
WE ARE MORE

We Are More is a public art campaign created by Amanda Phingbodhipakkiya (@alonglastname) in partnership with Times Square Arts that celebrates the expansive diversity and individuality of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in NYC and around the country.

[Morethan.art/hold-space](https://morethan.art/hold-space)

In this discussion guide, we use some of the statements and questions from the *We Are More* art campaign as starting prompts for small group conversations about the Asian and Pacific Islander experience. They are relevant both for API's as well as allies and advocates who want to better understand and support the API community.

Included are suggested instructions for a facilitator, 20 discussion prompts that include a specific topic and a suggested resource for learning more, and imagery from the campaign that can be printed, cut out and used as prompt cards.



Time: 15-45 minutes¹

Small Group Size: 4 - 40²

Small Group Size: 2 (pairs)

Before starting, decide whether you want to focus the group on a single prompt at a time (can be more focusing and aligning) or have the group explore many different prompts (more variety during the group discussion)

(2 mins) Break your group up into pairs and assign them a prompt. Designate the person who has eaten most recently³ as Person A and the other Person B.

(6 mins) Have Person A read outloud the prompt and the topic. Have person A share for 2 minutes, switch to person B for 2 minutes, and offer a final 2 minutes of pair discussion.

(7 mins) Bring the group back and ask people to share any thoughts or reflections from their individual conversations.

Repeat with a new prompt (15 mins)

¹ Can be scaled up or down depending on how many rounds you do

² Can be scaled up further by having multiple groups take the same prompt, or expanding the # of people in a group

³ Many Asian cultures value the importance of meals and use some version of the phrase “have you eaten yet?” as a kind of greeting.

PROMPT	TOPIC	LEARN MORE
1 <i>Where do we go from here?</i>	Actions to take in the face of anti-API bias and violence	Rep. Andy Kim On State Department Racism: 'My Own Government Questioned My Loyalty' (npr.org) (time.com)
2 <i>When will we be welcome, not just included?</i>	Interracial friendships are still rare in America	Three quarters of whites don't have any non-white friends (washingtonpost.com)
3 <i>How do we come together when there's still so much pain?</i>	The difficulties of healing when harm is ongoing	Cathy Park Hong on anti-Asian violence and unlearning internalized racism (vox.com)
4 <i>Can I help shoulder your pain?</i>	Supporting a community that's hurting	Anti-Asian violence: Mental health check-ins on your friends isn't enough (theconversation.com)
5 <i>When will you love us like you love our food?</i>	The difference in treatment between Asian food and Asian people	How Americans pretend to love 'ethnic food' (washingtonpost.com)
6 <i>When will you learn to tell us apart?</i>	The link between faces and identity	Perspective She's Asian and female. But she's not me. (washingtonpost.com)
7 <i>When will you stop denying our humanity?</i>	Ways in which Asian people have been dehumanized by society	The Atlanta Shooting and the Dehumanizing of Asian Women (newyorker.com)
8 <i>When will you learn to say our names correctly?</i>	The importance and sanctity of our names	The casual racism of mispronouncing an Asian person's name (latimes.com)
9 <i>When will we be safe?</i>	Ways to create a feeling of security and protection	Compassion in Oakland: Hundreds Volunteer to Escort Elderly Asian Americans After Slew of Violent Attacks (diversityinc.com)

11	<i>When will you see that we love this country too?</i>	The history of API seen as being disloyal	Here's How to Help Combat Anti-Asian Violence (time.com)
12	<i>When will we get to be the boss?</i>	How API professionals face the hurdles for advancement	The Overlooked Asian-American Glass Ceiling (fastcompany.com) (washingtonpost.com)
13	<i>Someday we will no longer harbor anti-blackness</i>	A community grappling with its own racism against Black people	History and Asian American Response to Black Lives Matter (time.com) (vox.com)
14	<i>When will you stop doing Asian accents?</i>	How accents affect one's outsider / insider status	The Soft Racism of Apu from "The Simpsons" (thenewyorker.com) (theconversation.com)
15	<i>When will we get a seat at the table?</i>	The complexity of API representation in politics	Are Asian Americans the Last Undecided Voters? (newyorker.com) (washingtonpost.com)
16	<i>When will we get to be the hero?</i>	The dearth of API representation in mass media	"Maybe We Need To Get More Pissed": John Cho On Asian-Americans In Hollywood (fastcompany.com) (washingtonpost.com)
17	<i>Someday our stories will be told</i>	Unpacking the authentic experiences of the API community	The real secret to Asian American success was not education (washingtonpost.com) (newyorker.com)
18	<i>Someday, our history will be taught</i>	Telling the story of API's in American history curriculum	Why the Asian-American Story Is Missing From U.S. Classrooms (time.com) (latimes.com)
19	<i>Someday we too will be American</i>	The importance of citizenship to the API community	Asian Americans & Citizenship - Center for Asian American Media (CAAM) (diversityinc.com)
20	<i>When will you stop turning away?</i>	The impact of bystander intervention to support victims of harassment	Bystander Intervention Training to Stop Anti-Asian/American Harassment (hollaback.org)

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**WHERE DO WE
GO FROM HERE?**

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**WHEN WILL
WE BE WELCOME,
NOT JUST
INCLUDED?**

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**HOW DO WE COME
TOGETHER WHEN
THERE'S STILL
SO MUCH PAIN?**

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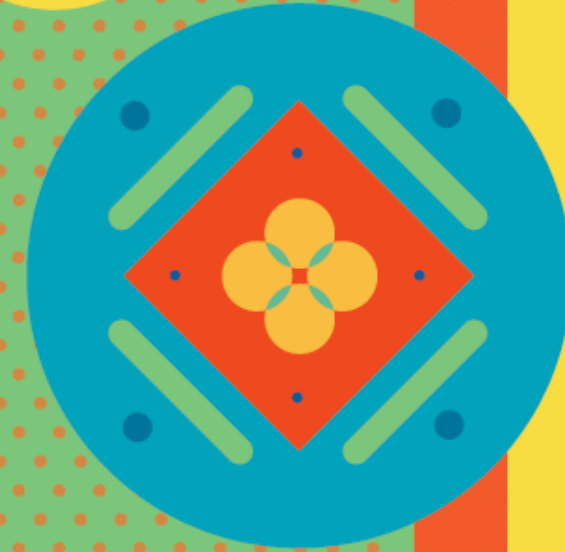


**CAN I HELP
SHOULDER
YOUR PAIN?**

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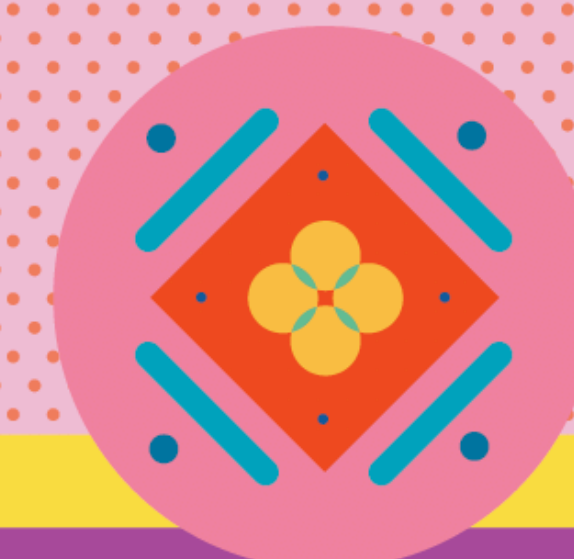
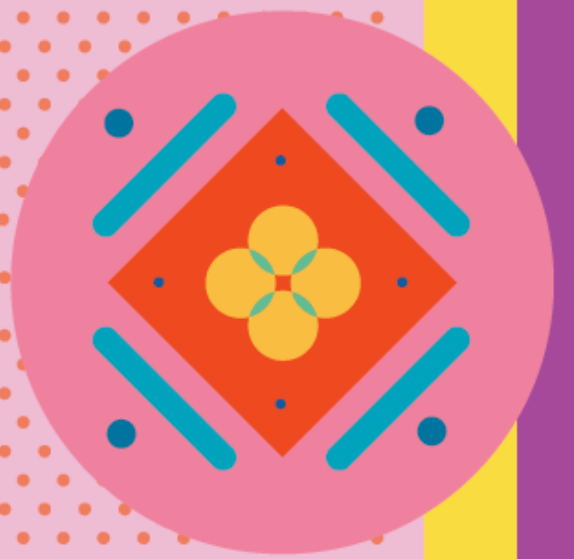
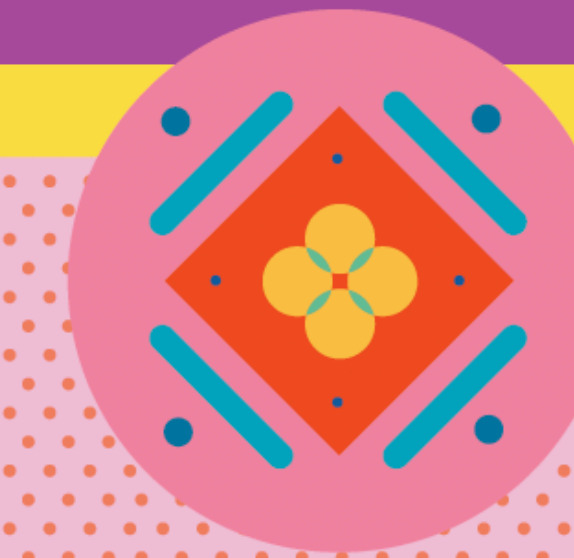
**WHEN WILL YOU
LOVE US
LIKE YOU LOVE
OUR FOOD?**



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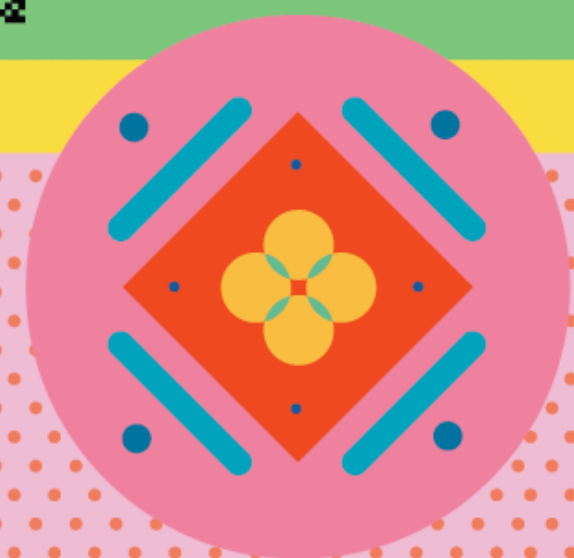
**WHEN WILL YOU
LEARN TO TELL
US APART?**



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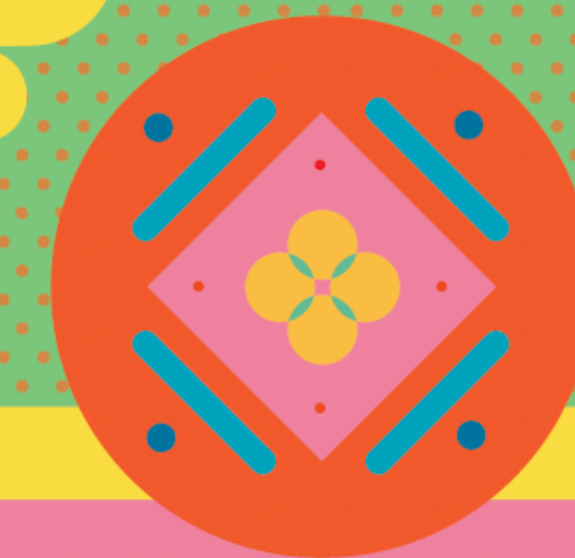
**WHEN WILL YOU
STOP DENYING
OUR HUMANITY?**



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**WHEN WILL YOU
LEARN TO
SAY OUR NAMES
CORRECTLY?**



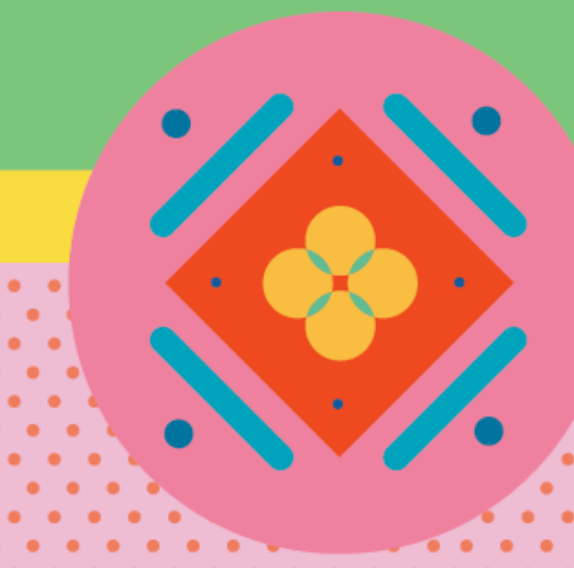
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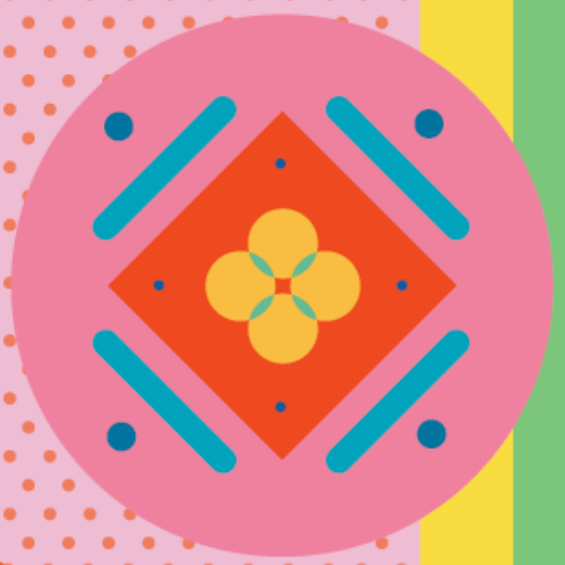
**WHEN WILL
WE BE SAFE?**



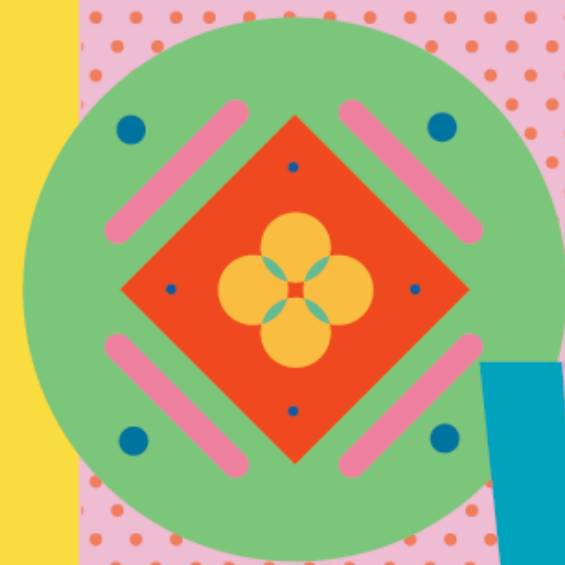
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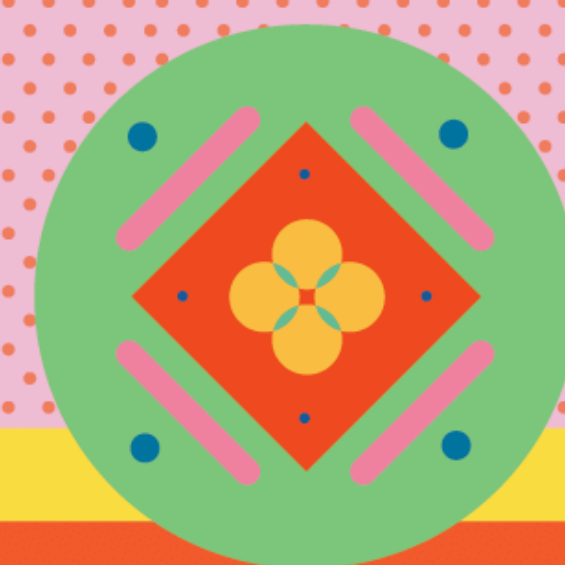
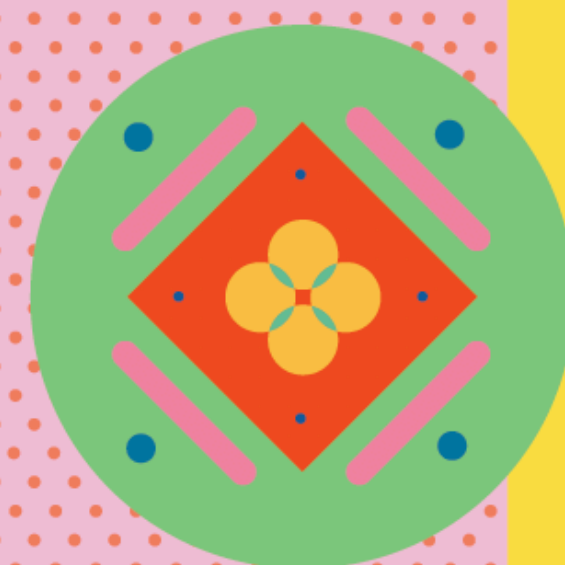
**WHEN WILL YOU
SEE THAT WE
LOVE THIS
COUNTRY TOO?**



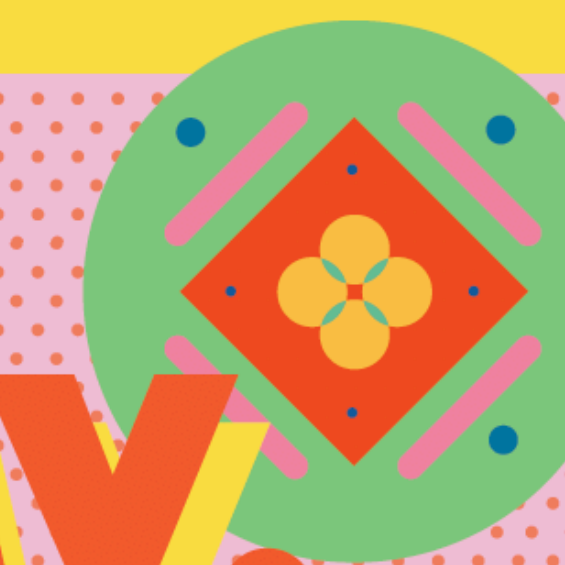
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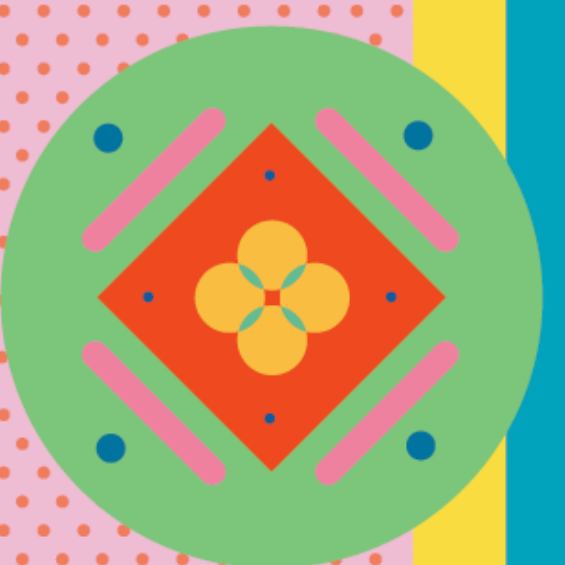
**WHEN WILL
WE GET TO BE
THE BOSS?**



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**SOMEDAY,
WE WILL SPEAK
WITHOUT
HESITATION**



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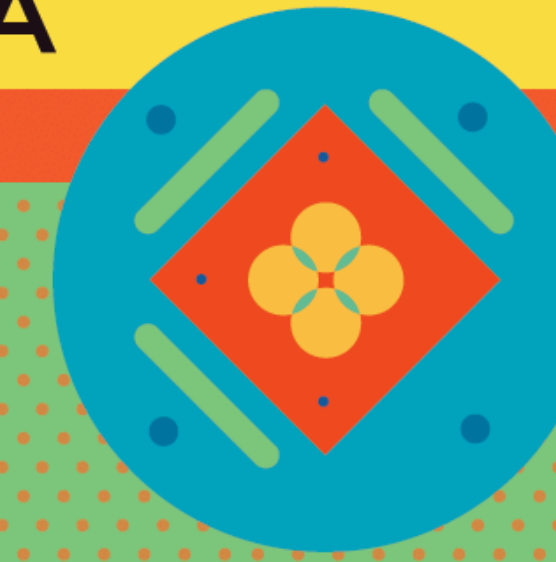
**SOMEDAY, WE
WILL NO LONGER
HARBOR ANTI-
BLACKNESS**



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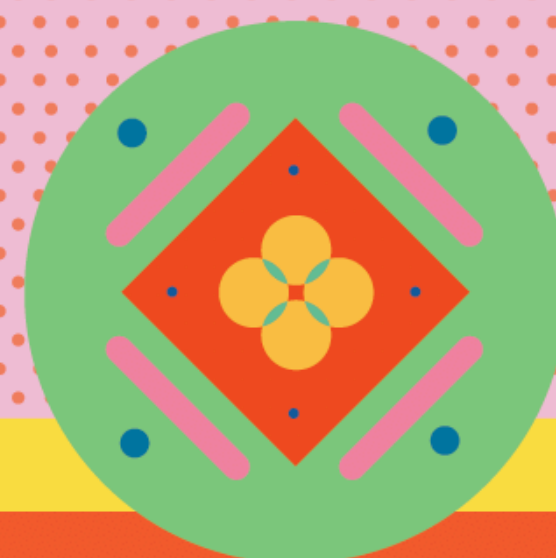
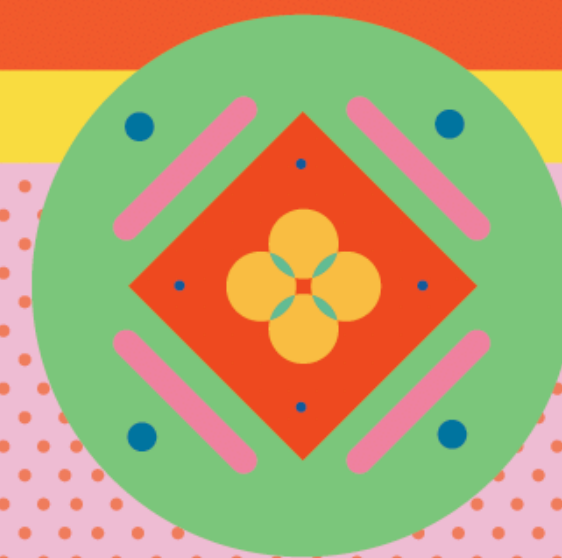
**WHEN WILL YOU
STOP DOING
ASIAN ACCENTS?**



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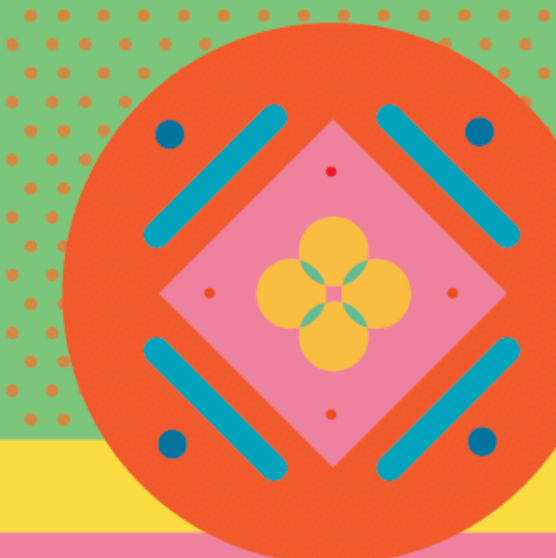
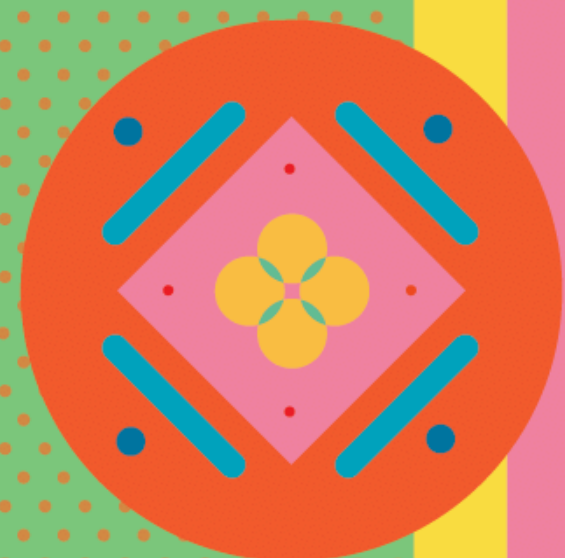
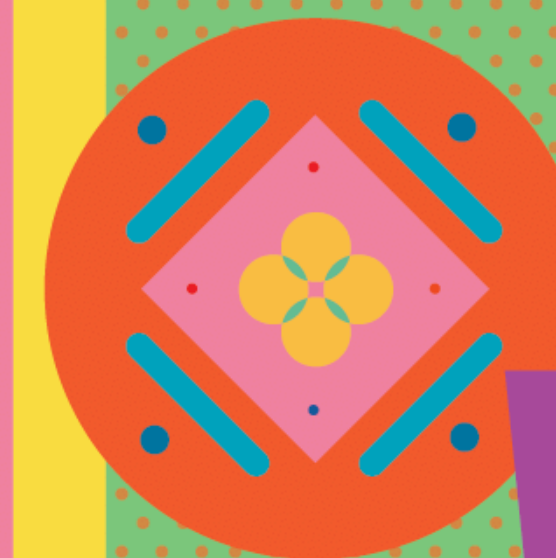
**WHEN WILL WE
GET A SEAT
AT THE TABLE?**



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**WHEN WILL
WE GET TO BE
THE HERO?**



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**SOMEDAY,
OUR STORIES
WILL BE TOLD**

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**SOMEDAY,
OUR HISTORY
WILL BE TAUGHT**

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**SOMEDAY,
WE TOO WILL
BE AMERICAN**

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**WHEN WILL YOU
STOP TURNING
AWAY?**



ABOUT WE ARE MORE

We Are More is a public art campaign created by Amanda Phingbodhipakkiya (@alonglastname) in partnership with Times Square Arts that celebrates the expansive diversity and individuality of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in NYC and around the country.

It responds to and rebukes the harassment and violence that has become increasingly severe amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. The title piece in the campaign is a direct address to the bigoted and confining stereotypes of Asians and Asian-Americans in popular culture; other pieces ask questions both poignant — “When will we stop feeling afraid?” — and pointed — “When will you love us like you love our food?”

Juxtaposing rich tones and energetic shapes with the language of sorrow and anger, the campaign shows that despite what AAPI people have faced in New York and elsewhere, they remain undeterred and steadfast members of the cities they call home.