



forging peace across divides

February 23, 2017

4Culture

Heritage Special Projects

101 Prefontaine PI S

Seattle, WA 98104

RE: *Seattle's Burmese American Refugee History Project*

Dear Review Committee:

I write in support of the Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience (The Wing) and to confirm my commitment to the Museum's proposed *Burmese American Refugee History Project*. The project will include working firsthand with heritage resources, a significant youth component, oral history training workshops and oral history gathering, digitization of objects and photographs, and research, and development of a framework for a 2019 exhibition by The Wing's Community Advisory Committee made up of local Burmese Americans.

Northwest Communities of Burma (NWCB) builds community among refugees and immigrants from Burma by giving them a reason to come together, enjoy friendly activities, and become more familiar with their fellows, who come from different ethnicity, faiths, and backgrounds. It strives to remove barriers between different ethnic groups of Burma and works to build strong community ties through community events, education, and advocacy.

The Wing is the only pan-Asian Pacific American museum in the nation whose mission is to connect everyone to the rich history, dynamic cultures and art of Asian Pacific Americans. Asian Pacific Americans have a rich history that is integral to the American story and as the fastest growing population, at 18% of Seattle/King County residents, it is vital to properly record and preserve this heritage. In addition to its community-based exhibitions, The Wing collects and preserves oral histories, artwork, historical documents, family heirlooms, and books dedicated to sharing the Asian Pacific American experience.

Burma is one of the most ethnically diverse countries in the world with more than 130 distinctive subgroups. The Wing's project will provide the participating youths and the broader community with a deeper understanding of one of the fastest growing refugee populations in Washington State and the U.S. Materials gathered from this project will lay the foundation for The Wing's exhibition in 2019.

I am looking forward to consulting with The Wing as they work with the local Burmese American community to plan out the project. Thank you for your consideration to support The Wing and their work for our community.

Sincerely,

Simon Khin

Founder & President, Northwest Communities of Burma

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