



*“Education through Struggle”*  
mural at the UCLA Asian  
American Studies Center

# From Exclusion to Inclusion: Reframing the AAPI Narrative & Cross- Racial Solidarity Building

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UCLA Asian American Studies Center

# Overview

- ▣ Who are AAPIs? How have AAPI communities changed over time?
- ▣ Complex History of Exclusion against Asians in America and Racialized Tropes
- ▣ Educating and Caring Across Generations



*We Are Not A Monolith*

Photo Credit: The Asian American Foundation

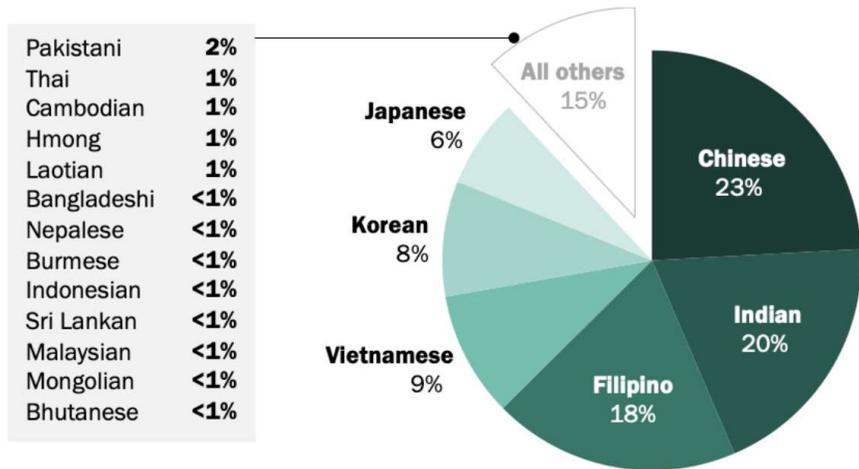
**Six Asian origin groups in the U.S. had populations of at least 1 million people in 2019 ...**

*In thousands*

Origin group	Population			% growth, 2000–2019
	2019	2010	2000	
Chinese	5,399	4,010	2,865	88%
Indian	4,606	3,183	1,900	142%
Filipino	4,211	3,417	2,365	78%
Vietnamese	2,183	1,737	1,224	78%
Korean	1,908	1,707	1,228	55%
Japanese	1,498	1,316	1,160	29%
Pakistani	554	409	204	171%
Thai	343	238	150	128%
Cambodian	339	277	206	64%
Hmong	327	260	186	75%
Laotian	254	232	198	28%
Bangladeshi	208	147	57	263%
Nepalese	198	59	9	2,005%
Burmese	189	100	17	1,031%
Indonesian	129	95	63	105%
Sri Lankan	56	45	25	127%
Malaysian	38	26	19	106%
Mongolian	27	18	6	358%
Bhutanese	24	19	<1	11,288%

**... accounting for 85% of the nation’s Asian population**

*% of the U.S. Asian population that is \_\_\_, 2019*



Note: “Chinese” includes those identifying as Taiwanese. “All others” includes the category “Other Asian, not specified.” Figures may not add up to 100% due to rounding.  
 Source: For 2019, Pew Research Center analysis of 2019 American Community Survey 1-year estimates (Census Data). For 2000 and 2010, population estimates from U.S. Census Bureau, “The Asian Population: 2010” Census Brief, Table 6.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

# Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Population by Ethnic Group

	Estimate	
Total Groups Tallied:	1,452,822	
Native Hawaiian	599,868	41.3%
Samoaan	208,942	14.4%
Tongan	63,078	4.3%
Other Polynesian	20,872	1.4%
Guamanian Or Chamorro	158,740	10.9%
Marshallese	34,191	2.4%
Other Micronesian	65,003	4.5%
Fijian	47,132	3.2%
Other Melanesian	2,386	0.2%
Other Pacific Islander, Not Specified	252,610	17.4%

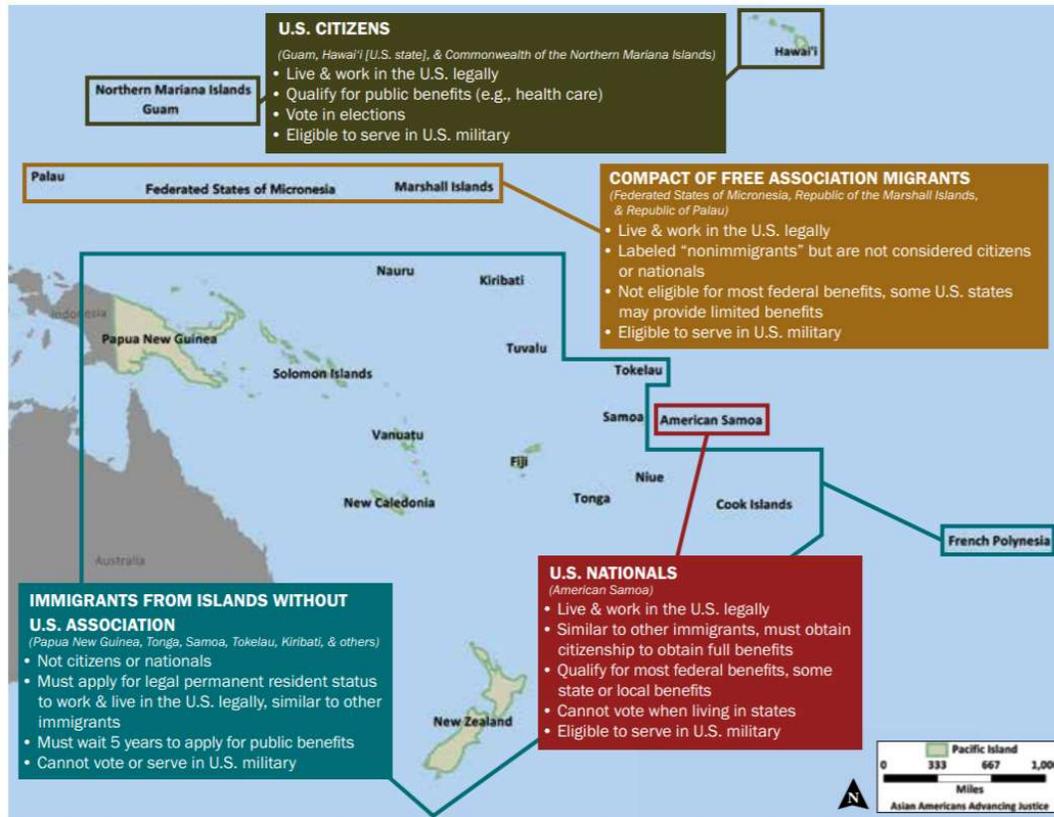
**Native Hawaiians are more likely to be multiracial than any other racial group.**

**NHOPIs of mixed-race will comprise over half the population a quarter century from now.**

Source: ACS 2019 (5-Year Estimates)

Paul Ong, Elena Ong, and Jonathan Ong (2016) The Future of Pacific Islander America in 2040. AAPI Nexus: Policy, Practice and Community: 2016, Vol. 14, No. 1, pp. 1-13.

## U.S. Immigration Status by Pacific Island of Birth



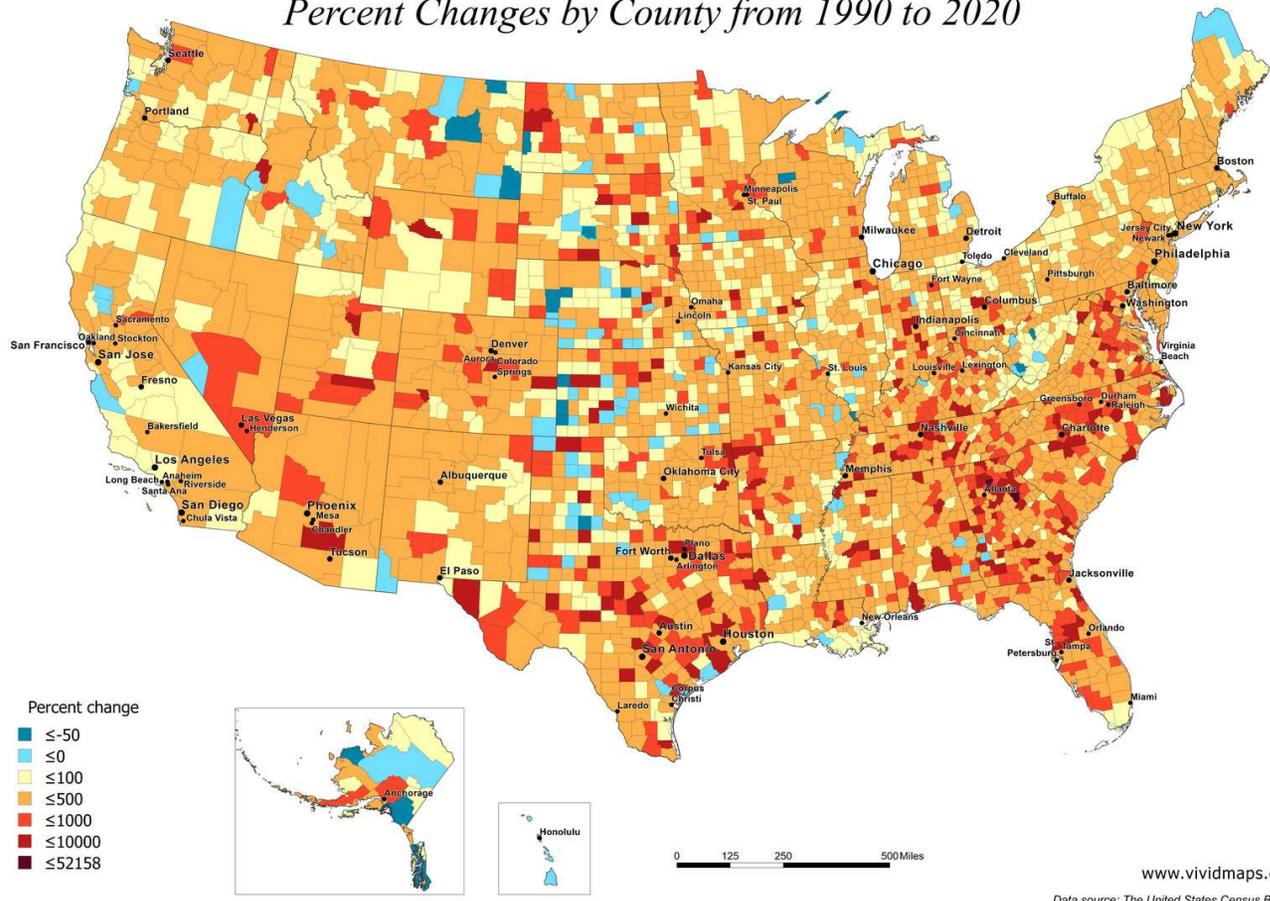
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, National Immigration Law Center, U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Insular Affairs; Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice; APIAHF "Access to Health Coverage for Pacific Islanders in the United States." Note: Smaller islands not labeled on map. Information provided on the chart is generalized information based on islands of birth. The information above may not be true for all immigrants born on these islands. Native Hawaiians living in Hawai'i are indigenous people and not immigrants. As indigenous people, Native Hawaiians qualify for other federal benefits through programs such as the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act.

**NHPIs in the United States have vastly different rights and privileges depending upon where they originated from.**

**Source:** Empowering Pacific Islander Communities & Asian Americans Advancing Justice, 2014.

# U.S. Asian Population

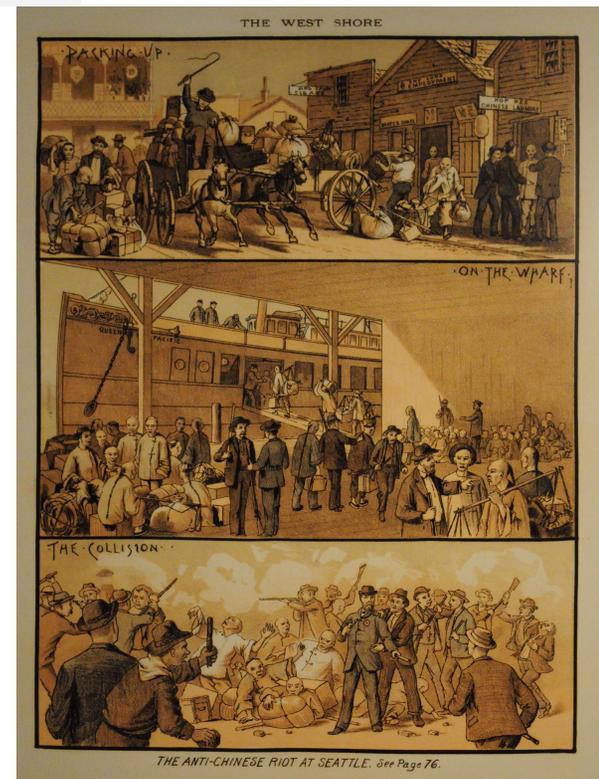
## *Percent Changes by County from 1990 to 2020*



# A Long History of Anti-Chinese Sentiment & Violence in America

Anti-Chinese attacks shadowing the  
“Long Depression”

- 1871 Los Angeles Chinatown Massacre
- 1877 San Francisco Riot
- 1885 Wyoming Rock Springs Massacre
- 1885 Tacoma Riot and Chinese Expulsion
- 1886 Seattle Riot
- 1887 Oregon Chinese Massacre Cove
- 1907 Pacific Coast race riots



# Violence & Exclusion



# Segregation & Exclusion

1875

## The Page Act

National debate over the "Chinese Question" led Congress to pass the Page Act, directed at Chinese and other Asians. The act enforced the 1862 ban on the "coolie trade," even though Chinese migrants came to the US voluntarily. It also required that women prove they were not prostitutes. Prostitutes of every background worked the American West, but the Page Act slashed immigration rates for all Chinese women for decades to come.



"Among the Chinese on the Pacific Coast" in Harper's Weekly, May 27, 1893. Reproduction, New York Historical Society.

**HIP! HURRAH!**  
**CHINESE EXCLUDED**  
 —The—  
**Democratic Chinese Exclusion Bill**  
 Has Been Signed by  
**OUR DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENT**  
 Hip! Hurrah! The White Man is on Top.  
 Let every DEMOCRAT and all other GOOD Citizens turn out and Ratify this.  
**DEMOCRATIC MEASURE**  
**HORTON HOUSE PLAZA**  
 This Wednesday Evening at 8 O'clock.  
**To-Night**  
 Speeches will be made by Leading Democratic Orators.  
**COME OUT AND RATIFY!**  
 Come Everybody!  
**NO MORE CHINESE!**  
 By Order of  
**Democratic County Central Committee.**  
Printed, Lithographed & Co. Press, Portland, 10 Front Street.

## WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND AND FOURTH ARMY WARTIME CIVIL CONTROL ADMINISTRATION

Presidio of San Francisco, California  
 May 3, 1942

## INSTRUCTIONS TO ALL PERSONS OF **JAPANESE** **ANCESTRY**

### Living in the Following Area:

All of that portion of the City of Los Angeles, State of California, within that boundary beginning at the point at which North Figueroa Street meets a line following the middle of the Los Angeles River; thence westerly and following the said line to East First Street; thence westerly on East First Street to Alameda Street; thence southerly on Alameda Street to East Third Street; thence northwesterly on East Third Street to Main Street; thence southerly on Main Street to First Street; thence northwesterly on First Street to Figueroa Street; thence northwesterly on Figueroa Street to the point of beginning.

Pursuant to the provisions of Civilian Exclusion Order No. 33, this Headquarters, dated May 3, 1942, all persons of Japanese ancestry, both alien and non-alien, will be evacuated from the above area by 12 o'clock noon, P. W. T., Saturday, May 9, 1942.

No Japanese person living in the above area will be permitted to change residence after 12 o'clock noon, P. W. T., Sunday, May 3, 1942, without obtaining special permission from the representative of the Commanding General, Southern California Sector, at the Civil Control Station located at:

Japanese Union Church,  
 120 North San Pedro Street,  
 Los Angeles, California.

Such permits will only be granted for the purpose of visiting members of a family, or in cases of grave emergency. The Civil Control Station is equipped to assist the Japanese population affected by this evacuation in the following ways:

1. Give advice and instructions on the evacuation.
2. Provide services with respect to the management, leasing, sale, storage or other disposition of most kinds of property, such as real estate, business and professional equipment, household goods, boats, automobiles and livestock.
3. Provide temporary residence elsewhere for all Japanese in family groups.
4. Transport persons and a limited amount of clothing and equipment to their new residence.

### The Following Instructions Must Be Observed:

1. A responsible member of each family, preferably the head of the family, or the person in whose name most of the property is held, and each individual living alone, will report to the Civil Control Station to receive further instructions. This must be done between 10:00 A. M. and 5:00 P. M. on Monday, May 4, 1942, or between 8:00 A. M. and 5:00 P. M. on Tuesday, May 5, 1942.

2. Evacuees must carry with them on departure for the Assembly Center, the following property:
  - (a) Bedding and linens (no mattress) for each member of the family;
  - (b) Toilet articles for each member of the family;
  - (c) Extra clothing for each member of the family;
  - (d) Sufficient knives, forks, spoons, plates, bowls and cups for each member of the family;
  - (e) Essential personal effects for each member of the family.

All items carried will be securely packaged, tied and plainly marked with the name of the owner and numbered in accordance with instructions obtained at the Civil Control Station. The size and number of packages is limited to that which can be carried by the individual or family group.

3. No pets of any kind will be permitted.
4. No personal items and no household goods will be shipped to the Assembly Center.
5. The United States Government through its agencies will provide for the storage, at the sole risk of the owner, of more substantial household items, such as telephones, washing machines, pianos and other heavy furniture. Cooking utensils and other small items will be accepted for storage if crated, packed and plainly marked with the name and address of the owner. Only one name and address will be used by a given family.

6. Each family, and individual living alone, will be furnished transportation to the Assembly Center or will be authorized to travel by private automobile in a supervised group. All instructions pertaining to the movement will be obtained at the Civil Control Station.

Go to the Civil Control Station between the hours of 2:00 A. M. and 3:00 P. M., Monday, May 4, 1942, or between the hours of 8:00 A. M. and 3:00 P. M., Tuesday, May 5, 1942, to receive further instructions.

J. L. DEWITT  
 Lieutenant General, U. S. Army  
 Commanding

# The “Perpetual Foreigner” Syndrome



Choy, et al, The Coming Man

*Where are you REALLY From?*



# Model Minority & Bamboo Ceiling



Despite Asian Americans being well-represented in law as more than 10% of graduates from the top 30 law schools, they have the "highest attrition rates and lowest ratio of partners to associates among all (racial) groups."

Source: 2017 study from Yale Law School and the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association

[iStock.com/Cavan Images](https://www.iStock.com/Cavan Images)

# Asian Americans & Invisibility



**Asian Americans remain invisible** despite their economic and cultural contributions—58% of Americans couldn't name a prominent Asian American and 42% couldn't name a significant Asian American historical moment more recent than the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II.

Source: 2022 The STAATUS (Social Tracking of Asian Americans in the U.S.) Index

# Do you know who is Patsy Mink?



**PATSY MINK**

**First Woman of Color Elected to Congress in 1964**

**Authored the first draft and co-authored the final Title IX legislation, which changed opportunities in education for women.**

**Must Watch:** *Need to Talk: Patsy Mink Changed Everything for Women in Sports*

<https://247sports.com/high-school/washington/Video/We-Need-to-Talk-Patsy-Mink-Changed-Everything-for-Women-in-Sport-11075014/>

# The “Dragon Lady” Stereotype



# The Public Safety of AAPI Women

**Stop AAPI Hate Statistics: 10,370 incidents reported from 3/19/20 to 9/30/21.  
Hate incidents reported by women make up 62.0% of all reports.**



Mourners visit and leave flowers at the site of two shootings at spas across the street from one another, in memorial for the lives lost, on March 17, 2021 in Atlanta, Georgia. Suspect Robert Aaron Long, 21, was arrested after a series of shootings at three Atlanta-area spas left eight people dead on Tuesday night, including six Asian women. *Megan Varner, Getty Images*



A person holds a candle during a vigil, Jan. 18, 2022, in New York's Times Square, in honor of Michelle Alyssa Go, a victim of a subway attack several days earlier. *Yuki Iwamura, AP*

Source: USA TODAY: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/life/health-wellness/2022/05/10/asian-fetishization-isnt-flattery-how-weve-dehumanized-asian-women/7450959001/>



YouTube

**Watch video at: [https://youtu.be/vrR-8\\_odGh4](https://youtu.be/vrR-8_odGh4)**

**Read the letter, as well as its various translations to Korean, Urdu, Vietnamese, Tagalog and other languages at: <https://lettersforblacklives.com/>**



The letter also brought up a subject that Xu and many others felt really uncomfortable broaching with their parents: anti-blackness in Asian-American and immigrant communities. Here's some of what they wrote:

"When a policeman shoots a Black person, you might think it's the victim's fault because you see so many images of them in the media as thugs and criminals. After all, you might say, we managed to come to America with nothing and build good lives for ourselves despite discrimination, so why can't they?"

## Hundreds Are Volunteering to Escort Elderly Asian Americans in Oakland's Chinatown

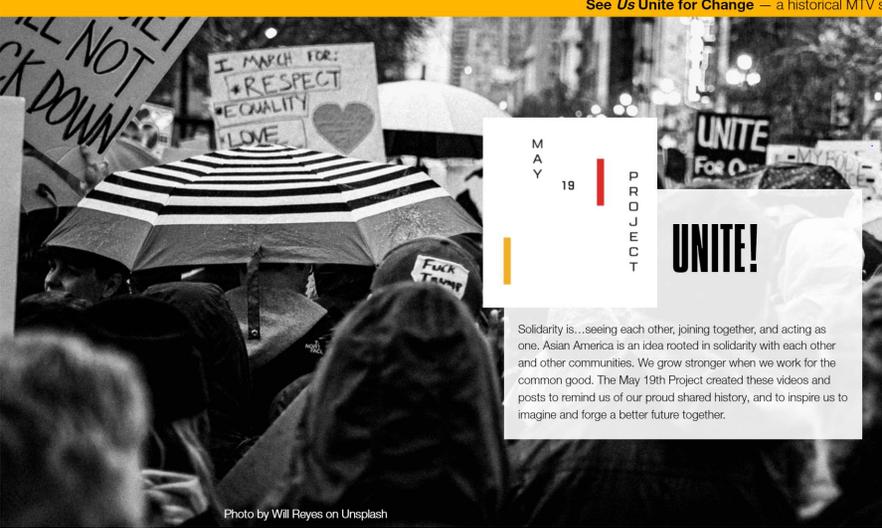


**To help deter further attacks against the Asian community, hundreds of volunteers have signed up to accompany older Asian Americans walking around Oakland's Chinatown.** Of the more than 2,800 anti-Asian attacks reported nationally between March 19 and Dec. 31 last year, 7.3% involved victims aged 60 and above, according to [Stop AAPI Hate](#). A [new surge in attacks](#) -- particularly in California's Bay Area -- has been reported in the past few weeks. One of the recent attacks involved an 84-year-old Thai American man who was shoved to his death, an incident that his loved ones are calling [an act of racism](#).

# Standing Together in Solidarity

SEE US UNITE

See Us Unite for Change — a historical MTV special



MAY 19 PROJECT

## UNITE!

Solidarity is...seeing each other, joining together, and acting as one. Asian America is an idea rooted in solidarity with each other and other communities. We grow stronger when we work for the common good. The May 19th Project created these videos and posts to remind us of our proud shared history, and to inspire us to imagine and forge a better future together.

Photo by Will Reyes on Unsplash

### DID YOU KNOW?

FONG LEE WAS ONLY 18 WHEN HE WAS KILLED BY THE MINNEAPOLIS POLICE HIS MOTHER, YOUNG SANG LEE, KEEPS HIS LEGACY ALIVE BY SPEAKING OUT AGAINST POLICE BRUTALITY.

WATCH VIDEO



Minneapolis police killed Young Sang Lee's son. She channelled her pain into supporting George Floyd's family.

WATCH VIDEO

WHEN I FIRST SAW THE BROTHERS FONGS VIDEO WHERE THEY WELLED HIM, I WAS VERY SADDENED AT THAT POINT THOUGHT OF MY CHILD.

WATCH VIDEO



In the 1950s San Francisco singers Sugar Pie DeSanto and Etta James change the direction of R&B.

WATCH VIDEO

I HAVE MIXED R&B - WHOLE AND SOUL - WHERE I WAS LIVED IT WAS FULLY MIXED WITH EVERYTHING. WE JUST LIVE TOGETHER, PERIOD, AND LEARNED TO RESPECT EACH OTHER.

SUGAR PIE DESANTO

WATCH VIDEO

### DID YOU KNOW?

SUGAR PIE DESANTO GREW UP IN SAN FRANCISCO ALONGSIDE HER COUSIN AND COLLABORATOR ETTA JAMES.

WATCH VIDEO

YOU DON'T CHOOSE THE TRUCK YOU GET IN, BUT YOU DO CHOOSE WHO YOU WANT TO BE, AND YOU DO CHOOSE WHO YOU WANT TO TRUCK.

GRACE LEE BOGGS

WATCH VIDEO

### DID YOU KNOW?

GRACE LEE BOGGS MET JIMMY IN DETROIT WHERE SHE SAYS SHE LISTENED AND LEARNED FROM THE CITY'S BLACK ACTIVISTS. THEIR WORK WOULD BRING THEM TOGETHER FOR 40 YEARS OF MARRIAGE AFTER.

WATCH VIDEO



Grace Lee Boggs and James Boggs emerge in Detroit to plant visionary seeds for the racial justice movement.

WATCH VIDEO



<https://www.seeusunite.org/unite/>

<https://www.kcet.org/news-community/may-19th-project>

**“We may have all come on different ships,  
but we’re in the same boat now.”  
-Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**

**Thank You!**