



# Make Us VISIBLE

A COLORING BOOK OF  
ASIAN AMERICAN PIONEERS

COMMUNITY BEGINS  
LOCALLY



This book belongs to





# *Make Us* **VISIBLE**

For the Asian American pioneers who  
dared to pursue their dreams.





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# *Make Us* **VISIBLE**

**For the Asian American pioneers who dared  
to pursue their dreams.**

Make Us Visible began in January 2021 as a small grassroots coalition of parents, students, teachers, and neighbors. We came together to mourn, to comfort each other, to share joy, and to understand how we could empower one another and create a positive, lasting impact in our neighborhoods. While we entered this space for different reasons, the values that brought us together were universal. We wanted to belong and understand how we fit into our country. We wanted to protect our families from harm and be treated fairly. As we spent more time together, our feelings of frustration and fear during the pandemic gave way to an intergenerational commitment and hope for education to serve as a long-term preventative measure to anti-Asian American hate. By including our stories in K–12 schools, we can illuminate untold chapters within our nation’s history.

As the Make Us Visible movement grew across the country, so did our knowledge of Asian American history. Some of these local stories are shared in this coloring book, which includes pioneers spanning 15 states and 13 ethnicities. While there wasn’t enough space here to share a full picture of their contributions and lives, we encourage you to go beyond our descriptions and learn more about these pioneers. Some of them might have grown up or lived in your neighborhood! By getting to know your community better, you, too, can be an explorer of Asian American history.





## SAINT MALO VILLAGE THE FIRST ASIAN AMERICAN SETTLEMENT

Saint Malo was a fishing village formed in the 1700s on the shores of Lake Borgne, Louisiana. The majority of these settlers, nicknamed Manilamen after the capital of the Philippines, were Filipino sailors fleeing from Spanish rule. Many of them joined the U.S. Army and helped fight the British in the War of 1812. They also transformed the shrimping industry by introducing their Shrimp Dance tradition, which separated the shells from the meat to dry. This method of drying preserved shellfish before refrigerators were invented. The village flourished for many generations, and although hurricanes destroyed much of the land over time, their shrimping impact carries on.





## **DIDAR SINGH BAINS**

Born in the Hoshiarpur district of Punjab, India, Didar Singh Bains came to the U.S. in 1958 with only \$8 in his pocket. Settling in Northern California, he quickly saved up enough money to buy a small farm to grow peaches. By 1978, Bains owned the largest peach farm in California and maybe even the world. In addition to being the “Peach King,” Bains was very involved in the Sikh community and supported many from India to find work in America. He helped build a Sikh temple in Yuba City, California, where the city grew and was able to prosper because of Bains’s work. Bains always emphasized three tenets of Sikhism: living an honest life, thanking God, and sharing with those in need.





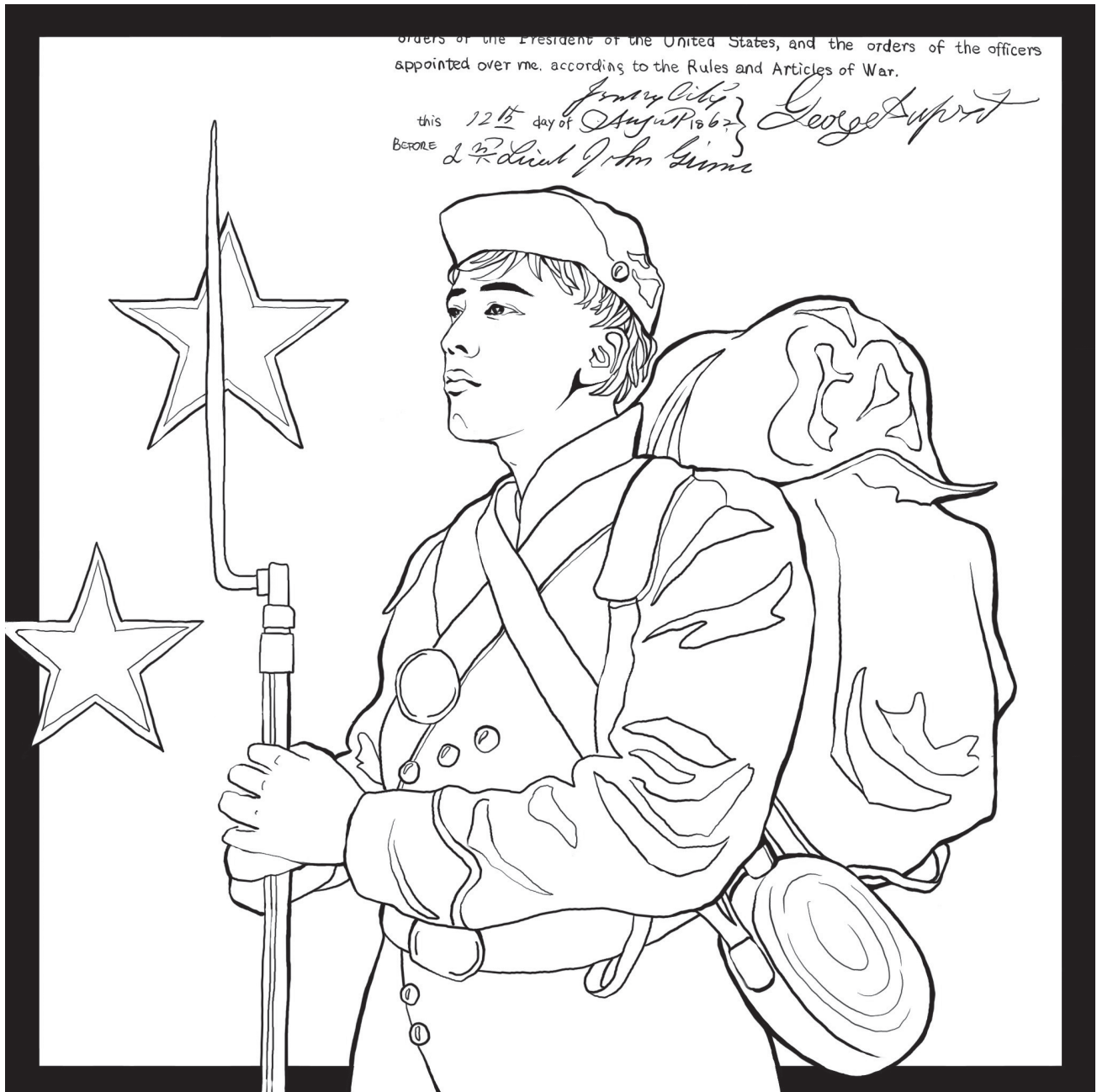
## JANE LUU

Born in Saigon, Vietnam, Jane Luu and her family fled from their home on an American military plane when she was 12 years old. They lived in a refugee camp, motels, and a garage before settling in Southern California. Luu loved science from a young age and pursued a career studying the night sky after college. She teamed up with fellow astronomer David Jewitt and, together, they discovered the first Kuiper Belt Objects (KBO) – a river of icy objects beyond Neptune that goes all around the sun like a giant ring. These icy parts, including the dwarf planet Pluto, are leftovers from the building of the solar system. Thanks to Luu’s work, over 1,500 KBOs have been discovered.





Illustrated by Selina Guo

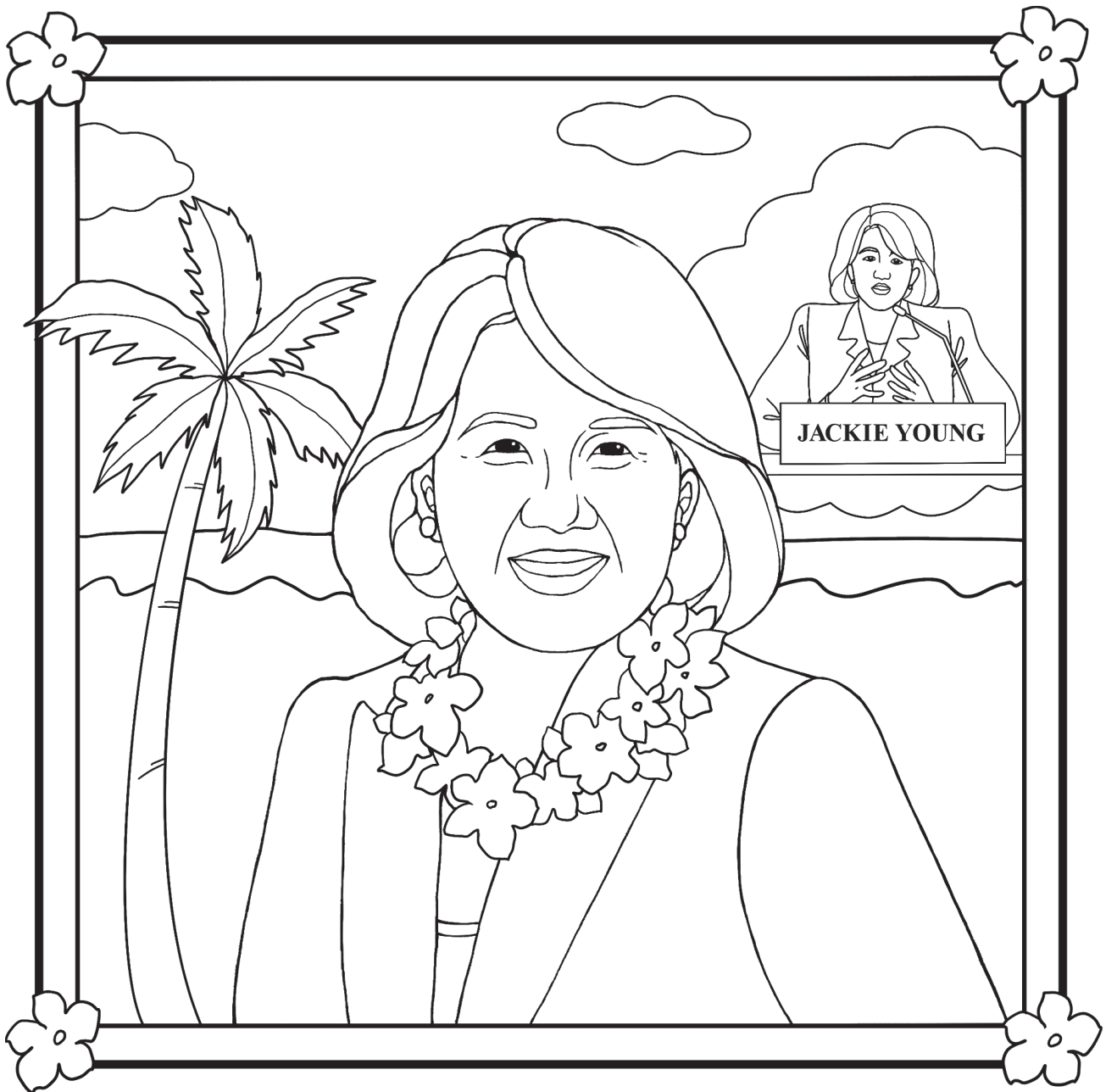


## GEORGE DUPONT

Millions of soldiers fought in the Civil War. Some for the South, others for the North. One of the Northern soldiers, a private in the Union army, was a citizen of a nation across the ocean – Siam, which today is Thailand. His name was George Dupont, and he was living in Jersey City, New Jersey, when the war started. In 1862, he joined the 13th New Jersey Volunteer Infantry and, in less than a year, fought in three of the Civil War's deadliest battles including Gettysburg, Antietam, and Chancellorsville. He also took part in General Sherman's March to the Sea. Like Dupont, many of the soldiers were immigrants, but he was the only Asian. After the war, Dupont became a U.S. citizen.

\*\*The above illustration is an artistic interpretation of what Dupont looked like. Not everyone had access to a camera in the 1860s, so there are no photos of Dupont in existence. His name lives on in historical records.\*\*





## JACKIE YOUNG

Jaqueline Eurn Hai Young was born as a 3rd generation Korean American in Honolulu in 1934 before Hawai'i became the U.S.' 50th state. Young was an educator and advocate for K-12 students with special needs when she lived in Hawai'i and Maryland. She even testified before Congress in favor of the 1975 Education for All Handicapped Children Act which passed! This act helped children with disabilities gain access to education and meals. After returning to Hawai'i, Young led efforts in seeking equality in education for girls in public schools through Title IX. Young is remembered for her leadership in gender equality and civil rights.





## PUI CHAN

Pui Chan is a martial arts pioneer who has dedicated his life to teaching Chinese Kung Fu. Chan started his training at the age of 6 years old and comes from a long line of great kung fu masters. He left China in 1968 to find a better life in America. In 1980, his lifelong dream came true when he opened the first kung fu temple in the U.S. in Orlando, Florida. Chan shares the beauty of Chinese culture by teaching his style of Wah Lum Praying Mantis Kung Fu. Together with his wife Suzy and daughters Mimi and Tina, Chan and his family have taught hundreds of thousands of students spanning many generations. Today, there are dozens of Wah Lum schools throughout the world continuing his legacy.





## EUGENIE CLARK

Eugenie Clark, a biracial Japanese American, was born in New York City in 1922. When she was a child, her mother, Yumiko, would drop Clark off at the New York Aquarium. Clark spent her time in the aquarium dreaming of the ocean and all the living creatures under the waves. When she grew up, Clark would get up close to animals with her scuba gear and was one of the first fish biologists to study sea life this way. She loved sharks and taught the world they weren't monsters. Eugenie even rode on the back of a 50-foot whale shark! She continued diving with these amazing animals until she was over 90 years old. Eugenie Clark is now remembered as "The Shark Lady."







## ROS MEY

In 1975, the Khmer Rouge brought violence and destruction to most of Cambodia. Ros Mey, a land surveyor, lost four children. In 1979, Mey and his surviving family escaped to Thailand alongside millions of others and from there settled in the U.S. Though his life was filled with tragedy, Mey did not give up his faith or love for his community. In 1982, he and his family found a new home and were welcomed by the Wat Thormikaram temple in Providence, Rhode Island – the first ethnic Khmer Buddhist temple in the country. Ros Mey became a Buddhist monk in 1993 at the age of 62 and soon became president of the temple. Mey spent the rest of his life dedicated to helping his fellow Cambodians.





## LAN SAMANTHA CHANG

Born in Appleton, Wisconsin, Lan Samantha Chang always found herself between two worlds, the midwestern American world where she was growing up and the Eastern Chinese world of her parents who lived in China and Taiwan before moving to the U.S. In her writing, Chang found a way to combine both. She wrote many stories and novels, mostly about the hopes, dreams, and struggles of Asian American families. In 2006, Chang became a professor of English and the first female director of the esteemed Writers' Workshop at the University of Iowa. She opened the door to storytellers of all races and cultures, mentoring them on their way to becoming the best writers they can be.





## NARINDER SINGH KAPANY

If you ever watch cartoons on your TV, there is a good chance that Narinder Singh Kapany had something to do with it. Born in India, Kapany eventually immigrated to the U.S. where, in 1960, he discovered how the use of hair-thin strands of glass bundled together, which he called “fiber optics,” could send light signals. For his invention, Kapany was nicknamed the “Father of Fiber Optics.” Because of his work, humankind advanced communications technology, lasers, medical instruments, solar energy, and so much more. In addition to his scientific contributions, Kapany, who was committed to his Sikh community’s culture and language, established the Sikh Foundation in 1967.





## JULIE CHU

Born in Fairfield, Connecticut, Julie Wu Chu grew up loving ice hockey. At age 20, she participated in her first Olympics. Wu would go on to become the first Asian American to medal in a winter sport other than figure skating and the second most decorated U.S. female in Olympic Winter Games history. Chu was chosen as the Team USA flag bearer for her final Games in the 2014 Closing Ceremony in Sochi, Russia. She also played in college, finishing her career as the all-time assists leader and points scorer in NCAA history. She now lives in Canada with her two daughters and spouse, Caroline Oullette, who rivaled her on Team Canada. Chu continues to coach and share her love and joy for the sport.







## PIO DECANO

In the 1930s, Washington state had alien land laws. Alien land laws stopped Asian American immigrants from buying, renting, or loaning land in Washington. A 1937 law was created to stop Filipinos from owning property. Families could work and live in Washington but could not own a house. In 1939, Pio DeCano, a recent Filipino immigrant, successfully fought the 1937 alien land law all the way to the state Supreme Court. The law was struck down and, by 1941, all Filipinos could own property in Washington. DeCano's victory established an immigrant's legal right to own property in the state and came to benefit all affected Asian Americans in the state.





## CHOUA THAO

Born in Ban Phoukabaht, Laos, Choua Thao was the only Hmong girl to attend school in her village. She would walk two hours every day to learn English. In 1965, Thao was recruited by the International Volunteer Service to be a nurse and train other women across Asia to become nurses too. After Thao arrived in the U.S. in the late 1970s, she became one of the first Hmong women to graduate from university. With her community's support, Thao founded the first Hmong women's organization: the Women's Association of Hmong and Laos (WAHL) in St. Paul, Minnesota, which worked to empower women in taking their first steps into their new lives in America.





## FAZLUR RAHMAN KHAN

Bangladeshi American Fazlur Rahman Khan designed famous skyscrapers, many of which you can see today like Willis Tower (a.k.a. Sears Tower), which was the tallest building in the world when it opened in 1973, and the supertall John Hancock Center. Both towers are located in Chicago, Illinois. The bamboo that grew just outside of Khan's hometown inspired him to invent a new way to build skyscrapers. Similar to bamboo, Khan's "tube concept" is known for being stronger while not needing as many materials. His innovative work is still used today to build structures up into the clouds. Khan is considered one of the greatest structural engineers of the 20th Century.



Illustrated by Kaipo Leung



## ISABELLA AIONA ABBOTT

Isabella Aiona Abbott loved the ocean. Growing up in Honolulu, Hawai'i, Abbott's mother taught her about seaweed and its uses. When she grew up, Abbott became the first Native Hawai'ian to earn a Ph.D. in science and started the University of Hawai'i's ethnobotany program. Ethnobotany is the study of how people use plants in their lives according to their cultures and traditions. Abbott spent her life studying how Native Hawai'ians used seaweed and preserving what she learned through her publications. Abbott believed strongly that we are all connected to our planet. Without her work and dedication to preserving this knowledge, much of the marine life in our ocean would remain misunderstood.





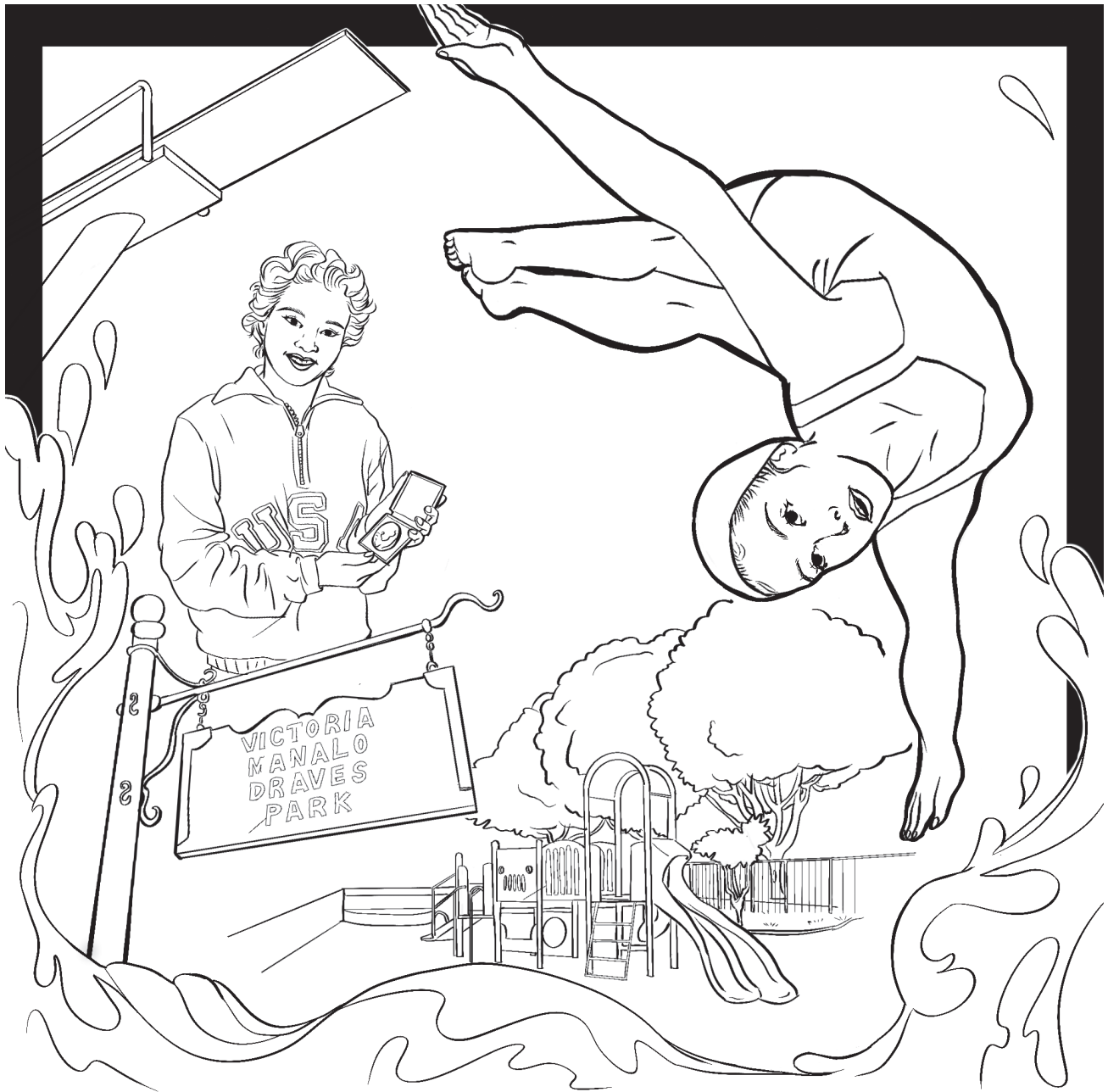


## 442ND INFANTRY REGIMENT

After Pearl Harbor was attacked during World War II, many Japanese Americans joined the United States Army. Back then, Japanese Americans were not allowed to fight alongside white Americans. In 1943, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team – a unit for only Japanese Americans – was formed. The 442nd trained hard and helped liberate France from German occupation.

They teamed up with the 92nd Infantry Division, an African American unit, to drive German soldiers out of northern Italy. Despite facing racism, hate, and hard combat, the unit of 18,000 Asian American men became the most decorated unit in American history.





## VICTORIA MANALO DRAVES

Victoria Manalo Draves loved all kinds of sports when she was a child, but she didn't learn to swim until she was 10 years old. Draves took lessons at her local Red Cross pool in San Francisco, California, and quickly became an excellent diver. She won two gold medals at the 1948 Olympic Games in London, United Kingdom, making Draves the first Asian American to win an Olympic gold medal. Later, she was a big supporter of the Filipino Education Center which helped Filipino immigrants in the 1960s. When the education center moved and a park was built in its place, it was named after the woman who gave so much back to her community. You can still visit Victoria Manalo Draves Park today.





## TUAN VO-DINH

Tuan Vo-Dinh was born in Nha Trang, Vietnam, and moved to the U.S. in 1975. He loves many areas of science. Some of his specialties are photonics, the science of light, and nanotechnology, which is technology so small it's the size of atoms and molecules. By using a combination of his science skills, Vo-Dinh is currently building technology that would use lasers and nanotech to hunt down and destroy cancer cells. He has won many awards for his research. Vo-Dinh dreams of a world where cancer can be quickly cured and maybe one day, with his hard work and the hard work of others, his dream will come true.



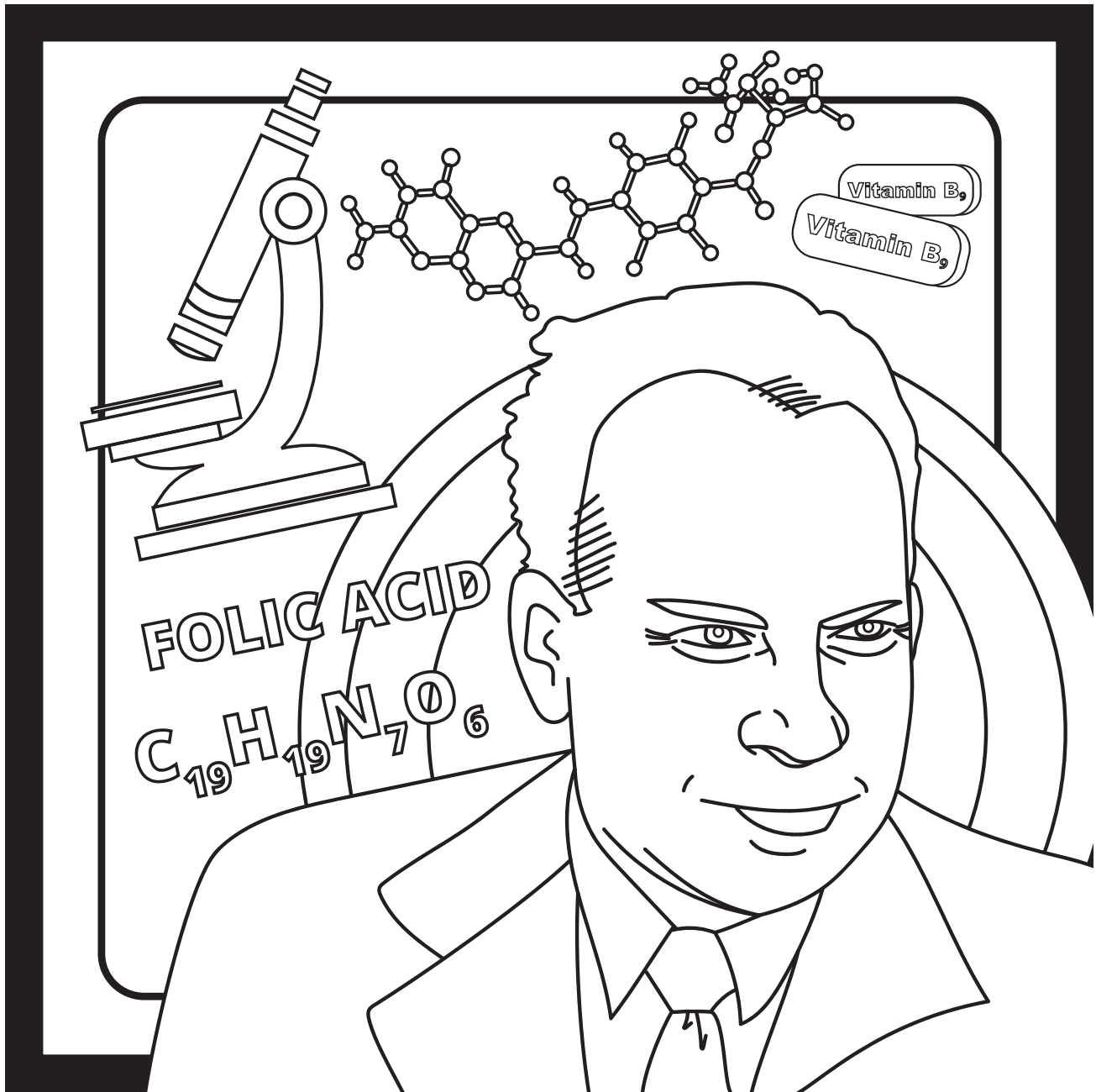


## SONO OSATO

Sono Osato was born in Omaha, Nebraska, to an Irish-French Canadian mother and a Japanese father. She was inspired to dance after seeing her first ballet at age 8. Five years later, Osato began her career as the youngest dancer at the esteemed Wassily de Basil's Ballets Russe de Monte-Carlo where she toured the world before joining the American Ballet Theatre in New York. Osato also performed as an actress in movies, TV shows, and on Broadway. During World War II, Osato was banned from traveling with her dance troupe because of her Japanese heritage. Years later, Osato devoted her time to helping young dancers and created a scholarship program to help former dancers pursue new professions.







## YELLAPRAGADA SUBBAROW

After moving to the U.S. from Bhimavaram, India, in the 1920s, biochemist Dr. Yellapragada SubbaRow discovered antibiotics, vitamins, and the energy-carrying molecule ATP – all small molecules with different functions. He also developed one of the first chemotherapy drugs for cancer treatments and led important medical research during World War II. SubbaRow’s groundbreaking contributions to medicine for both humans and animals have helped save millions of lives across the world. SubbaRow always knew the importance of teamwork and said, “Victories of science are rarely won single-handedly. No one man should get the (entire) credit.”





## SUSAN AHN CUDDY

Lieutenant Susan Ahn Cuddy was born in Los Angeles, California. She was the eldest of five children and loved baseball. When World War II broke out, Cuddy joined the United States Navy. She became the first Asian American woman to become a U.S. Naval officer and the first woman to become a gunnery officer. A gunnery officer means Cuddy was in charge of all the weapons on her battleship and trained others how to use them. She later became a code breaker and worked on top-secret projects after the war. When Cuddy was older, she worked closely with Korean immigrants and her local Korean American community. Cuddy's commitment to serving both her country and her community marks her legacy in history.





## LUE GIM GONG

When you go to the grocery store and pick up an orange with a little sticker on it that says, “Grown in Florida,” you can likely thank an Asian American for it. When Lue Gim Gong moved to the U.S. from China, he brought with him his diverse knowledge of plants and farming. In Florida, Lue spent much of his time working in gardens and orange groves. In 1911, he was recognized for developing a very special orange that tasted sweet and could survive frost. Lue Gim Gong Oranges are now simply called Valencia Oranges, and you can find them in supermarkets across the country. People remember Lue Gim Gong as “The Citrus Wizard.”





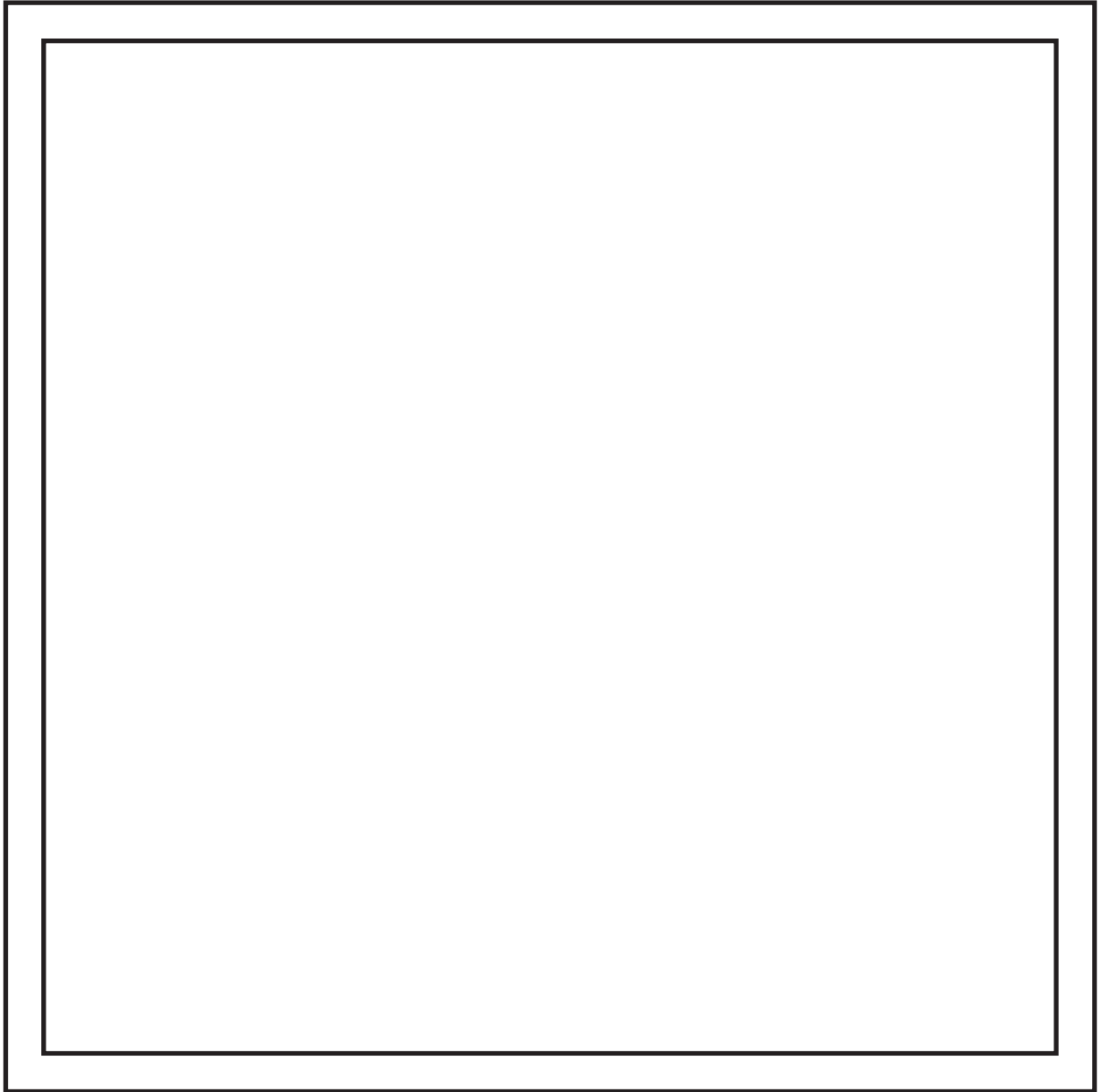
## LHAKPA SHERPA

When she was a kid, Lhakpa Sherpa was greeted by the sight of Mount Everest — the tallest mountain peak in the world — every morning from her village in the Makalu region of eastern Nepal. At a time when girls weren't allowed to go to school and weren't encouraged to climb mountains, Sherpa was determined to make it to the top. In 2000, she became the first woman to do so. After moving to the U.S. and settling in Connecticut with her family, Sherpa has now climbed Mount Everest a record total of ten times! Forever a pioneer in the world of extreme mountaineering, Sherpa hopes to keep climbing. She has shared with reporters, "I will never give up. I want young women not to give up."





# BE YOUR OWN PIONEER !



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## ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

**ARTHUR BALL.** Arthur Ball, The Above Average Artist, is a sculptor, illustrator, and digital artist. He creates artwork for print, the web, and movies. Instagram @theaboveaverageartist.

**HAOTIAN DONG.** Haotian is a multidisciplinary designer specializing in visual and jewelry design. He loves to combine thoughtful, research-driven ideas and impactful visuals to create well-crafted experiences. He is currently working as a graphic designer at ADMERASIA. Instagram @seeby8008208820

**SELINA GUO.** Selina Guo is the Vice President of Strategy at ADMERASIA. Though her daily work is about analytics and marketing, she comes from a creative background and has always been passionate about good design. She studied creative practices at Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design in London.

**KAIPO LEUNG.** Based in New York City, Kaipo is an Associate Creative Director that captures the essence of Asian culture and the overall human condition in his work. He believes there

are no creative limits, just self-imposed restraints to deliver outstanding work. Instagram @kaipo62

**CHEN LI.** Chen is an illustrator currently based in Toronto. Born and raised in Northeast China, and moving to Canada at the age of 19, his style combines Chinese folk art and 90s anime with a contemporary perspective. Instagram @cli.jpg.

**SARAH LI.** Sarah is a high school senior in Connecticut who has some classical training in art from the Artistic Minds Art Studio. She's interested in exploring the intersection of technology and art in college, experimenting with new styles and mediums along the way. Instagram @sarah.li.art

**SHAO-JO LIN.** Shao-Jo Lin is a Taiwanese designer and art director based in New York City. She has a deep passion for creating beautiful things and strives to solve challenges for the values she believes in. Past work has focused on advocating and bringing awareness to Asian American communities. Visit shaojolin.com.

## **CARLOVITO SANTANGELO.**

CarloVito is a Filipino-American Story & Visual Development Artist based in Los Angeles. He's a proud New York native; a constant study for his therapist wife; father to a five-year-old supervillain; and best friend to an overworked emotional support dog. There's a never-ending stack of comics at his bedside, and the turtle is his power animal.



**JUNLU XIE.** Junlu Xie is a Chinese designer who moved to the United States 10 years ago. She currently works in New York City as part of the creative team at ADMERASIA. As a person who is passionate about the arts, she loves to tell a great visual story with her multicultural background. Visit the site : [www.xiejunlu.com](http://www.xiejunlu.com)



**ZHIYUAN XIE.** Zhiyuan Xie is an NYC-based designer and illustrator who focuses on visual design, UI/UX, and motion graphics. She believes that good design should be both beautiful and functional. In her work, she aims to design meaningful experiences that connect people, spaces, and brands together. [zhiyuanxiedsgn.cargo.site](http://zhiyuanxiedsgn.cargo.site)

## **Cover Design**

ZhiYuan Xie

## **Book Design**

Junlu Xie

## **Biography Contributors**

XiaoHwa Sydney Ng, Jeffrey Gu, Kate Lee



As of February 2024, Make Us Visible has passed six laws in four states and has 24 active state chapters with more incoming. If you are interested in community building, legislative advocacy, K–12 education and history, or you just want to get to know your neighborhood and neighbors better, please contact us. We will introduce you to folks in your state who are interested in doing the same.

Please email us at [hello@makeusvisible.org](mailto:hello@makeusvisible.org) to get plugged in and follow us on social media for updates.

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/MakeUsVisibleNational](https://www.facebook.com/MakeUsVisibleNational)

Instagram: [@make.us.visible](https://www.instagram.com/make.us.visible)

LinkedIn: [@MakeUsVisible](https://www.linkedin.com/company/MakeUsVisible)



ADMERASIA is an agile full-service agency that connects brands with people through culture and creativity. By providing high quality content, production, design, programming, experiential, and media planning, ADMERASIA has become a trusted partner to brands across industries.

ADMERASIA has always been deeply rooted in its Asian American communities, proudly advocating for representation and spotlighting Asian American creative talent whenever possible through its work.



# PROJECT TEAM

## **JEFFREY GU**

**CO-FOUNDER + POLICY DIRECTOR,  
MAKE US VISIBLE**

Jeffrey is an Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Commissioner for New York State and serves on the Board of Directors for Guttman Community College - CUNY. In previous roles, he researched Asian American growth patterns and the prevalence of AAPI history in K–12 curricula across all fifty states. Jeffrey strongly believes that the legislative process must be centered on the communities that those policies impact the most and that, when given the right tools, everyday citizens can still play an outsized role in enacting meaningful change.

## **KATE LEE**

**CO-FOUNDER + EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR, MAKE US VISIBLE**

Kate serves on the advisory board for the Asian American Education Project and was a K–12 curriculum editor for the PBS Asian Americans docuseries. Born and raised in San Diego, California, Kate resides in Connecticut where she has been a middle school teacher for over ten years. She also serves as an advisor for the Asian American Women’s Political Initiative (AAWPI). Kate hopes to continue centering education as a long-term tool in combating anti-Asian American bullying, hate, and violence.

## **SASHA BRAVERMAN**

**SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR,  
ADMERASIA**

Sasha Eun Hee Braverman is a designer and artist based in New York City. She uses multidisciplinary mediums to create spaces for underrepresented identities to connect. Sasha grew up with a fascination of comics, anime, and indie films, and firmly believes in romanticizing one’s life. When not working with her friends on their publication, MORPHO Magazine, Sasha freelances as an illustrator and photographer. Visit [sashabraverman.com](http://sashabraverman.com) or [@braversasha](https://www.instagram.com/braversasha)

## **XIAOHWA SYDNEY NG**

**CULTURAL CONTENT DIRECTOR,  
ADMERASIA**

Ng is a writer and maker of stuff whose career spans across television, movies, and advertising. Born in New York and raised by a Chinese immigrant father and Ashkenazi Jewish German American mother, Ng experienced a life filled with proud cultures and diversity. She aspires to tell authentic and unique stories in both her work and her everyday life. Ng is an active part of her community, often volunteering, and is the founder of a knitting group that raises funds for women and children in need. She currently lives in Connecticut with her husband and two sons, but will always be a New Yorker at heart.

A COLLABORATION BY



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*Make Us Visible began in January 2021 as a small grassroots coalition of parents, students, teachers, and neighbors. Together, we passed six laws in four states requiring the inclusion of Asian American history and came to embrace 24 active state chapters with more incoming. As the Make Us Visible movement grew across the country, so did our knowledge of Asian American history. Some of these local stories are shared in this coloring book, which includes pioneers spanning 15 states and 13 ethnicities. As you flip through this coloring book, we hope many of these stories are new and meaningful. Some of these pioneers might even have grown up or lived in your neighborhood! By getting to know your community better, you, too, can be an explorer of Asian American history.*

**SHARE YOUR ART AND SPREAD  
THE WORD! #MAKEUSVISIBLE**

