

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](http://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](http://www.comicbookproject.org)  
Michael O'Shea • [www.mikeosheaart.com](http://www.mikeosheaart.com)



YOU ALL ARE  
**DOOMED**  
WITHOUT THESE  
MASKS!



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

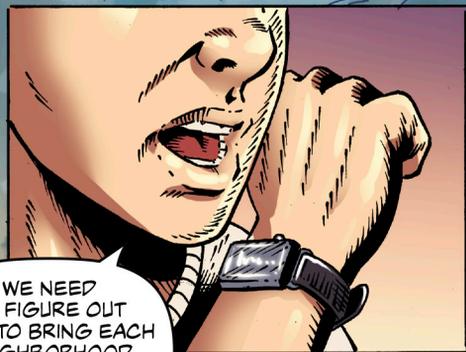


HAVE YOU FOUND THE SOLUTION?

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

ALMOST READY, JUST A BIT MORE WORK TO DO.

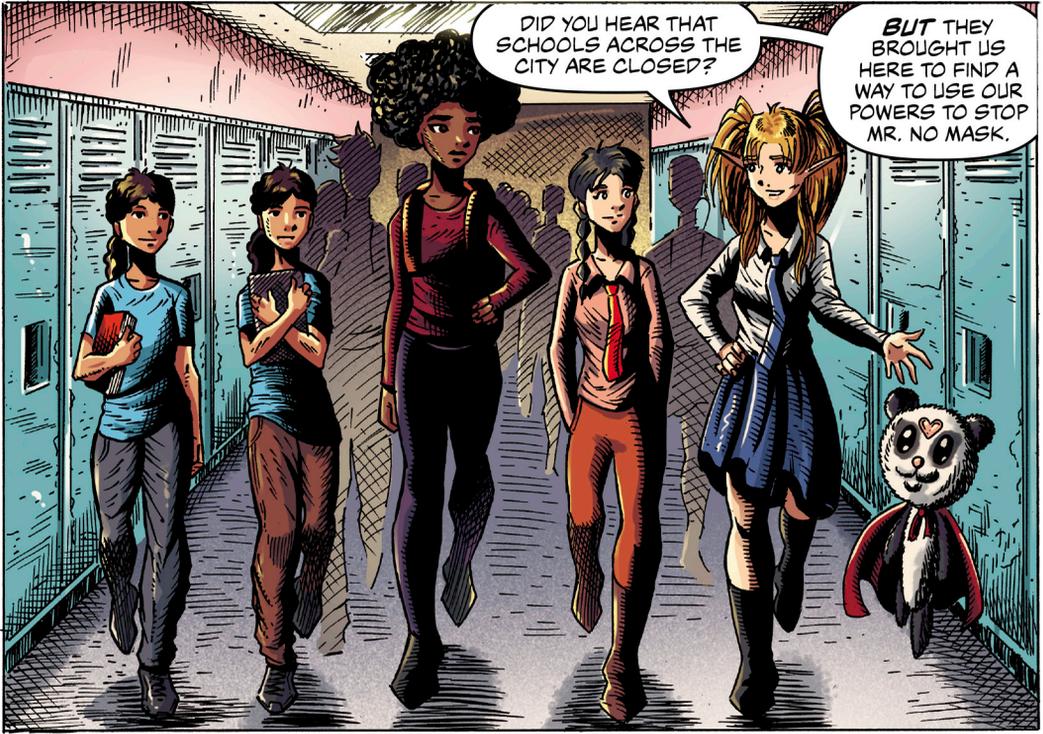
PEOPLE SEEM TO BE BULLYING EACH OTHER BECAUSE THEY ARE AFRAID OF OUR DIFFERENCES.



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



WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU, PETER.



DID YOU HEAR THAT SCHOOLS ACROSS THE CITY ARE CLOSED?

*BUT* THEY BROUGHT US HERE TO FIND A WAY TO USE OUR POWERS TO STOP MR. NO MASK.

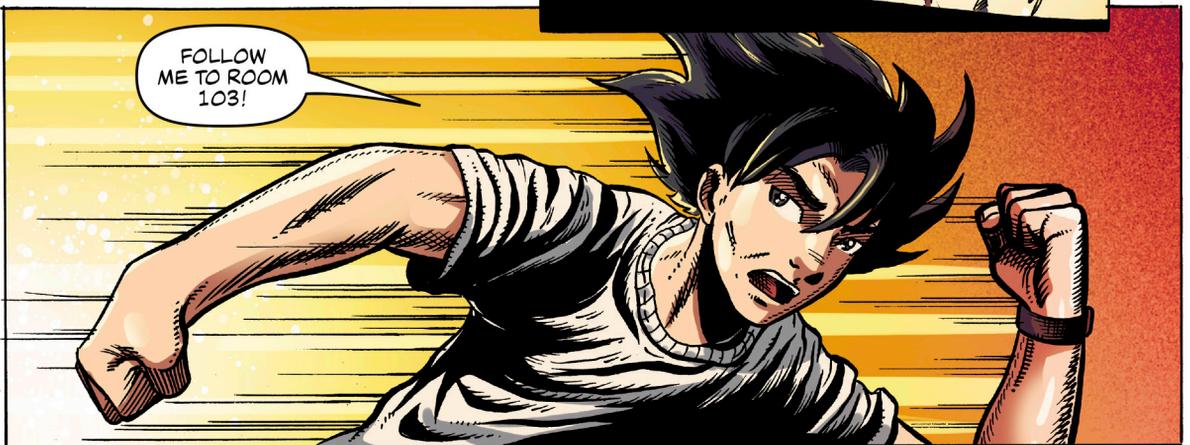
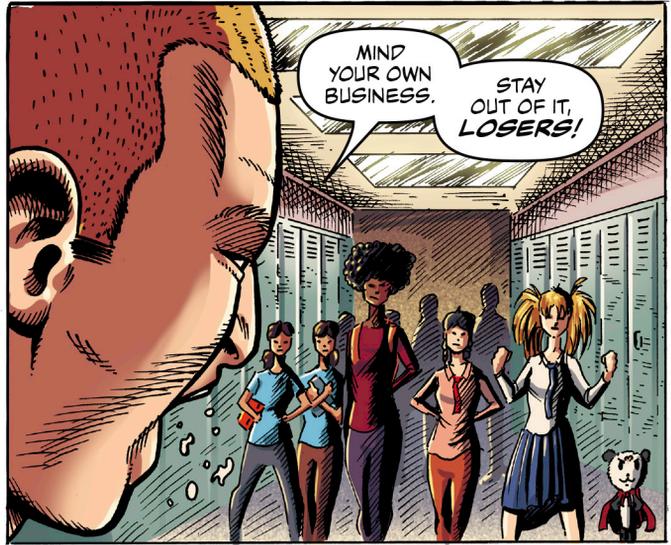


IS THAT PETER? WHAT'S GOING ON?

WHY ARE YOU EVEN HERE? SUPERHEROES FROM YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD CAN'T SOLVE THIS PROBLEM.



**BRZAT**

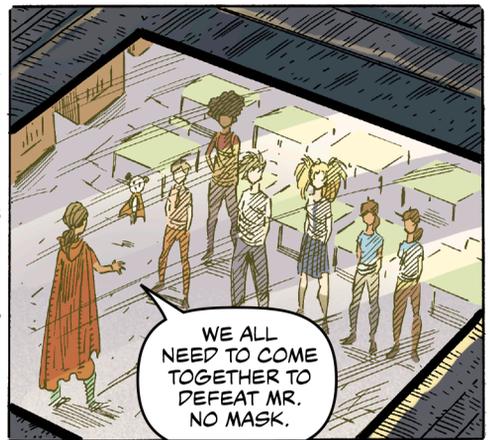




HURRY!  
IN HERE.



HI, EVERYONE,  
I'M NURSE  
HEALTHY.  
I'M SO  
GLAD YOU'RE  
ALL HERE.



WE ALL  
NEED TO COME  
TOGETHER TO  
DEFEAT MR.  
NO MASK.



PETER HAS COME  
UP WITH A SOLUTION  
I THINK WILL  
WORK.



GET YOUR FACE  
COVERINGS. I'LL  
BRIEF YOU ON THE  
WAY THERE.



WE CAN'T LET THE FEAR OF THIS PANDEMIC TURN INTO HATE AND DISCRIMINATION IN OUR CITY.

WE HAVE TO BRING EACH OF OUR **UNIQUE** POWERS FROM EACH OF OUR **UNIQUE** NEIGHBORHOODS **TOGETHER!**

WE COME FROM DIVERSE COMMUNITIES IN ALL FIVE BOROUGHS, BUT OUR DIFFERENCES ARE OUR POWERS.

LET'S SHOW EVERYONE THE POWER OF COMING TOGETHER TO STOP THIS PANDEMIC!



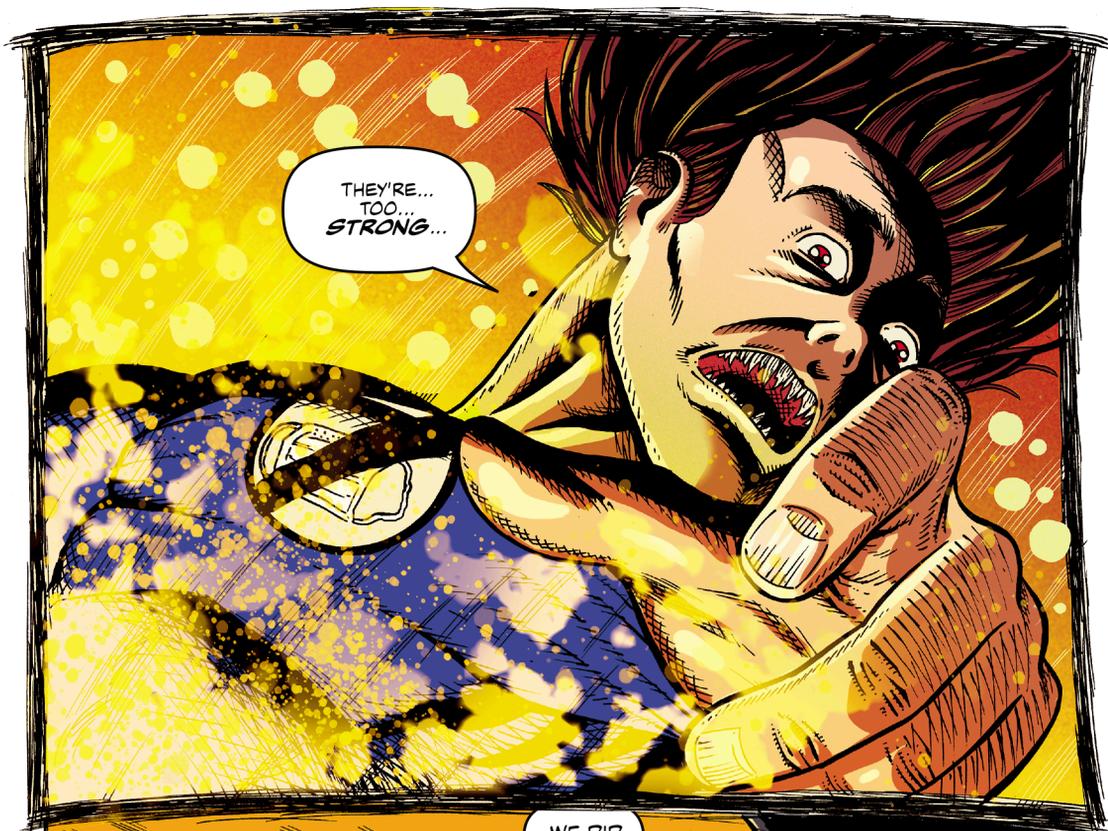
**BROOKLYN, QUEENS, MANHATTAN, STATEN ISLAND, THE BRONX...**  
I HAVE ALL THE MASKS!



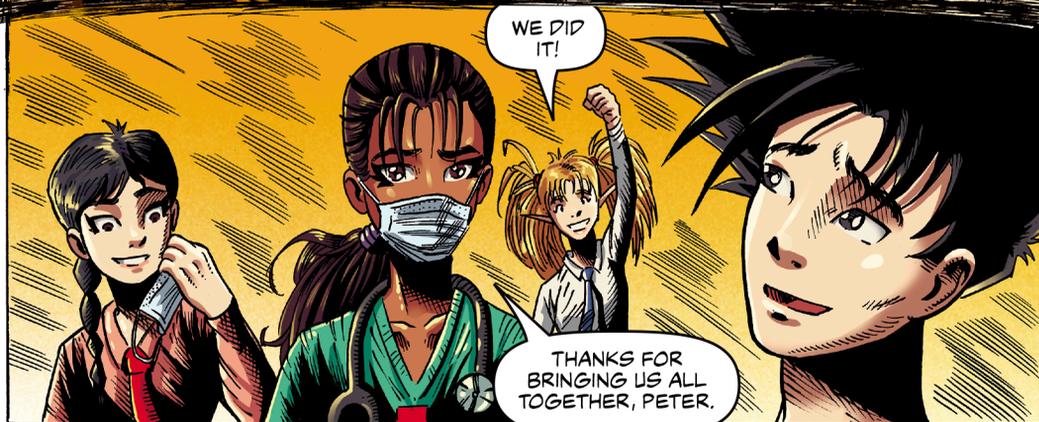
WHAT'S THIS?! THIS CAN'T BE!





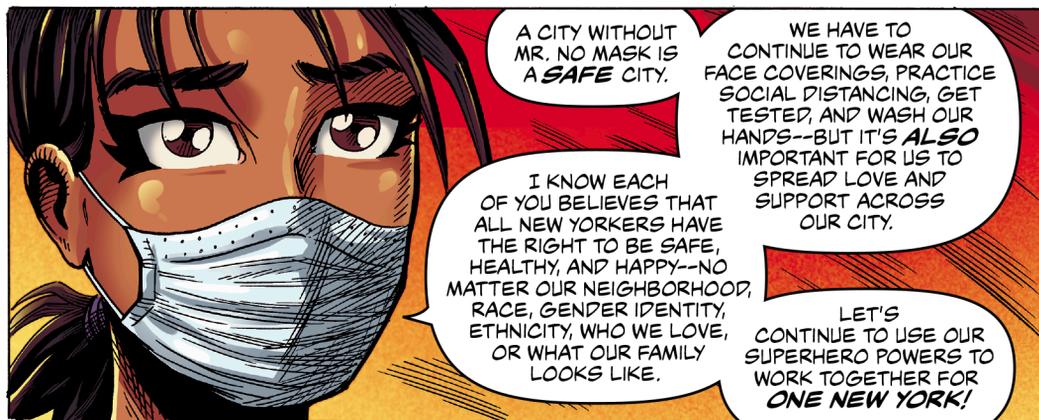


THEY'RE...  
TOO...  
**STRONG...**



WE DID  
IT!

THANKS FOR  
BRINGING US ALL  
TOGETHER, PETER.



A CITY WITHOUT  
MR. NO MASK IS  
A **SAFE** CITY.

I KNOW EACH  
OF YOU BELIEVES THAT  
ALL NEW YORKERS HAVE  
THE RIGHT TO BE SAFE,  
HEALTHY, AND HAPPY--NO  
MATTER OUR NEIGHBORHOOD,  
RACE, GENDER IDENTITY,  
ETHNICITY, WHO WE LOVE,  
OR WHAT OUR FAMILY  
LOOKS LIKE.

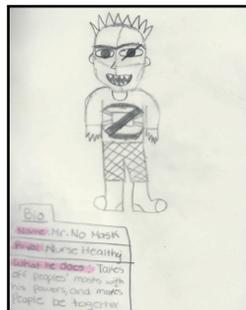
WE HAVE TO  
CONTINUE TO WEAR OUR  
FACE COVERINGS, PRACTICE  
SOCIAL DISTANCING, GET  
TESTED, AND WASH OUR  
HANDS--BUT IT'S **ALSO**  
IMPORTANT FOR US TO  
SPREAD LOVE AND  
SUPPORT ACROSS  
OUR CITY.

LET'S  
CONTINUE TO USE OUR  
SUPERHERO POWERS TO  
WORK TOGETHER FOR  
**ONE NEW YORK!**

# 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



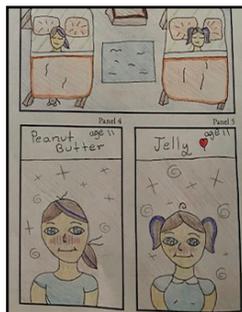
**Mr. No Mask**  
Villain from Outer Space  
Superpower: Stealing masks  
Designed by: Jasmin Reel



**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



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

# NYC™

Department of  
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FOR MORE INFORMATION ON  
DYCD AND OUR SERVICES:

1-800-246-4646

@NYCYOUTH

[WWW.NYC.GOV/DYCD](http://WWW.NYC.GOV/DYCD)

