

The Confucius Chinese Charter School

Letter of Intent

I. Applicant Information

a. Lead Applicant Dr. Lotus King Weiss

Phone: 631-552-0233; Email: celestialwater@gmail.com; Mailing Address: 134-38 Maple Avenue, Suite 3K, Flushing, NY 11355; Dr. Lotus King Weiss is a parent, a teacher and a local resident of the proposed school district.

b. Public Contact:

Dr. Lotus King Weiss; Phone: 631-552-0233; Email: lotus@confuciuscharters.org

c. Applicant Founding Group Information:

The Leading Applicant: Dr. Lotus King Weiss

Dr. Lotus King Weiss obtained her Ph.D. degree in Molecular Biology, Cell Biology and Developmental Biology from the University of Florida in 1992, carried out her postdoctoral fellowship in Harvard Medical School (HMS)/Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) between 1993 to 1995, became an Instructor at Harvard in 1995 and an Assistant Professor at the Department of Genetics of Harvard Medical School/Department of surgery at Massachusetts General Hospital in 1997. Her research focus was in the area of the molecular mechanisms underlying the regulation of all forms of cellular behaviors controlled by a class of key regulators of life, from birth, to aging, sickness and death. As a key leader in her field, she made major discoveries which were published in the cutting edge science journals, such as Science, Cell, EMBO J., is the inventor for three large patents at Massachusetts General Hospital, delivered lectures internationally, and was the first recipient for the Claflin Distinguished Scholar as a Young Scientist Mom at MGH/HMS. In 1999, Dr. Weiss relocated her entire research team to a leading Immunology Center in Seattle Washington to explore a key mechanism that links Cancer to Protein Metabolism therefore the realm of human mind, which links directly to human stress responses known to be the cause of all fetal human diseases. Due to her participation of a research project on the immune cells of the persecuted Falun Gong practitioners (www.falundafa.org), her laboratory was forcibly shut down under political pressure (www.thewholeelephant.info). Since 2005, Dr. Weiss has been residing in New York, and has been spending the past near ten years carrying out non-profit community services in all five boroughs of New York City, as well as in Long Island. She is the Founder of the non-profit organization, the Whole Elephant Institute (www.thewholeelephant.info) since 2005 and has been serving as the CEO of the Korean Community Center of New York since 2009, here in Flushing. She initiated the concept of Chinese Charter School in 2012 and has since been working full time on this project in all three largest Chinatowns in New York, with a main focus in Flushing, Queens. Currently, Dr. Weiss has about 24 students who have been under

her private instructions and has also been building a strong Mom team to work with her in the upcoming Chinese Charter School projects. Her primary residence is in Flushing, Queens.

Ms. Angelique De Cesare is a local resident of Flushing, an English Language Tutor, and a scholar in history of Christianity (with a degree of Doctor of Divinity), with experience in many areas of health, business and culture, and with a loving heart for all children. She provides the entire team important reference about the history of Flushing and encourages the team to work hard to improve the community living environment. Angelique has been working with Dr. Lotus King Weiss since 2007 on the platform of the Whole Elephant Institute. She is a key supporter of the Chinese Charter School project and will work as Dr. Weiss' community advisor for community outreach and community fundraising in English-speaking and Spanish-speaking communities here in Flushing.

Mr. Dunzheng Yan is a local resident of Flushing and has been working with Dr. Lotus King Weiss since 2012 on the Chinese Charter School project. He is a community leader and a public educator in the area of human rights, Christianity and has been an advocate for anti-discrimination and anti-defamation. As an immigrant from the Fujian Province in China, Mr. Yan is a critical supporter for the founding team in the area of community outreach to about 57 Christian Churches as well as to the largest Chinese Immigrant population in Flushing.

Ms. Thelina Qi is a local resident of Flushing and now works as a key representative of the Chinese Immigrant Moms here in Flushing to coordinate all aspects of community outreach and media contacts of the Chinese Charter School Project. Ms. Qi was an Engineer from China and has been working in the health care and business area in New York. Her expertise includes science, religion, education and business.

Mr. David Du is a local artist specialized in portrait painting and has been working in the team since 2013. Mr. Du has been playing a key role in recruiting artists to the founding team and will be directing key fundraising and community outreach activities. He will also help to recruit bilingual art teachers from China and find Chinese business investors to support the Chinese Charter School project.

Ms. Julia Du is a media artist and a photographer and has been working in the team as the meeting coordinator and secretary for Dr. Lotus King Weiss. As the young talent in the team, Julia will play key roles in bringing young talents from the local communities to support the education, community outreach and fundraising of the Chinese Charter School project.

Mr. Noah Wang Genatossio is a young talent on the team from Seattle Washington and has joined the Chinese Charter School founding team since 2013. His expertise includes social media arts, music and journalism. Raised in a background of both Jewish culture and Chinese culture, Noah shoulders the responsibility to bring unique perspectives to the design of the Whole Elephant Chinese Charter School and therefore will play key roles in advising Dr. Lotus King Weiss during the process of the completion of the final application of this Chinese Charter School. Noah will also use his music talent for fundraising and participate in community outreach activities as well as teacher recruitment efforts.

Dr. Michelle Thompson is a new member of the founding team recently just joined the team. She has been recruited onto the team for her vast expertise in establishing

Charter Schools and in carrying out non-profit work in Education Management Organizations. She is the Founder of the Institute for School Excellence and has been the key force in successfully establishing five Charter Schools. Dr. Thompson will work closely with Dr. Lotus King Weiss in completing the full application of the Chinese Charter Schools and will be a key advisor for the work of Education Management Organization of the proposed Chinese Charter School.

Mr. David Lee is a member of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Asian American Professionals New York (NAAAP) and has recently joined the founding team to provide expertise in community education, public outreach, business management and fundraising.

d. Initial Board of Trustees Information:

All founding members listed above shall serve as the initial Board of Trustees.

e. Replication or Network Information: N/A

f. Application History: No full application has been ever submitted.

II. Proposed Charter School Information

a. Proposed School Name: The Confucius Chinese Charter School (CCCS)

b. Proposed Location: Community School District 25, Queens, New York; we will request to be sited within the school district facilities.

c. Planned Grades and Enrollment in 1st to 5th Year of Operation

Grades	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year5
K	20	30	40	50	60
1	20	30	40	50	60
2	20	30	40	50	60
3	20	30	40	50	60
4	20	30	40	50	60
5	20	30	40	50	60
6	20	30	40	50	60
7	20	30	40	50	60
8	20	30	40	50	60
9	20	30	40	50	60
10	20	30	40	50	60
11	20	30	40	50	60
12	20	30	40	50	60
Total	260	390	520	650	780

d. Proposed Management or Partner Organization:

The Whole Elephant Institute, the Korean Community Center of New York, the New Tang Dynasty Television Station (www.ntdtv.com), the Kanzhongguo Newspaper (www.secretchina.com), the Epoch Times (www.epochtimes.com), and the Institute for School Excellence will be the partner organizations.

e. Proposed School Mission:

The Confucius Chinese Charter School in Flushing carries out the mission to pave a path for the one million public school students in New York to be the Catalyst for the upcoming Renaissance of Authentic Chinese Divine Culture which is “Mom’s Milk” for all people in the world.

f. School Overview

Confucius was a great teacher in Chinese history. He devoted his entire life in education. The mission of Confucius in his education was to turn learners into true scholars who reach such a goal through “Cultivate the Mind, Harmonize the Family, Govern the Nation and Bring Peace and Prosperity to the World”(修身 Xiushen, 齐家 Qijia, 治国 Zhiguo, 平天下 Pingtianxia). Therefore, the Confucius Teachings Elementary Charter School is based upon the philosophy of Confucius “Kindness, Loyalty, Etiquette, Wisdom and Faith” (仁 Ren, 义 Yi, 礼 Li, 智 Zhi, 信 Xin) and carries the mission of systematically introducing the authentic traditional Chinese Language and Culture to the young learners as the nutrients for the mind to prepare a new generation of bilingual experts who can play the role of inheriting the essence of traditional Chinese Culture, which is now considered by more and more people all over the world to be a precious gift to all of us in the modern world. To the new immigrant children from China, they have been facing major difficulties in entering the mainstream American Society due to language and culture barrier, poisonous influence of the communist mentality, as well as financial difficulties of the immigrant parents. Teachers in public schools are also facing difficulties in providing these children with sufficient help in assisting them to understand the American culture, history, government system and the law, which are essential for them to be an integral part of the local community. Under such a situation, more and more Chinese immigrant families are sending young children back to China to study the language and culture, although they were born here in America. When these children return to America, they usually are faced with emotional and mental issues and feel lost between the gaps of two different types of culture. The establishment of the **Confucius Chinese Charter School** will allow these children to fully master the authentic traditional Chinese culture which will nurture their mind and allow them to embrace with full maturity the gift from the Western World. On the other hand, for the young learners with the Western culture as their native heritage, the mastering of Chinese Language and Culture will similarly expand their wisdom, enlarge their vision and enhance their ability in all aspects. This is because the Chinese Language and Culture are a precious gift to all world people and have the innate power to transform the mind and heart for people to live in a life style of *Being One with the Nature* (天人合一 Tian Ren He Yi) a life style that is key for health and happiness. Therefore, the **Confucius Chinese Charter School** shall be a school for children from ethnic groups and will surely bring peace and prosperity to our community and bring a new stream of fresh air into the American Education System. All Core Curriculum of English, Math, Social Studies and Science shall be taught in Chinese and English, and all students shall be trained to be bilingual in English and Chinese and also become scholars of Chinese Language and Culture, as a special feature of the graduates of our Charter School.

g. Target population and Community Served: all children in New York City, with a focus on CSD 25 in Queens, CSD1 in Manhattan, CSD 20 in Brooklyn.

III. Enrollment and retention of students

We have been building a broad network of community Moms who have demonstrated strong interest in our education model and philosophy. About 400 Moms will be recruited onto our Mom’s Club, which will be delivered all updated information about our school as well as professional English language training. This club serves as our team for enrollment and retention of students with disabilities, English learners and students eligible for free and reduced price lunch program.

IV. Public Outreach and Community Support

1. Brochures of the introduction of the Confucius Chinese Charter School in various formats in both English and Chinese have been prepared and delivered to the local Flushing Community as well as the Manhattan Chinatown, the Brooklyn Chinatown, New York City and Staten Island. The feedback information will be integrated into the final proposal of the application.
2. A large group of emails have been sent to inform all local Chinese and English Media, Community Education Council; Community Education District Superintendents; Community Board Members, regarding the Lotus Chinese Charter School as one of the four upcoming Chinese Charter Schools, and phone number as well as email address, website address are provided to seek for public feedback.
3. A community meeting was held on February 14, 2014.
4. The school founding board members have been actively sending the introduction flier to all key personnel of different social groups in the different ethnic groups in the community through community leaders on our team, via emails and phone calls.
5. The founding board members have been carrying out community outreach throughout the year of 2013 to seek for public feedback through home visits and public park visits and all feedbacks will be integrated into the final proposal this year.
6. The flier is completed and is being distributed to all local church groups, non-profit organizations, community board, local elected officials, local civic organizations, media groups, public schools, Chinese Associations, Parent Representatives and the local Community Leaders. Fifty-seven Christian churches are receiving our fliers through Mr. Dunzheng Yan.
7. Letters to local elected officials, community leaders, Chinese Associations are completed and ready for delivery (samples can be found on www.confuciuscharters.org).

Based upon our preliminary data analysis, our school will be greatly supported by the local community. Evidence of Community Support will be presented in the full application.

V. Lead Applicant Signature and Date Signed

Dr. Lotus King Weiss Signature _____



Date: July 7, 2014