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Contact: Kimberly Brown  
916-651-6466  
Kimberly.brown@library.ca.gov

## California Civil Liberties Projects Announced

*Twenty-Nine California projects on civil liberty issues funded – from the Japanese American WWII experience to present day*

**(Sacramento)** The California State Library awarded \$881,513.25 for 29 projects through the California Civil Liberties Public Education program. Grantees from across the state will create unique educational projects -- from opera to podcasts, documentaries to virtual reality – that involve multiple cultural communities and age groups.

“Fear and bigotry were the root cause of internment in World War II. Both are still around,” said Greg Lucas, California’s state librarian. “Better understanding past mistakes and connecting them with current events helps make sure we remember we’re always stronger together.

“Civil Liberties projects can play an active role in meaningful learning and discussion about the issues – and results of the past two years of funding for this program are available online for all to use and learn from.”

The current round of grants is the second of a series funded through a three-year one-time allocation of \$3 million in the budget approved in June 2017. Funding will continue through June 30, 2020, and the State Library expects to offer one more opportunity for applicants in late fall or early winter of 2019.

Previous projects funded by the program can serve as educational tools – in classrooms, or in communities to celebrate May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. Among past projects funded through the program are [an interactive online experience](#) of the hardships and decisions for Japanese Americans during World War II, to multiple [documentaries](#) and [podcasts](#) from [public broadcasting organizations](#) and [nonprofits](#), to [performing](#) and [visual arts programming](#), to [teacher’s guides](#) and [lesson suggestions](#) with [primary source materials](#) and [articles](#). There’s a [Science, Technology, Engineering, Math project involving Minecraft](#).

Library – Courts Building  
P.O. Box 942837  
Sacramento, CA 94237-0001

916-323-9759  
csl-adm@library.ca.gov  
www.library.ca.gov

A comprehensive list is available on the California Civil Liberties program website under the tab “Recent projects to guide civil liberties educational discussions and learning” at <http://www.library.ca.gov/grants/civil-liberties/> As these newly funded projects and others are completed, the State Library will add them to the list as well.

Applicants applied for either statewide/regional grants in education, public media or preservation with a maximum request of \$100,000, or community grants in a wide range of formats and a maximum request of \$30,000. A full list of grant recipients and project descriptions follows. Members of the media may contact Kim Brown, Information Officer, at 916-651-6466 or [Kimberly.brown@library.ca.gov](mailto:Kimberly.brown@library.ca.gov). Details about the program and a list of completed projects is at <https://www.library.ca.gov/grants/civil-liberties/>.

### **History of the California Civil Liberties Program**

Prior to World War II, California was home to more Japanese Americans than any other state. In the wake of Japan’s attack on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, wartime hysteria led to President Franklin Roosevelt’s signing of Executive Order 9066 on February 19, 1942, which put more than 120,000 Japanese Americans into relocation camps for more than 18 months.

When the state Legislature created the California Civil Liberties Public Education program in 1998 it said the program’s purpose was “to sponsor public educational activities and development of educational materials to ensure that the events surrounding the exclusion, forced removal, and internment of civilians and permanent resident aliens of Japanese ancestry will be remembered so that the causes and circumstance of this and similar events may be illuminated and understood.”

The program received funding of as high as \$1 million annually from 1998 through 2011. Funding was eliminated in July 1, 2011. At the request of Assemblyman Phil Ting of San Francisco, Governor Brown approved \$1 million in onetime funding for the program in the 2016-2017 fiscal year. With legislators like Assembly members Ting and Al Muratsuchi supporting the program, Brown included \$3 million in the 2017-2018 budget to continue funding through June 30, 2020.

Legislation in 2017 by Muratsuchi, AB 417, clarified administrative details, established an advisory board, and encouraged projects that provide information about civil rights violations or civil liberties injustices perpetrated on the basis of an individual's race, national origin, immigration status, religion, gender, or sexual orientation as well as the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II.

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**Advocates for Indigenous California Language Survival**

Community Project

The Advocates for Indigenous California Language Survival will produce a program titled “Lost Words,” to shed light on a little known part of California’s history: the intersection of marginalized Japanese American and Native American communities through government-forced removal, relocation and incarceration. This project documents personal stories of loss and resilience and emphasizes how language in particular is impacted by cultural suppression when the U.S. government deems particular ethnic groups as “un-American” or “other.”

\$10,000

**API Cultural Center, Inc.**

Community Project

The Oakland Asian Cultural Center will present a series of free multi-disciplinary programs to 1) educate the public about Japanese American experiences before, during, and after World War II, and 2) make connections about the causes and consequences of internment with other historical and contemporary civil rights and immigration issues. The project includes: Day of Remembrance programs -- four or more events and at least one exhibit -- featuring visual art/memorabilia, performing art, documentary film, literature/author talk, discussion, and at least two other events centered on immigrant rights, such as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and Southeast Asian deportations. \$10,000

**California State University Dominguez Hills**

Preservation

A continuation of the work of the California State University Japanese American Digitization Project to reveal new aspects of the story of World War II incarceration (<http://www.csujad.com>). The project is digitizing and cataloging more than 5,000 items on Japanese Americans during the mid-20th century/World War II era. Materials include the papers of activist Aiko Herzig-Yoshinaga, Terminal Island collections, and materials relating to the interactions of Muslims and Japanese Americans after 9/11. Project partners will include CSU Dominguez Hills and CSU Fullerton. \$86,310

**Densho**

Community Project

Densho Encyclopedia, a free and publicly accessible website with more than 1,500 articles providing information on many aspects of the Japanese American story during World War II, will add 65 new articles specific to Californian Japanese Americans directly affected by Executive Order 9066. A California advisory panel will oversee topics, with articles written by authors specializing in these subject areas. The project will culminate with 1) a community symposium co-hosted by UC Berkeley to present and publicize the California content; 2) publicity and online inclusion in the Densho Encyclopedia. \$30,000

**Fred T. Korematsu Institute**

Education

Building on the momentum of the 75th anniversary of *Korematsu v. U.S.*, the Korematsu Institute in partnership with Stop Repeating History, will expand its focus to higher education and the public by “connecting the dots” to illustrate that our nation could repeat past civil liberties injustices. The goal of the project is to increase awareness, affirm the crucial role that each branch of government plays under our Constitution, and facilitate civic engagement. The Korematsu Institute will conduct a statewide communication campaign by developing materials and a speaker’s bureau to further the goals of the project. \$20,000

**Friends of Manzanar**

Education

The organization will create an educational package of materials on the Manzanar Guayule Rubber project, top-secret scientific research conducted from 1942- 1945 at Manzanar. Incarcerated Japanese American chemists, geneticists, botanists and horticulturalists, assembled by Dr. Robert Emerson of Caltech, worked to find a natural rubber source to replace supplies lost with the fall of Southeast Asia. This little-known episode of the internment years is told through a documentary film, stand-alone video featurettes, and lesson plans in a comprehensive Teacher's Guide in compliance with California educational standards that ties into Science, Technology, Engineering and Math learning. \$37,035

**Heritage Future / 1888 Center**

Community Project

The 2019 Heritage Future / 1888 Center’s five-part Creative + Cultural Podcast series features community activists, scholars, and survivors providing testimony and insight regarding the exclusion, forced removal, and internment of Japanese-Americans, including a narrative thread focusing on the impact to Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. The 2019 series increases access by taking place at five unique public spaces throughout the county. \$23,500

**Japanese American National Museum**

Community Project

The Japanese American National Museum will conduct Phase II of the Stanley Hayami Diary Project. The Stanley Hayami Virtual Reality project shares a young Japanese American boys’ journey — from his home in the San Gabriel Valley, to life in an internment camp and then to his service in the military — through letters, journal entries, and personal artwork. \$30,000

**KALW San Francisco Unified School District**

Public Media

KALW proposes a series of live panel discussions to expand public understanding of the history of Japanese American detention, and connect that history to issues of communities facing injustice and the struggle for civil liberties in the United States. Each event will be produced for broadcast on KALW’s public affairs program “Your Call.” Some of the events will take place on a

school or college campus and will be planned in collaboration with educators to maximize student participation. Multimedia teaching materials will be produced for use in K-12 settings, and for the broader public. \$20,000

**Kizuna Little Tokyo Inc.**

Community Project

Kizuna's "From Generation to Generation" Media Project will bring the histories, experiences, and inter-generational stories of incarceration, resettlement, and redress to a youth audience through a series of YouTube and Facebook videos that will be available to the public. The goal is to build a personal connection between our youth and the history of this civil rights and liberties injustice, while cultivating inter-generational understanding through online videos and integrating the project in our youth programs. These videos will explore topics through unique content creation styles by the next generation, for the next generation. \$20,000

**L.A. Theatre Works**

Public Media

L.A. Theatre Works will commission, produce and broadcast a new play about the 40-year pursuit of justice for three Japanese Americans who defied the Internment Order. With a script by Jeanne Sakata, the play will focus on the true-life legal drama behind the effort to reverse their 1940s criminal convictions. The play will be recorded and broadcast on our national radio show, podcast series, and digitally preserved for streaming, and download on our website. We will foster public discussion through recorded interviews with attorneys, plaintiff's descendants and others; social media engagement; and creation of discussion guides for students and community groups. \$78,839

**Los Angeles Opera Company**

Community Project

LA Opera's Civil Rights Opera Residency will immerse 100 students in the violations of civil liberties throughout history and their impact today through the study and public performance of *Then I Stood Up: A Civil Rights Cycle*. This production includes excerpts from four operas: *The White Bird of Poston* about World War II Japanese Internment; *Brundibár* and *Friedl* two operas about the Holocaust; and *Then I Stood Up* about the Civil Rights Movement. The three-week program also involves museum visits and conversations with people who experienced these violations and culminates in two performances for 1,000 community members at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. \$30,000

**New Village Arts, Inc.**

Community Project

New Village Arts will mount a full production of *The Desert Rock Garden*, a new play by emerging San Diego playwright Roy Sekigahama. Based on true events, this play chronicles the unlikely friendship between Fuzzy, an elderly man, and Penny, a young orphan, who meet

during their 1940s internment. New Village Arts will partner with community organizations to host post-show discussions drawing parallels between our internment history and current equity, diversity and inclusion issues and initiatives. \$15,000

**Nichi Bei Foundation**

Community Project

“Films of Remembrance” is a day-long showcase of films related to the Japanese American incarceration experience during World War II. The premier event of its kind in the country, the event brings the public together to learn about little-known facets of the wartime deprivation of civil liberties. \$15,000

**Nihonmachi Little Friends**

Community Project

This organization will produce a documentary that will tell the story of San Francisco’s Japanese immigrant women and their creation of the 1830 Sutter Street Japanese YWCA building. During its 70 years that spanned the Japanese-American incarceration and resettlement, 1830 Sutter was the home for social reform efforts connecting it to a broader story of the quest for justice. The film will share the lost legacy that re-emerged during the community-based lawsuit to regain the building and recent historical review for its National Register of Historic Places application. \$10,000

**Nikkei Federation**

Community Project

"Kagoshima 9066 Westridge: The Life and Art of J.T. Sata" is a 100-page, full-color hardcover book which follows the journey of an Issei immigrant artist to Los Angeles into America's internment camps and finally to the campus of an exclusive girls' school in Pasadena, California, where he, his wife and only son resettled. The book will feature James Tadanao Sata's visual work documenting each stage of his life, including black-and-white photography during the height of Issei art photography in Los Angeles and drawings and carvings from each detention center he and his family stayed in. \$14,400

**Poston Community Alliance**

Community Project

“Poston Live: It’s Lessons and Multicultural Legacy” includes a short-form narrative film and a research booklet describing incarceration at Poston and its impact on the Colorado River Tribes Reservation. The intent is to inform high school and college students about the intersection of Japanese Americans, most from Southern California, and the Native Americans at the Poston location, native reservation land used for an internment camp over the objections of the tribal council. \$15,000

**San Diego Repertory Theatre**

Community Project

San Diego REP will present 24 performances of *Hold These Truths*, by Jeanne Sakata, a play inspired by the life of Gordon Hirabayashi. In World War II, a student in Seattle, fights the US government's orders to remove and incarcerate all people of Japanese ancestry. As he struggles to reconcile his country's betrayal with his belief in the US Constitution, Gordon begins a 50-year journey toward a greater understanding of America's triumphs—and its failures. San Diego Rep will host: two student matinees; 11 audience engagement and community events; and release a comprehensive guide for young and old to explore the themes of the play. \$29,500

**San Jose Taiko Group, Inc.**

Community Project

San Jose Taiko will produce a four-city tour of its cutting edge "Swingposium," a fusion of taiko, jazz, swing dance, and immersive theatre that educates audiences about the lives of Japanese Americans interned during World War II. Local artists and community members in each city will be key collaborators for these performances. The educational benefits of "Swingposium," will include heightening awareness and fostering understanding of the causes, circumstances, and experience of internment and linking that knowledge to current civil liberties challenges. \$30,000

**The ABAS Law Foundation**

Community Project

The ABAS Law Foundation will bring to Sacramento several staged readings of Jeanne Sakata's acclaimed one-man play *Hold These Truths*. Few Sacramentans have experienced this dramatic treatment of civil rights hero Gordon Hirabayashi's challenges to World War II's race-based forced removal and incarceration. A panel discussion will bring up issues linking World War II with other civil liberties challenges. A social action networking session will let Asian/Pacific, Latinx, Muslim, Jewish, LGBTQ, women's, legal, health care, and educator groups discuss volunteer opportunities with attendees one-on-one. \$10,000

**The AjA Project**

Community Project

This project will enable work with youth in San Diego who have been affected by injustice through (a) violent and brutal policing practices, (b) the denial of the right to asylum, (c) the delay and denial of legal citizenship, and (d) the daily systemic, overt and covert racism these young people face. The project will relate the internment of Japanese-American citizens during World War II to present-day injustices. \$21,997.25

**The Regents of the University of California**

Community Project

The Asian American Student Center at UCLA will create an open access online digital exhibition and accompanying high school curriculum on the work of former internee and civil rights icon,

Yuri Kochiyama. The exhibition will follow her life story told in her memoir, "Passing it On," and will highlight her lifetime of work following incarceration in Jerome, Arkansas, including her cross-racial social justice organizing. The curriculum will be incorporated into teacher training workshops in the UCLA Graduate School of Education and Information Sciences and publicized through conferences and networks to educators in California. \$30,000

**Triton Museum of Art**

Community Project

The Triton Museum of Art will present a series of two art exhibitions and corollary education programs under the tentative heading "Never Forget, Never Repeat." The exhibitions will feature work created specifically to bring attention to the historic exclusion, forced removal and internment of citizens and permanent residents of Japanese ancestry, and draw connections to subsequent events and, in particular, current circumstances such as the policies of forced family separations and incarcerations of asylum seekers and others. Multiple education programs are planned to illuminate these issues. \$24,982

**Tule Lake Committee**

Community Project

The Tule Lake Committee will educate a team of docents to communicate with participants of the pilgrimages and other frequent visitors to the site about issues surrounding civil liberties. \$30,000

**Valley Public Television Inc., dba ValleyPBS – KVPT**

Public Media

Using a previous Civil Liberties grant, ValleyPBS created a two-hour film, *Silent Sacrifice, The Story of Japanese American Incarceration in California's Central Valley*. The highly-acclaimed documentary is now showing on over 230 PBS stations across American and beyond. *Unbroken Honor* (working title) is the next installment in the *Silent Sacrifice* story - delving deeper into how many Japanese American soldiers were serving in the 442nd in World War II to liberate those imprisoned in European concentration camps while their family and friends were incarcerated by their own government in the United States. \$50,000

**Visual Communications Media (America's Concentration Camps, Revisited)** Community Project

"America's Concentration Camps, Revisited" will enable Visual Communications to reactivate its mobile photographic exhibit created in 1970 and popularly known as the "Cubes Exhibit". Visual Communications will create a companion Educators' Activity Guide to encourage site-specific learning and engagement activities by educators and community facilitators utilizing the exhibit; and development of a modular, interactive website that connects and compares the injustices of the relocation and confinement experience to acts of racism and personal injustices perpetrated upon individuals and communities of color in the present day. \$29,950

**Visual Communications Media (*All That Remains*)**

Community Project

*All That Remains* is an feature-length documentary examining the incarceration of Japanese-Americans during World War II and the racial profiling and detention of Muslim-Americans after 9/11. The film considers these events by using original audio interviews with survivors over footage of their lives today, personal objects, photos, and documents as tangible remains of trauma. \$30,000

**Visual Communications Media (*Third Act*)**

Public Media

*Third Act* is an hour-long documentary that illustrates the legacy of remembrance and ongoing process of recovery from the World War II exclusion and detention of Japanese Americans. Seen through the life and work of pioneering filmmaker Robert A. Nakamura, as told by his award-winning filmmaker son, Tadashi, the documentary draws on themes of historical and inter-generational trauma to show how its impact is also felt by communities who are facing discrimination and other civil rights violations in the past and the present. \$100,000

**Yuba Sutter Regional Arts Council**

Community Project

The Yuba Sutter Arts Council will create an ongoing project titled, “The Faces of Internment” comprised of three public installations that memorialize key aspects of the impact on the local community of the forced evacuation of Japanese Americans to internment camps during 1942. The installations will include a memorial at the site of the Marysville/Arboga Assembly Center, murals on a building adjacent to the Buddhist Church in historic downtown Marysville and a photo exhibit featuring 100 portraits made by a Marysville photographer of Japanese residents before they were sent to the Tule Lake internment camp. \$30,000