

Oral History Project Intern

Starts immediately through August, 2010

Internship description:

The Museum of Chinese in America (MOCA) seeks interns to assist with the transcription and cataloging of community oral histories from MOCA's Archeology of Change project. Interns will learn first-hand about the use of oral history in museums, and the changes in New York's Chinatown in the last few decades through community voices.

The transcribed interviews will become part of MOCA's permanent oral history collection, and made available to the public. They will also serve as a jumping point for a series of public programs and a digital mapping project.

About the Project:

Understanding that the museum's new presence on Centre Street might bring changes to the immediate neighborhood, MOCA invited public artist Tomie Arai and cultural worker /Urban History doctoral candidate Lena Sze to conduct oral history interviews with nearly 30 individuals of different backgrounds and divergent relationships to Chinatown. Their memories and perspectives provided an on-the-ground view of "Chinatown" and revealed issues of urban renewal and market forces facing Chinatowns across the country. In the second phase of the project, MOCA will invite experts and leaders tackling issues revealed through the interviews with neighborhood stakeholders to give the local a larger societal, environmental and political context in a series of public dialogues. In conjunction with these public programs, Arai will "re-map" Chinatown by developing an online, interactive portal to Chinatown based on stakeholder identifications of "places that matter".

For information about MOCA, please visit www.mocanyc.org.

Qualifications and application:

The ideal candidate should have a strong interest in social history and museum practice, particularly in the conducting, archiving, and use of oral history. The candidate must demonstrate a high level of computer literacy, good/excellent typing skills, and be detail-oriented. The majority of the oral histories are in English, although a few are in Chinese. For Chinese transcription, a high command of Mandarin/Cantonese comprehension is required.

Successful applicants must be able to commit at least 15 hours per week. The internship is unpaid with the possibility of school credit arrangement. Interns will also receive complimentary passes to MOCA's exhibitions and events. To apply, please send cover letter and CV to Exhibitions Manger, Ting-Chi Wang at tcwang@mocanyc.org (No phone calls, please). Applications will continue to be accepted until positions are filled or the project ends.