This illustration, or drawing, was created by an artist named James Yang. We are going to look at another of Yang’s designs that was displayed inside subway cars in 2017, and you may notice some similarities. Yang said that he wanted to create an escape for people as they rode the subway. New Yorkers are very familiar with the colorful circles that stand for all of the different subway lines, so Yang played with these icons by making them look like balls floating in the New York skyline. He hoped his work would create a momentary sense of calm during people’s commutes.

Let’s take a look at Yang’s artwork that appeared on the subway.
LOOK
Take a moment to look closely at all of the details in this picture. What do you notice?

THINK and SHARE
• How do the floating subways in Yang’s design make you feel?
• Notice the different colors the artist uses. Which colors stand out to you the most?
• What other parts of New York City can you recognize in this image?
ACTIVITY

Now that we’ve seen how one artist reflects New York City in his art, let’s create posters inspired by our own communities.

Materials:
Paper, pencils, markers/crayons/colored pencils, scissors, glue, and collage materials such as old magazines or newspapers.

Step 1:
What colors can represent your neighborhood? Look out your window and see how many colors you can find. Find these colors in the old magazines or newspapers you collected and tear out those pages.

Step 2:
Are there trees or parks in your community? Think of your favorite outdoor activities and consider including these in your design. What kinds of buildings do you see in your neighborhood that you might want to include?

Step 3:
Create your poster! Cut or rip pieces of the paper in different shapes and sizes, and then glue them together on your poster to form the images that represent your neighborhood. You can also try adding a background with markers or crayons.

Step 4:
Reflect on your completed artwork. How do you feel about your community after making this poster?

Share photos of your finished posters using #nytransitmuseum

And for more transit-related art by James Yang, check out his children’s book *Bus! Stop!*