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Title: Hiroki Kimiko Keaveney Interview
Narrator: Hiroki Kimiko Keaveney
Interviewer: Anna Takada
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<Begin Segment 11>

HK:

So when I was doing community work, I was mainly doing racial justice work for immigration stuff for at first there was also this community garden, um, called the Danny Wu Garden in the international district in Chinatown. And just being around Asian American elders, it was just really powerful. Um, and so all these things like the classes, the Filipino American society led me to wanting to work with the Minidoka pilgrimage. I was like a scholarship recipient, um, that summer. And then because of this immigration, like it was mainly like, I think it was mainly Latino run, they were organizing mayday march and at the mayday march when I was helping out, like I was one of those people wearing the little yellow vests or whatever or orange vests, I forget. I saw this banner that said "Tadaima - radical Japanese organizing" and they all looked hapa. And I was like, what is - I like literally went up to them and I was like, hey, like - like God, so awkward - I was like, hey, like I'm radical. I'm Japanese. Like, what are, what is this? And they were like, you're the first not-white person and come up to us. I was like, oh yeah, they like our anime. And like we, we just had this moment and they were all queer and this is before identified as queer. So it was really special that like all of these racial and economic justice groups or so many queer and trans people. And that's what helped me come out to myself, um, to see myself reflected in another person. And so I organized with Tadaima for like two years, I think, especially that one summer. Um, there's just a really beautiful, like sweet group of people based out of Seattle, mainly queer and trans, um, mixed Asian Americans - or mixed Japanese Americans. And they work with like Sundeoksu like Korean group if it's still around. Um, they work with Pinay south Seattle, um - Filipino group - Um, I'm trying to think. I'm trying to think who else. Basically they do a lot of like queer, Asian American organizing, but also like trying to mobilize, especially with like black lives matter. I could, I don't know how active the group is anymore, Tadaima but that group gave me so many opportunities to like connect with the

whole community as a whole. Like we did this API freedom school and like teaching kids Asian American history. It's just like that group of people, they were so special. Like we used to do like educational things like every other week or once a month. Like learn a topic about like Japanese spirituality or like, you know, just like anything to just sort of come together and feel empowered as Japanese Americans. And um, yeah, looking back I was like, wow, what a gift. Cause I really was able to accept myself as a queer person because of that group. And um, that summer, the first summer I was part of Tadaima we went to this Hiroshima event together and they had like all these lanterns and it was just such a powerful experience. Like, thinking back to that argument when I was 13 and knowing something was off and then getting to - from 13 to 19, like what a difference, well I was 20 I think, seven years later like being with Japanese Americans at this like Hiroshima remembrance event. Yeah. So that was Seattle. It's a really positive experience.

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