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Chinese American Citizens Alliance

~ National ~

1044 Stockton Street, San Francisco, California 94108 • Telephone/Fax (415)829-9332

National Lodge
ESTABLISHED 1895

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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C.A.C.A. Issues Statement of Support for MOCA Following Devastating Fire

San Francisco, February 1, 2020 — On Thursday evening, January 23, a fire broke out in a five-story building in New York Chinatown at 70 Mulberry Street, which serves as home to numerous organizations providing cultural and social services to the local community. Nine firefighters and one man were injured in the fire. Among the damaged offices were the Collections and Research Center of the Museum of Chinese in America (MOCA), a storehouse of 85,000 priceless artifacts and acquisitions.

MOCA is located at 215 Centre Street several blocks from its Collections and Research Center and was not affected by the fire. While the cause of the blaze continues to be investigated, rescue and recovery efforts of the Museum's collection continue with artifacts undergoing examination and restoration. The city also found temporary locations for the other building tenants to continue offering their programs and services.

Chinese American Citizens Alliance (C.A.C.A.) National President Melanie Chan issued the following statement:

The fire at the archive storage facilities of the Museum of Chinese in America is a devastating loss of irreplaceable objects and documents, which told the stories of the Chinese immigrants spanning decades of their history in America in the New York area.

Part of our history was also possibly lost in the fire, the banner from the Pittsburgh Lodge, which was active in first half of the 1900's, was housed in the museum. Our thoughts and prayers are with them as they undergo the recovery process and we wish them the best in their efforts to repair and rebuild.

Founded in 1895 in San Francisco, the C.A.C.A. is the oldest Chinese American civil rights organization in the United States. Its Great New York Chapter was re-established in 2016 following a 30-year absence from the region.

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The Chinese American Citizens Alliance, established in 1895, is among the oldest civil rights organizations in the United States. Headquartered in San Francisco with chapter/lodges in Albuquerque (NM), Boston (MA), Chicago (IL), Greater San Gabriel Valley (CA), Greater New York (NY), Houston (TX), Las Vegas (NV), Los Angeles (CA), Mississippi, Oakland (CA), Peninsula (CA), Portland (OR), Phoenix (AZ), Sacramento (CA), Salinas (CA), San Antonio (TX), San Francisco (CA), Seattle (WA) and Washington, D.C., the Alliance addresses issues regarding voter education, political participation, racial discrimination and hate crimes, and supports youth leadership training programs and equal employment opportunities for all Chinese Americans.