social and Cultural Analysis, NYU. He co-founded the Museum of Chinese in America where he continues to serve as senior historian. Jack was awarded the Charles S. Frankel Prize from the National Endowment for the Humanities (renamed The National Medal of Humanities). He is author of the award-winning books *New York before Chinatown: Orientalism and the Shaping of American Culture, 1776-1882* and *Genthe's Photographs of San Francisco's Old Chinatown, 1895-1905*. And he is co-principle investigator of *Asian Americas and Pacific Islanders Facts, Not Fiction: Setting the Record Straight* with The College Board. Jack is now working on a book about New York City – focusing on the unrecognized tradition of the intermingling of people, creativity and improvisation of everyday residents. He is also editing *The 'Yellow Peril' Reader: Understanding Xenophobia* for The New Press. Dr. Tchen regularly collaborates with filmmakers and media producers, and through the A/P/A Institute sponsors and produces

hundreds of programs and performances. Most recently, he co-curated MOCA's permanent exhibition: "With a Single Step: Stories in the Making of America."

Maya Lin, Board of Trustees and Designer of MOCA's New Building

Throughout her career, Maya Lin has maintained a careful balance between art and architecture, creating a remarkable body of work that includes large-scale site-specific installations, intimate studio artworks, architectural works, and memorials. On September 22, 2009, the Museum of Chinese in America (MOCA) will unveil her project as the designer of the Museum's new site at 215 Centre Street in Manhattan. The 13,200 sq. ft. space, converted from an industrial machine factory, will include exhibition galleries, interactive visitor kiosks, a multi-purpose classroom, and a flexible space for multidisciplinary public programs. Ms. Lin's design incorporates environmentally sustainable design solutions and is slated to achieve LEED SILVER certification from the United States Green Building Council. Ms. Lin has been a member of the Museum's Board of Trustees since 2006.

Maya Lin has been drawn to the critical social and historical issues of our time and has addressed them in her memorials, including the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington DC, the Civil Rights Memorial in Montgomery, AL, and the Women's Table at Yale University. Her other architectural works have included institutional and private commissions, from a chapel and library for the Children's Defense Fund to the Sculpture Center's space in Long Island City to Aveda's headquarters in downtown Manhattan to private residences throughout the country. Her studio artwork has been shown in solo and group museum exhibitions nationally and abroad. A deeply committed environmentalist, Lin has consistently focused on environmental concerns, promoting sustainable building design in her architectural works, while making the environment the subject of her artworks and thereby asking us to pay closer attention to the natural world.

Maya Lin received her Master of Architecture from Yale University in 1986, and has maintained a professional studio in New York City since then. She was born and raised in Athens, Ohio, where her parents were on the faculty at Ohio University. Her parents are from Mainland China, her mother from Shanghai and her father from Beijing, and she sees her Asian/American heritage as the source of her continuous use of opposites in her work: East/West, reason/intuition, science/art, and writing/drawing. Ms. Lin serves on the Board of Trustees of the Natural Resources Defense Council and is a former member of the Yale Corporation and the Energy Foundation. She is the recipient of numerous prizes and awards, including the Presidential Design Award, a National Endowment for the Arts artist's award, the William A. Bernoudy Resident in Architecture fellowship from the American Academy in Rome, the Award in Architecture from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, an AIA Honor Award, the Finn Juhl Prize, and honorary doctorates from Yale, Harvard, Williams, and Smith College among others. Ms. Lin is represented by PaceWildenstein in New York City.

David Henry Hwang, Board of Trustees

David Henry Hwang joined the Board of Trustees of the Museum of Chinese in America (MOCA) in 1998. He is the author of the international hit play *M. Butterfly* (1988 Tony Award), which has been produced in four-dozen countries to date. His newest play, *Yellow Face*, was awarded a 2008 OBIE Award and was a Finalist for the 2008 Pulitzer Prize. His other plays include *Golden Child* (1998 Tony nomination, 1997 OBIE Award), *The Dance and the Railroad* (1982 Drama Desk nomination), and *FOB* (1981 OBIE Award). His Broadway musical credits include Elton John and Tim Rice's *Aida* (co-author), which ran almost five years on Broadway; his book for Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Flower Drum Song* (2002 revival, Tony nomination); and Disney's *Tarzan*, with songs by Phil Collins.

He has written three opera libretti with composer Philip Glass, *1000 Airplanes on the Roof* (Vienna, international tour), *The Voyage* (New York's Metropolitan Opera), and *The Sound of a Voice* (Boston's American Repertory Theatre), as well as Bright Sheng's *The Silver River* (Spoleto Festival USA, New York's Lincoln Center), Unsuk Chin's *Alice In Wonderland* (Munich's Bavarian State Opera), Howard Shore's *The Fly* (Paris' Theatre du Chatelet, Los Angeles Opera) and Osvaldo Golijov's *Ainadamar* (Santa Fe Opera, Lincoln Center), winner of two 2007 Grammy Awards.

Mr. Hwang penned the feature films *M. Butterfly*, *Golden Gate*, and *Possession* (co-writer), and also co-wrote the song "Solo" with Prince. He was appointed by President Clinton to the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities.