

Speaker 1: [00:01](#) Welcome to "Prep Talk," the emergency management podcast. Find out what you need to know about preparedness, get all the latest tips from experts in the field and learn what to do before the next disaster strikes. From the Emergency Management Department in the city that never sleeps. Here are your hosts, Omar Bourne and Allison Pennisi.

Omar Bourne: [00:26](#) Hello everyone. Thank you for listening. I'm Omar Bourne.

C. Farrell: [00:29](#) And I'm Christina Farrell.

Omar Bourne: [00:31](#) And you are our listeners and we thank you for joining us. We want you to come back as often as you can, so feel free to add Prep Talk to your favorite RSS feed. You can also follow us on social media, on our Twitter @nycemergencymgt, our Facebook or Instagram.

C. Farrell: [00:50](#) On this episode of "Prep Talk" we are discussing immigrant awareness. This week is Immigrant Heritage Week here in New York City. Each year New Yorkers hold a week long celebration of our diversity and immigrant heritage. We are going to talk to New York State Assembly Member Yuh-Line Niou, and Pedro Garcia, manager for staff development and training and English as a second language at the Tenement Museum, which focuses on America's urban immigrant heritage.

Omar Bourne: [01:16](#) That's right, Christina, but before we dive in, it is time to give our listeners the latest hot topics in the emergency management field.

Speaker 4: [01:25](#) Here's your Prep Talk situation report.

C. Farrell: [01:30](#) This is the situation report. Let's get started.

Omar Bourne: [01:33](#) Our first story comes from New York City and the de Blasio administration. Mayor de Blasio declared a public health emergency in select areas in Williamsburg, Brooklyn following a measles outbreak effecting the orthodox Jewish community. As part of the declaration, unvaccinated individuals will be required to receive the measles, mumps, rubella vaccine. Now, under the mandatory vaccinations, members of the city's health department will check the vaccination records of any individual who may have been in contact with infected patients. Those who have not received the MMR vaccine, or do not have evidence of immunity, maybe given a violation and could be fined \$1,000. Now, the majority of cases in New York City are children under the age of 18 most of who were unvaccinated or

incompletely vaccinated. To date, 285 cases have been confirmed in New York City since the beginning of the outbreak back in October of 2018 with many of these new cases confirmed in the last two months.

- Omar Bourne: [02:46](#) This in comparison to 465 individual cases in 19 states across the US. Now, this is the second largest number of cases recorded in the US since measles was eliminated in 2000. Measles, as we know, is a highly contagious disease and can cause severe complications such as pneumonia, swelling of the brain, and death. Measles is easily preventable with the MMR vaccine. And Christina, as you know, we had Dr. D from the city's health department on a few episodes ago to talk about the measles, and he's also been at the forefront of working with the health department on the outbreak here in the city. So, I encourage our listeners go take a listen to that episode, lots of great information in there for you.
- C. Farrell: [03:39](#) Definitely, and also for up-to-date information on this outbreak, where a vaccination may be available, and other information you can visit nyc.gov or call 311 and people from the Health Department can give you all the information whether you happen to be in Williamsburg or anywhere across the city. We want to make sure that everybody has accurate and truthful information, and they're ready to learn more about the vaccine if they need to to keep their family safe.
- Omar Bourne: [04:08](#) That's correct.
- C. Farrell: [04:09](#) The next item comes from New York State. A State audit finds that the Education Department in the State, and some school districts, failed to file and update emergency plans as required under a law designed to make schools safer from mass shootings. The State Comptroller, Thomas DiNapoli says the audit found many schools visited by his team couldn't show that they had adopted annual safety plans, or shared them with local law enforcement.
- C. Farrell: [04:34](#) The State Education Department has replied and said it is improving its practices, according to a letter is sent to auditors. The Department also says certain criticisms go beyond its obligation under this law and would require additional resources for the department to provide oversight over schools in this regard. The State Education Department recently received a five-year school emergency management grant from the US Department of Education that will be used in part to hire a full time person to improve emergency response planning according to the State Controller.

C. Farrell: [05:06](#) And, I will say in New York City, we have many, many schools. We work very closely with the Department of Education, with our liaison and his team, and we send many of our staff out including our superhero Ready Girl-

Omar Bourne: [05:19](#) There you go.

C. Farrell: [05:19](#) ... to talk about all kinds of emergencies including mass shootings, which is obviously of the utmost importance when you're talking about keeping schools safe.

Omar Bourne: [05:26](#) That is right, Christina. Thank you very much for that story. Our last story is going to come from Accuweather, and after an active Atlantic hurricane season in 2018, Accuweather forecasters are predicting 2019 to result in a near to slightly above normal season with 12 to 14 storms. Now, of those storms, five to seven are forecast to become hurricanes and two to four are forecast to become major hurricanes. Check this out or Accuweather to help predict the upcoming season. Their forecasters have drawn comparisons to previous years with comparable weather conditions, also known as analog years. Now, the Atlantic hurricane season officially begins June 1st, and we're going to look forward to preparing for the season here in New York City and across the Atlantic.

C. Farrell: [06:25](#) Definitely. We will definitely have podcasts coming up talking about hurricanes and coastal storms so people can look forward to listening to those.

C. Farrell: [06:32](#) And, that is the situation report. Before we jump into today's show, here's a public service announcement from New York City Emergency Management and the Ad Council.

Speaker 5: [06:42](#) When is the best time to talk to your family about staying in touch during a disaster. When hurricane winds or gusting? When flood waters reached your door? Or, a blizzard blocks all the roads? Or, is the best time perhaps today? During a disaster, you may not be able to stay in touch with your family or friends as easily as you think. Make your emergency plan today. Go to nyc.gov/readyny, or call 311. Don't wait, communicate. Brought to you by New York City Emergency Management and the Ad Council.

Speaker 4: [07:14](#) You're listening to "Prep Talk," the emergency management podcast.

- Omar Bourne: [07:20](#) You are listening to "Prep Talk" and we are back. I want to introduce in New York State Assembly Member, Yuh-Line Niou, and Pedro Garcia from the Tenement Museum. I thank you both for joining the show.
- C. Farrell: [07:33](#) Assembly Member, let us begin with you. What district do you represent and how did you get into politics?
- Yuh-Line Niou: [07:38](#) So, I represent the 65th district and that of course includes Chinatown, the Lower East Side, South Street Seaport, Battery Park City, and the Financial District. What got me into politics is actually quite a long story, but I've actually started working on the state level since I was an intern in college. And so, I worked in the Washington State Legislature actually as an intern in Olympia, Washington. And, I really wanted to see how government worked because growing up as a immigrant, I saw a lot of different things that affected my own family, affected other immigrant families, and a lot of times we saw a lot of things that were unjust or unfair, or sometimes just purely based off of language access that were completely neglected.
- Yuh-Line Niou: [08:34](#) And so, when my parents went through some things, I just felt so frustrated and those little frustrations, or those microaggressions, they just start to build over time. And, I felt like I need to know how government works in order to go run amok and change it. I really wanted to go and see what it was that made it tick. Because I felt like government is always this thing that a lot of people don't realize that they can actually access. And so, for me anyway, I really wanted to make sure that I was able to actually clearly see it from a bird's eye view. So, I took an internship with the Washington State Legislature, and I really got to see that accessing government, there is no big secret. There's literally no big secret. It's going and just knocking on a door and asking to be heard.
- Yuh-Line Niou: [09:25](#) And, I think that that was one of the biggest things that I needed to let everybody else know. My community is one that isn't very represented in our state government. Obviously, I'm the only Asian-American woman in the entire New York State Legislature. And, being an immigrant really does shape my view. And, I think that a lot of times those are the things that drive us to go and make sure that everybody has a voice. And so, the reason why I'm here is obviously because I want to make sure that my community, all of my community, has a voice.
- Omar Bourne: [09:58](#) And, we appreciate your voice and what you're doing in your community. Pedro, I want to get to you. Thank you for being on the show now. Now, can you share a little about your role as

manager for staff development and training and for English as a second language at the Tenement Museum? What does that entail?

- Pedro Garcia: [10:18](#) Thank you for having me. At the Tenement Museum, I have several duties. Training the staff to lead tours and the programs that we offer to the public. And, we have a large number of programs at the Tenement Museum and the only way to get inside the museum is by a guided tour. My main role is to train, what we call educators, what you might say as tour guides to visit these two tenements that have been in the Lower East Side for 150 years. And, learn about the stories of either immigrants, migrants, or refugees. People, real people, that occupied those tenements, that lived in those tenements a long time ago and up to actually recently. We interpret the stories because we feel like we want to tell this uniquely American story, the story of many of these people that were here as newcomers.
- Omar Bourne: [11:04](#) Right. It sounds like that's a fascinating story to tell.
- Pedro Garcia: [11:08](#) It's fascinating. It is. This morning we had groups that came in that were newly arrived immigrants. My one big role that I have is to manage the ESL program at the museum called Shared Journeys. And through Shared Journeys, ESL classes all around the city get to come to the museum for free and take part in the workshops, learn about the stories of the past, and connect to their own stories.
- Omar Bourne: [11:31](#) Amazing. And, we're going to get to that a little later because I want to ask you a little more about the ESL program. English as a second language, for our listeners, and kind of how that impacts immigrants and people who come into the city. So, we're going to get to that.
- Omar Bourne: [11:46](#) Assembly Member, you mentioned you're an immigrant, you were born in Taiwan, you worked in Washington State. Now, how has your experience living in these diverse places shaped your policies? You mentioned a little bit about the language access for immigrants and other services for seniors.
- Yuh-Line Niou: [12:07](#) So I mean, obviously, I lived in a lot of places. I lived in places like Idaho, Texas, Oregon, Washington, and I think that one of the things that might be, you said diverse places, but might be sticking out is that many of these places were not that diverse. And, I think that was what really shaped my experience, and why I feel like it's so important that there is language access, and why I feel like it's so important that there is access to help, especially for folks who are having trouble with language, or

having to make sure that they're acclimated. And, I think that this is something that is very key actually with the shaping of policy. Because we always have to be asking a lot of questions on whether or not all the different layers in policy are actually answered whenever we're making a particular solution to any kind of problem.

- Yuh-Line Niou: [13:04](#) We have a lot of programs like ALE here in New York, right? Adult language literacy, right? So, I think that it's so key to making sure that we actually have these folks coming in and able to actually have access to the Adult Language Education because folks are coming in with knowledge, background of professional development, that the only thing that is a barrier to them is having fluent English.
- Omar Bourne: [13:39](#) That's right.
- Yuh-Line Niou: [13:39](#) And, I think that having those programs really actually helps our economy, helps our community, helps us to become more whole, and those are the things that we need to be doing. We need to make sure that our seniors are taken care of when so many folks, they don't even realize that they have access to so many different programs and it's due to a language barrier. Because nobody told them. And, they didn't understand when somebody was trying to tell them.
- Yuh-Line Niou: [14:01](#) And, I think that that's something that is so key because if they're not even applying for social services or certain things then it makes it so that they're not counted as well. This is also the issue, say for example, with the Census. So, we have to make sure, for example, in 2020 when the Census comes out that we actually have our groups funded enough to be able to give that access, right? Because these are the things that are so key. And, all of that is because I've seen communities completely left out in the times that I've been moving around all over this nation.
- C. Farrell: [14:34](#) Pedro, what does integration mean to you and to your experience?
- Pedro Garcia: [14:43](#) I think that for me it makes my world go round. I was born in Venezuela. And, a lot of my family come from Peru and I came to the United States as a little boy. I've been able to learn a lot about immigration through the museum. We have a partnership with CUNY Citizenship Now. And, CUNY Citizenship Now, for example, sends somebody over to the museum to help people with immigration documents. Shared Journey is a program that helps immigrants of today by understanding the past and help

them connect to their own stories and struggles. So, I feel like it's all around me, in my life, work and personal.

Omar Bourne: [15:18](#)

And, Assembly Member. I know you spoke about language access. Christina, you know this, we recently worked at a six alarm fire, a major fire, in Sunset Park, Brooklyn.

C. Farrell: [15:34](#)

We're still there. Still working.

Omar Bourne: [15:35](#)

We're still there.

Yuh-Line Niou: [15:35](#)

Thank you for your work on that.

Omar Bourne: [15:37](#)

No problem. That's what we're here for. And, one of the issues that came up was language access. And so, we were able to provide resources and translators and Spanish, Fujianese, Mandarin, Polish even. And, it really is a testament to understanding the community and understanding the needs of people and then, not only understanding it, but being able to provide the resources for that. And Pedro, you're doing a really good job with the ESL program at the Tenement Museum. So, speak a little to the people who come through the program. How they are at the beginning, and then as they learn English, the confidence that that might give them.

Pedro Garcia: [16:26](#)

Great. A lot of ESL programs all around the city have a curriculum built, which deals with a lot of issues that you're mentioning. Healthcare, housing, language access, education, jobs. We then decided that our workshops should be tailored around those topics. An existing ESL class can come from Henry Street Settlement, the University Settlement House, one of the CUNY sites, and they're building their skills in English, but they're also having a theme around it. So, when they come to our workshops, one workshop for example, they can learn about how immigrants died at a higher rate because they lived in tenements in the 1860's and 1870's.

Pedro Garcia: [17:03](#)

At the end of the workshop we could have them connect, do you know how to access healthcare? Here's a handout from the Mayor's Office that tells you about public places that you can go to if you ever need help. And, we give that to them at the end of the workshop. You learn something, you connect, but here's more that you could also get help with. And, at the end of every workshop, we give them a handout on what Citizenship Now does as well, which is also through CUNY. And, we're able to make all of those connections to try to help them, to make it

worthwhile to come to the museum, that they're getting a lot of information and walking away with a good experience.

Omar Bourne: [17:39](#)

Wonderful.

C. Farrell: [17:40](#)

Well, and one thing that we really believe in at Emergency Management, and I would say across all City agencies, is meeting people where they are. So, we go out about 900 times a year. I know we've done things with you and your district. We're planning an event at the Tenement Museum and we work to give presentations on emergency preparedness. There are a fair amount of emergencies in your district, Lower Manhattan, Lower East Side, Chinatown. Obviously, there are a lot of conditions being coastal, the population density that come up, and we want people to be prepared. And as people learn English, we've actually done a whole video and curriculum around teaching people, as they learn English, how to become prepared. But, while they're on that process, or while they're learning from their kids who may speak English, we also do a lot of presentations in different languages so people don't miss out if their English isn't fluent yet.

C. Farrell: [18:38](#)

And, one thing that the City has going on is starting July 1st, we will be sending out our Notify NYC messages, right now go out in English, and they do have some language capability, but we don't have a way for people to sign up in a specific language and then get the real time messages in that language. That's going to be happening in July. We're really excited about that. We're definitely going to talk to you and all your colleagues, to our partners in the nonprofit and education field to get ... because these messages will not help anyone if nobody signs up.

Yuh-Line Niou: [19:09](#)

That's right.

C. Farrell: [19:10](#)

And, that can be a challenge like you said, getting information into communities, communities that may also have different experiences with their governments from their native country, may not feel always comfortable coming in. So, we're really excited about what we're doing for Notify, and we feel like this is a big step. And, if both of you would just talk for a minute about emergency notifications, making sure we can get them out in languages. I know, I see your tweets and the interpretation work you've done on your job, but just how that's important and how we can all work on that together.

Yuh-Line Niou: [19:47](#)

I guess I'll just start, if you guys don't mind, but one of the biggest things for me ... first off, I want to thank you guys because there's been so many times that we've worked

together, and yes, our office did provide a lot of the language access. But, I think that it's also the willingness of OEM, being willing to actually work with our office to be able to make that a possibility because there is that access and that trust and that community building that needs to be done. And, for folks that don't know, in Lower Manhattan, we've had to deal with so many big issues. I mean, 9/11 happened to my district, and it's still happening. I mean, this is something that we continue to work on because I mean, the half life of asbestos is literally 16 years and that's now.

Yuh-Line Niou:

[20:29](#)

And so, I think that there's those issues that constantly come up that OEM has actually really helped us in our community on that. And then, of course, Hurricane Sandy, Hurricane Irene, these are all things that hit our district particularly hard. And, OEM doesn't just do these huge catastrophic events but also 85 Bowery. So, when folks were vacated from their apartments, OEM was there to help to step in. And, every single request that I was asking for, it was answered, and having Notify, having the ability to be able to communicate then later on with the folks who are vacated. And, I just think that that was so such a big deal because I think that when it came to different services and different organizations, they weren't communicating the same way.

Yuh-Line Niou:

[21:16](#)

And, other agencies have yet to kind of get to where OEM is on language access. And, I really, really, really hope that they do because it was such a huge difference. Because when folks were vacated, they were worried that they were never going to get to go home. They were worried that they didn't have access to resources. They just came home from work and, all of a sudden, all their stuff had to be on the sidewalk. And that was so crazy, and nobody was explaining to them what was going on except us and OEM. And, I think that that was really crucial that the language access was there. So, I really just wanted to commend you guys for the work that you're doing. And, I also wanted to say that, just how important, I want to emphasize how important it is that we're able to make it so that people have access to our services.

Omar Bourne:

[22:06](#)

Yeah, I mean, language makes the world go around. And, if we can communicate, what better way for us to understand each other. And so, that's why it's important for us as a city to be able to provide these resources so that we can build relationships with our immigrant communities, and then get to understand them a little better. Pedro.

- Pedro Garcia: [22:28](#) Definitely. I have understood how location is very important. We are in an area where there's a lot of people that are underserved and we want them to come to our programs and we want to do programs with them. I was really excited when Kevin approached me about doing this event. This is an opportunity for us to tell the underserved community around us, come and we provide you things that could really help you. So, I hope that this event is not the last event or the only event that we did together. I would like to see more and more events because I felt that there needs to be not connection between the people around us and the museum. The museum tells us stories of people that were not inventors or big war heroes. These were ordinary folks that we talk about. So, it makes a lot of sense for us to then have ordinary folks around the neighborhood with little means to come and visit the museum and learn about these stories.
- Pedro Garcia: [23:20](#) And then, if you guys come and provide them with information, even better. Because when I was dealing with this event and planning it, I wanted more resources too. So, I kept nagging Kevin about, what about a handout on healthcare? What about a handout on housing? Can you give me just a one sheet I could give them at the end of every workshop? And, we do over 150 ESL workshops. So, there's an opportunity there. We average around 2,000 students that come through the museum through just Shared Journeys.
- Omar Bourne: [23:47](#) Wow.
- Pedro Garcia: [23:48](#) That could be ideal for me, that I could give at the end of every workshop because it's so thematically, here's something that you could have that you can use now. Say you have a housing issue, say you have a healthcare issue, say you need a place where to go to, to turn for help when you're in dire needs.
- Omar Bourne: [24:06](#) You mentioned ESL, you mentioned Shared Journeys. What other programs or resources do you have in place at the Tenement Museum for immigrants?
- Pedro Garcia: [24:16](#) Well, the organization CUNY Citizenship Now approached us about seven years ago, and their work has been really about co-holding events, large events to have community members come and get information about filling out the immigration paperwork. What they started to do is pick sites where they can have direct help, where are trained lawyer can be at a site, and confidentially help people one on one because immigration paperwork, you can't just do it in a big forum. People need a little more focus. And, they asked us and they partnered with

us, and for the last six, seven years we've had somebody onsite. We create appointments for them and people from the community come and meet with this person.

Pedro Garcia: [25:01](#) We've had different lawyers, but they all are very helpful. The great thing also is that I always emphasize with them, whenever you send somebody over to meet with the people, please provide them with plenty of language needs. So, we've had lawyers that can do Mandarin and Cantonese and we have lawyers that can do Spanish. Because I know, around on the neighborhood, there are those communities that desperately need that help. So, every Friday there are services at the Tenement Museum. You just have to call and make an appointment.

Omar Bourne: [25:29](#) Wonderful.

C. Farrell: [25:31](#) I think this is one of the things that we find so interesting and so rewarding with Emergency Management is that really there's not one entity in the city that we can't find a way to partner with. Elected officials, obviously, is a no brainer and working, but we got to know you before 85 Bowery and before other things like that have happened. So, when we can send you information, when you can contact us, we already know each other. We know what we can offer and that. And then, likewise, we've worked with a lot of different museums. There's a children's museum on Staten Island. There are some larger Manhattan museums, a little north of you, that we've done events with. But, the education piece and the history piece because so much of history is connected around disasters and people immigrate, right, because of different disasters and things.

C. Farrell: [26:18](#) And, last month we had some people in talking about the private sector and how we can work with them. And, the Lower East Side and in your area in general has such great partnerships probably because there have been so many emergencies and there is such great need that the tenement houses and the different groups, we've really been able to pull that group together. So, we really appreciate the partnerships of both of you and really all our. And, if you have other ideas of people that we haven't mentioned that we could work within your community, invite them in because we always want to find that new way to get to people and to really meet them where they are.

Yuh-Line Niou: [26:55](#) We always have ideas.

- Pedro Garcia: [26:57](#) When I first heard about the name of the department I started to think about, there's a tour that we took about epidemics that happened in the Lower East Side and in general in the country. And, I thought that you guys wanted to talk about that, with the tour that talks about those issues because in thinking about emergency services, like the flu epidemic of 1918, you guys would've been right in it helping people. And, at the same museum, we talk about that through the story of the people that were affected by the flu, people that died in the building because of the flu. So, I was thinking about that first when you guys approached me, but I think that what we're doing next week on the 17th is also a great match as well, and I think we could do more and we can continue to do more definitely.
- C. Farrell: [27:42](#) Well, like you said, this doesn't have to be a one time. We can hold epidemics till the next. Our work is never done.
- Omar Bourne: [27:52](#) One of the things that stood out, Pedro, that you said is that the museum is about ordinary people, and what better way to learn about ordinary people than to have ordinary people come. And that's what emergency management is about. At the end of the day, we're all people and we all have different needs but, we at the same time, have different experiences from our backgrounds. But, what ties us together is that we're people and that common knowledge and common love for people is what ties different races, or what should tie different races together. And so, I've never been to the Tenement Museum, but I definitely want to go and visit just to learn more.
- Omar Bourne: [28:44](#) And, I think that's something that all of our listeners, if you're in New York City, should definitely check out when you're here. And then, if you are an emergency manager in another part of the country, get to know your neighborhood, get to know the people who are living around you, whether or not they're from where you're from, or from a different place. There's so much more that we have in common than we do apart. And, it's great if we can get to know one another.
- Pedro Garcia: [29:18](#) Definitely. You're all invited to come and I could give you guys a tour and show you the exhibitions. And, Kevin got to see the program Shared Journeys. But, I always forget to do this, but Shared Journeys is free because of the museum's work. So, those 2,000 students that I mentioned, the museum takes a lot of efforts to provide those services for free. The lawyer immigration services on Fridays. Those are also for free, which is why I think that what you're saying makes a lot of sense.

Omar Bourne: [29:46](#) Pedro, don't tell us to come because we'll bring the whole agency.

Pedro Garcia: [29:53](#) Let's do it.

Yuh-Line Niou: [29:53](#) Everybody is welcome for dumplings down in Chinatown.

C. Farrell: [29:56](#) Whole cultural tour.

Yuh-Line Niou: [29:57](#) Yes.

Omar Bourne: [29:57](#) There you go.

Yuh-Line Niou: [29:58](#) And, my office is at 64 Fulton, so you guys can always come and stop by.

Pedro Garcia: [30:02](#) It can be a combination tour, tenements and dumplings.

Yuh-Line Niou: [30:04](#) Yes.

C. Farrell: [30:04](#) We love field trips here at Emergency Management. We definitely do.

Speaker 4: [30:09](#) If you don't know, now you know. You're listening to "Prep Talk," the emergency management podcast.

C. Farrell: [30:17](#) It's now rapid response time, and if you're a first time listener, the rules are simple. Omar and I will ask our guests a few questions and they'll give us the first answer that comes to mind. Let's get into it.

Speaker 4: [30:29](#) It's time for "Prep Talk" rapid response.

Omar Bourne: [30:32](#) Okay. Assembly Member. I'm going to start with you for this one. What is the one emergency item that you cannot live without?

Yuh-Line Niou: [30:45](#) Flashlight.

Omar Bourne: [30:46](#) Flashlight. I love it. It's very important. Make sure you have your batteries with you as well.

Yuh-Line Niou: [30:51](#) Got to see.

Omar Bourne: [30:54](#) Pedro, what about you? The one emergency item you cannot live without.

Pedro Garcia: [31:00](#) Peroxide.

Omar Bourne: [31:02](#) Interesting.

C. Farrell: [31:04](#) Everything's got to be clean.

Omar Bourne: [31:05](#) That's the first one. That's the first.

Pedro Garcia: [31:07](#) Germs bother me.

Omar Bourne: [31:08](#) Yeah? High five? There you go. I got a high five.

C. Farrell: [31:15](#) We'll start with Pedro on this. What is your favorite TV show or a movie?

Pedro Garcia: [31:20](#) Right now, I'm into "Titans" on the DC universe app.

C. Farrell: [31:26](#) All right. Going digital.

Yuh-Line Niou: [31:30](#) Can I do both?

Omar Bourne: [31:30](#) Yeah.

Yuh-Line Niou: [31:31](#) My favorite TV show of all time is "The X-Files."

Omar Bourne: [31:34](#) Okay.

Yuh-Line Niou: [31:34](#) And my favorite movie of all time is "The Fifth Element."

C. Farrell: [31:37](#) Sense a little theme there.

Pedro Garcia: [31:39](#) My favorite movie of all time. "A League of Their Own."

Omar Bourne: [31:42](#) Okay. All good. All good movies. Dana Scully.

Yuh-Line Niou: [31:47](#) Yes. Fox Mulder.

Omar Bourne: [31:49](#) Yeah, there you go. Now, so have you watched the new episodes? Because I feel like they brought back "X-Files" maybe a couple years ago.

Yuh-Line Niou: [31:56](#) Totally watched them the minute they came out. I was waiting for years.

Omar Bourne: [32:02](#) I watched "The X-Files" as a kid, and I will admit that I used to get scared a little bit. But, it was cool. I could still sleep at night so that's okay. Let's switch gears a little bit to music. What is

currently on your playlist? Assembly Member, I'm going to start with you.

Yuh-Line Niou: [32:24](#) Sade.

Omar Bourne: [32:26](#) Okay. Sade is good. I'm not going ask you to sing, but if you feel so inclined-

C. Farrell: [32:31](#) Just don't let Omar sing.

Omar Bourne: [32:32](#) ... to do so.

C. Farrell: [32:32](#) That's the one rule, Omar doesn't sing.

Yuh-Line Niou: [32:35](#) If you guys really want to hear me sing, I sometimes I go to Winnie's on East Broadway, just saying, some karaoke nights, my friends.

C. Farrell: [32:42](#) Add it on to our cultural tour.

Yuh-Line Niou: [32:43](#) That's where I used to bartend.

Omar Bourne: [32:45](#) I'm all for karaoke. So, might have to take you up on that. Pedro, what about you? Currently on your playlist.

Pedro Garcia: [32:52](#) Well, I grew up in the Bronx, so hip-hop is all there, all around.

Omar Bourne: [32:58](#) What's your favorite hip hop artist?

Pedro Garcia: [33:01](#) My favorite hip hop artist, I know he's dead for a long time, but Biggie.

Omar Bourne: [33:08](#) You can't go wrong with Biggie.

Yuh-Line Niou: [33:09](#) Yeah. Notorious.

Omar Bourne: [33:11](#) Yeah?

Yuh-Line Niou: [33:13](#) It was all a dream.

Omar Bourne: [33:15](#) I used to ... I'm about to get started.

Yuh-Line Niou: [33:21](#) It's lit up in here.

Omar Bourne: [33:23](#) Christina, any any favorite Biggie memories? Nah, I'm just playing.

Yuh-Line Niou: [33:30](#) Don't pick on Christina.

C. Farrell: [33:31](#) I'm the old lady in the room. All right. We'll get into food. I'm on solid ground with food. We'll start with Pedro. What's your favorite meal?

Pedro Garcia: [33:42](#) I eat a lot.

Omar Bourne: [33:42](#) That's a good thing.

C. Farrell: [33:43](#) Food is good.

Omar Bourne: [33:43](#) I eat a lot as well.

C. Farrell: [33:43](#) I like food.

Yuh-Line Niou: [33:47](#) We are on the Lower East Side, my friend. We have everything to choose from. That's why we eat everything.

Pedro Garcia: [33:52](#) It has spoiled me.

Yuh-Line Niou: [33:53](#) I know.

Pedro Garcia: [33:53](#) It really has spoiled me. When it comes to Chinese food, I can't have it anywhere else.

Yuh-Line Niou: [34:00](#) Right?

Pedro Garcia: [34:02](#) I came to this epiphany a few weeks ago with a friend of mine during lunch. I sat down to eat from our favorite Chinese place down on Grand Street, and then I started to think, I ordered Chinese the other day and it wasn't good. But, when I get in the Lower East Side, it's just great. I've been spoiled. So, I would say, the roast pork fried pig dish. They just get me on Grand Street.

Omar Bourne: [34:32](#) So, for our listeners, we have about eight people in the room maybe, and six out of eight people are shaking their heads, yes. So, seems to be a good dish. How about you, Assembly Member?

Yuh-Line Niou: [34:46](#) I am always for the hot pot man. I love hot pot. You can eat it with all different kinds of ingredients, whatever you feel like doing, it's what you do. Hot pot is the jam. It goes for anybody. If you have dietary restrictions, if you don't have dietary restrictions, you get to make your own. The best.

Omar Bourne: [35:05](#) So, forgive me for asking the question. Yes, I already see. So, Bushra's here for our listeners.

C. Farrell: [35:10](#) You don't know what hot pot is?

Omar Bourne: [35:11](#) I don't know what hot pot is. So, that's why I'm asking.

C. Farrell: [35:15](#) You can't glean from the title?

Yuh-Line Niou: [35:16](#) Oh my gosh.

Omar Bourne: [35:19](#) The entire room is shocked.

Yuh-Line Niou: [35:22](#) Oh man.

C. Farrell: [35:22](#) We don't let Omar out a lot.

Yuh-Line Niou: [35:24](#) We're going to be taking you to the Lower East Side, right Pedro? We're going to be taking Omar to the Lower East Side.

Pedro Garcia: [35:29](#) I think we got to take this serious. This tour of the Lower East Side.

Yuh-Line Niou: [35:31](#) This is serious. This is serious.

Pedro Garcia: [35:31](#) We got to take this serious.

Yuh-Line Niou: [35:32](#) So, hot pot is essentially a quintessential meal, for any night of the week. I mean, you literally just boil soup base and you basically have ingredients of all different types. And that soup base, it originated, Szechuan Hot Pot is probably the most famous, but half of it can be spicy, half of it could be not spicy. And then, you can just dip all of the different ingredients in there and to cook it while you're sitting there, and then eat whatever it is that you decided to make. And, it is awesome. And then, at the end you have this amazing broth that has all of these different ingredients, that boiled in it and the soup is amazing.

Omar Bourne: [36:16](#) Okay. All right.

Yuh-Line Niou: [36:16](#) Yeah. You got to check it out.

C. Farrell: [36:17](#) We'll make him our vegan-

Yuh-Line Niou: [36:17](#) Are you vegan? They actually have vegan hot pot.

Omar Bourne: [36:22](#) Okay. All right.

Yuh-Line Niou: [36:23](#) It's really just whatever you decide to put in it.

Pedro Garcia: [36:27](#) The Lower East Side in Chinatown is a haven for all kinds of eaters. You can find vegan stuff, vegetarian things, gluten-free things.

Omar Bourne: [36:36](#) Okay. All right. So, I'm going to take you guys up on that tour.

C. Farrell: [36:39](#) Now, it's like a team field trip.

Omar Bourne: [36:39](#) Yeah. Definitely.

Yuh-Line Niou: [36:40](#) I'm going to say my favorites are 99 Favor Taste and Little Sheep.

Omar Bourne: [36:45](#) Okay. Bushra is looking at me-

Yuh-Line Niou: [36:47](#) Enjoy.

Omar Bourne: [36:48](#) ... and she's shaking her head, and she's saying yes for Little Sheep. So, there you go. And, the last question to bring this all home. Sum up the work that you do, we usually say in one word, but you can take more than one word for this. Pedro, let's start with you. Sum up the work you do.

Pedro Garcia: [37:12](#) Connections. I really love how we can make so many different connections.

Omar Bourne: [37:19](#) All right. Assembly Member.

Yuh-Line Niou: [37:21](#) Advocacy.

Omar Bourne: [37:22](#) I love it.

Yuh-Line Niou: [37:24](#) Yeah, I really think that it's important that every single person who is a public servant advocates for their community.

Omar Bourne: [37:33](#) Yeah. Very well said. And, before we go, Pedro, where can people find more information about the Tenement Museum?

Pedro Garcia: [37:43](#) We have a podcast too.

Omar Bourne: [37:45](#) Oh. There you go.

Pedro Garcia: [37:47](#) Shameless plug here.

Omar Bourne: [37:48](#) No, plug away.

Pedro Garcia: [37:50](#) "How to be American," a Tenement Museum podcast. I brought some fliers for you guys. We also have a great website too, tenement.org.

Omar Bourne: [38:00](#) Wonderful.

Yuh-Line Niou: [38:00](#) I love that name, "How to be American," because can I tell a little story?

Omar Bourne: [38:04](#) Yes.

Yuh-Line Niou: [38:06](#) When I was running for office, my parents were very scared actually. They were actually very frightened for me because this is not something that people usually do in my community. And, as you can tell, they're so few of us. But, I think that when my mom was actually out there, door-knocking with me, actually participating, she said to me something that's so profound and sticks with me to this day. And, she said, "I just realized while we're doing this, why it is so important for us to vote. Because that is the one thing that we do that signifies that we are American. That we are American. We can take that power and we can vote." That was the difference for her. She changed in her thinking about what we were doing.

Omar Bourne: [38:57](#) Very well said.

C. Farrell: [38:59](#) We're going to let your mom get the last word. Which, as a mother, I know mother's love. So, thank you. I do agree that that's a very profound and an important lesson that you're teaching, and the entire city is getting behind. So, thank you both for coming in.

Pedro Garcia: [39:14](#) Thank you.

C. Farrell: [39:15](#) And, we look forward to continuing our work with you.

Yuh-Line Niou: [39:17](#) Thank you guys.

Pedro Garcia: [39:17](#) Thank you guys.

Speaker 1: [39:21](#) That's this episode of "Prep Talk." If you like what you heard, you can listen to any time online or through your favorite RSS feed. Until next time, stay safe and prepared.