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Title: Hiroki Kimiko Keaveney Interview
Narrator: Hiroki Kimiko Keaveney
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<Begin Segment 12>

HK:

And I moved to LA. Um, I studied abroad, I came back from study abroad, I finished school and then I came, um, I came to LA to try and learn my family history. I wasn't really involved in the Japanese American community there cause I was doing this awful Americorps program that like I had no time to do anything cause it was like awful and they ended up quitting it and like doing other work. But LA is so spread out that I found it was really hard to really cultivate Japanese American community there. I definitely connected with the Queer Asian and Pacific islander community there, um, through this group called API Equality-LA. Um, so that was really cool. Like getting opportunities from that group of Queer Asian Americans who like connected me to like I got to work with GSA, gay straight alliances throughout the Los Angeles Unified School district cause of them, like it was like very much they take care of, they take care of their own, you know what I mean? And like people were really welcoming, like I'm mixed and they welcomed me. Like most people weren't mixed there, but they always welcomed mixed people. And Seattle was just super mixed. So they just like, you know, you're one of the dime a dozen or whatever. So it was really interesting and a culture shock when I moved to the bay area. Um, and it was like constantly being told both directly and indirectly, cause we are Asian American after all, like that I was not welcome, that I was too white, that I wasn't really a person of color. And then I definitely really wasn't Asian American and I think like it was devastating. I like, I wanted so badly to be around my people because that's all I knew like with Seattle and LA. And so it was like, it sucked so much. Um, being told to go away and direct and indirect ways by queer and trans Asian Americans. I wouldn't even say trans though. Trans communities way more accepting than the queer cis community. Anyway, um, so I think like it was, it was devastating and that led me to do more mixed race studies, mixed race organizing. Um, cause there was like this festival in LA, there are these critical mixed race studies conferences. And

I had like, my mixed identity was like evolving as time went on. And I like even in LA, like they were super welcoming but I knew something was different about me and that the stories weren't really sitting the same way. And it was actually in San Francisco when I was basically constantly told go away by the sister organization of API Equality-LA called API Equality-Northern California. Just the people in the group. Not all of them, but a lot of them just - it was so it, it was, it was really sad when it happened actually. Um, but you know, identity, politics, whatever.

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