

PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT For Immediate Release

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Symposium Workshops to Explore Strategies for Cultural and Historic Preservation of California's Japantowns

SAN FRANCISCO (May 30, 2006) – On Friday, 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.



Photo credit:
Generations: A Japanese American Community Portrait

Symposium workshops will highlight the importance of developing strategic plans toward preserving the tangible and intangible assets of our community's heritage and resources, and encourage individuals to learn about a variety of tools that can be used toward preserving our communities. Speakers will include both community leaders and representatives from the three Japantowns – San Francisco, San Jose and Los Angeles – as well as historic and cultural preservation experts from outside of the Japanese American community who will share out-of-the-box strategies for documenting, developing and preserving our Japantowns.

"This statewide symposium is an important opportunity for interested individuals in the preservation of our Japantowns to come together to share resources and learn from some of the leading experts in the field," stated Paul Osaki, symposium chairperson.

Workshops include:

- "Documenting Our Communities: History, Culture, Stories and Sites"
The *Preserving California's Japantowns* project team of Gail Dubrow, (Co-Director) Donna Graves (Co-Director) and Jill Shiraki (Project Manager) will facilitate discussion among symposium participants centering on their own questions and experiences in documenting

Japantowns, and will share methodologies used for the *Preserving California's Japantowns* project. Members of the Japanese American and other ethnic communities who are interested in documenting their history, culture, stories or sites and tie into local preservation efforts are strongly encouraged to attend.

- **Developing a Strategic Plan toward Preserving our Communities**
Ensuring a community's survival requires a carefully designed plan for preserving both the tangible and intangible assets of the community's heritage and resources. Who will be doing the work? What are the best resources for exploring that history? How can this history be brought to life? This workshop will explore these questions and more through a panel of historic and cultural preservation experts sharing best practices and out-of-the-box strategies for the preservation of Japantowns. Panelists include Jeff Eichenfield, economic development expert of Eichenfield and Associates, Courtney Damkroger, preservation consultant and member of the San Francisco Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board, and Caitlin Harvey and Bill Sugaya, preservation architects of Carey & Co. Moderating this panel and discussion will be Bill Watanabe, Executive Director of the Little Tokyo Service Center (1:00pm session) and Sandy Mori, President of the Japantown Task Force Board in San Francisco (2:30pm session).
- **Community Economic Development / Community Benefits Agreements**
How can communities succeed in historic preservation – not only in preserving significant sites that contribute to a community's sense of place, but also providing financial and economic benefits for that community? Learn from expert panelists about how Cultural Economic Development and Business Improvement Districts provide valuable economic returns in the form of increased revenue, enhanced property values, increased jobs and expanded heritage tourism. Also discuss how Community Benefit Agreements can help ensure that a local community can benefit from major developments in its vicinity. Panelists for this workshop include Rich Hillis of the San Francisco Mayor's Office of Economic Development, Radhika Fox, Senior Associate of PolicyLink (a nonprofit organization that seeks to ensure that everyone, including ethnic communities, can contribute to and benefit from local and regional growth and development), and Marco Li Mandri, business development consultant of New City America (a company dedicated to the facilitation and growth of street-based urban business districts). Moderating this panel and discussion will be Diane Matsuda, Executive Officer of the California Cultural and Historical Endowment and former program director of the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program (CCLPEP).

Workshop sessions will be held once at 1:00pm and again at 2:30pm, allowing for symposium attendees to attend multiple sessions and learn about a range of preservation tools, techniques and strategies.

Sponsored by the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program (CCLPEP) and the California State Library, this event will also offer 2004-2005 CCLPEP preservation grant recipients an opportunity to present the current progress and outcomes of their cultural and historic preservation work.

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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