

Legacy Business Registry Staff Report

HEARING DATE AUGUST 12, 2019

NATIONAL JAPANESE AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Application No.: LBR-2018-19-071
Business Name: National Japanese American Historical Society, Inc.
Business Address: 1684 Post Street and 640 Mason Street
District: District 5
Applicant: Rosalyn Tonai, Executive Director
Nomination Date: June 17, 2019
Nominated By: Supervisor Vallie Brown
Staff Contact: Richard Kurylo
legacybusiness@sfgov.org

BUSINESS DESCRIPTION

The National Japanese American Historical Society, Inc. ("NJAHS") was established in 1981, as "Go For Broke, Inc.," whose purpose was to promote the military exploits of the Japanese American veterans of the 100th Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service during World War II in Europe and the Pacific. In 1983, the organization changed its name to the National Japanese American Historical Society to reflect its broader mission to collect, preserve, interpret and share the Japanese American experience for national and global audiences.

From 1981 to 1997, NJAHS was located at 1855 Folsom Street. The organization moved to Japantown and was housed in the Japan Center East Mall between 1998 and 1999, then moved to its present location at 1684 Post Street in 1999. Its Post Street headquarters serves the Japantown community, national membership and visitors with a gallery, book store/gift shop, archives, research library and visitor kiosk.

In 2013 after two decades of planning, NJAHS opened the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) Historic Learning Center in Building 640 (640 Mason Street) at Crissy Field in the Presidio of San Francisco. This 13,000-square-foot interpretive center is the original site of the historic U.S. Army Intelligence Language School, where Japanese American military linguists secretly trained one month before Pearl Harbor (November 1, 1941) and were deployed to the Pacific theater of war after graduating in May 1942. Operated by NJAHS as a nonprofit Park Partner tenant, the center (including replica MIS classroom, permanent gallery and shop) is an adaptive reuse project of the NJAHS, the Presidio Trust and Golden Gate National Recreation Area. NJAHS's dual site strategy is to bring new audiences to both sites, thus enhancing the Japanese American experience in San Francisco.

The business is located on the northeast corner of Post and Buchanan streets in the Japantown neighborhood.

CRITERION 1: Has the applicant operated in San Francisco for 30 or more years, with no break in San Francisco operations exceeding two years?





SAN FRANCISCO

OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
LONDON N. BREED, MAYOR

OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS
REGINA DICK-ENDRIZZI, DIRECTOR

Yes, the National Japanese American Historical Society, Inc. has operated in San Francisco for 30 or more years, with no break in San Francisco operations exceeding two years:

1855 Folsom Street from 1981 to 1997 (16 years)
22 Peace Plaza from 1997 to 1999 (2 years)
1684 Post Street from 1999 to Present (20 years)
640 Mason Street from 2013 to Present (6 years)

CRITERION 2: Has the applicant contributed to the neighborhood's history and/or the identity of a particular neighborhood or community?

Yes, the National Japanese American Historical Society, Inc. has contributed to the history and identity of the Japantown neighborhood and San Francisco.

The Historic Preservation Commission recommended the applicant as qualifying, noting the following ways the applicant contributed to the neighborhood's history and/or the identity of a particular neighborhood or community:

- The business is associated with the Japanese and Japanese-American history.
- The Post Street property has Planning Department Historic Resource status codes of "C" (No Historic Resource Present) because of the building is not age-eligible for listing on a historic resource registry (construction date 1982). The property is also located within the Japantown Cultural District. The Post Street property is the site of the former Sakai Fish Market. In 2006, Uoki Sakai was recognized as one of the Japantown's most enduring and significant businesses during neighborhood centennial celebrations.
- The second property, historic Building 640 at 640 Mason Street in the Presidio, is part of the National Register of Historic Places-listed Presidio National Park. It is significant as the former location of the U.S. Army Intelligence Language School, the first military language school, which opened in 1941. During its 2012 rehabilitation, the roof unexpectedly collapsed into the structure. The framing, trusses and most of the foundation were reconstructed and seismically strengthened, and the original concrete flooring left intact. The wood from the ceiling was salvaged and incorporated into a new ceiling. The original windows and window panes were individually removed, cleaned and put back into place in the rehabilitation phase.
- The business is referred to in the Japantown Historic Context Statement. NJAHS is identified as an important social heritage resource in the JCHESS, one of a "rich network of community-serving organizations and institutions [that] provide a range of services and benefits to the local community, as well as Japanese Americans from around the region." The product of a 15-year community-led process, JCHESS is the first document in San Francisco created to focus specifically on how to preserve and promote a neighborhood's cultural heritage.
- NJAHS programming has been highlighted in numerous media, including the San Francisco Chronicle, Rafu Shimpo, Nichi Bei Times and others. The New York Times has described NJAHS as "as a source of Japantown's dynamism and a model for the preservation and interpretation of a community's history." In 2010 and 2013, Japan's Foreign Ministry recognized NJAHS for its "extensive contributions toward the exchange between Japan and the United States by preserving historical materials relating to Japanese immigration to the U.S., educating and enlightening citizens throughout the United States about the wartime experience of Japanese Americans, and undertaking wide-reaching initiatives in public education about Japanese Americans."





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CRITERION 3: Is the applicant committed to maintaining the physical features or traditions that define the business, including craft, culinary, or art forms?

Yes, the National Japanese American Historical Society, Inc. is committed to maintaining the physical features and traditions that define the organization.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

The Historic Preservation Commission recommends that the National Japanese American Historical Society, Inc. qualifies for the Legacy Business Registry under Administrative Code Section 2A.242(b)(2) and recommends safeguarding of the below listed physical features and traditions.

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business:

- Dedicated to the preservation of cultural heritage and Japanese-American history.
- Exhibits and public programs.
- Collection of objects, documents, and photos of Japanese American World War II military, incarceration camp and pre-war ephemera.
- Participation in festivals, traditions, and advocacy for the Japantown community.
- Floor-to-ceiling storefront windows.

CORE PHYSICAL FEATURE OR TRADITION THAT DEFINES THE BUSINESS

Following is the core physical feature or tradition that defines the business that would be required for maintenance of the business on the Legacy Business Registry.

- Preservation of Japanese American history and culture.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the San Francisco Small Business Commission include the National Japanese American Historical Society, Inc. currently located at 1684 Post Street in the Legacy Business Registry as a Legacy Business under Administrative Code Section 2A.242.

Richard Kurylo, Program Manager
Legacy Business Program



Small Business Commission Draft Resolution

HEARING DATE AUGUST 12, 2019

NATIONAL JAPANESE AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY RESOLUTION NO. _____

Application No.: LBR-2018-19-071
Business Name: National Japanese American Historical Society, Inc.
Business Address: 1684 Post Street and 640 Mason Street
District: District 5
Applicant: Rosalyn Tonai, Executive Director
Nomination Date: June 17, 2019
Nominated By: Supervisor Vallie Brown
Staff Contact: Richard Kurylo
legacybusiness@sfgov.org

ADOPTING FINDINGS APPROVING THE LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY APPLICATION FOR NATIONAL JAPANESE AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC., CURRENTLY LOCATED AT 1684 POST STREET AND 640 MASON STREET.

WHEREAS, in accordance with Administrative Code Section 2A.242, the Office of Small Business maintains a registry of Legacy Businesses in San Francisco (the "Registry") to recognize that longstanding, community-serving businesses can be valuable cultural assets of the City and to be a tool for providing educational and promotional assistance to Legacy Businesses to encourage their continued viability and success; and

WHEREAS, the subject business has operated in San Francisco for 30 or more years, with no break in San Francisco operations exceeding two years; or

WHEREAS, the subject business has operated in San Francisco for more than 20 years but less than 30 years, has had no break in San Francisco operations exceeding two years, has significantly contributed to the history or identity of a particular neighborhood or community and, if not included in the Registry, faces a significant risk of displacement; and

WHEREAS, the subject business has contributed to the neighborhood's history and identity; and

WHEREAS, the subject business is committed to maintaining the physical features and traditions that define the business; and

WHEREAS, at a duly noticed public hearing held on August 12, 2019, the San Francisco Small Business Commission reviewed documents and correspondence, and heard oral testimony on the Legacy Business Registry application; therefore





SAN FRANCISCO

OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
LONDON N. BREED, MAYOR

OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS
REGINA DICK-ENDRIZZI, DIRECTOR

BE IT RESOLVED that the Small Business Commission hereby includes National Japanese American Historical Society, Inc. in the Legacy Business Registry as a Legacy Business under Administrative Code Section 2A.242.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Small Business Commission recommends safeguarding the below listed physical features and traditions at National Japanese American Historical Society, Inc.:

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business:

- Dedicated to the preservation of cultural heritage and Japanese-American history.
Exhibits and public programs.
Collection of objects, documents, and photos of Japanese American World War II military, incarceration camp and pre-war ephemera.
Participation in festivals, traditions, and advocacy for the Japantown community.
Floor-to-ceiling storefront windows.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Small Business Commission requires maintenance of the below listed core physical feature or tradition to maintain National Japanese American Historical Society, Inc. on the Legacy Business Registry:

- Preservation of Japanese American history and culture.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED by the Small Business Commission on August 12, 2019.

Regina Dick-Endrizzi
Director

RESOLUTION NO. _____

Ayes -
Nays -
Abstained -
Absent -





SAN FRANCISCO

OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
LONDON N. BREED, MAYOR

OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS
REGINA DICK-ENDRIZZI, DIRECTOR

**Legacy
Business
Registry**

Application Review Sheet

Application No.: LBR-2018-19-071
Business Name: National Japanese American Historical Society, Inc.
Business Address: 1684 Post Street
District: District 5
Applicant: Rosalyn Tonai, Executive Director
Nomination Date: June 17, 2019
Nominated By: Supervisor Vallie Brown

CRITERION 1: Has the applicant has operated in San Francisco for 30 or more years, with no break in San Francisco operations exceeding two years? Yes No

1855 Folsom Street from 1981 to 1997 (16 years)
 22 Peace Plaza from 1997 to 1999 (2 years)
 1684 Post Street from 1999 to Present (20 years)
 640 Mason Street from 2013 to Present (6 years)

CRITERION 2: Has the applicant contributed to the neighborhood's history and/or the identity of a particular neighborhood or community? Yes No

CRITERION 3: Is the applicant committed to maintaining the physical features or traditions that define the business, including craft, culinary, or art forms? Yes No

NOTES: N/A

DELIVERY DATE TO HPC: June 20, 2019

Richard Kurylo
 Program Manager, Legacy Business Program



**Member, Board of Supervisor
District 5**



City and County of San Francisco

Vallie Brown

June 17, 2019

Office of Small Business
Small Business Commission
City Hall, Suite 110
San Francisco, CA 94102

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to nominate the National Japanese American Historical Society, located at 1684 Post Street, for the Legacy Business Registry Program.

The National Japanese American Historical Society, Inc. (NJAHS) was founded in 1980 as 'Go for Broke, Inc.'. They aimed to promote the military exploits of the Japanese American veterans of the 100th battalion/442nd regimental combat team and the military intelligence service during World War II in Europe and the Pacific. In 1983, 'Go for Broke, Inc.' rebranded themselves as the National Japanese American Historical Society, which reflects their broader mission to collect, preserve, interpret and share the Japanese American experience for national and global audiences.

Since 1983, NJAHS has served the Japanese American community by presenting exhibitions, publications, and public programming on historical events, personalities and the arts. In their current location at 1684 Post Street, the National Japanese American Historical Society has served the Japantown community since 1999. Now as a fixture in the Japantown neighborhood, their work continues to preserve and share Japanese American art and culture.

The Japanese American community has a long history in District 5 and NJAHS is an integral member of the Japantown community in District 5. Japanese Americans in San Francisco have a long history that is marred by periods of inclusion and revulsion by the communities surrounding Japantown. The NJAHS is a treasure in District 5, which preserves this history.

It is for these reasons that I elect to nominate the National Japanese American Historical Society for the Legacy Business Registry Program. Should you have any further questions related to this letter, please do not hesitate to reach out to my office at (415) 554-7630 or BrownStaff@sfgov.org. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vallie Brown".

Vallie Brown
Supervisor, District 5
City and County of San Francisco

Section One:

Business / Applicant Information. Provide the following information:

- The name, mailing address, and other contact information of the business;
- The name of the person who owns the business. For businesses with multiple owners, identify the person(s) with the highest ownership stake in the business;
- The name, title, and contact information of the applicant;
- The business’s San Francisco Business Account Number and entity number with the Secretary of State, if applicable.

NAME OF BUSINESS:		
National Japanese American Historical Society, Inc.		
BUSINESS OWNER(S) (identify the person(s) with the highest ownership stake in the business)		
Rosalyn Tonai, Executive Director Bryan Yagi, NJAHS Board President Robert Sakai, Building Owner		
CURRENT BUSINESS ADDRESS:		TELEPHONE:
1684 Post St. San Francisco, CA 94115		((415) 921-5007
		EMAIL:
		njahs@njahs.org; rosalynt@njahs.org
WEBSITE:	FACEBOOK PAGE:	YELP PAGE
www.njahs.org	https://www.facebook.com/nationaljapaneseamericanhistoricalsociety/	https://www.yelp.com/biz/national-japanese-american-historical-society-san-francisco

APPLICANT’S NAME	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Same as Business	
APPLICANT’S TITLE	
APPLICANT’S ADDRESS:	TELEPHONE:
	()
	EMAIL:

SAN FRANCISCO BUSINESS ACCOUNT NUMBER:	SECRETARY OF STATE ENTITY NUMBER (if applicable):

OFFICIAL USE: Completed by OSB Staff	
NAME OF NOMINATOR:	DATE OF NOMINATION:

Section Two:

Business Location(s).

List the business address of the original San Francisco location, the start date of business, and the dates of operation at the original location. Check the box indicating whether the original location of the business in San Francisco is the founding location of the business. If the business moved from its original location and has had additional addresses in San Francisco, identify all other addresses and the dates of operation at each address. For businesses with more than one location, list the additional locations in section three of the narrative.

ORIGINAL SAN FRANCISCO ADDRESS:	ZIP CODE:	START DATE OF BUSINESS
1855 Folsom Street	94115	1981
IS THIS LOCATION THE FOUNDING LOCATION OF THE BUSINESS?	DATES OF OPERATION AT THIS LOCATON	
<input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	1981-1997	

OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION
22 Peace Plaza	94115	Start: 1997
		End: 1999

OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION
1684 Post Street	94115	Start: 1999
		End: Present

OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION
640 Mason Street	94129	Start: 2013
		End: Present

OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION
		Start:
		End:

OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION
		Start:
		End:

OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION
		Start:
		End:

Section Three:

Disclosure Statement.

San Francisco Taxes, Business Registration, Licenses, Labor Laws and Public Information Release.

This section is verification that all San Francisco taxes, business registration, and licenses are current and complete, and there are no current violations of San Francisco labor laws. This information will be verified and a business deemed not current in with all San Francisco taxes, business registration, and licenses, or has current violations of San Francisco labor laws, will not be eligible to apply for the Business Assistance Grant.

In addition, we are required to inform you that all information provided in the application will become subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Act.

Please read the following statements and check each to indicate that you agree with the statement. Then sign below in the space provided.

- I am authorized to submit this application on behalf of the business.
- I attest that the business is current on all of its San Francisco tax obligations.
- I attest that the business's business registration and any applicable regulatory license(s) are current.
- I attest that the Office of Labor Standards and Enforcement (OLSE) has not determined that the business is currently in violation of any of the City's labor laws, and that the business does not owe any outstanding penalties or payments ordered by the OLSE.
- I understand that documents submitted with this application may be made available to the public for inspection and copying pursuant to the California Public Records Act and San Francisco Sunshine Ordinance.
- I hereby acknowledge and authorize that all photographs and images submitted as part of the application may be used by the City without compensation.
- I understand that the Small Business Commission may revoke the placement of the business on the Registry if it finds that the business no longer qualifies, and that placement on the Registry does not entitle the business to a grant of City funds.

Rosalyn Tonai

5/10/2019

Rosalyn M. Tonai

Name (Print):

Date:

Signature:

NATIONAL JAPANESE AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Section 4: Written Historical Narrative

CRITERION 1

a. Provide a short history of the business from the date the business opened in San Francisco to the present day, including the ownership history. For businesses with multiple locations, include the history of the original location in San Francisco (including whether it was the business's founding and or headquartered location) and the opening dates and locations of all other locations.

The National Japanese American Historical Society, Inc. (“NJAHS”) was established on June 29, 1981, as “Go For Broke, Inc.,” whose purpose was to promote the military exploits of the Japanese American veterans of the 100th Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service during World War II in Europe and the Pacific. In 1983, the organization changed its name to the National Japanese American Historical Society to reflect its broader mission to collect, preserve, interpret and share the Japanese American experience for national and global audiences. Today, NJAHS strives to be a catalyst for change through cross-cultural awareness – by learning from the past and influencing the future.

From 1981 to 1997, NJAHS was located at 1855 Folsom Street, Suite 161, in San Francisco. The organization moved to Japantown and was housed in the Japan Center East Mall (22 Peace Plaza, Suite 225) for a short time in 1998-1999, then moved to its present location at 1684 Post Street in 1999 with 2,911 square feet of space. Its Post Street headquarters serves the Japantown community, national membership and visitors with a gallery, book store/gift shop, archives, research library and visitor kiosk.

In 2013 after two decades of planning, NJAHS opened the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) Historic Learning Center in Building 640 (640 Mason Street) at Crissy Field in the Presidio of San Francisco. This 13,000-square-foot interpretive center is the original site of the historic U.S. Army Intelligence Language School, where Japanese American military linguists secretly trained one month before Pearl Harbor (November 1, 1941) and were deployed to the Pacific theater of war after graduating in May 1942. Operated by NJAHS as a nonprofit Park Partner tenant, the center (including replica MIS classroom, permanent gallery and shop) is an adaptive reuse project of the NJAHS, the Presidio Trust and Golden Gate National Recreation Area. NJAHS’s dual site strategy is to bring new audiences to both sites, thus enhancing the Japanese American experience in San Francisco.

b. Describe any circumstances that required the business to cease operations in San Francisco for more than six months?

Not applicable.

c. Is the business a family-owned business? If so, give the generational history of the business.

Not applicable.

d. Describe the ownership history when the business ownership is not the original owner or a family-owned business.

NJAHS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization incorporated in 1981 as Go For Broke, Inc., changing its name in 1983 to the National Japanese American Historical Society, Inc. It has been governed by a 13-to-18-member board of directors since its founding.

e. When the current ownership is not the original owner and has owned the business for less than 30 years, the applicant will need to provide documentation of the existence of the business prior to current ownership to verify it has been in operation for 30+ years. Please use the list of supplemental documents and/or materials as a guide to help demonstrate the existence of the business prior to current ownership.

Documentation of the existence of the organization verifying it has been in operation for 30+ years is provided in this Legacy Business Registry application.

f. Note any other special features of the business location, such as, if the property associated with the business is listed on a local, state, or federal historic resources registry.

NJAHS's Japantown headquarters, at 1684 Post Street, occupy the former location of the Uoki Sakai Fish Market building. The market first opened in 1910 on Geary Street and moved to 1684 Post Street in 1920. It served as the neighborhood's primary seafood and grocery store until 1942, when the Sakai family was forced to move because of Executive Order 9066, excluding all persons of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast. The Sakai family was incarcerated in barracks at the Tanforan Racetrack in South San Francisco and later sent to a permanent War Relocation Authority Camp in Topaz, Utah. The family returned to Japantown in 1948 and reopened its store on Post Street.

In the 1960s, the original building was demolished by the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency, although the Sakai family retained ownership of the property. The Uoki Sakai grocery business relocated to 1656 Post Street in 1969 and remained there until its closure in 2011. In 2006, Uoki Sakai was recognized as one of the Japantown's most enduring and significant businesses during neighborhood centennial celebrations. In 1999, NJAHS moved into 1684 Post Street and completed tenant improvements for its gallery space, archives and store.

NJAHS's second property, the MIS Historic Learning Center, is located in historic Building 640 at the Presidio. It is significant as the former location of the U.S. Army Intelligence Language School, the first military language school, which opened in 1941. During its 2012 rehabilitation, the roof unexpectedly collapsed into the structure. The framing, trusses, and most of the foundation were reconstructed and seismically strengthened, and the original concrete flooring left intact. The wood from the ceiling was salvaged and incorporated into a new ceiling. The original windows and window panes were individually removed, cleaned and put back into place in the rehabilitation phase.

CRITERION 2

a. Describe the business's contribution to the history and/or identity of the neighborhood, community or San Francisco.

Since 1981, NJAHS has served the Japanese American community by presenting exhibitions, publications, videos and public programs on historical events, personalities and the arts and cultural crafts. NJAHS serves as both a neighborhood anchor and an enduring symbol of the Japanese American presence in San Francisco – one of the oldest and last remaining Japantowns in America.

Between 1999-2000, NJAHS was represented by its executive director, Rosalyn Tonai, on the 50-member Japantown Planning, Preservation, and Development Task Force organized to conduct community-wide town hall meetings, work with the city and consultants to produce a community-needs assessment and develop a set of recommendations to: 1) identify priority action programs and projects that are vital to the future economic, social and physical vitality of Japantown; 2) begin a framework of urban design elements that can guide the long-range improvement of the Japantown neighborhood environment; and 3) shape an action plan that addresses a broad range of neighborhood concerns and issues.

From 2001-2016, NJAHS played a critical role in the Japantown Taskforce, Inc., with Rosalyn Tonai serving on the board and executive committee. The taskforce developed the groundbreaking Japantown Cultural Heritage and Economic Sustainability Strategy (JCHES), which provides a framework for sustaining the neighborhood's tangible and intangible cultural heritage. NJAHS continues to serve on the Japantown Taskforce, a community board that guides community planning, development, and cultural heritage preservation efforts.

Situated at the "gateway" of Japantown, NJAHS is the only storefront on the main commercial corridor to depict and interpret the history and identity of Japanese Americans, serving as a portal to discover local culture, history and commerce. NJAHS collaborates with other organizations on major annual events, such as the Northern Cherry Blossom Festival and the Bay Area Day of Remembrance, to commemorate and perpetuate the Japanese American experience, especially as they connect to current events. Through exhibitions, internships and robust public programming, NJAHS fosters greater understanding of Japantown's rich and vibrant history as well as the community's ongoing efforts to preserve and revitalize the Japanese American presence in San Francisco.

b. Is the business (or has been) associated with significant events in the neighborhood, the city, or the business industry?

Japantown is known for its cultural heritage, including art and craft traditions, language, literature and other programs that are important to the community's identity. NJAHS participates in all of Japantown's festivals, including the Northern Cherry Blossom Festival and Nihonmachi Street Fair. (The Cherry Blossom Festival has been held every April in Japantown since 1967, attracting over 50,000 people each year.) NJAHS also lends its support to various festivals in the Japan Center Malls and on Buchanan Mall.

c. Has the business ever been referenced in an historical context? Such as in a business trade publication, media, or historical documents?

NJAHS is identified as an important social heritage resource in the JCHESS, one of a “rich network of community-serving organizations and institutions [that] provide a range of services and benefits to the local community, as well as Japanese Americans from around the region.” The product of a 15-year community-led process, JCHESS is the first document in San Francisco created to focus specifically on how to preserve and promote a neighborhood’s cultural heritage. NJAHS’s public programming and activities advance the JCHESS’s core goals to secure Japantown’s future as the historical and cultural heart of the Japanese and Japanese American community, a thriving commercial and retail district, home to residents and community-based institutions, and as a physically attractive and vibrant environment.

NJAHS programming has been highlighted in numerous media, including *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Rafu Shimpō*, *Nichi Bei Times* and others. The *New York Times* has described NJAHS as “as a source of Japantown’s dynamism and a model for the preservation and interpretation of a community’s history.” In 2010 and 2013, Japan’s Foreign Ministry recognized NJAHS for its “extensive contributions toward the exchange between Japan and the United States by preserving historical materials relating to Japanese immigration to the U.S., educating and enlightening citizens throughout the United States about the wartime experience of Japanese Americans, and undertaking wide-reaching initiatives in public education about Japanese Americans.”

d. Is the business associated with a significant or historical person?

Since its inception, NJAHS has celebrated the accomplishments of and included Japanese American veterans (i.e., Tom Kawaguchi), activists, politicians, artists and other dignitaries in its leadership and activities. Past president Dr. Clifford Uyeda was a leader in the Civil Liberties redress campaign, heading up the Japanese American Citizens League’s Redress Legislative Committee for the Commission on the Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians; NJAHS’s annual Peace & Humanitarian Award is named in his honor. NJAHS’s past president, Thomas Sakamoto, has been memorialized in Presidio of San Francisco and in the new U.S. Army Museum in Washington, D.C. (opening in 2020). San Francisco artists Janice Mirikitani (SF Poet Laureate) and Ruth Asawa (namesake of the SF School of the Arts) worked with NJAHS on numerous projects, including the first Japanese American Women’s exhibit, the San Francisco State Internment Memorial and reinstallation of Asawa’s Origami Fountains on Japantown’s Buchanan Mall in 2000.

e. How does the business demonstrate its commitment to the community?

Since 1983, NJAHS has demonstrated its commitment to the community with its deep and long-term involvement in its planning, preservation and viability. With its focus on activities relating to cultural preservation and education, NJAHS has engaged various sectors of the community. The majority of NJAHS programming is free to the public and easily accessible.

f. Provide a description of the community the business serves.

San Francisco is home to a sizeable Asian and Asian American population. One-third of the city's population self-identifies as Asian, with 24% of all businesses in San Francisco owned by this population. According to the JCHES, Japantown is 33% Asian, 8% Black/African American, 8% Latino and 47% White (and the other 4% cited "None of the Above"). NJAHS programs celebrate and engage with the local Japanese American and Asian American communities, as well as domestic and international tourists, local residents and former and current Japantown residents and business owners of diverse backgrounds, including African American, Korean, Russian and Jewish communities.

g. Is the business associated with a culturally significant building/structure/site/object/interior?

NJAHS's Japantown headquarters is located at the former site of the Uoki Sakai Fish Market at 1684 Post Street. In many ways, the story of the Sakai family reflects the broader story and resilience of the Japanese American community in San Francisco. The Sakai family property sustained two upheavals promulgated by government action. Due to Executive Order 9066, the Sakai family was forced to close its business throughout World War II. Even after returning and reopening, their business was again disrupted by urban renewal; the original building at 1684 Post Street was demolished and replaced by a two-story building on the same site.

h. How would the community be diminished if the business were to be sold, relocated, shut down, etc.?

If NJAHS were to close or relocate, Japantown would lose its only publicly accessible cultural heritage destination, including a gallery, library and professionally-managed archives and collections. At the heart of the commercial corridor, and across from the Japan Center and Peace Plaza, NJAHS is not only a symbol of this enduring community but is also the neighborhood's only historically-based interpretive center. The loss of the NJAHS store and gallery would deprive visitors, tourists and residents of an essential portal for discovering Japantown. Its closure would deprive the neighborhood of a vital community space and, beyond its four walls, and an essential cultural resource and leader helping to preserve and sustain Japantown's cultural heritage.

CRITERION 3

a. Describe the business and the essential features that define its character.

Since 1980, NJAHS has been dedicated to the preservation of cultural heritage and Japanese American history through its extensive collection, exhibitions and public programs, and its participation in festivals, traditions and advocacy for the Japantown community. NJAHS draws from its extensive collection (13,000 objects, documents, photos) of Japanese American World War II military, incarceration camp and pre-war ephemera to produce ground-breaking exhibitions at its own galleries and in larger venues such as the Oakland Museum of California, the Smithsonian Institution and the Bishop Museum. Go For Broke's inaugural exhibition told the story of Nisei Soldier of WWII (Presidio Army Museum, 1981-1983).

In subsequent decades, NJAHS has organized or contributed to many exhibitions, including “A More Perfect Union: Japanese Americans and the U.S. Constitution” (Smithsonian National Museum of American History, 1988-2002), “Something From Nothing: Art and Handcrafted Objects from America’s Concentration Camps” (USF Thacher Gallery, 2017) and “Exclusion: The Presidio’s Role in WWII Japanese American Incarceration” (Presidio Officer’s Club, 2018 - present). NJAHS also presents annual community events in partnership with other community groups (e.g., Bay Area Day of Remembrance, Nikkei Angel Island Pilgrimage) and hosts workshops, film screenings, panel discussions and public education programs.

b. How does the business demonstrate a commitment to maintaining the historical traditions that define the business, and which of these traditions should not be changed in order to retain the businesses historical character? (e.g., business model, goods and services, craft, culinary, or art forms)

NJAHS supports the local art community, especially Japanese American artists, through the production of art and history exhibitions. For example, *Artists’ Eyes: Art of Incarceration*, featured Japanese American artists who were incarcerated during World War II, their descendants and members from other ethnic communities who share a history of unjust incarceration. Writers and scholars are regularly featured in *Nikkei Heritage*, NJAHS’ periodical, which has been produced for the past 30 years. Educational workshops and student internships advance NJAHS’s mission to collect, preserve and authentically interpret the Japanese American experience. Participation in community events and festivals demonstrates NJAHS’s commitment to maintaining the traditions of Japantown. NJAHS conducts talks on Executive Order 9066 and incarceration, Nikkei genealogy, travel guides and culinary tours, among other culturally-specific topics.

c. How has the business demonstrated a commitment to maintaining the special physical features that define the business? Describe any special exterior and interior physical characteristics of the space occupied by the business (e.g. signage, murals, architectural details, neon signs, etc.).

Although not architecturally significant, NJAHS’s Post Street location is culturally significant as the former location of the Uoki Sakai Fish Market building (from 1920-1960s). NJAHS is committed to maintaining its large floor-to-ceiling storefront windows that enable visitors to view into the gallery and community space.

d. When the current ownership is not the original owner and has owned the business for less than 30 years; the applicant will need to provide documentation that demonstrates the current owner has maintained the physical features or traditions that define the business, including craft, culinary, or art forms. Please use the list of supplemental documents and/or materials as a guide to help demonstrate the existence of the business prior to current ownership.

Documentation that demonstrates the organization has been dedicated to the collection, preservation, authentic interpretation and sharing of historical information of the Japanese American experience for 30+ years is included in this Legacy Business Registry application.

NATIONAL JAPANESE AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY (NJAHS)

Legacy
Business
Images/
Articles

GO FOR BROKE FORMS 1981

WEEKLY MAINICHI **HOKUSAI MAINICHI**
VICTORIAL REPORTAGE OF THE DAY
At the Opening Ceremony



At 'Go For Broke' Banquet



Dr. Francis M. Mayer, President of the United States Olympic Committee, presents a certificate of appreciation to a representative of the United States Olympic Committee.



Dr. Francis M. Mayer, President of the United States Olympic Committee, presents a certificate of appreciation to a representative of the United States Olympic Committee.



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Nichi Bei Times
JAPANESE AMERICAN DAILY

'Go For Broke' Exhibit
Many 100th/442nd Veterans Attend Army Museum Opening Programs



Many 100th/442nd Veterans Attend Army Museum Opening Programs



Many 100th/442nd Veterans Attend Army Museum Opening Programs



Many 100th/442nd Veterans Attend Army Museum Opening Programs



Many 100th/442nd Veterans Attend Army Museum Opening Programs



Many 100th/442nd Veterans Attend Army Museum Opening Programs

1983- NJAHS ESTABLISHED



Go For Broke/NJAHS Founder and Executive Director K. Tom Kawaguchi



1983 -
1986

Changes name to
National Japanese
American
Historical Society
to reflect broader
vision.

NJAHS 1st offices
located at 1855
Folsom Street, SF
Volunteer Board &
Staff comprised of
mostly Japanese
American veterans
of the famed 442nd
Regimental
Combat Team and
Military
Intelligence
Service

1986 - 1990 SOCIETY EXPANDS

California Daily News
 15, CA 90012-4083 Office: (213) 626-1168

JA Historical Society Expands Artifact, Photographic Storage

SAN FRANCISCO — The National Japanese American Historical Society, of San Francisco, announced that it has expanded its rare artifact, document and photographic storage facility and will begin a major effort to expand its collections relating to the Japanese American experience.

The society is now actively soliciting artifacts, papers and photographs that will be included in its numerous traveling exhibits.

Heretofore, the Historical Society has primarily collected memorabilia that related to the 100th Infantry Battalion, 42nd Regimental Central Postal Directory, and the Military Intelligence Service which served in the Pacific.

The Historical Society will in fact continue to collect these rare objects, but has expanded its goals and mission to collect objects and photographs that relate to all other dimensions of Japanese American history. For example, the society is actively collecting the following things: lost objects, such as kimono, geta, koto, work clothes, suits, dresses, household objects, such as lamps, clocks, cameras; traditional Japanese objects, particularly those items that were brought to the United States from Japan.

Also, of particular interest, are original photographs and documents from 1900 to 1941 that portray life in the Japanese American family and

community. It is realized that many of these kinds of artifacts were lost during the forced evacuation in 1942 and April of 1943, and there are few surviving collections in existence in the United States.

It is particularly important that preservation, well organized effort be made to save these items from being destroyed or discarded as junk and those families lose their loved ones and that these items will be lost forever.

The NHAHS has recently greatly expanded its storage capabilities and has obtained the services of many volunteers to catalogue and maintain the new collection.

Other objects and photographs that are actively sought are things that were collected in the relocation and detention camps such as: crochets, paintings, drawings, sculptures, telecardorials, laminated artifacts, and particularly photographs that were taken in camp by Japanese Americans.

The collections will serve two purposes: to remind both Japanese and non-Japanese citizens of the wonderful, magnificent history of survival and perseverance of the first and second generations of Japanese Americans and secondly, to preserve, display, and interpret these rare objects.

"We really need to have our story remembered, if not for ourselves, at least for our children," was stated by artifact curator Wally Morimoto.

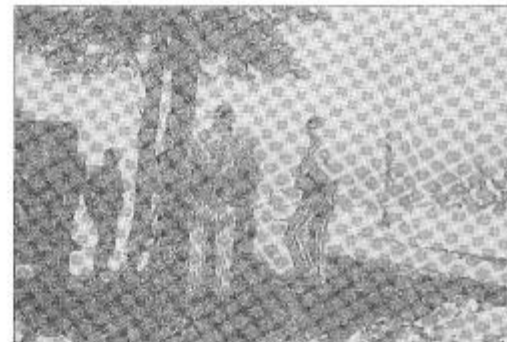
"If we don't do it now, I don't think there will be anybody else to do it," he added.

Those wishing to donate collections who have been approached and solicited by telephone, should contact the NHAHS, 1888 Polaris St., San Francisco 94103, (415) 431-5867.

All items will be carefully considered for inclusion in the Historical Society collection. Do not toss in items, rather, contact the curator about potential donations.

THE RAFU SHI

LOS ANGELES JAPANESE DAILY NEWS 1230 SO. LOS ANGELES STREET, LOS ANGELES



522ND FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION—This is an extremely rare photo of a Nisei of the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion who recently liberated Dachau, April 1945.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY SEEKS NISEI WHO LIBERATED DACHAU CONCENTRATION CAMP

SAN FRANCISCO.—The National Japanese American Historical Society is seeking Nisei veterans of the all-Japanese American 522nd Field Artillery Battalion who participated in the liberation of the Dachau concentration camp in Germany the latter part of April, 1945.

It was recently discovered that a number of Nisei from the 522nd Artillery were responsible for the liberation of Dachau. This is reported to be one of the most important moments in the history of the Japanese American soldier in World War II. The destruction of liberating Dachau upon many Nisei soldiers whose parents and families, in fact, were incarcerated in American detention

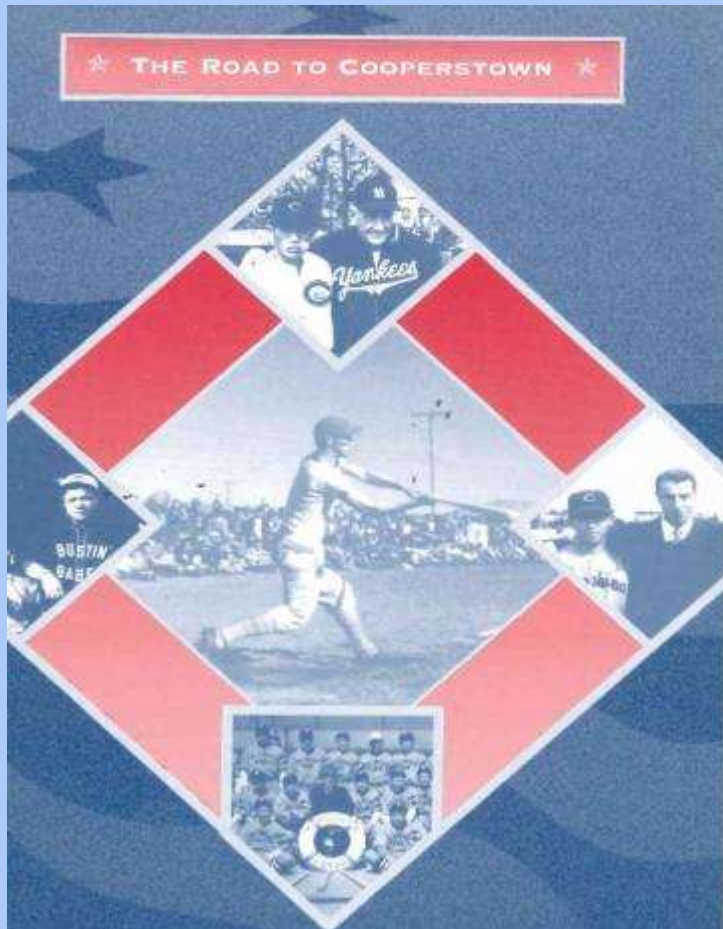
Ray Scholey plans to interview Nisei veterans and Jews who were incarcerated at Dachau, he feels the story from the point of view of the Nisei is extremely important. The historical society has been successful in finding a few surviving members of the 522nd Artillery who are willing to speak about their experiences. Among them are: Col. Masamasa of Los Angeles, George Doye and Hideo Nakamura of Hawaii. These veterans have donated their personal albums and photographs which are being permanently preserved in NHAHS's climate-controlled archives.

The 522nd Artillery was founded in Camp Shelby, Miss.

to death on the food that was given to them due to their weakness and starvation. "What I saw the hardest was I thought of my parents and family in Heart Mountain WRA camp. We wondered why we had been allowed to find this massacre. All we thought of was revenge and to kill the people who had perpetrated these atrocities. We wanted to get 1000!"

Any veterans and their families who have any artifacts or are willing to be interviewed for this project, are asked to contact Eric Sakai at the National Japanese American Historical Society, 1885 Polaris St., San Francisco, 94103, telephone (415) 431-

1996



Diamonds in the Rough
Children of Camps Exhibit Display



1981-1997: NJAHS AT FOLSOM STREET



1990-1997
-Expands Archives Storage
-Gallery Lobby
-Hires Paid Staff. Board Admin. Committee runs NJAHS. On boarding of Sansei and Women.
1990-Executive Director Rosalyn Tonai hired.
1991-1997 E.D. hires staff, projects run by core volunteers.



1997-1998

NJAHS makes strategic move to Japan Center Mall to support the preservation of Japantown and to better serve the community., NJAHS relocates its offices to a storefront in San Francisco Japantown's East Mall

22 Peace Plaza
SF CA 94115



1997

NJAHS Offices:
Japan Center
Mall
Includes
Administrative
office
Archives
Retail store &
Library

Board
diversifies,
advisory
committee
established



1999

To further its mission and increase public access and visibility, NJAHS moves to a 2,376 sf storefront along the Post Street commercial corridor, at 1684 Post Street, the original site of Uoki Sakai & Co. still under same Sakai family proprietorship. With support from City funds, NJAHS develops Gallery, Store Archives, Offices, Reference Library. Public programs are Free to the public.



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TRUST



NATIONAL JAPANESE AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1680 POST

San Wang RESTAURANT PHOENIX & SUSHI BAR CHINA

SOKO Interiors Furniture

SOKO

ALERT PEST CONTROL CO., INC.
FREE ESTIMATES
910-756-2225





NATIONAL JAPANESE AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CHILDREN OF
THE CAMPS
1942 - 1946

Produced by the National Japanese
American Historical Society.



Japantown
Visitor Center

Visit us online at: sjapantown.org



1999 – STOREFRONT OPENS TO PUBLIC



NJAHS operates storefront gallery and store selling books, CDs, DVDs and gift items crafted by local Japanese American artists. 1st year: Visitorship increases 300%, \$25,000 in gross sales.

1999: RESILIENT IMAGES EXHIBIT



NJAHS receives \$100,000 in Cultural Initiatives, and \$15,000 from SF Arts Commission

1999: PROFILES IN COURAGE CEREMONY



NJAHS continues its Park partnership with GGNRA/Nat'l Park Service and Presidio Trust at the historic Building 640, where WWII Nisei soldiers secretly trained. Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi and Senator Daniel Akaka are early supporters of NJAHS efforts to preserve this building for adaptive reuse as an interpretative center on the Japanese American experience in the Presidio.

1999



NJAHS presents its Annual Awards Tribute, honors Coram Nobis Legal Team
Presidential Medal of Freedom Awardee Fred Korematsu, Judge Marilyn Patel, Don Tamaki, Esq.

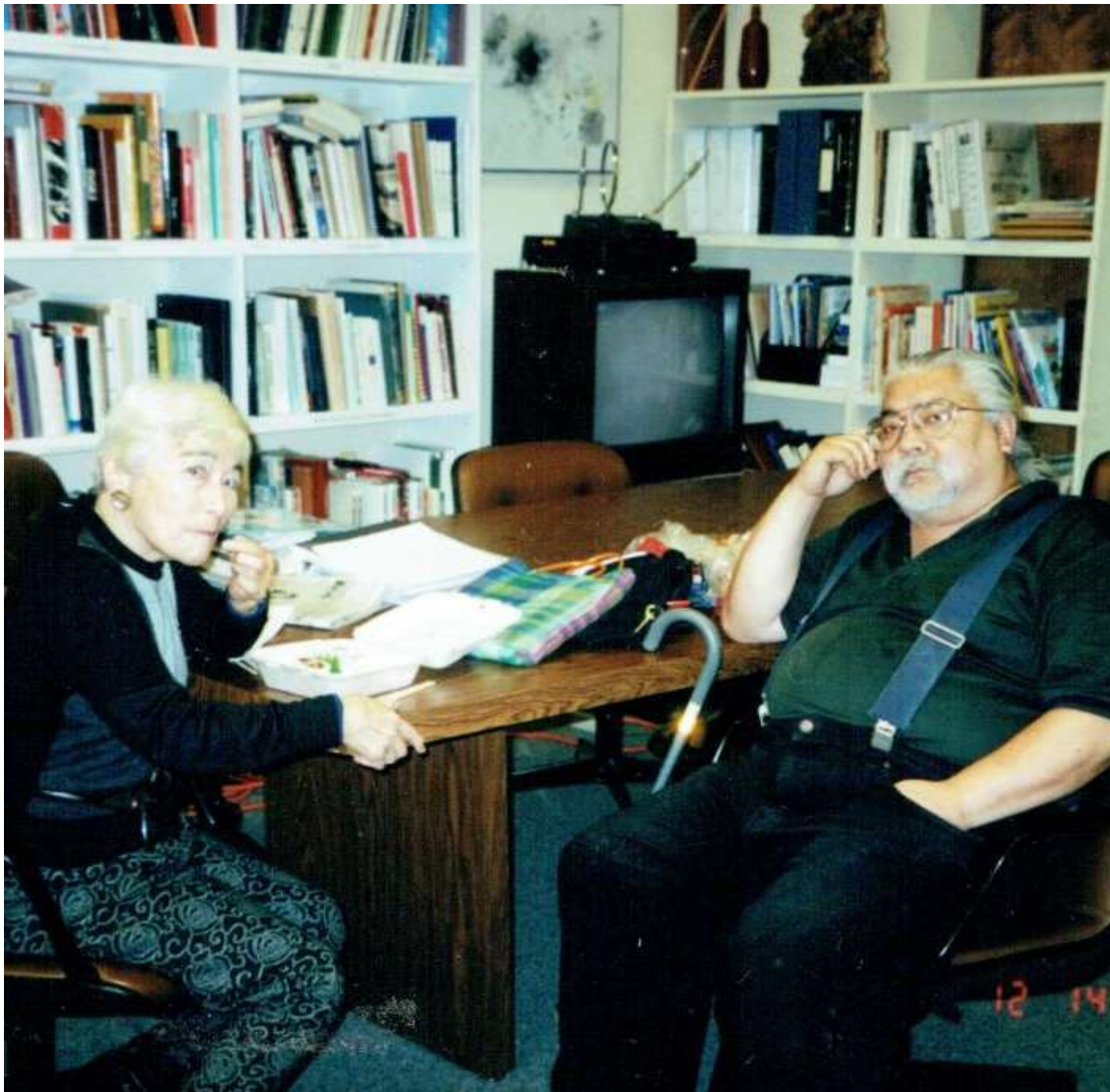


2000

Rosa Parks Elementary School Japanese Bilingual and Bicultural Program (JBBP) moves to Western Addition.

NJHS sets up educational programs for neighborhood schools and develops Peace Gallery as a fieldtrip destination.

NJHS Peace Gallery, 1684 Post Street, former site of history Uoki Grocery.



2000

NJAHS Peace
Gallery
functions as
drop-in center
for local
members,
volunteers,
visitors seeking
information,
referrals, local
programming.

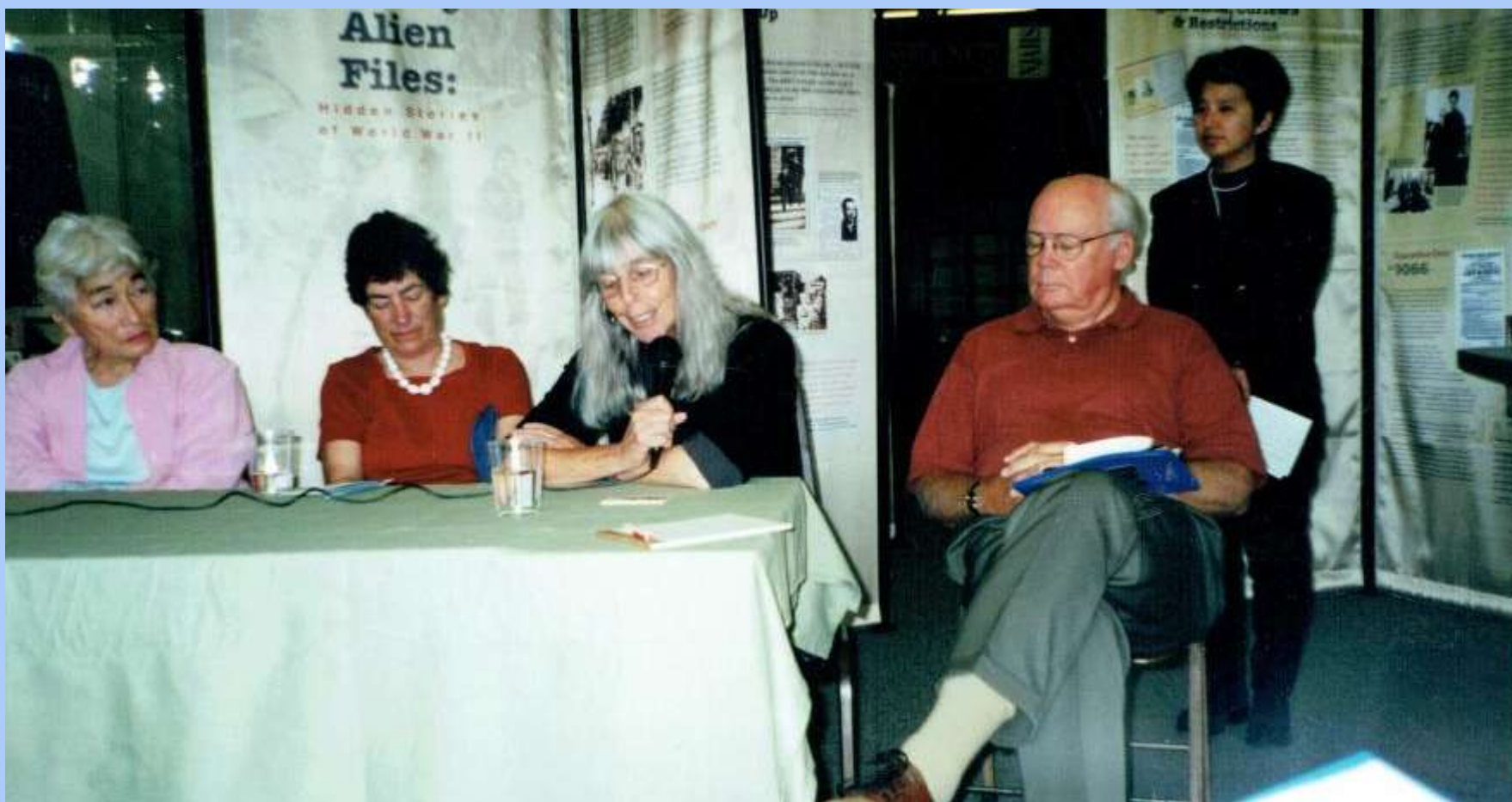
Volunteers Kiku
Funabiki and
Peter
Yamamoto

2002



NJAHS explores Building 640 development in Presidio to enhance economic vitality and reach broader audience for Japantown neighborhood community.

2002 -03: ENEMY ALIEN FILES EXHIBIT



Through consortium, NJAHS builds audience with former Latin American, Italian and German internees

2005: MIS RESEARCH COMMITTEE



CARRYING ON:

100 YEARS
of
SAN FRANCISCO'S
JAPANTOWN

NJAHS honors past and present Japanese American family-owned businesses
NJAHS produces DVD "Carrying ON" documenting their history and legacy



ON- an Obligation spanning generations

2006

2010



NJAHS
produces
Mo' Magic
Multi-
cultural
Youth
Concerts
in Jtown

2011 NJAHS INVOLVED IN HISTORIC CONTEXT STATEMENT

Historic Context Statement
Issued May 2011

Japantown
San Francisco, California

Prepared for
City & County of San Francisco
Planning Department

DOMNA GRAVES and
PAGE C. TURNBULL, ENG.
124 First Street, San Francisco, California 94105
415.362.5154 / www.page-turnbull.com

Historic Context Statement
Final Draft

Japantown
San Francisco, California

ownership of their family homes and businesses. By 1936, at least 85 percent were Japanese-owned. Prior to American entry into World War II, this ownership had risen from 40 percent to 100%.¹⁰ While some Japanese purchased property and resided in it in the name of their American-born children, many continued to use the conventions of land trusts with cooperative partners because of the ongoing political agitation against the Japanese, which included efforts to disenfranchise American-born children of Japanese descent of their U.S. citizenship.



Japanese Businesses along Grant Street, 1910.
(Collection of National Japanese American Historical Society)

GROWTH OF NIPPONWASHI'S COMMERCIAL SECTOR

San Francisco's first Japanese entrepreneurs established businesses that as of migrant laborers who passed through the city. One of the first private immigrant firms (Japan, Nippon) was established in 1880, operated a restaurant and branch office in San Francisco from 1880 to 1888. It was the president of the 20 Japanese American Industrial Corporation, a labor contracting company Japanese immigrant labor in the Utah Sugar Company, Union Pacific Company, and various other companies in the Western U.S. It was also the founder of the Nippon American Trade (The American Land and Produce Company), an trading company established for the benefit of Japanese immigrants from Japan for Japanese immigrants in permanently settle in the U.S. and was providing the various and other colonies in Central California. It was a

¹⁰ City and County of San Francisco, *Japanese State Landmarks*, Books 469, 495, 531, 555, 584, 604, 679, 678, 675, 673, 671, 663, 486, 497, 688, 697, 699, 703, 701, 708, 709, 716, 717

July 2009

30

Historic Context Statement
Final Draft

Japantown
San Francisco, California

1910. A new San Francisco Committee was also formed in 1910 to help Japanese immigrants of lands to acquire land ownership.¹¹ Japanese and other Asian immigrants were likely able to become established citizens after passage of the White Mountain Immigration and Nationality Act of 1920. San Francisco's City Hall has been demolished and replaced by the building of the new city hall.

Historic Context Statement
Final Draft



Japantown, San Francisco, California, 1910.
(Collection of National Japanese American Historical Society)

1910. A new San Francisco Committee was also formed in 1910 to help Japanese immigrants of lands to acquire land ownership.¹¹ Japanese and other Asian immigrants were likely able to become established citizens after passage of the White Mountain Immigration and Nationality Act of 1920. San Francisco's City Hall has been demolished and replaced by the building of the new city hall.

Historic Context Statement
Final Draft

Japantown
San Francisco, California

Historic Context Statement
Final Draft



Historic Context Statement
Final Draft

Historic Context Statement
Final Draft

¹¹ City and County of San Francisco, *Japanese State Landmarks*, Books 469, 495, 531, 555, 584, 604, 679, 678, 675, 673, 671, 663, 486, 497, 688, 697, 699, 703, 701, 708, 709, 716, 717

July 2009

31

Historic Context Statement
Final Draft

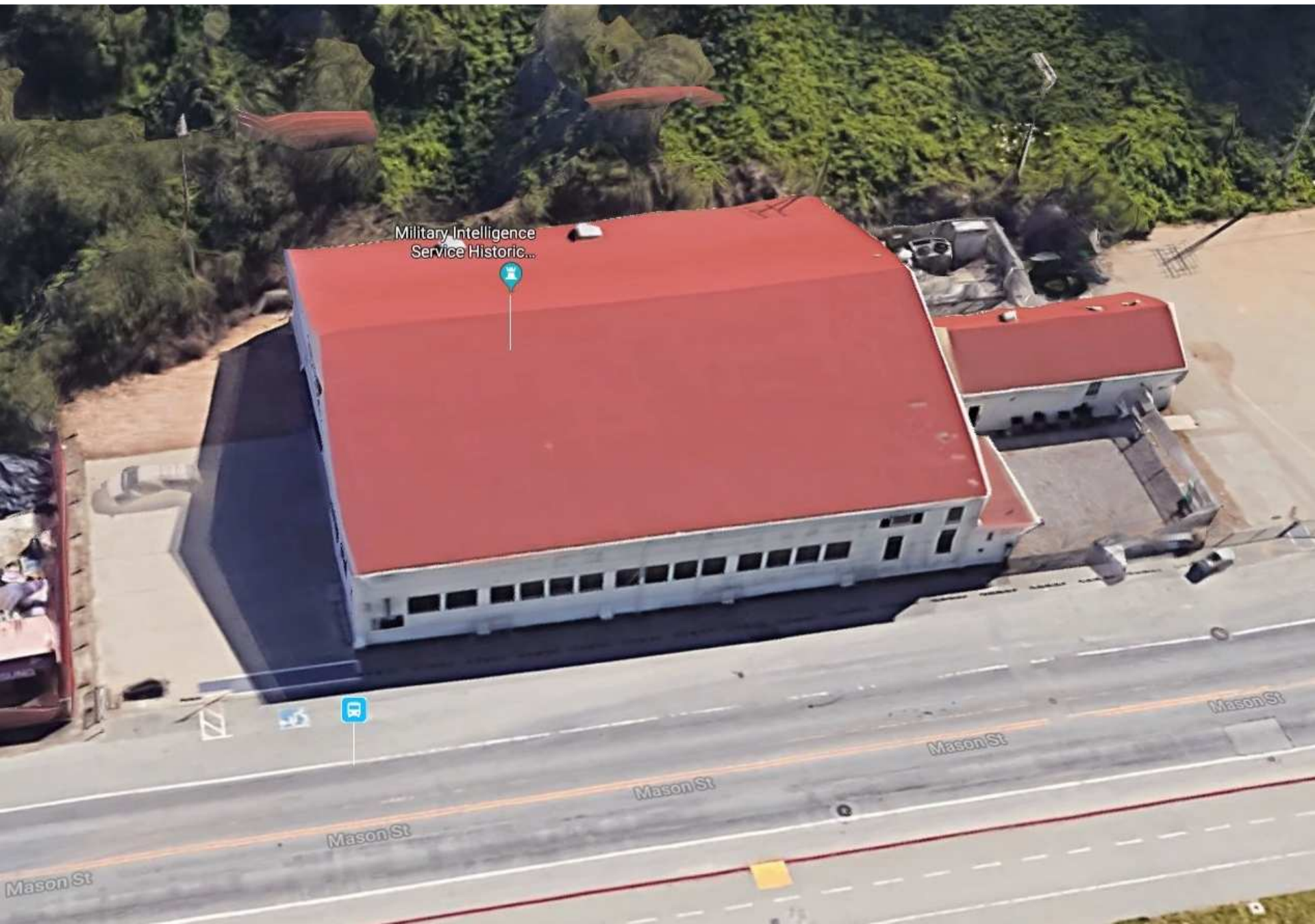
2010-
2013



NJAHs partners with NPS, Presidio Trust & completes a \$4.5 million rebuild & adaptive reuse of Building 640 after roof collapse



Opens the MIS Historic Learning Center in the Presidio of San Francisco at historic Building 640



Military Intelligence
Service Historic...



Mason St

Mason St

Mason St

Mason St

Mason St





2013- 640 OPENING CEREMONY



MIS Historic Learning Center in the Presidio Opens to the Public







120,313

10,046

manzanar

8,497

jerome

10,767

heart mtn.

13,348

gila river

7,316

amache

8,397

minidoka

17,814

poston

8,475

rohwer

8,130

topaz

18,789

tulelake



2012: JCHES: PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

...GOALS AND OBJECTIVES



GOAL 3

Secure Japantown's future as a home to residents and community-based institutions.

OBJECTIVES

- A. Provide more mixed-income housing (especially for families and seniors).
- B. Provide economic support for community-based, non-profit organizations.
- C. Improve public space and parks.
- D. Maintain a livable neighborhood that reflects San Francisco's diversity.

D. ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

Japantown has a rich network of community-serving organizations and institutions (See Figure 3.2: Organizations and Institutions). These organizations and institutions provide a range of services and benefits to the local community, as well as to Japanese Americans from around the region. These services are offered by way of many community activities, educational and youth programs, teaching and performing of traditional arts and crafts, and senior programs, among others.

Some of Japantown's organizations pre-date the neighborhood, while others are relatively new. Many of Japantown's existing community-based organizations were founded in the 1960s or 1970s by *Sansei* (third-generation Japanese Americans), including the Japanese Community Youth Council, Nihonmachi Little Friends, the Japanese Community and Cultural Center of Northern California, Nobiru-kai, the Japanese American National Library, the Japantown Arts and Media Workshop, Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach, the Japanese American Historical Society, and Kimochi, Inc. Other organizations were founded by the *Issei* or *Nisei* (first- or second-generation), and have transitioned to *Sansei* leadership.

AREA OF CONCERN

D.1. Capacity Challenges for Community-Serving Organizations and Institutions.

While many of these organizations continue to provide invaluable services and programming, the non-profit community is concerned that some organizations are facing financial difficulties, shrinking memberships, and/or overlapping missions. There is also concern that the community is saturated with non-profits, which makes it difficult to find funding and support for both existing and potential new organizations.

AREA OF CONCERN

D.2. Lack of Space for Organizations.

The community includes a number of organizations that are struggling to maintain a physical presence in the neighborhood because they do not have permanent facilities and/or access to affordable spaces.

In its Peace Gallery, NJAHS presents JCHES Goals & Objectives for Japantown Taskforce at public festivals.

2012 – 2015- NJAHS ENGAGES PUBLIC

NJAHS conducts community-based historical walking tours and docent-led exhibit tours as a means to inform & engage greater audiences about the history of Japanese in America.



Japantown Cultural and Historical Walking Tour

Throughout the year by request

[REQUEST A GROUP TOUR](#)

A guided tour through San Francisco Japantown with an emphasis on the history and culture



MIS Historic Learning Center Docent Led Tour

Throughout the year by request

[REQUEST A GROUP TOUR](#)

Japantown Planning, Preservation and Development Task Force:

Japantown Community Plan Proposed Strategies (with community input) September 12, 2001 [DRAFT](#)

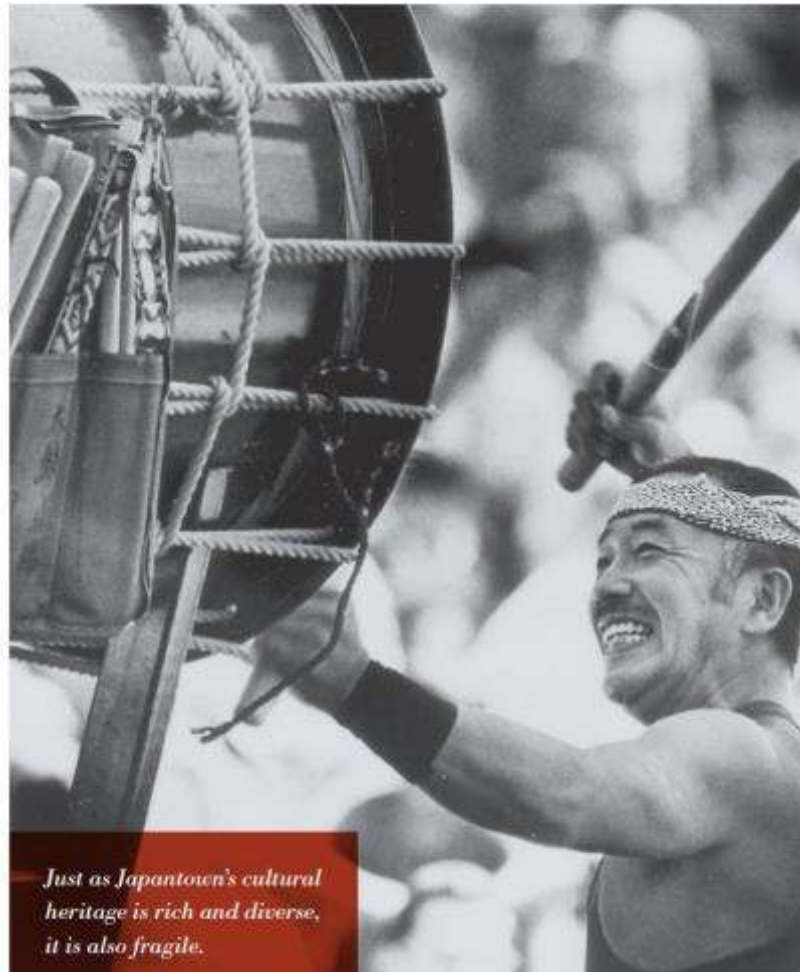
Concepts for the Japantown Community Plan:

Prepared for the Japantown Planning Preservation and Development Task Force. Prepared by BMS Design Group Urban Planning and Design and Porat Consulting Economic Development in association with The Duffey Company - Transportation, Nobuho Nagasawa - Artist, Sedway Group - Real Estate Economics, VBN Architects - Architecture, Jim Leritz - Illustrator. November 2000. [Cover](#).

Japantown Community Planning Process Status Report July 26, 1999.

Submitted to the Japantown Planning, Preservation, and Development Task Force. Report prepared by the Japantown Planning Consultant Team: Chinatown Community Development Center and Asian Neighborhood Design. July, 1999. [\(Report/Htm\)](#)

2013 – NJAHS ENDORSES JCHES

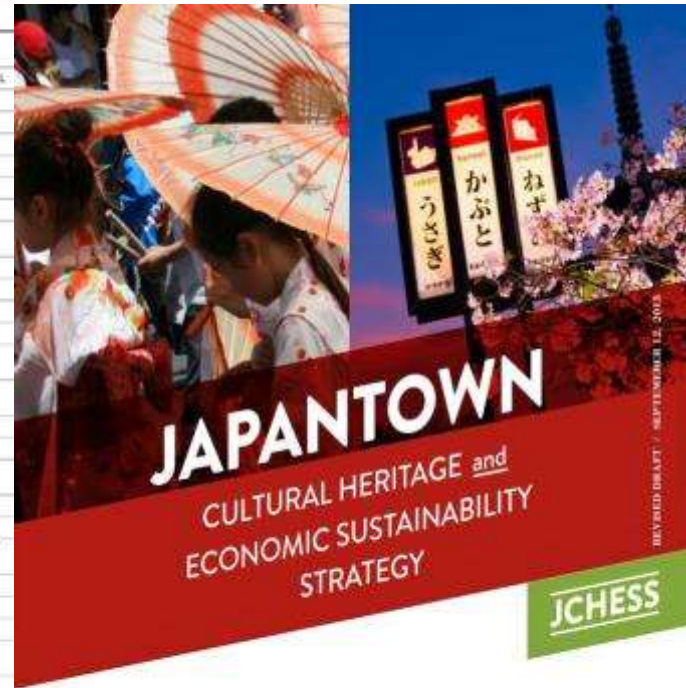


Just as Japantown's cultural heritage is rich and diverse, it is also fragile.

Table 3.2
JAPANTOWN'S CULTURAL RESOURCES: ORGANIZATIONS & INSTITUTIONS

Refer to the map on the previous page for location.

No.	Name	Address
4	ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH / ST. BENEDICT'S	
5	JAPANESE COMMUNITY YOUTH COUNCIL	
6	NICHIREN BUDDHIST CHURCH	
8	BUDDHIST CHURCHES OF AMERICA	
7	BOY SCOUT TROOP 29	
9	GIRL SCOUTS - SF BUDDHIST CHURCH	
9	SOKO GAKUEN LANGUAGE SCHOOL	
10	GREEN'S EYE HOSPITAL	
11	KOKORO ASSISTED LIVING CENTER - FORMER SOTO ZEN TEMPLE	
12	BOY SCOUT TROOP 58	
12	KONKO-KYO CHURCH	
13	BOY SCOUT TROOP 12	
13	CUPC SUMMER CAMP	
13	NIHONMACHI LITTLE FRIENDS AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM	
14	NICHI BEI WEEKLY / NICHI BEI FOUNDATION	
14	NIHONMACHI PARKING CORP.	
14	SAKURA 150	
15	NIHONMACHI LITTLE FRIENDS OFFICES AND PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAM	
16	BAMBI CHILDREN'S GROUP	
16	GOLDEN GATE OPTIMIST CLUB	
16	JAPANESE CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY CENTER OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA	
16	KIMOCHE LUNCH PROGRAM	
16	NIHONMACHIROOTS	
16	NIKKEI AND RETIREMENT	
16	NOBIRU-KAI (JAPANESE NEWCOMER SERVICES)	
16	TOMODACHI YOUTH SUMMER CAMP	
17	JTOWN ARTS	
17	KINMON GAKUEN	
17	NIHONMACHI LITTLE FRIENDS BILINGUAL & MULTICULTURAL CHILDCARE	
18	KIMOCHE, INC.	
19	SOKOJI SOTO-ZEN TEMPLE, SOTO ZEN MISSION	
20	NATIONAL JAPANESE AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY	1684 POST ST.
21	JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE (JACL)	1785 SUTTER ST.
21	JAPANESE BENEVOLENT SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA (JIKAIKAI)	1785 SUTTER ST., 2ND FLOOR
21	JAPANTOWN TASKFORCE	1785 SUTTER ST.
21	HAKAYDISHI YOUNG PROFESSIONALS	1785 SUTTER ST.



KAGAMI KAI	1919 BETH AVE.
KENJIN KAI (VARIOUS GROUPS)	VARIOUS
NIKKEI LIONS CLUB OF SAN FRANCISCO	681 VAN NESS AVE.
PINE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH	426 33RD AVE.
SEIKO-KAI CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH	2140 PIERCE ST.
SF-OSAKA SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION	C/O W. SACK, 425 MARKET ST.
URASENKE FOUNDATION - SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH	2143 POWELL ST.

2014 VISITOR CENTER CONCEPT



Through joint efforts, NJAHS & Japantown Taskforce develop concept plan for Visitor Center & kiosk through interactive audience surveys & an on-line portal in Peace Gallery



2014



NJAHS Storefront upgrades multi-site POS system and expands to on-line retail.

2015



Annual Labor Fest program

NJAHS Conducts ADA assessment and audience survey to determine upgrades to site

2015



NJAHS participates as a Japantown vendor site for SFAC's Passport 2015



2016



NJAHS Honors SF J-town family-owned small businesses- Benkyo-do Confectioners, Paper Tree, Okamoto Realty

2017



Northern California
Cherry Blossom Festival

1968 - 2017

A Golden Journey - 50 Years of Japanese Culture



Korematsu Fights Back booksigning 7-1-2017.

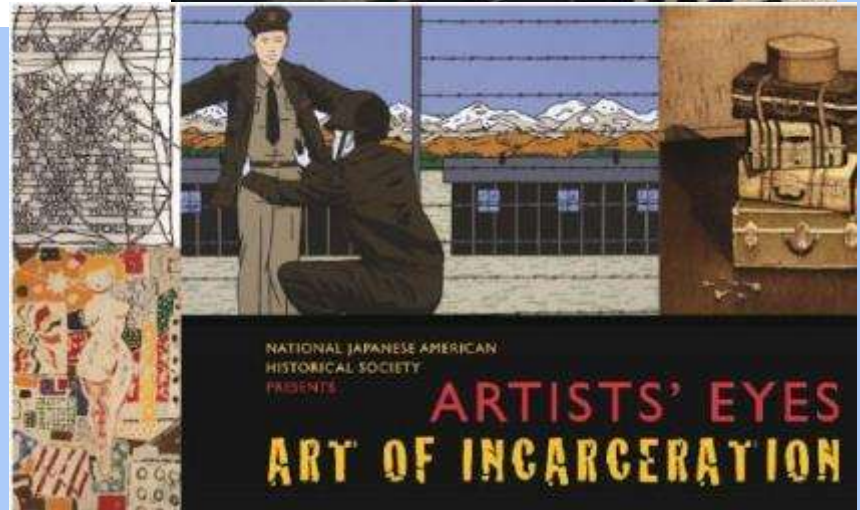


Dec. 7th Press Conference, NJAHS Peace Gallery, Dec 7, 2017

2018



NJAHS sponsored 50 Years of Japan Center exhibit & Artists' Eyes exhibitions at 2 locations, and J-town candle lighting procession for Day of Remembrance 2018



2019- EXHIBIT ENHANCEMENTS

Federal grants help to support enhancements in permanent gallery

Teacher professional development training for credential classroom teachers



Aside from Okubo's experience, Tonal said she also drew from Army veteran Tsuneo Gary Kadani's memories of visiting his family at an assembly center. Kadani, who was part of the first class of Nisei service men to train at Building 640 to form the top secret Military Intelligence Service, disobeyed his superiors to drive out to Salinas to see his parents when he learned they were incarcerated at an assembly center.

"When he got there, they wouldn't even let him in the camp. You know, here he was in full uniform and they wouldn't let him in," Tonal said. Kadani, however, was able to meet with his parents at the fence where his mother begged him for bleach because of the terrible smell. "He went out to get the bleach, but he would tell us that was the saddest day in his life to see his parents like that."

The exhibit features a 1940s glass Clorox bleach bottle to supplement Kadani's story.

Along with the bleach, the exhibit also features other artifacts from the camp era, including marbles excavated from the Topaz concentration camp in Utah by Toru Saito. Tonal said Saito dug up his old collection of marbles before the site became a protected historic landmark in 2007.

Saito, 81, was 4 years old when he was incarcerated at Topaz. He excavated the marbles in 1995, 50 years after he had left the camp, he told the Nichi Bei Weekly in a phone interview. He said the wooden boards of his front porch were still embedded in the ground so he knew where his barrack was.

"Something told me to dig in the lower right hand corner," Saito said. "So I dug down about six-to-eight inches, and there were these 28 marbles that I had hidden underneath the porch."

Saito reflected on his childhood when he uncovered the marbles.



The new exhibit "Dislocation and Divergence: Real Stories of E.O. 9066" at the Military Intelligence Service Historic Learning Center in San Francisco, photo by Tono Hira / Nichi Bei Weekly

"I didn't know the ins-and-outs of the Constitution and why we were there. I was just a kid. I had a lot of fun and we did a lot of things a 4-year-old would do," he said. "You know, but there were no swings or slides that kids would use to play. . . those were our childhood gems, you know? We were little kids. We played with marbles and that's all we practically had to play with."

Besides the horse stall barrack, the exhibit also features an updated map of locations where Japanese Americans were incarcerated.

"We took this opportunity to remake the map and put in a bunch of camps that they didn't know about back then," said Max Mihel, the collections manager for the historical society. The original map, created in 2000, did not feature the recently rediscovered citizen isolation centers on the mainland or the detention facilities located on Hawaii. "They're still finding more, so on the thing we wrote 'as of June 2018.'"

Tonal said she hoped to make the exhibit engaging for children. Annually she estimated a couple thousand people visit the site through various activities and tours. The horse stall features an interactive iPad display, including an excerpt of Okubo's "Citizen 13660," along with historical photos from the camp era, and a computer station next to the map linked to the historical society's collections database. The

LIVING AT TANFORAN — The Military Intelligence Service center in S.F.'s Presidio now features a new exhibit based on Miné Okubo's family's by Tono Hira/Nichi Bei Weekly.

The National Japanese American Historical Society recently announced the completion of a new simulated horse stall barrack at its "Dislocation and Divergence: Real Stories of E.O. 9066" permanent installation at the Military Intelligence Service Historic Learning Center, located at Crissy Field in the Presidio of San Francisco.

Following the signing of Executive Order 9066 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt during World War II, the American government ultimately incarcerated some 120,000 people of Japanese descent — most of whom were American Citizens — in camps. Many Issei and Nisei were imprisoned in temporary assembly centers, also on the grounds of the Tanforan and Santa Anita race tracks in Northern and California, respectively. The new installation at the historical society's M.I.S. Historic Learning Center in Building 640 features a recreation of a horse stall barrack from the Tanforan Assembly Center, based on the story of artist Miné Okubo's stall during her incarceration.

From Okubo's "Citizen 13660" and other historical records from the period, Rosalyn Kato, director of NJAHS, said the organization recreated Okubo's horse stall to introduce visitors to the conditions at the race track. They went so far as to add drip stains on the walls to recreate the recreation, however, is still a work in progress.

"The Issei and they asked, 'Where's the horse manure?'" Tonal said. "I considered asking interns to create mud pies to cake the walls, but was warned against it because organic materials in the exhibit, lest they attract rodents or insects. She said she will be forwarding the exhibit's fabricators.



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MAY 4, 2019**

7:00 pm

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For screening tickets only - \$15 Donation
Please make check payable to NJAHS
Mail in to:

1684 Post St, San Francisco, CA 94115
or EMAIL US AT: njahs@njahs.org
or CALL US AT: 415-921-5007



This screening is in conjunction with the exhibition:
Then They Came For Me Exhibit, sponsored by the
Jonathan Logan Family Foundation

THE NATIONAL JAPANESE AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY PROUDLY PRESENTS

our lost years

A NEW AMERICAN FILM WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY
LANE NISHIKAWA



Filing Date: June 20, 2019
Case No.: 2019-013312LBR
Business Name: National Japanese American Historical Society, Inc.
Business Address: 1684 Post Street (primary); 640 Mason Street (secondary)
Zoning: Japantown NCD (Neighborhood Commercial District) Zoning District
50-X Height and Bulk District
Block/Lot: 0686/034
Applicant: Rosalyn Tonai, Executive Director
1684 Post Street
San Francisco, CA 94115
Nominated By: Supervisor Vallie Brown
Located In: District 5
Staff Contact: Shelley Caltagirone - (415) 558-6625
shelley.caltagirone@sfgov.org
Reviewed By: Jeff Joslin – (415) 575-9117
jeff.joslin@sfgov.org

BUSINESS DESCRIPTION

The National Japanese American Historical Society, Inc. (“NJAHS”) was established in 1981, as “Go For Broke, Inc.,” whose purpose was to promote the military exploits of the Japanese American veterans of the 100th Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service during World War II in Europe and the Pacific. In 1983, the organization changed its name to the National Japanese American Historical Society to reflect its broader mission to collect, preserve, interpret and share the Japanese American experience for national and global audiences.

From 1981 to 1997, NJAHS was located at 1855 Folsom Street. The organization moved to Japantown and was housed in the Japan Center East Mall between 1998-1999, then moved to its present location at 1684 Post Street in 1999. Its Post Street headquarters serves the Japantown community, national membership and visitors with a gallery, book store/gift shop, archives, research library and visitor kiosk.

In 2013 after two decades of planning, NJAHS opened the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) Historic Learning Center in Building 640 (640 Mason Street) at Crissy Field in the Presidio of San Francisco. This 13,000-square-foot interpretive center is the original site of the historic U.S. Army Intelligence Language School, where Japanese American military linguists secretly trained one month before Pearl Harbor (November 1, 1941) and were deployed to the Pacific theater of war after graduating in May 1942. Operated by NJAHS as a nonprofit Park Partner tenant, the center (including replica MIS classroom, permanent gallery and shop) is an adaptive reuse project of the NJAHS, the Presidio Trust and Golden Gate National Recreation Area. NJAHS’s dual site strategy is to bring new audiences to both sites, thus enhancing the Japanese American experience in San Francisco.

The business is located on the northeast corner of Post and Buchanan streets in the Japantown neighborhood. It is within Japantown NCD (Neighborhood Commercial District) Zoning District and a 50-X Height and Bulk District.

STAFF ANALYSIS

Review Criteria

1. *When was business founded?*

The business was founded in 1981.

2. *Does the business qualify for listing on the Legacy Business Registry? If so, how?*

Yes. The National Japanese American Historical Society qualifies for listing on the Legacy Business Registry because it meets all of the eligibility Criteria:

- i. The National Japanese American Historical Society has operated continuously in San Francisco for 38 years.
- ii. The National Japanese American Historical Society has contributed to the history and identity of the Japantown neighborhood and San Francisco.
- iii. The National Japanese American Historical Society is committed to maintaining the physical features and traditions that define the organization.

3. *Is the business associated with a culturally significant art/craft/cuisine/tradition?*

Yes. The business is associated with the Japanese and Japanese-American history.

4. *Is the business or its building associated with significant events, persons, and/or architecture?*

Yes. The Post Street property is the site of the former Sakai Fish Market. In 2006, Uoki Sakai was recognized as one of the Japantown's most enduring and significant businesses during neighborhood centennial celebrations.

The second property, 640 Mason Street in the Presidio, is located in historic Building 640 at the Presidio. It is significant as the former location of the U.S. Army Intelligence Language School, the first military language school, which opened in 1941. During its 2012 rehabilitation, the roof unexpectedly collapsed into the structure. The framing, trusses, and most of the foundation were reconstructed and seismically strengthened, and the original concrete flooring left intact. The wood from the ceiling was salvaged and incorporated into a new ceiling. The original windows and window panes were individually removed, cleaned and put back into place in the rehabilitation phase.

5. *Is the property associated with the business listed on a local, state, or federal historic resource registry?*

The Post Street property has Planning Department Historic Resource status codes of "C" (No Historic Resource Present) because of the building is not age-eligible for listing on a historic resource registry (construction date 1982). The property is also located within the Japantown Cultural District.

The Presidio property is part of the National Register of Historic Places-listed Presidio National Park.

6. *Is the business mentioned in a local historic context statement?*

Yes. The business is referred to in the Japantown Historic Context Statement.

7. *Has the business been cited in published literature, newspapers, journals, etc.?*

Yes. NJAHS is identified as an important social heritage resource in the JCHESS, one of a “rich network of community-serving organizations and institutions [that] provide a range of services and benefits to the local community, as well as Japanese Americans from around the region.” The product of a 15-year community-led process, JCHESS is the first document in San Francisco created to focus specifically on how to preserve and promote a neighborhood’s cultural heritage.

NJAHS programming has been highlighted in numerous media, including San Francisco Chronicle, Rafu Shimpo, Nichi Bei Times and others. The New York Times has described NJAHS as “as a source of Japantown’s dynamism and a model for the preservation and interpretation of a community’s history.” In 2010 and 2013, Japan’s Foreign Ministry recognized NJAHS for its “extensive contributions toward the exchange between Japan and the United States by preserving historical materials relating to Japanese immigration to the U.S., educating and enlightening citizens throughout the United States about the wartime experience of Japanese Americans, and undertaking wide-reaching initiatives in public education about Japanese Americans.”.

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business

Location(s) associated with the business:

- 1684 Post Street
- 640 Mason Street

Recommended by Applicant

- Dedicated to the preservation of cultural heritage and Japanese-American history
- Exhibits and public programs
- Collection of objects, documents, and photos of Japanese American World War II military, incarceration camp and pre-war ephemera
- Participation in festivals, traditions, and advocacy for the Japantown community
- Floor-to-ceiling storefront windows

Additional Recommended by Staff

- None



SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Historic Preservation Commission Draft Resolution No.

HEARING DATE: JULY 17, 2019

Case No.: 2019-013312LBR
Business Name: National Japanese American Historical Society, Inc.
Business Address: 1684 Post Street (primary); 640 Mason Street (secondary)
Zoning: Japantown NCD (Neighborhood Commercial District) Zoning District
50-X Height and Bulk District
Block/Lot: 0686/034
Applicant: Rosalyn Tonai, Executive Director
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San Francisco, CA 94115
Nominated By: Supervisor Vallie Brown
Located In: District 5
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Reviewed By: Jeff Joslin – (415) 575-9117
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ADOPTING FINDINGS RECOMMENDING TO THE SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION APPROVAL OF THE LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY NOMINATION FOR THE NATIONAL JAPANESE AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC. CURRENTLY LOCATED AT 1684 POST STREET (PRIMARY LOCATION), BLOCK/LOT 0686/034 AND 640 MASON STREET (SECONDARY LOCATION), BLOCK/LOT 0284/025.

WHEREAS, in accordance with Administrative Code Section 2A.242, the Office of Small Business maintains a registry of Legacy Businesses in San Francisco (the "Registry") to recognize that longstanding, community-serving businesses can be valuable cultural assets of the City and to be a tool for providing educational and promotional assistance to Legacy Businesses to encourage their continued viability and success; and

WHEREAS, the subject business has operated in San Francisco for 30 or more years, with no break in San Francisco operations exceeding two years; and

WHEREAS, the subject business has contributed to the City's history and identity; and

WHEREAS, the subject business is committed to maintaining the traditions that define the business; and

WHEREAS, at a duly noticed public hearing held on July 17, 2019, the Historic Preservation Commission reviewed documents, correspondence and heard oral testimony on the Legacy Business Registry nomination.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the **Historic Preservation Commission hereby recommends** that National Japanese American Historical Society, Inc. qualifies for the Legacy Business Registry under Administrative Code Section 2A.242(b)(2) as it has operated for 30 or more years and has continued to contribute to the community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the **Historic Preservation Commission hereby recommends** safeguarding of the below listed physical features and traditions for National Japanese American Historical Society, Inc.

Location(s):

- 1684 Post Street
- 640 Mason Street

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business:

- *Dedicated to the preservation of cultural heritage and Japanese-American history*
- *Exhibits and public programs*
- *Collection of objects, documents, and photos of Japanese American World War II military, incarceration camp and pre-war ephemera*
- *Participation in festivals, traditions, and advocacy for the Japantown community*
- *Floor-to-ceiling storefront windows*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the **Historic Preservation Commission's findings and recommendations** are made solely for the purpose of evaluating the subject business's eligibility for the Legacy Business Registry, and the Historic Preservation Commission makes no finding that the subject property or any of its features constitutes a historical resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(a).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the **Historic Preservation Commission hereby directs** its Commission Secretary to transmit this Resolution and other pertinent materials in the case file 2019-013310LBR to the Office of Small Business July 17, 2019.

Jonas P. Ionin
Commission Secretary

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ADOPTED: