

A DYCD HEROES PROJECT COMIC

HEROES

AGAINST HATE



THE
COMIC
BOOK
PROJECT

NYC

Department of
Youth & Community
Development

STORY BY NYC YOUTH
ART BY MICHAEL O'SHEA
COLORS BY JOSE EXPÓSITO
LETTERS BY WES LOCHER

A DYCD HEROES PROJECT COMIC

The NYC Department of Youth and Community Development's literacy-focused comic book initiative challenges youth across the city to develop stories about heroes—real or imagined—in their own communities. More than 600 young New Yorkers from DYCD-funded programs participated in the project during the school year, and to continue engaging youth and families during the COVID-19 crisis, DYCD and our partners in the Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes brought the Heroes Project online. As New York City faced the challenges of ensuring that fear about COVID-19 did not manifest as an excuse for harassment and discrimination, the DYCD Heroes Project challenged NYC youth to work together to create the original comic book *Heroes Against Hate*.

The City of New York launched the Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes (OPHC) in September 2019. As part of the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, the OPHC takes a holistic approach through education, community relations, and law enforcement to prevent hate crimes and the biases that fuel them. The office coordinates city efforts to prevent and respond to hate crimes through an interagency committee of 17 city agencies and the five District Attorneys' offices, and works closely with community-based organizations that serve the populations most vulnerable to hate crimes. For information and resources visit: nyc.gov/stophate

THE AUTHORS

Through the DYCD at Home platform, youth from all five boroughs worked with professional artists in a virtual comic book club over the course of several weeks to create this story. The young people listed below submitted their original ideas and character designs, provided feedback on their peers' work, and collaborated to develop their plot into the final comic.

Jasmin Reel, Queens (Characters: Mr. No Mask and Nurse Healthy)

Angela Teng, Brooklyn (Character: Peter)

Evan Schamper, Brooklyn (Character: Pandoe)

Mary Richardson, Brooklyn (Characters: Narumi Fukuda and Jordan Chienen)

Che-Ann Gaskin, Brooklyn (Characters: Peanut Butter and Jelly)

Jade Jacob, Brooklyn (Character: Kiara)

Bocong Kuang, Brooklyn

Dulce Monroy, Staten Island

Lizbetd Corrales Aca, Brooklyn

Sana Qaiser, Bronx

This year's comic book was developed with support from:

The Comic Book Project • www.comicbookproject.org

Michael O'Shea • www.mikeosheaart.com



YOU ALL ARE
DOOMED
WITHOUT THESE
MASKS!



**MR.
NO MASK**
IS IN CHARGE
OF THIS CITY
NOW.

A superhero nurse with brown hair tied back, wearing a teal medical uniform with a red cross on the chest, a white surgical mask, and a red cape. She is flying through a blue sky with white clouds, holding a stethoscope. Her cape is billowing behind her.

HAVE YOU
FOUND THE
SOLUTION?

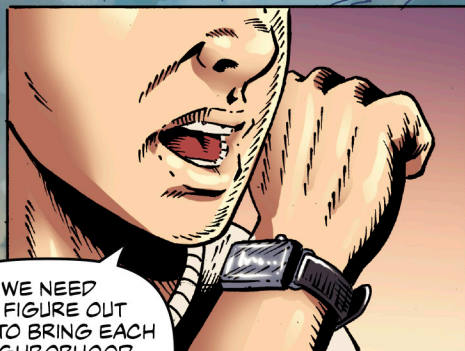
WE NEED
TO DEFEAT
MR. NO MASK
TO STOP THIS
PANDEMIC.

ALMOST
READY, JUST
A BIT MORE
WORK TO
DO.

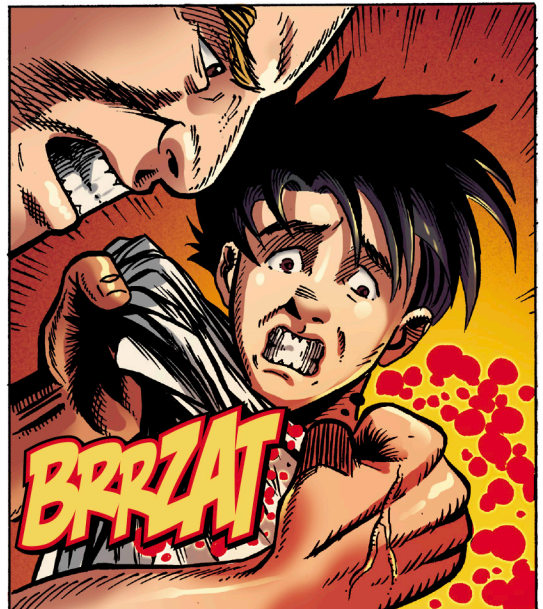
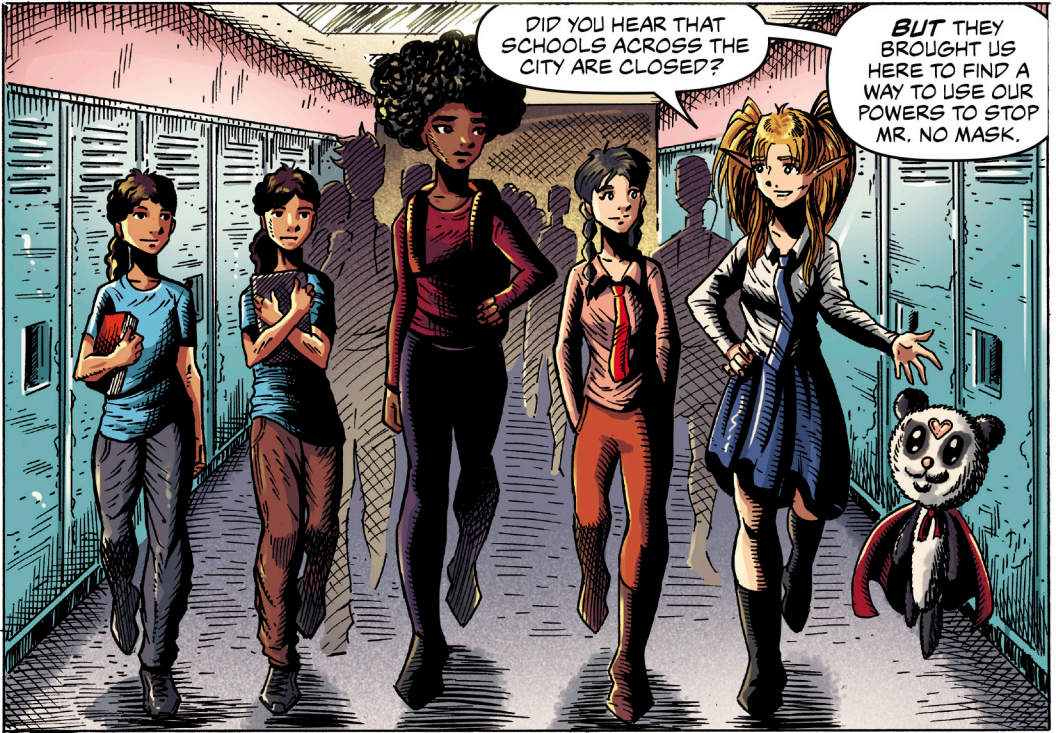
PEOPLE
SEEM TO BE BULLYING
EACH OTHER BECAUSE
THEY ARE AFRAID OF OUR
DIFFERENCES.

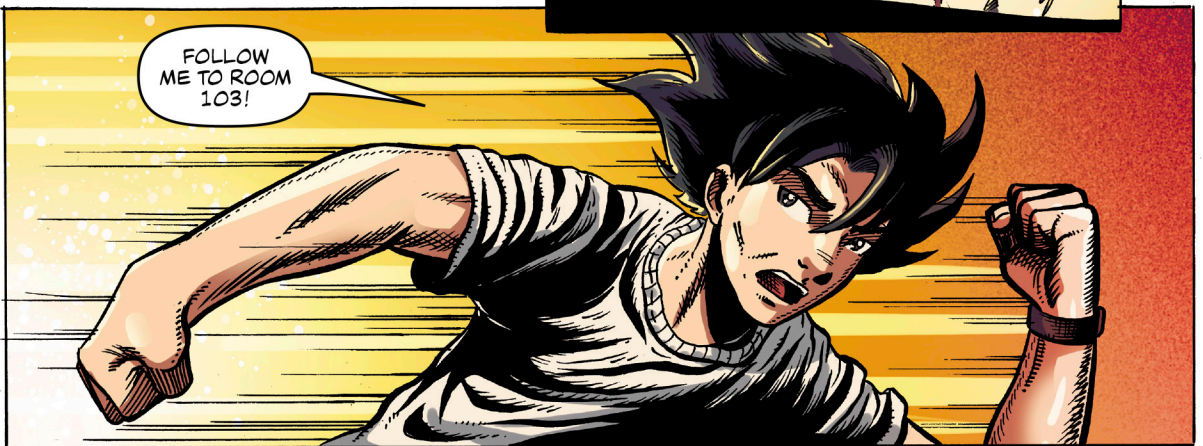
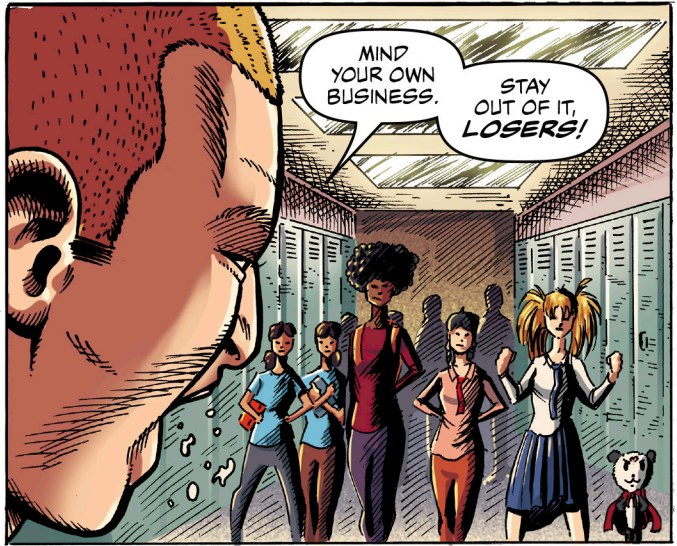


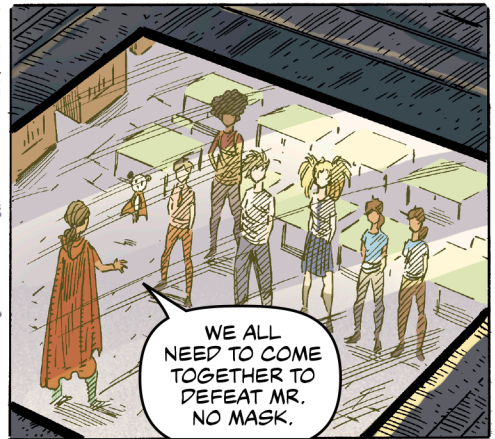
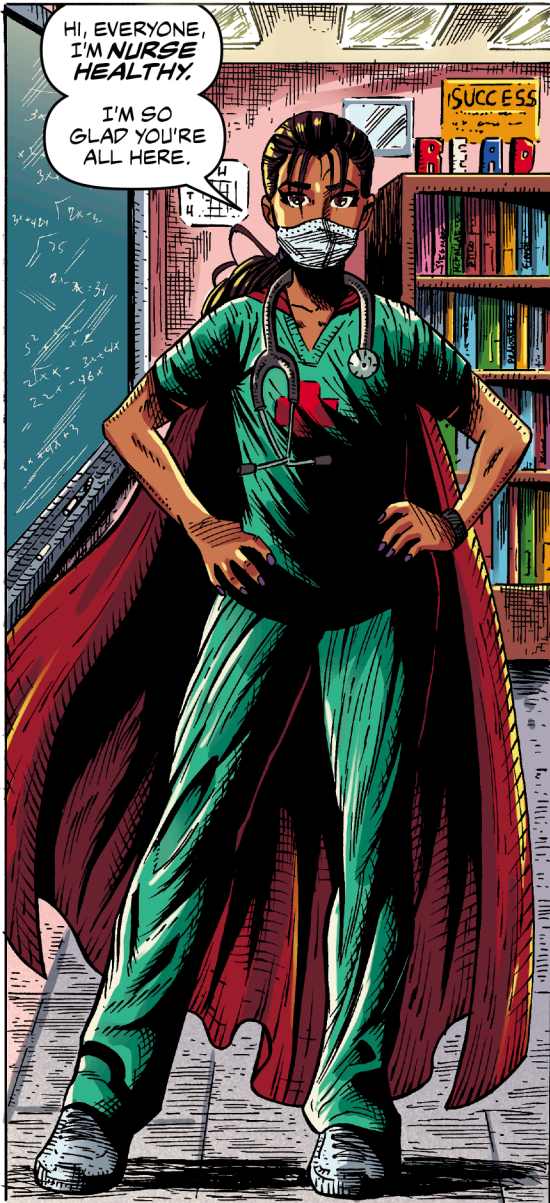
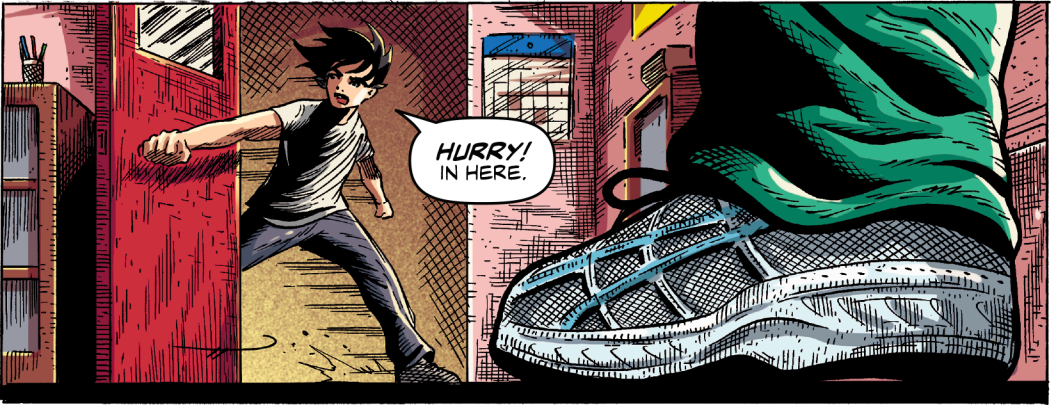
WE NEED
TO FIGURE OUT
HOW TO BRING EACH
NEIGHBORHOOD
ACROSS THE CITY
TOGETHER
INSTEAD.

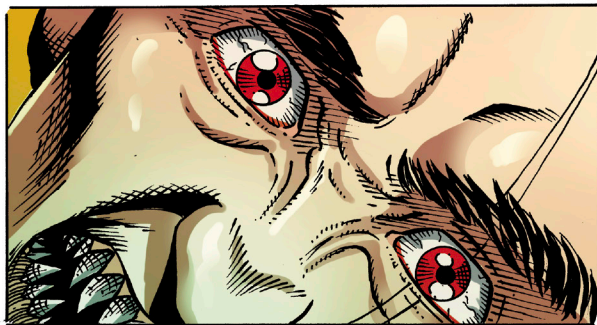
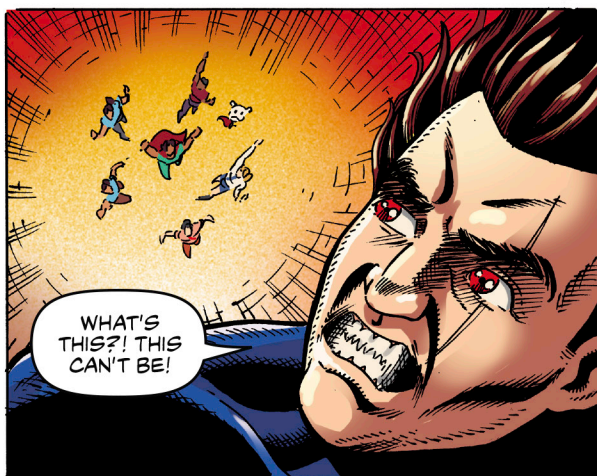


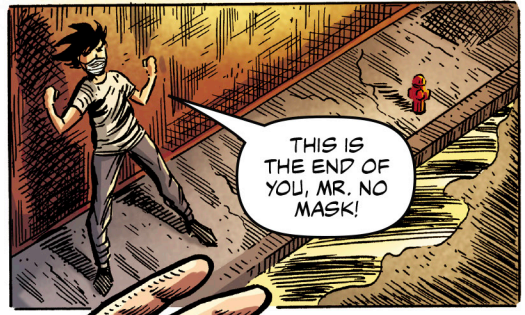
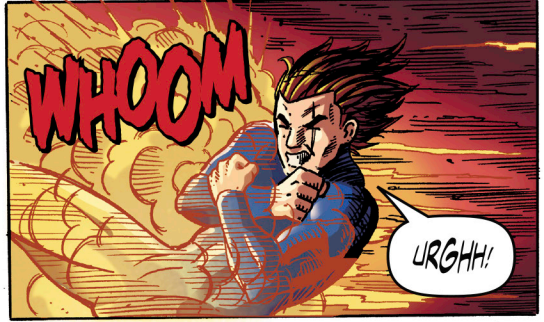
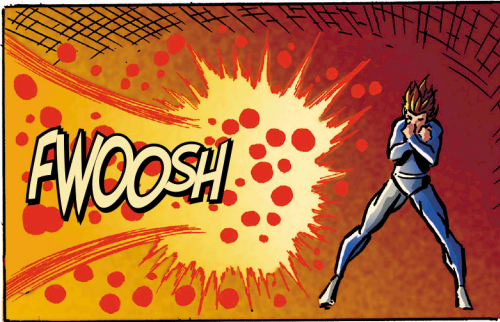
WE'RE
COUNTING ON
YOU, PETER.

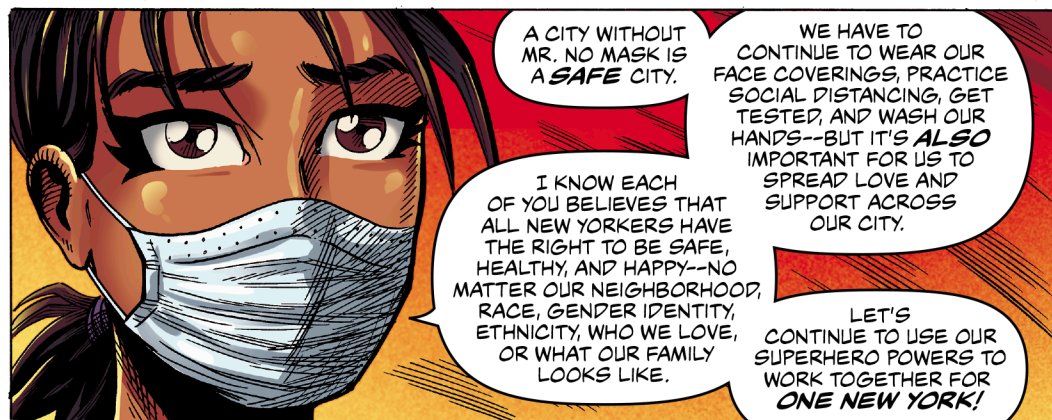
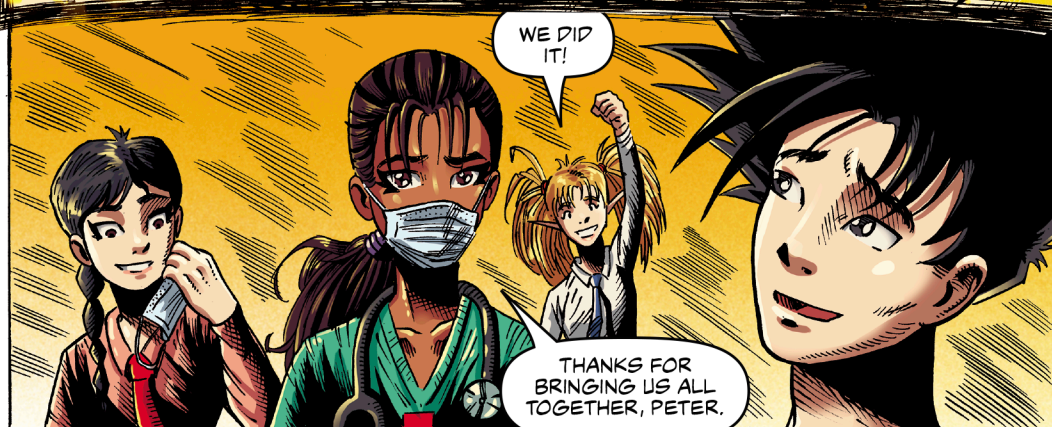




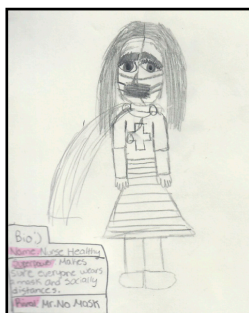




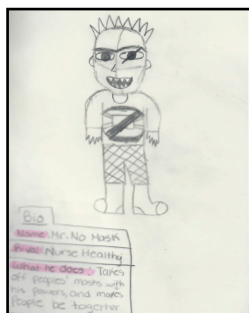




CHECK OUT THESE ORIGINAL CHARACTER DESIGNS BY THE NYC YOUTH WHO WROTE THIS COMIC!



Nurse Healthy
South Asian New Yorker from Queens
Superpower: Social distancing
Designed by: Jasmin Reel



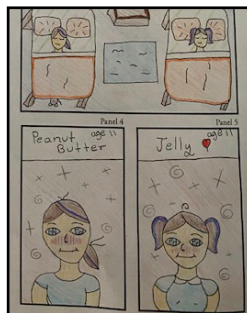
Mr. No Mask
Villain from Outer Space
Superpower: Stealing masks
Designed by: Jasmin Reel



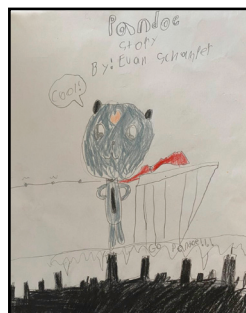
Kiara
Black New Yorker from Brooklyn
Superpower: Stopping xenophobia
Designed by: Jade Jacob



Peanut Butter and Jelly
Latinx New Yorkers from Brooklyn
Superpower: Magic rainbows
Designed by: Che-Ann Gaskin



Jordan Chien and Narumi Fukada
Japanese New Yorkers from Brooklyn
Superpower: Superhuman hearing and preventing gossip
Designed by: Mary Richardson



Pandoe
Panda Bear from the Bronx Zoo
Superpower: Flying
Designed by: Evan Schamper

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FOR MORE INFORMATION ON
DYCD AND OUR SERVICES:

1-800-246-4646

@NYCYOUTH

WWW.NYC.GOV/DYCD

