

PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT For Immediate Release

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Preserving California's Japantowns Symposium to Highlight 2004-2005 CCLPEP Preservation Projects

SAN FRANCISCO (June 1, 2006) – On June 9, the *Preserving California's Japantowns Symposium* will bring together experts and practitioners of historic and cultural preservation, community development, and documentation of historic sites to discuss the unique opportunities and challenges of preserving California's Japantowns.

The 2004-2005 funding cycle of the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program (CCLPEP) provided \$500,000 in grants for historic and cultural preservation projects to research, document and celebrate California's Japantowns. Sponsored by the CCLPEP, the *Preserving California's Japantowns Symposium* will offer preservation grant recipients an opportunity to present the current progress and outcomes of their cultural and historic preservation work.

The 2004-2005 CCLPEP preservation projects are:

- ***Birth of a Community***

Project Team: Naomi Funahashi, Lewis Kawahara and Soji Kashiwagi (Grateful Crane Ensemble)

This comprehensive Japantowns project explores, educates and celebrates the birth and evolution of Japantowns in California through the development of a website featuring interactive virtual walking tours of the three remaining Japantowns, a musical theatrical journey about Japantowns, distribution of an acclaimed book "Generations, A Japanese



Current Parker Center in 1949

Photo credit: Generations: A Japanese American Community Portrait

Community Portrait” on San Francisco’s Japantown to California public libraries and San Francisco schools, and the convening of the *Preserving California’s Japantowns Symposium*.

- ***The San Jose Japantown Historic Context and Intensive Survey***

Project Team: Joe Yasutake, Leslie Masunaga, Kathy Sakamoto and Jerry Hiura

The Historic Survey Project, implemented by the San Jose Japantown Community Congress (JCCs) in partnership with the City of San Jose, explores the history of San Jose’s Japantown region, determines important historical phases and identifies and studies the significant structures associated with Japantown’s history through an intensive survey.

- ***The Matsui Project***

Project Team: Wayne Maeda and Timothy Fong

This project will consult with the Robert Matsui family to arrange for his personal papers relating to Sacramento’s Japantown and his Congressional records on Redress and Reparation for permanent deposit at the Japanese American Archival Collections of California State University Sacramento for processing and digitizing in accordance with archival and professional standards.

- ***Bronzeville in LA’s Japantown***

Project Director: Martha Nakagawa

This individual project seeks to document and educate the general public via a website on the existence of Bronzeville during World War II in Los Angeles’ Little Tokyo.

- ***J-Town/Bronzeville Suite***

Project Director: Dave Iwataki

The *J-Town/Bronzeville Suite*, composed by Dave Iwataki, is a 3-part suite that musically represents Little Tokyo and Bronzeville before, during and after the relocation years.

- ***Japanese American Historical Mapping Project***

Project Team: Dale Ann Sato (Project Coordinator/Oral Historian), and website designers/producers Jonathan Lee (Special Brand) and Keri Kaba (KabaKreations)

This project explores the family migration and community history of the pre-World War II Japanese American farming communities in the Palos Verdes Peninsula area of Los Angeles County. These communities will be documented with oral histories and personal interviews accompanied by digitally mapped aerial photographs and satellite images for placement on an educational website.

- ***Japantowns of Placer County***

Project Director: David Unruhe

This research project explores the four once thriving Japantowns of Placer County – Penryn, Auburn, Newcastle, and Loomis – and what remains of them today.

- ***Preserving California's Japantowns***

Project Team: Donna Graves, Gail Dubrow and Jill Shiraki

This project will document over 40 Japantown communities that existed prior to World War II, broadening public awareness and encouraging the preservation of places and memories significant to historic Japanese American communities across California. Project research will be compiled in an illustrated report that will provide a powerful tool for local communities, and advocates for Japanese American heritage statewide, to plan for the protection of places where historic buildings and landscape still exist, and in locations where community fabric has been demolished, to ensure that the community's history remains a vital part of our collective memory.

Representatives of each of the 2004-2005 CCLPEP projects will present an overview of the project, progress and outcomes at 10:30 a.m. in Imperial Ballroom A at the Miyako Hotel on Friday, June 9. Additional workshop sessions will be held once at 1:00 p.m. and again at 2:30 p.m., allowing for symposium attendees to attend multiple sessions and learn about a range of preservation tools, techniques and strategies.

The *Preserving California's Japantowns Symposium* is organized by the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California (JCCCNC) in partnership with the California Japanese American Community Leadership Council (CJACLC) and the support of the California Cultural & Historical Endowment, California Preservation Foundation, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the Nichi Bei Times.

Join us in engaging our communities to learn about the cultural and historic preservation of our Japantowns. Symposium fees are \$40 general registration (by June 5), and \$10 student/senior registration. Registration fees include a continental breakfast, box lunch, and buffet reception.

For general information or questions, contact Naomi Funahashi at nfunahashi@jcccnc.org or (415) 567-5505. For registration, call JCCCNC at (415) 567-5505 or visit www.californiajapantowns.org.

About JCCCNC

Envisioned by the Japanese American community, JCCCNC will be an everlasting foundation of our Japanese American ancestry, cultural heritage, histories and traditions. The JCCCNC strives to meet the evolving needs of the Japanese American community through programs, affordable services and administrative support and facilities for other local service organizations. The JCCCNC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit community center based in San Francisco.

About CCLPEP

The California Civil Liberties Public Education Program (CCLPEP) was created in 1999 as the result of the passage of the California Civil Liberties Public Education Act (AB1914 and AB1915) sponsored by Assemblymember Mike Honda. The legislation creates the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program, CCLPEP. Its purpose is to provide competitive grants for public educational activities and the development of educational materials to ensure that the events surrounding the exclusion, forced removal and incarceration of civilians and permanent resident aliens of Japanese ancestry will be remembered and so that causes and circumstances of this and similar events may be illuminated and understood. The CCLPEP has funded \$5.5 million over the past six years in more than 160 projects. For more information about the CCLPEP, visit www.library.ca.gov/cclpep.

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