



Following the Atlanta massacre, Kyoung’s Pacific Beat continues its work with *GAPIMNY - Empowering Queer and Trans APIs* to host “Whiteness on Fire: Building Together,” a virtual long-table.

**In light of ongoing anti-Black and anti-Asian violence, how can we manifest freedom and liberation in the face of white supremacy?** Please join us as we collectively explore answers to this urgent question with:

- Conrhonda E. Baker (Board Member, SOLE Defined)
- Joyce Adewumi (Founder and President, NYC Multicultural Festival)
- Carolina Đỗ (Asians4Abolition, The Sóng Collective)
- Ishmael Thaahir (Assistant Director of Kyoung’s Pacific Beat NERO)
- Rohan Zhou-Lee (Founder, Blasian March)

**Kyoung’s Pacific Beat**



Kyoung’s Pacific Beat (KPB) is a non-profit, peacemaking theater collective dedicated to working with artists, non-artists, and local communities to transform experiences of oppression into peace messages through public performance. KPB devises work with interdisciplinary and multicultural ensembles of artists —our Mondragons— to uplift communities of color to create a culture of peace through non-violent practices that provide social cohesion, spiritual healing, and radical knowledge. [www.kyoungspacificbeat.org](http://www.kyoungspacificbeat.org)

**Leadership:** Kyoung H. Park (Founder, Artistic Director), Joe Tolbert, Jr. (Community Engagement Strategist), Ishmael Thaahir (Arts Management Fellow)

**Board of Directors:** Stephanie Hsu (Co-Chair), Jason Tseng (Co-Chair), Ann Marie Lonsdale (Vice-Chair), Sooyoung Hwang (Treasurer), Tiffany Vega (Secretary), PennyMaria Jackson (Community Engagement Chair), Kyoung H. Park (Fundraising Chair)

**Community Engagement Team:** Jess Applebaum, Stephanie Hsu, PennyMaria Jackson, Kyoung H. Park, Ryan Shen, Ishmael Thaahir, and Joe Tolbert, Jr.

**Graphic Design** for “Whiteness on Fire: Building Together:” Ariel Estrada

## **KPB Community Agreements**

- We build a culture of consent to be our full selves
- We work with fluidity; we move up when we have the energy and step back when we don't
- We recognize one person cannot be everything and no one is the single authority on anything
- We vocalize what we need; we are open with the group
- We are OK with not knowing and value everyone's insight
- We approach what we do with mental health care and care work in mind; we take care of each other, not take advantage of one another
- We explore messiness and believe many hands make light work
- We move at the speed of trust
- We build proactive ways to address toxic/abusive dynamics and call out tendencies for Urgency and Efficiency
- We collaborate to co-create experiences, experiments, and express ourselves as a calculated risk
- We remove the binary of yes/no decision-making by embracing consensus-based decision-making
- We tune in to life-affirming flow with our collaborators
- We honor our commitments
- We welcome our families

## **What is a Long Table?**

A Long Table is a performance installation, developed by artist Lois Weaver, which experiments with using the private form of a dinner party as a structure for public debate. It encourages informal conversation on serious subjects and experiments with formats that inspire public engagement. KPB incorporated Long Tables into its practice to develop new work in conversation with local community partners, artists, scholars, activists, and general audiences in theaters, academic conferences, community organizations and performing art festivals.

## **Long Table Etiquette**

This is a performance of a dinner party conversation  
Anyone seated at the table is a guest performer  
Talk is the only course  
But a host may assist you  
It is a democracy  
To participate simply take an empty seat at the table  
If the table is full you can request a seat  
If you leave the table you can come back again and again  
There can be silence  
There might be awkwardness. There could always be laughter.  
There is an end but no conclusion.

## Speaker Bios

**Joyce Adewumi** is the founder and president of the **New York African Chorus Ensemble Inc.**, a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization located in NYC. Under her leadership, the organization presents programs that seek to change the erroneous and racist perceptions about Africa. These programs include “The Gathering” concert series; the international conference and festival “Dialogue: Africa Meets North America in Harlem;” The Space Speaker Series and the annual “**NYC Multicultural Festival**,” the largest showcase and celebration of cultural diversity in New York City which is a collaboration between her organization and the NYPD. Ms. Adewumi has received local, national and international recognition for her work. She has received awards from Nigeria, Germany including many New York City based Elected Officials and organizations. Ms. Adewumi founded the “We Are Endless Roar Nigeria Tour” and executively produced the “We Are The Endless Roar” feature film. Ms. Adewumi serves the New York City community in various capacities.

**Conrhonda E. Baker** (Fundraising Chair & Board Member @ SOLE Defined). Conrhonda’s passion for the performing arts is grounded in her dance background, sparked by taking after-school classes at a county-wide recreational facility in rural northeast Georgia. She founded The Bese Saka in 2018 as a way to live out her Christian faith by actively intervening and building equity into the process of securing institutional funding support. She currently also serves as the Communications Officer at the Howard Gilman Foundation. Her professional experience developed through work with South Arts, Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts, Alabama Dance Council, Vulcan Park and Museum, Birmingham Museum of Art, and Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation. In addition to being a member of Women of Color in the Arts, she serves as the Fundraising Chair for SOLE Defined. She holds a Master of Arts Management from Carnegie Mellon University and a Bachelor of Arts in African American Studies with a minor in Dance Education from The University of Georgia

**Carolina Đỗ** (Artistic Leader, The Sóng Collective, Asians4Abolition) is a storyteller and community organizer. She is a first generation Việt born in America, the child of refugees and descendant of freedom fighters. Her work centers around community building, transgenerational healing, diasporic longings, and collective storytelling. She is a founding Artistic Leader of The Sóng Collective whose mission is to nurture a community of artists whose work explores questions of identity, race, intersectionality, immigration, and the refugee experience. She's an organizer with [@Asians4Abolition](#). She's spoken about abolition and the solidarity needed in the fight for liberation on numerous panels, including a recent one organized by the Dianne Morales mayoral campaign, alongside Jason Wu (GAPIMNY, Truth Out), Rohan Zhou-Lee (Blasian March), Linda Sarsour (Women's March & Until Freedom), Frederick Joseph (NYT Bestselling Author of The Black Friend), Pastor Samuel Cruz , PhD (Trinity Lutheran Church), Moumita Ahmed (candidate for NYC Council District 24), Kei Williams (Black Lives Matter Global Network), Emerald Snipes (daughter of Eric Garner, sister of Erica Garner, founder of We Can't Breathe).

**Ishmael Thaahir** (Assistant Director, Kyoung’s Pacific Beat NERO) earned his B.F.A. in Theatre from North Carolina A&T State University and is Assistant Director of Kyoung’s Pacific Beat’s NERO, where he is also Arts Management Fellow. When not working at KPB, he teaches theater with the Hunts Point Alliance for Children. Ishmael believes art is an invaluable

component in community building. He aims to make theatrical arts accessible for children & young adults alike. When not working, Ishmael can be found reading, going on walks, and endlessly quoting memes.

**Rohan Zhou-Lee** (Founder, Blasian March, (They/Siya/祂 (Tā)) is dancer, writer, and organizer. Previous credits include a soloist role in the Off-Broadway revival of *Over Here! The Musical*, *West Side Story* [New Bedford Festival Theatre,] and *The Bluebird* from *Sleeping Beauty* [Victoria Ballet Theatre.] They also trained at the Dance Theatre of Harlem and Ruth Page Center For the Arts. Their short act play, *The Soldier's Home*, was produced in 2015 by Circa Pintig, Chicago's premiere Filipino theatre company. Zhou-Lee is the founder of the Blasian March, a solidarity movement for Black, Asian and Blasian [mixed] communities through education on parallel struggles with racial injustice and mutual celebration. Independent of the Blasian March, they organised a rally for Asian American communities on February 20th with a team of women of color. Under the Blasian March, they have continued to co-organize events with specific focus on uplifting Black and Asian Women, LGBT and disabled individuals. They hold a BA in Ethnomusicology from Northwestern University.

### Community Partner



Founded in 1990, GAPIMNY is an all-volunteer, membership-based community organization with the mission to empower queer and trans Asian Pacific Islanders\* to create positive change. We provide a range of political, social, educational, and cultural programming and work in coalition

with other community organizations to educate and promote dialogue on issues of race, sexuality, gender, and health. [www.gapimny.org](http://www.gapimny.org)

### Funders

"Whiteness on Fire" is a conversation series part of the artistic development of Kyoung's Pacific Beat's NERO, currently in development with support from the Howard Gilman Foundation, Jerome Foundation, Venturous Theater Fund of the Tides Foundation and The MAP Fund, supported by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

NERO is sponsored, in part, by the Greater New York Arts Development Fund of the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, administered by Brooklyn Arts Council (BAC).

Kyoung's Pacific Beat is a non-profit, peacemaking theater company whose work is made possible by artEquity Artist + Activist Community Relief Fund, ART/New York Relief Fund for NYC Small Theatres, Dime Community Bank Fund for NYC Theatres, Distracted Globe Foundation, NYSCA-ART/NY Creative Opportunity Fund, a Statewide Theatre Regrant program, and the generous support of many individual donors.

Kyoung's Pacific Beat is led by Kyoung H. Park, who is part of the New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA) 2021 Incubator for Executive Leaders of Color, funded by the Rockefeller Brothers Fund.