



## COMMUNITY INITIATIVE LAUNCHES TO RAISE AWARENESS AND STOP ANTI-ASIAN HATE

Special whistles to be distributed for protection and solidarity beginning April 19



**New York, NY, April 14, 2021**—In the wake of recent acts of violence and harassment targeting the Asian community, organizations across New York City and nationwide have joined together to support a new initiative spearheaded by Agnes Hsu-Tang, an archaeologist and international cultural heritage policy advisor on the faculty at Columbia University and a trustee of the New-York Historical Society. Beginning April 19, customized yellow whistles with the words “We Belong” will be distributed through a network of community-based organizations and at the New-York Historical Society, New York’s first museum.

“The Yellow Whistle™ is a symbol of self-protection and solidarity in our common fight against historical discrimination and anti-Asian violence,” said Agnes Hsu-Tang. “The whistle is a simple gadget with a universal purpose—to signal alarm and call for help. We chose the color yellow because it has been weaponized as a mark of xenophobia against Asians throughout American history. We are whistleblowing to fight back against the stereotype that Asians are a silent minority. We stand proudly as Americans—with all Americans—because we belong.”

“New-York Historical strives to educate and illuminate the broadest possible public on the histories of the nation’s diverse populations,” said Louise Mirrer, president and CEO of New-York Historical. “We are proud of Trustee Agnes Hsu-Tang’s efforts, through The Yellow Whistle campaign as well as exhibitions and public programs in which she has been involved at New-York Historical and elsewhere, to ensure that the founding principles of our nation, of equality and justice for all, are understood, appreciated, and uniformly applied. We hope that our exhibition currently on view, *Dreaming Together*, will be a companion piece to The Yellow Whistle campaign, raising the consciousness of visitors around the Asian diasporic experience, today as well as in the past.”

“Asian Americans have long been stereotyped as ‘perpetual foreigners’, despite our many contributions to the American society and many have lived in this country for generations,” said Vincent Wang, national president, Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association (APAPA) and chair, Ohio Chinese American Association (OCAA). “The Yellow Whistle™ project creatively combines a practical design with a powerful message ‘We Belong’ that will amplify the Asian American voice. APAPA is organizing a nationwide ‘Unity against Hate’ rally on May 15 along with groups from the Black, Jewish, Latino, LGBT, and other marginalized communities to stand in solidarity against prejudice and hate. The

Yellow Whistle™ is a wonderful tool to empower our grassroots efforts.”

“This is a much needed and highly practical strategy to address anti-Asian violence,” said Frank H. Wu, president, Queens College. “The recent attacks are not random but racial. Out of tragedy we have seen people come together to recognize the need to do something.”

Free whistles will be distributed through a network of outreach partners in New York City and throughout the continental U.S. (confirmed list as April 14)

#### In New York City

- New-York Historical Society (Starting April 16, walk-in pick-ups only: Fridays 11am-8pm; Saturdays and Sundays 11am-5pm)
- New York Public Library for the Performing Arts at the Lincoln Center
- Queens College, City University of New York
- University Settlement
- East Side Community High School
- Mulan Club
- Bubble\_T Collective

#### Outside of New York City

- APAPA Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs (nationwide)
- Asian Health Services (nationwide)
- KOA Kampgrounds of America (nationwide)
- American Citizens for Justice (mid-west)
- ASIA Asian Services in Action, Inc. (Ohio)
- Bhutanese Community of Central Ohio (Ohio)
- American China Public Affairs Institute (D.C.)
- APA Justice (D.C.)
- Chinese Historical Society of America (San Francisco)
- #8by8 #StopAsianHate rally (Palo Alto)
- Santa Clara University School of Law (Santa Clara)
- San Diego Chinese Historical Museum (San Diego)
- Chinese Cultural Center at San Diego State University (San Diego)
- Bet Tzedek Legal Services (Los Angeles)
- Scarsdale Chinese Association (Scarsdale, NY)
- GASP Greater Boston Asian American Seniors for Peace and Justice (Boston)
- Philadelphia Chinatown Development Corporation (Philadelphia)
- PAACH Pan-Asian American Community House, University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia)

Whistles will also be distributed at upcoming rallies (confirmed list as of April 14):

- April 17: Protect Asian Lives rally, a Queer Trans Gathering in Healing and Solidarity for AAPI, East River Park Amphitheater, 4-7 pm
- April 25: A rally sponsored by Queens Borough President Donovan Richards and Congresswoman Grace Meng, Queens
- May 2: #8by8 #StopAsianHate rally, Palo Alto
- May 15: APAPA Nationwide “Unity against Hate” rally, San Francisco

To learn more, visit [theyellowwhistle.org](http://theyellowwhistle.org).

#### **About the New-York Historical Society**

New York City's oldest museum, the New-York Historical Society Museum & Library was founded in 1804. The Museum presents groundbreaking history and art exhibitions as well as public programs that convey the stories of New York and the nation's diverse populations to the broadest possible public. The Patricia D. Klingenstein Library—one of the most distinguished in the nation—fosters research through its outstanding collections, which include more than 10 million items. The New-York Historical Society is located at 170 Central Park West at Richard Gilder Way (77th Street), New York, NY 10024. Information: (212) 873-3400. Website: [nyhistory.org](http://nyhistory.org). Follow the museum on social media at @nyhistory on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), and [Tumblr](#).

#### **About APAPA (Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs)**

As a grassroots, community-based, non-profit, non-political, non-partisan organization, APAPA focuses on increasing API civic participation at the local, state, and national level through voter registration and education, civic leadership programs including internships and scholarships for high school and college students, fellowship and mentorship for adults leading to appointive, judicial, and elective offices. APAPA's national headquarters are located at 4000 Truxel Road, Suite 3, Sacramento, CA 95834. Information: (916) 928-9988. Website: <https://www.apapa.org>.

#### **About Queens College, CUNY**

Queens College enjoys a national reputation for its liberal arts and sciences and preprofessional programs. With its extensive range of graduate and undergraduate degrees, honors programs, research opportunities, and internship placements, the college serves more than 20,000 students, mentored by an award-winning faculty. Located on a beautiful 80-acre campus, the college has been cited for 28 consecutive years in the Princeton Review as a "Best Value" college. Queens College is located at Address: 65-30 Kissena Blvd, Flushing, NY 11367. Information: (718) 997-5000. Website: <https://www.qc.cuny.edu>.

#### **Press Contacts**

For inquiries regarding The Yellow Whistle™ campaign, please contact [theyellowwhistle@gmail.com](mailto:theyellowwhistle@gmail.com). For inquiries regarding the New-York Historical Society's exhibition *Dreaming Together*, please contact [marybeth.ihle@nyhistory.org](mailto:marybeth.ihle@nyhistory.org).