

**ABIDE BALLI**

**SOC 147**

**SP 23**

**Dr Nathaniel Perez**

**Museum of the Chinese in America**



**What is this museum's history, and why was it placed in this community?**

The Museum of the Chinese in America was founded in 1980 and was originally located in the heart of Chinatown in Manhattan. It was founded to share the history and culture of Chinese immigrants in the United States. The museum was placed in this community to celebrate and recognize the contributions of Chinese Americans to the nation and to investigate the experiences of Chinese Americans in the United States. It has grown to become a national center for the documentation, interpretation, and celebration of Chinese American history and culture. Through exhibitions, educational services, and public programs, the Museum of the Chinese in America strives to create a deeper understanding of Chinese Americans' history and a platform for Chinese American voices to be heard.

**What stood out as most prominent among the museum's exhibits? What made this the case for you?**

The most prominent exhibit that stood out to me was "Stop Asian Hate." This exhibit can as well apply to modern-day America. Asian communities, like the Chinese, have continued to face discrimination in America in the modern day. It serves as a powerful reminder of the ongoing racism and violence that the Asian American community continues to face today. It highlights the importance of standing up against hate and recognizing the strength and resilience of Asian Americans. This exhibit stands out to me because it reminds me of the importance of standing up for what is right and speaking out against injustice. Additionally, it is a reminder of the need to create a safe and welcoming environment for all members of the Asian American community. Another exhibit that impressed me is a photo of a man with the word on it that read: This man is your friend-He fights for freedom. This photograph pays homage to the bravery and courage of Chinese Americans who fought for freedom, justice, and equality in the United States.

This exhibit stands out to me because it serves as an important reminder of Chinese Americans' strength, valor, and resilience in the face of adversity.

**Do the staff represent the topic or group of people exhibited in the museum? Why or why not?**

The staff at the Museum of the Chinese in America represent the topic and group of people exhibited in the museum. All of the staff members are of Chinese descent and are knowledgeable about the history and culture of Chinese immigrants in the United States and the contributions of Chinese Americans to the nation. Additionally, the staff members are passionate about educating and advocating for the Chinese American community. The museum also employs staff from other racial backgrounds, including Japanese, Whites, and Black. This is important as it recognizes all community members' contributions and diverse perspectives. In this way, the staff at the Museum of the Chinese in America represent the topic and group of people exhibited in the museum.

**What is something you learned or was challenging to you about this visit?**

One of the things that I found challenging about my visit to the Museum of the Chinese in America was seeing the evidence of hate towards Chinese people. There were exhibits about hate crimes against Chinese Americans, such as examples of hate related to COVID-19. This was challenging to see, as it was a reminder of the ongoing racism and violence that the Asian American community continues to face. Additionally, I found it challenging to understand some of the artifacts that were in Chinese. This was a reminder of the importance of educating oneself about different cultures and languages to understand further and appreciate different cultures.