



Commission on Human Rights

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CONTACT: Alicia McCauley, amccauley@cchr.nyc.gov, 646-385-5364

**NYC COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND PUBLIC ARTIST IN RESIDENCE
AMANDA PHINGBODHIPAKKIYA ANNOUNCE NEXT INSTALLMENT OF PUBLIC
AWARENESS CAMPAIGN AND ART SERIES “I STILL BELIEVE IN OUR CITY” IN
PARTNERSHIP WITH THE NYC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION’S ART
PROGRAM AND THE NYC DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

This installation of the series will be displayed on the NYC Department of Transportation’s Art Display Cases in the Financial District with works in Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Tagalog and Vietnamese; Installation runs from April 6, 2021 – October 5, 2021

NEW YORK – Today, the NYC Commission on Human Rights announces the next installation of the public awareness campaign and art series, “[I Still Believe in Our City](#),” presented with the Commission’s Public Artist in Residence (PAIR) Amanda Phingbodhipakkiya. This installment of the series is presented in partnership with the NYC Department of Transportation’s Temporary Art Program (DOT Art) and features [Phingbodhipakkiya’s](#) vibrant works celebrating Asian, Asian American, and Pacific Islander (AAPI) New Yorkers. The public artwork will be installed in 10 DOT Art Display Case structures on Water Street between Maiden Lane and Pine Street, and on Gouverneur Lane between Front Street and Water Street in the Financial District of Manhattan.

The colorful posters feature text in Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Tagalog and Vietnamese, highlighting the unique impact of COVID-19-related bias, discrimination, and harassment faced by AAPI New Yorkers, business owners, essential workers, and healthcare professionals. The works showcase the beauty and strength of New York’s AAPI communities amidst a rise in violent attacks against AAPI communities nationwide.

The NYC Commission on Human Rights has tracked over 205 incidents of anti-Asian discrimination in 2020, a seven-fold increase over 2019. “I Still Believe In Our City” is a public art campaign affirming that AAPI New Yorkers belong in New York City, celebrating AAPI frontline workers, and showing solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement.

“‘I Still Believe In Our City,’ is more than just a phrase, it is how I choose to uplift and celebrate the AAPI communities of NYC,” **said Public Artist in Residence Amanda Phingbodhipakkiya.** “The increasing acts of hate, of violence, harassment and discrimination against Asian communities make the world feel dim and hopeless. I believe that we as a city, and as a nation, are better than our ugliest moments. I believe that our communities are strong, resilient, and integral to the city’s recovery. This installation, in Korean, Japanese, Mandarin,

Tagalog, and Vietnamese, is for my sisters and brothers who every day demand that the world acknowledge that we belong here.”



“This installation of the art series created with Commission Public Artist in Residence Amanda Phingbodhipakkiya is an extension of the Commission’s public awareness campaign celebrating New York City’s AAPI communities,” said **Chair and Commissioner of the New York City Commission on Human Rights Carmelyn P. Malalis**. “Through this unprecedented crisis of anti-Asian bias, discrimination, and harassment, these artworks line a Financial District sidewalk offering hope, perseverance, and resistance as New Yorkers have stood together in community against hate. The multi-lingual messages of resilience and determination, displayed in partnership with the Department of Transportation’s Temporary Art Program, are a reminder that we still believe in New York City, and we are not willing to give up on her, now or ever.”

Launched in 2015, the NYC [Public Artist in Residence](#) (PAIR) is a program of the Department of Cultural Affairs (DCLA). Since its inception, PAIR has embedded 21 artists in various municipal agencies, each invited to engage the city with their unique art practice to address current civic challenges. In partnership with DCLA, the Commission has hosted three artists in residence, including Amanda Phingbodhipakkiya, Andre Wagner, and Tatyana Fazlalizadeh. Current and former Commission artists have used their platforms to address sexual harassment, anti-Black racism, anti-Asian racism, and to call for solidarity and unity across communities.

NYC Department of Transportation’s [Temporary Art Program \(DOT Art\)](#) has installed over 350 temporary public artworks on NYC DOT property throughout New York City in partnership with a diverse body of professional artists, galleries, business improvement districts and nonprofit organizations. City sidewalks, fences, triangles, medians, bridges, jersey barriers, step streets, pedestrian plazas and other unique project sites serve as canvases and foundations for temporary art and cultural programming.

“NYC Department of Transportation is proud to partner with the NYC Commission on Human Rights on this important and timely art project in support of New York City’s Asian communities. Amanda Phingbodhipakkiya’s work showcases the significance of New Yorkers standing together in solidarity against hate and discrimination,” **said Jennifer Sta. Ines, NYC DOT’s Manhattan Deputy Borough Commissioner.** “Water Street, where the exhibition is located, is a major corridor connecting Lower Manhattan to New York City’s historic Chinatown, and this highly visible location will allow the important message of resiliency to be seen by New Yorkers and visitors alike.”

The works will be installed on April 6, 2021 and will run through October 5, 2021. [Past installations can be viewed here.](#)

The New York City Human Rights Law prohibits discrimination and harassment based on race, gender, national origin, immigration status, age, and over 25 other protected classes in housing, employment, and public accommodations. If you have witnessed or experienced discrimination, call the NYC Commission on Human Rights by dialing (212) 416-0197, or visit the Commission’s website at NYC.gov/ReportDiscrimination.

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