CALL FOR COMPOSERS – REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
We Hereby Refuse: Japanese American Resistance to Wartime Incarceration
Graphic Novel Animated Video Short

Deadline: Friday, October 30, 2020 at 4:30pm. Applications must be received by the deadline.

PROJECT SUMMARY
The Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience seeks one (1) professional composer for the sound design and audio mix of an animated video short based on a graphic novel to share the history and significance of Japanese American Resisters during World War II.

The Wing Luke Museum is working with writers Frank Abe and Tamiko Nimura and artists Ross Ishikawa and Matt Sasaki, along with community stakeholders, to develop content for a graphic novel, stand-alone chapter and curriculum guide, which will be distributed to schools and libraries, through the Wing Luke Museum and other outlets. An animated short produced by the Seattle Channel will also be made based on the stand-alone chapter.

This project is generously supported by the National Park Service Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program.

MUSEUM BACKGROUND
The Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience is the only pan-Asian Pacific American museum in the nation, the first Smithsonian Institution affiliate in the Pacific Northwest, and an Affiliated Area of the National Park Service. Our mission is to connect everyone to the dynamic history, cultures and art of Asian Pacific Americans through vivid storytelling and inspiring experiences to advance racial and social equity. The Wing Luke Museum is nationally recognized for its community-based exhibition model. For more information on our community-based process, visit our website (http://www.wingluke.org/; see LEARN tab; then Community Process).

SEATTLE CHANNEL BACKGROUND
The Seattle Channel is an award-winning municipal television station that reflects, informs and inspires the community it serves with a local mix of news, analysis, stories and perspectives you won’t find anywhere else. Seattle Channel programming includes series and special features highlighting the diverse civic and cultural landscape of Seattle. The station’s compelling, high-quality content includes a weekly public-affairs show; live government meetings and press conferences; in-depth weekly arts coverage; a weekly news/lifestyle magazine show; community features; panel discussions and interviews with local leaders and national figures, including best-selling authors. (https://www.seattlechannel.org/)
BACKGROUND INFORMATION
The stories of Japanese Americans who fought for Constitutional and civil rights by challenging the forced incarceration and military draft during World War II are ones of courage, valor and sacrifice. Deemed “disloyal” by both the U.S. government and some within the Japanese American community, these Resisters became outcasts. Those who defied the forced removal were arrested and imprisoned. So called “No-No Boys” and renunciants were segregated in the Tule Lake concentration camp. And those who resisted the military draft were sent to federal prison. Resisters in the military, legal challengers, and protesters within the concentration camps reflect the many different ways Japanese Americans resisted the World War II incarceration.

Through their experiences and actions, we explore what it means to be an American; come to greater understanding the words “liberty and justice for all”; and are inspired to protect Constitutional and civil rights today, ensuring that these injustices never happen again. The stories of the Resisters present the other, necessary, side to those who chose to serve in the military and are indelibly linked to the Japanese American confinement sites.

Through We Hereby Refuse: Japanese American Resistance to Wartime Incarceration, the Wing Luke Museum will connect these uncommonly told confinement site stories to the present and future generations through creation of a graphic novel based on the challenges of and sacrifices made by World War II Japanese American Resisters.

Interpretation and Education through Graphic Novel, Stand-Alone Chapter, Animated Short and Curriculum Guide
We Hereby Refuse: Japanese American Resistance to Wartime Incarceration is set for publication in February 2021 by the Wing Luke Museum and Chin Music Press. As the title suggests, the book presents an original vision of Japanese American history with clear parallels to the America of today by dramatizing the range of protest and resistance to incarceration through the eyes of prisoners at three American concentration camps:

- At Minidoka, Seattle-born Hajime Jim Akutsu rejects the change of his draft classification to that of “enemy alien” and refuses to be drafted from camp until his American citizenship is restored;
- At Tule Lake, Hiroshi Kashiwagi refuses to answer an ambiguously-worded questionnaire demanding an oath of loyalty and then, under the duress of uncertainties and tensions inside a U.S. Segregation Center, renounces his American citizenship; and
- At Topaz, Mitsuye Endo refuses the Justice Department’s offer of early release from camp so that she can bring her habeas corpus challenge all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, where her victory compels the release of all incarcerated Americans classified as loyal.

The book is aimed at student readers in secondary school and college, and Japanese American audiences with a special interest in and personal experience with this history; it is also conceived and written to cross over to the general public. If many are still unfamiliar with the wartime incarceration of Japanese Americans, this graphic novel brings to life an even lesser-known story from that history.

The animated video short will be based on the storyline of Jim Akutsu. It will be aired on and distributed by the Seattle Channel. A curriculum guide that can be used both with the full graphic novel as well as the stand-alone chapter and animated video short to provide best flexibility for classroom use will also be created. In addition to distribution of the graphic novels and curriculum at schools and libraries, at the Wing Luke Museum, and through Chin Music Press, a project website page will be created to provide
access to the novel, stand-alone chapter, animated video short and curriculum further extending the project’s impact.

This project is the second in a series of graphic novels. The first told the story of six World War II Japanese American military veterans. For more about the project, Fighting for America: Nisei Soldiers, visit its website page at: http://www.wingluke.org/fighting-for-america.

SCOPE OF WORK
This project includes:
- Sound design, music composition and audio mix for animated video short
- Coordination with the Seattle Channel team for production of the animated video short, which may include Voice Over recording
- Consultation with the Wing Luke Museum staff, artist Ross Ishikawa, and review by additional project stakeholders
- Deliverables include: finished audio mix for the animated video short

SELECTION CRITERIA
Selection criteria will be based on artistic excellence and collaborative experience. Experience with Asian Pacific American communities and familiarity with the Resisters experience and Japanese American incarceration is preferred.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS
This Call is open to Composers residing in the U.S. Please submit:
- Cover letter (no more than 2 pages)
- Resume
- 4 samples of sound design and audio mix work, audio files emailed or electronically transferred, of relevant work to the project (total size of emailed files must be less than 10MB)
- Annotated work sample list, including brief description

Please email submissions to: Cassie Chinn, Deputy Executive Director, cchinn@wingluke.org. Please mark clearly on your email subject line and cover letter “Resisters Graphic Novel” for your submission’s consideration.

Submission deadline:
Required materials must be received no later than 4:30pm on Friday, October 30, 2020. Applications must be received by the deadline. We will not review incomplete or late submissions.

SCHEDULE
September 18, 2020 Open call to composers circulated
October 30, 2020 Submissions due
November 30, 2020 Selected composer notified
December 2020-January 2021 Animated video short with sound design and audio mix produced
February 2021 Completion of animated video short; airing on Seattle Channel with release of full graphic novel

QUESTIONS
For further information, contact Cassie Chinn at (206) 623-5124 x131, or cchinn@wingluke.org.