

2017 OCA-WHV Dynamic Achiever Award Recipient

Joanna Wan-Ying Chan (陳尹瑩), Ed.D.
Playwright, Stage Director, and Maryknoll Sister



Doctor Joanna Chan, a Maryknoll sister since 1964, is the single living Chinese chosen by the Museum of the City of New York for the permanent exhibition, *New York at its Core*, on New York City's 400-year history, which opened in November last year. Her life story as an artist and a pioneer community and spiritual leader is in an interactive, digital display along those of 74 other notable New Yorkers including one of the US's founding fathers, Alexander Hamilton, David Rockefeller, J P Morgan, Fiorello LaGuardia, Sonia Motomayor, and Dorothy Day.

An honoree at *An All-Star Salute to Chinese-American Cultural Pioneers* at City Hall, New York City (with July 9, 1993, named *Joanna Chan Day* in the City of New York), Dr. Chan was honored again by the city in 2013 for her decades of outstanding service to the community through the arts. She is a recipient of a Distinguished Alumni Award in 1994 from Teachers College, Columbia University, where she earned her M.A., M.Ed., and Ed.D. degrees, majoring in theatre/communications. A graduate of Chung Chi College, Chinese University, in Hong Kong, majoring in mathematics, she has been a playwright and stage director in North America, Hong Kong, Taiwan and China for over 4 decades, having written, adapted and directed over 70 stage productions. Co-founder/Artistic Director (1970-77; 83-92) of the Four Seas Players in New York City, she was also Artistic Director of Hong Kong Repertory Theatre in the 1980s, and Co-founder/Artistic Director (1992-2014) of Yangtze Repertory Theatre of America in New York City.

Dr. Chan began working in Sing Sing maximum security prison in upstate New York in 2002 in the theatre, Chinese Language, and Catholic programs. In 2012, she was instrumental in freeing a man jailed for nearly 18 years for a crime he did not commit. An accomplished painter and designer, her works had been seen in solo and group exhibitions in New York.