

# THE MAFFAA JOURNAL



May 2020

## Message from Editor-in-Chief



Dear MAFFAA Supporters,

Hard to believe how much our local and global communities have changed so much in just these past few months. I continue to extend my positive thoughts to each and every one of you and do hope that you are all finding ways to stay safe and sound in these unprecedented times.

Personally, I have been using this time to reflect on my own personal and professional commitments to better understand how I might be able to adjust them upon a return to normalcy. In addition, I have been using this time to rediscover new and innovative ways to partake in important key discussions in a virtual capacity.

Some of the key discussions have included weekly calls with Ambassador Sam Brownback of the U.S Department of State. Through our common shared work on the International Religious Freedom (IRF) Roundtable, I have been able to keep abreast of the dynamic and rapidly changing and important circumstances of COVID-19 and its impact on various religious minority groups around the world. Once again, I am humbled to partake in these pertinent conversations with him and look forward to continuing the dialogue ahead.

Furthermore, I have been keeping up to date with the local political scene here in Washington, DC most notably in Ward 2, which will be holding a special primary in early June. As a local public servant it is always important to me to directly hear the needs and concerns of the residents of the District of Columbia. The challenges brought forth by the ongoing global pandemic only further exacerbate the need for more community engagement and support. I have been doing my best to partake in these various public forums to better understand the desired priorities of DC residents and visitors alike which are proving to be more and more salient today.

Lastly, I have sought to maintain a balance in my overall schedule by striving to ensure that I carve out time for proper physical and spiritual exercise when feasible. Some examples of such instances have been as simple as short walks or runs at the local parks and surrounding neighborhoods as well as finding time to actively practice my Catholic faith through prayer and meditation. Regardless of what your methods may be, I do hope you are finding ways to incorporate them accordingly in your respective schedules through some way, shape or form.

All the best,  
Patrick Realiza  
Co-Executive Director, Mid Atlantic Foundation for Asian Artists, Inc.



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