

FROM: Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience (The Wing)
CONTACT: Margaret Su, Deputy Director for Institutional Giving & Marketing – 206.623.5124 x127 / msu@wingluke.org

Wham! Bam! Pow! Cartoons, Turbans & Confronting Hate Opens May 4

Seattle, WA: Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience (The Wing) is excited to announce our upcoming exhibit *Wham! Bam! Pow! Cartoons, Turbans & Confronting Hate*, showcasing illustrations of New York-based Vishavjit Singh whose cartoons came out of tragedy: 9/11 attacks.

A Sikh American with a turban and beard, Vishavjit was a target of fear, anxiety and ignorance after the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Verbal insults and threats fluctuated depending on news coverage, and concerned for his personal safety, he turned to humor and comics – one of his childhood loves – to create *Sikhtoons*. His simple imagery often comes with an edge that pierces stereotypes, prompts self-reflection, and promotes action while adding a missing perspective to the comic book genre.

Horrified by a 2012 deadly attack at a Sikh Gurudwara (house of worship) in Wisconsin, Vishavjit decided the world needed a new superhero. At the urging of photographer Fiona Aboud, he cast away self-doubts of body image and put on a Captain America suit and turban, transforming into “Sikh Captain America,” a superhero on a mission to fight bigotry and hate.

His alter ego has been featured on national media, including *Totally Biased with W. Kamau Bell*, where they interviewed New Yorkers to get their definition of a superhero. “More muscles. Taller. Whiter,” one interviewee responded. Since then, “Sikh Captain America” has made appearances at comic cons, political rallies, and schools, sparking dialogue and challenging common perceptions of what it means to be an American superhero. *Wham! Bam! Pow!* follows Vishavjit’s journey as he reflects on being Sikh American and discovers the heroic power of compassion. On display May 14, 2018-April 14, 2019, this exhibit will also feature a shield selfie station, turban video installation, and interactive station to help visitors find their superhero within!

Vishavjit Singh will be here locally and available for media interviews by appointment between April 30-May 5.

Additional public programs include:

- Thu, May 3 @ 11-11:30am – Toddler Story Time: Join Sikh Captain America for a story to discuss superpowers, both his and yours. Superhero costumes welcome.
- Thu, May 3 @ 6-8pm – Exhibit opening reception: Superhero costumes welcome.
- Sat, May 5 @ 1:30pm – Create Your Own Wham! Bam! Pow! Workshop: Vishavjit leads an interactive storytelling workshop followed by guided tour of the exhibit. Superhero costumes welcome. Register online.

For more info, contact 206.623.5124 ext 127 or msu@wingluke.org.

The Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience’s mission is to connect everyone to the rich history, dynamic cultures and art of Asian Pacific Americans through vivid storytelling and inspiring experiences. As a Smithsonian Affiliate, National Park Service Affiliated Area, and the only pan-Asian Pacific American museum in the nation, The Wing is a national treasure, preserving and sharing the personal stories of the Asian Pacific American community. wingluke.org

