

Subject: November 2020 - MOCA for All, Anywhere (TEST) 11/4/2020 2:09:12 PM

Date: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 at 2:09:14 PM Eastern Standard Time

From: Museum of Chinese in America

To: Neil Wu-Gibbs



[PROGRAMS](#) [EXHIBITIONS](#) [EDUCATION](#) [COLLECTIONS](#) [SUPPORT](#)

A MESSAGE FROM THE MOCA TEAM



Grand opening ribbon-cutting ceremony for the MOCA Workshop on October 17, 2020

Dear MOCA Friends,

We hope you and your loved ones are safe and well. 2020 has been a tumultuous year for all of us. But we know that there is much to be thankful for. Tens of millions of people across America voted on Election Day, carrying out their civic duty and responsibility to preserve and ensure a functioning democracy.

At the time of the writing of this email, the outcome of the U.S. presidential election remains uncertain. What is certain, however, is that MOCA's work is urgently needed now more than ever and that MOCA will continue to be an inclusive, safe space in all its forms - be it physical or digital - and an advocate for the arts, history, family stories and underrepresented communities. MOCA could not do its work without the steadfast support from people near and far who have believed in MOCA's mission since its founding in 1980.

2020 is MOCA's 40th Anniversary and it was a delight to see hundreds of longtime supporters of MOCA come out to our mid-October weekend of in-person and socially distanced celebrations to mark this milestone together.

From October 16 to October 18, the Museum's leadership, staff, interns and volunteers welcomed over 200 supporters to view MOCA's new exhibition ***Windows for Chinatown***. Herb Tam, Curator and Director of Exhibitions; Andrew Rebatta, Associate Curator; and their team of curatorial interns have done a tremendous job converting the Museum's exterior window bays into exhibition spaces safely viewable by the public from outside. *Windows for Chinatown* shows artifacts from MOCA's Collections recovered from the 70 Mulberry Street fire, as well as images and stories submitted by the public to the MOCA OneWorld COVID-19 Collection documenting life in response to the pandemic, anti-AAPI hate and systemic racism.

The MOCA family also celebrated the opening of the **MOCA Workshop**, a temporary space that replaces the Collections and Research Center destroyed in the 70 Mulberry Street fire. Under the terrific leadership of Yue Ma, Director of Collections, the MOCA Workshop is the new home of the Museum's archive of over 85,000 artifacts documenting the Chinese American experience in America. If you missed the opportunity to visit the MOCA Workshop, we will host another Open House weekend in the coming months.

MOCA's 40th Anniversary celebration is accompanied by a newly launched companion website at moca40.mocanyc.org showcasing MOCA's 40 years of history, stories submitted by the public to the MOCA OneWorld COVID-19 special collection, and images of newly added artifacts to MOCA's Collections donated by the public post-fire.

MOCA also has kicked off an educational campaign on social media at **#MOCA40Stories** where over 40 days, we tell 40 untold stories about MOCA using iconic archival images from its collections. Follow MOCA at @mocanyc on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter.

MOCA has had a long journey to this day. The ongoing grass-roots support following the 70

Mulberry Street fire, together with the recent announcement by the Ford Foundation and other leading U.S. foundations and philanthropists naming MOCA as one of 20 “**America’s Cultural Treasures**”, have encouraged us to carry on without missing a beat.

We hope that the **MOCA Workshop** will serve as a light during these times—one that shines brightly as MOCA continues to tell the untold stories in the making of America. We are heartened and grateful for the acts of courage amidst a rampant escalation of anti-Asian and anti-AAPI racism and hope that **Windows for Chinatown** serves as a publicly accessible illumination of the stories we have heard during this time.

Experience the best of MOCA’s content available digitally, online or on social media through:

- [Digital Tours and Audio Guides](#)
- [Live-streamed and on-demand videos of public programs](#)
- [Oral History Archive](#) of video interviews and [Collections Online](#) with 35,000 digitized images from MOCA's Collections
- Digital educational resources such as [MOCA Heroes](#) magazines
- [LISTEN with MOCA](#), a website that tells the history of Chinese in America through music, sound, playlists, and virtual cassettes.

Stay up to date at MOCA’s website www.mocanyc.org or [sign up](#) for MOCA’s monthly e-newsletter.

Follow MOCA on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter and TikTok at @mocanyc; and WeChat at MOCANYC_USA.

With gratitude,



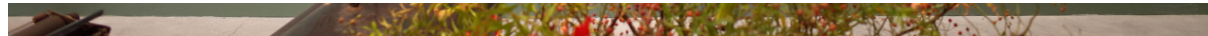
Nancy and the MOCA Team

P.S. - Relieve some post-election stress by heading to **Pearl River Mart Foods**. Read below for more information about this exciting new retail concept by MOCA's wonderful partner Pearl River Mart!

DONATE to MOCA During COVID-19

The MOCA Workshop





The MOCA Workshop: Collections and Research Center storefront, designed by Atelier Cho Thompson.

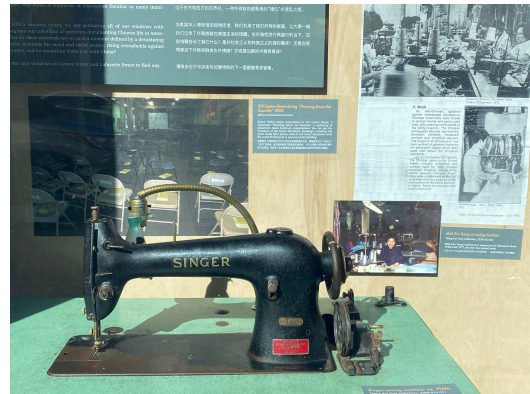
The MOCA Workshop is the Museum's temporary Collections and Research Center, which was previously located at 70 Mulberry Street. Nine months after a devastating five-alarm fire at 70 Mulberry Street in January 2020, MOCA has opened a new home for its extensive archive of over 85,000 artifacts that document the Chinese experience in America. As the name implies, the MOCA Workshop, located at 3 Howard Street one block away from the Museum, will be a publicly accessible research space that invites hands-on engagement with MOCA's Collections.

The MOCA Workshop's storefront space will serve as a reading room featuring the Museum's extensive library of Chinese and Asian American history and literature. The remainder of the ground floor and the MOCA Workshop's second floor will house MOCA's Collections and institutional archives, which were retrieved from 70 Mulberry Street after the fire. Additionally, the MOCA Workshop will be equipped with a triage space to conserve materials, a digitization station, and an oral history recording station.

[VIEW PHOTOS OF THE GRAND OPENING HERE](#)

Windows for Chinatown exhibition





At top, Herb Tam, Curator and Director of Exhibitions, leads a curator's tour of *Windows for Chinatown*, on October 17, 2020. At bottom, snapshots of *Windows for Chinatown*.

MOCA has transformed its windows on Centre and Lafayette streets into exhibition spaces that reflect on Chinatown history, anti-Asian racism during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the recent uprisings for racial justice. ***Windows for Chinatown*** draws from MOCA's storied national archive of Chinese American history, in addition to highlighting new acquisition projects such as the OneWorld COVID-19 Collection. The public is invited to view the exhibition at any time. No appointment is necessary, however, please stay 6 feet apart when viewing.

[VIEW EXHIBITION PHOTOS HERE](#)

MOCA IN THE MEDIA

The New York Times

Chinatown Museum Gets \$3 Million After Fire Threatens Its Archives

The grant is a “game changer” for the Museum of Chinese in America, which was also shut down by the pandemic in March.



Workers unloading hundreds of boxes from the Museum of Chinese in America’s fire-stricken Mulberry Street location in March. A \$3 million grant will help conserve those heirlooms. Jeenah Moon for The New York Times. A version of this article appears in print on Oct. 12, 2020, Section C, Page 4 of the New York edition.

[READ THE NEW YORK TIMES STORY HERE](#)

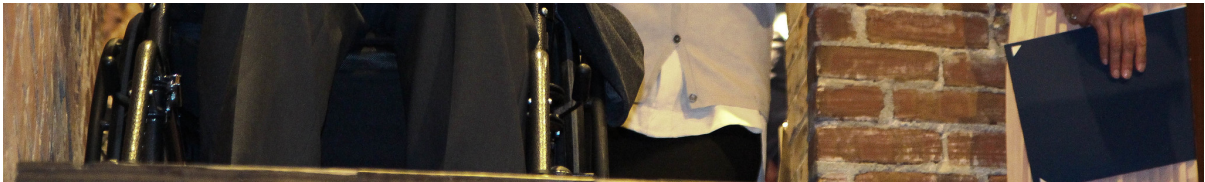


CBS 2 News anchor **Cindy Hsu** was the first to report about the grand opening of the MOCA Workshop. The story aired on CBS 2's primetime evening broadcast. Here, she interviews **Henry Tang**, MOCA Advisory Board member, about the rare Chinese typewriter, one of only three in the world, that his family donated to MOCA years ago and has been recovered safely from the 70 Mulberry Street fire. Courtesy of CBS 2 News.

[WATCH THE CBS 2 NEWS STORY HERE](#)

FROM THE COMMUNITY





At top, Ming Cho Lee with Maya Lin and MOCA President Nancy Yao Maasbach at the opening of his exhibition at MOCA. At bottom, a screenshot from Cecilia Chiang's oral history video interview with MOCA.[\[1\]](#)

The world has lost two of its greatest icons. For MOCA, we have lost two beautiful souls.

The MOCA family joins the rest of the world in mourning the passing of **Ming Cho Lee**, the legendary stage designer, and **Cecilia Chiang**, the pioneering restaurateur who broadened America's perception of Chinese cuisine.

In 2016, MOCA had the honor of staging a retrospective exhibition titled [Stage Design by Ming Cho Lee](#) that featured original scale models and sketches that provided an in-depth exploration of his creative process. For over 50 years, Ming Cho Lee served on the faculty at Yale School of Drama, including as chair of the design department. He designed more than 300 productions worldwide, on Broadway and off, as well as at major opera and dance companies. He was awarded the National Medal of Arts in 2002 and won two Tony Awards, one of them for Lifetime

Achievement in 2013. He passed away at age 90 on October 23, 2020.

Also in 2016, MOCA honored Cecilia Chiang at its Legacy Awards Gala for her pioneering role in introducing upscale Chinese cuisine to the American palate through her San Francisco restaurant, the Mandarin. We had the honor of capturing her oral history for MOCA's exhibition "Sour, Sweet, Bitter, Spicy" about the story of Chinese food in America, and were especially moved by her recollection of her family's fight for survival during the second Sino-Japanese war. Cecilia Chiang passed away at age 100 on October 28, 2020.

Although the world has lost two Chinese American icons within days of each other, we take comfort in knowing that their stories and their legacy will live on and continue to inspire future generations.

70 Mulberry Street Community Visioning Process



70 Mulberry Street Advisory Committee invites you to the second series of community meetings to develop a shared vision for the future of 70 Mulberry Street after the historic building was devastated by a fire earlier this year. Through the inputs provided during the first round of meetings, we gained an understanding of the concerns, needs, and aspirations of different stakeholder groups. We hope to expand further through the second series of community meetings resulting in concrete recommendations for the rebuilding process.

Here is how you can participate:

Virtual Town Hall

Open to the public to express concerns, needs, and aspiration for the 70 Mulberry St. Use the registration link or QR code below to register and access the Zoom link and dial-in number.

Workshop

Open to any individual, organization, or group that has an interest in or affiliation with 70 Mulberry St. The workshop will develop rebuilding scenarios informed by the feedback gathered through the first series of community meetings. Use the registration link or QR code below to register before 9 pm on November 3.

Fill out the survey or upload a document

Open to the public. If you wish to fill out the survey or share any documents or letter, please upload them using the registration link or QR code below before 9 pm on November 15.

November 9 (Mon)
6-9pm

November 10 (Tue)
6-8pm

Due November 15
9 pm

Register at:

<https://bit.ly/2HwknEy>



70 Mulberry Street Advisory Committee

Chinatown Manpower Project, Chen Dance Center/H.T. Chen & Dancers, Chinese-American Planning Council, Museum of Chinese in America, United East Athletics, Manhattan Community Board 3, Office of Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer, Office of Councilmember Margaret S. Chin, Office of State Assemblymember Yuh-Line Niou, Office of State Senator Brian P. Kavanagh, Office of Congressmember Nydia M. Velázquez, Department of Citywide Administrative Services, Office of the Mayor of New York

70 Mulberry Street Advisory Committee, which includes the Museum of Chinese in America and other Chinatown organizations and officials, will be holding a second series of community meetings to develop a shared vision for the future of 70 Mulberry Street after the historic building was devastated by a fire earlier this year.

Through the inputs provided during the first round of meetings, we gained an understanding of the concerns, needs, and aspirations of different stakeholder groups. We hope to expand further through the second series of community meetings resulting in concrete recommendations for the rebuilding process.

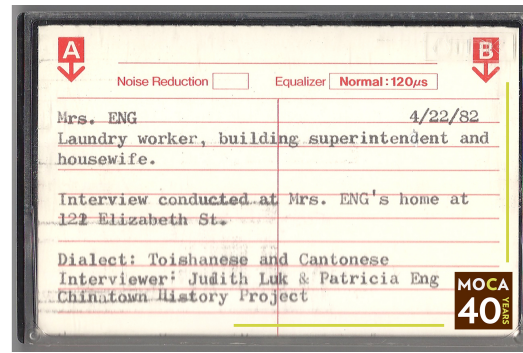
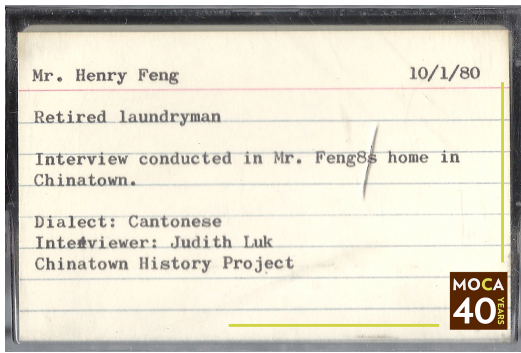
You can participate by joining a **Virtual Town Hall** on Monday, November 9 from 6 P.M. to 9 P.M. EST and/or a **Workshop** that will develop rebuilding scenarios on Tuesday, November 10 from 6 P.M. to 8 P.M. EST. If you wish to fill out the **Survey** or share any documents/letters, you can do so before 9 P.M. EST on Sunday, November 15. You can register for these events and fill out the survey [here](#).

[COMPLETE THE SURVEY HERE](#)

[REGISTER FOR VIRTUAL TOWN HALL AND WORKSHOP HERE](#)

MOCA 40 Stories

Welcome to MOCA 40 Stories, where we celebrate MOCA's 40th Anniversary by sharing 40 stories over 40 days on social media. Each story reveals a facet of the untold history of MOCA, using iconic archival images from its collections. Below are just some of the stories we have been sharing on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter. Follow MOCA on these platforms at @mocanyc.



Credits: All images courtesy of MOCA's Collections.

During the first year of the New York Chinatown History Project, the priority was to conduct oral histories with members of the neighborhood. Over the course of 1981, the fledgling organization collected 28 oral histories. These included prominent community leaders such as Man Bun Lee (the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association President at the time), William "Charlie" Chin (folk singer), and Emma Mills (founder and former president of the Chinatown Planning Council). Such oral histories offer a look into a bygone Chinatown and can serve as valuable firsthand sources for researchers.



Credits: All images courtesy of MOCA's Collections.

In 1989, MOCA acquired the Chinese Musical and Theatrical Association (CMTA) collection. The materials included costumes, musical scores, instruments, and documents that were discarded when the opera club moved to a smaller location; they were housed in eight large trunks. Anonymous sources told MOCA staff that materials had been left behind, and the Museum organized a spur-of-the-moment excursion involving staff, board members, and volunteers to rescue the objects.

MOCA went on to use the materials in its 1991 exhibition *Red Boat on the Canal*. The show explored the history of Cantonese opera in New York City. Since then, in what has become an annual Lunar New Year tradition, the costumes have been borrowed and displayed by Macy's for its Lunar New Year celebrations at its iconic Herald Square location.

Be sure to follow us as we share more MOCA 40 Stories at [#moca40stories](https://twitter.com/moca40stories)! Do you have a

favorite MOCA story from the past 40 years? Share it with us by using the hashtag [#moca40stories](https://twitter.com/moca40stories) or tagging us at [@mocanyc](https://twitter.com/mocanyc)!

[VIEW MORE MOCA 40 STORIES HERE](#)

PUBLIC PROGRAMS - LIVE WEBCAST



MOCA TEAHOUSE READING CLUB THE ELECTION AND ASIAN AMERICAN CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Tuesday, November 10, 2020 from 4:00 - 5:30 P.M. EST

FREE LIVE WEBCAST

Advance registration via **ZOOM Meeting ID: 832-2936-8262**

The MOCA Teahouse Reading Club, a monthly program organized in response to surging anti-Asian xenophobia and violence during the COVID-19 pandemic, continues on Tuesday, November 10. This discussion series hosted by MOCA's education and exhibition departments—**Nora Chen**, Education Associate; **Lauren Nechamkin**, Director of Education; **Andrew Rebatta**, Associate Curator; and **Herb Tam**, Curator and Director of Exhibitions—will help participants explore and understand Chinese and Asian American identity and history through discussions focused on selected key readings.

Teahouses are centers of community life, places to chat and share ideas. While we're physically apart, we invite you to enter into a dialogue with us at our virtual teahouse. Read along with us and join the discussion over your favorite cup of tea. The next conversation will focus on this year's election through selected readings that address the complex political priorities of Asian Americans. Through this discussion, we hope to nurture a more nuanced dialogue around the issues we are facing right now and explore strategies to build a more equitable future.

mocanyc.org/support_moca

Bloomberg

MUSEUM
OF
CHINESE
IN

MOCA Teahouse Reading Club

The Election and Asian American Civic Engagement

Tuesday, November 10, 2020 from 4:00 P.M. - 5:30 P.M. EST

[REGISTER HERE](#)

The event is FREE, but [advance registration](#) is required on ZOOM [here](#) or via ZOOM Meeting ID: 832-2936-8262. The event will also be recorded for on-demand viewing on MOCA's Vimeo channel: vimeo.com/mocanyc by Friday, November 13.

The MOCA Teahouse Reading Club, a monthly program organized in response to surging anti-Asian xenophobia and violence during the COVID-19 pandemic, continues on Tuesday, November 10. This discussion series hosted by MOCA's education and exhibition departments —**Nora Chen**, Education Associate; **Lauren Nechamkin**, Director of Education; **Andrew Rebatta**, Associate Curator; **Herb Tam**, Curator and Director of Exhibitions, will help participants explore and understand Chinese and Asian American identity and history through discussions focused on selected key readings.

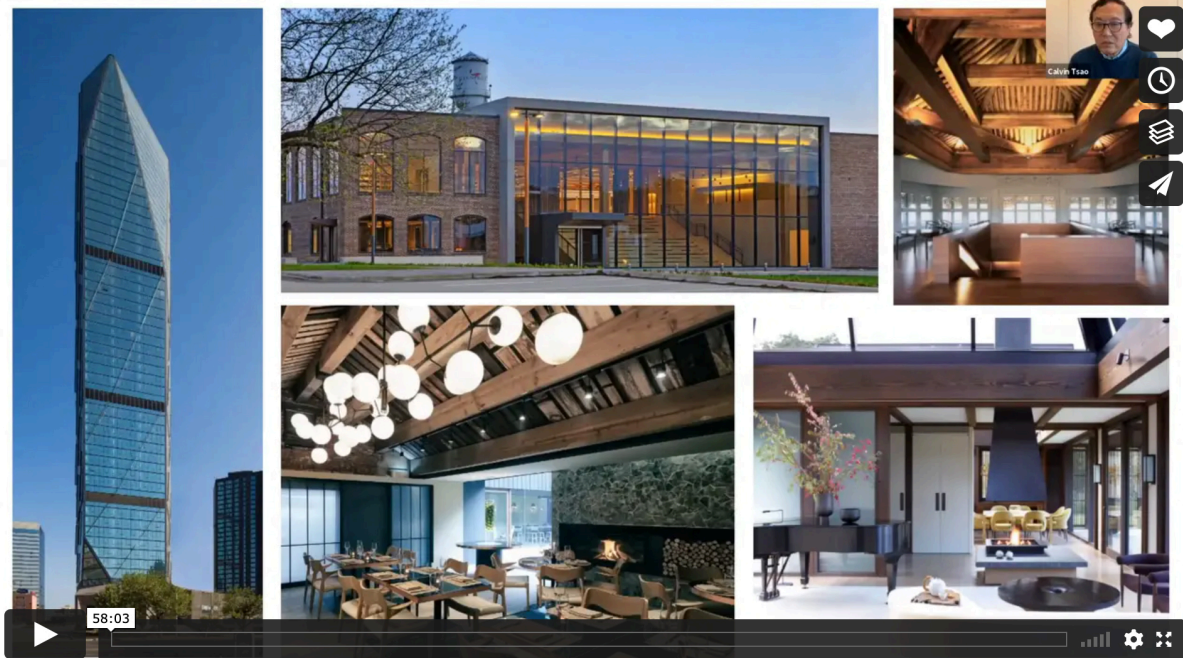
Teahouses are centers of community life, places to chat and share ideas. While we're physically apart, we invite you to enter into a dialogue with us at our virtual teahouse. Read along with us and join the discussion over your favorite cup of tea. The next conversation will focus on this year's election through selected readings that address the complex political priorities of Asian Americans. Through this discussion, we hope to nurture a more nuanced dialogue around the issues we are facing right now and explore strategies to build a more equitable future.

The following readings will be accessible in a downloadable link in the registration email or directly [here](#).

Readings:

- Hua Hsu, [Are Asian Americans the Last Undecided Voters?](#) (The New Yorker, 2020)
- Xiaoqing Rong, [The Rise of the Chinese-American Right](#) (National Review, 2019)
- Rima Abdelkader and Shako Liu, ['Blinded by blood,' split over election: Asian American family embodies generational shift in politics](#) (NBC News, 2020)

PUBLIC PROGRAMS - ON DEMAND



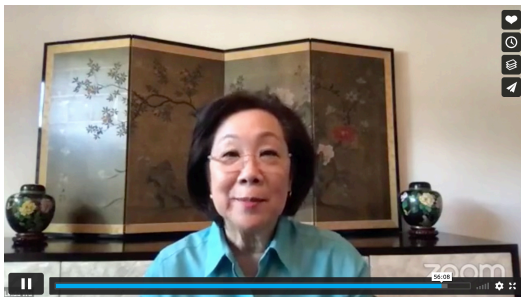
MOCA Spotlight Series: Calvin Tsao

[VIEW HERE](#)

Missed MOCA's Spotlight Series? Watch it on-demand at MOCA's Vimeo channel [here](#).

Each month, this intimate and off-the-record virtual conversation will highlight the timely and distinctive narrative of a Chinese American icon and friend of MOCA. Through this conversation, MOCA hopes to shed light on the distinctive yet universally American journeys of these luminaries, touching upon key moments of personal trial and stratospheric success, all within a casual, inviting, and inspiring format.

We were honored to present **Calvin Tsao** as our second speaker, one of the most acclaimed and recognizable architects worldwide. Graduating from UC Berkeley before receiving his Master of Architecture from Harvard University, Tsao forged his own path by founding Tsao & McKown in 1985 with his partner and fellow visionary, Zack McKown. He has orchestrated built environments across a variety of scales and locales; his significant works include the Sunbrella Headquarters in Burlington, NC; Sangha, At One Hotel in Suzhou, China; the renovation of the Jewish Museum permanent collection in New York, Brower Park Library in Brooklyn, Jianfu Palace Museum in The Forbidden City, Beijing, Suntec City in Singapore, as well as product design: a lipstick case for Shu Uemura.



MOCA Treasures on the Road: Houston Asian American Archive

FEATURED EXPERT: Anne Shen Chao, Ph.D.

FEATURED GUESTS: Linda Wu and Wea Lee

VIEW HERE

Missed MOCA Treasures on the Road? Watch it on-demand at MOCA's Vimeo channel [here](#).

This new program series hosted by MOCA has featured distinct artifacts, antiques, and collectibles held by members of the MOCA community from around the world. Guests have shared their special items and the stories behind those items while engaged in conversation with an expert scholar or professional. The goal of the program series is to bring out the depth and vastness of the Chinese American narrative to the MOCA community. MOCA Treasures on the Road captures stories of celebration, hardship, family travels, immigration, discrimination, diaspora, survival, success, and so much more.

We were honored to present our speaker **Anne Shen Chao, Ph.D.** from the **Houston Asian American Archive (HAAA)**. Prof. Chao is an Adjunct Lecturer in the Humanities at Rice University where she simultaneously manages the HAAA, a research and community outreach project created in 2009 to bring attention to the lives and experiences of Houston's Asian American communities. Prof. Anne was in conversation with two guests and past HAAA interviewees: **Linda Wu**, former board member of the Houston Taipei Society and former president of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance, and **Wea Lee**, journalist and chairman of the Southern News Media Group.

These programs are brought to you by MOCA friends and partners, including: **Bloomberg Philanthropies**

HEAD BACK TO SCHOOL...



MOCA is excited to offer virtual, educator-led programs for school groups from grades K-12, as well as college students. Virtual programs engage students with primary sources from the museum's collection through close looking exercises, guided discussions, and interactive activities.

LEARN MORE AND BOOK A VIRTUAL PROGRAM

MOKAKIDS Storytime @ Home



MOKAKIDS Storytime: Tyrus Wong

Thursday, November 12, 2020, 4:00 P.M.

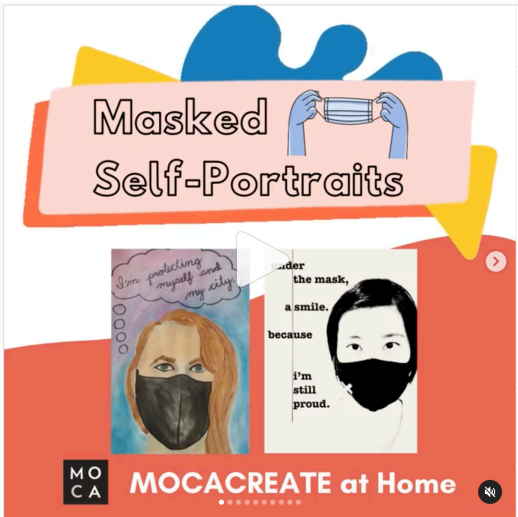
Join us for a very special storytime all about Tyrus Wong, the famous Chinese American artist, and all things art!

Storytime will include a song, interactive story, and craft. Best for kids ages 3-6 and their care partners, but younger and older kids are welcome! This FREE program will be held LIVE via Zoom.

Please note that this workshop will be recorded via Zoom and hosted on Facebook Live for 24 hours.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

MOCACREATE @ Home Workshops



Masked Self-Portraits is inspired by MOCA's newest exhibition, *Windows for Chinatown*—on display in our museum windows! Due to rising anti-Asian racism, Asian Americans have experienced unfair treatment, stereotyping, and even violence during COVID-19. Join us in raising awareness of racism and empowering Asian American communities by creating your own masked self-portrait!

[CLICK HERE TO CREATE](#)

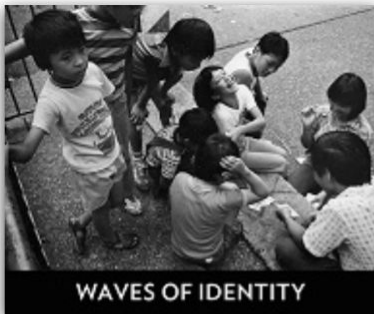


DIY Scratch Art for Mid-Autumn Moon Family Festival

Made to be served with tea and shared with family, mooncakes 🥮 (月饼) are an iconic, traditional staple of the Mid-Autumn Festival 🌕 (中秋节). They come in countless flavors, shapes, and patterns. Imagine and sketch a personalized mooncake pattern onto your very own DIY scratch art! 🖍️ 🎨

[CLICK HERE TO CREATE](#)

COLLECTIONS ONLINE



The MOCA staff is hard at work seeking, recording and processing new oral histories from its OneWorld COVID-19 Special Collection for inclusion into MOCA's [Oral History Archive](#). Check back regularly to watch these inspiring video interviews.

WATCH ORAL HISTORIES HERE

From Our Partners



Credits: Courtesy of Jared Dangremond and Time Out

MOCA's retail partner Pearl River Mart has opened its fourth location and second in Chelsea Market: **Pearl River Mart Foods**. A love letter to Asian food in NYC, the store brings together some of their favorite Asian American food purveyors and features both prepared food stalls for a bite and tasty grocery items to bring home, including [Kimbap Lab](#), with Korean maki; [Tea and Milk](#) for bubble teas; and [Mao's Bao](#), with soup dumplings, bao buns, and even pizza bao. Social distancing is observed, and it's open Wednesday through Sunday from 11 A.M. to 7 P.M. EST.

A Museum for All, Anywhere

Digital Tour of MOCA

[Experience Here](#)



[PROGRAMS](#) [EXHIBITIONS](#) [EDUCATION](#) [COLLECTIONS](#) [SUPPORT](#)



Museum of Chinese in America
215 Centre Street New York, NY 10013

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Forward](#) | [View in browser](#)