

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Executive Officer Selected for California Cultural and Historical Endowment

SACRAMENTO — The California Cultural and Historical Endowment Board has named Diane Matsuda as the Executive Officer of the California Cultural and Historical Endowment. Currently, the Endowment (<http://www.library.ca.gov/CCHE/index.cfm>) is developing a \$122 million grant program that will preserve historic and cultural resources emphasizing the stories of the diverse peoples of California.

As Executive Officer, Matsuda will work with the Board, the Governor, the Secretary of Resources, the State Librarian, and the Legislature in overseeing the \$122 million program that is funded by Proposition 40 monies. Matsuda will advise the Endowment board in developing and implementing the Endowment as an entity in state government, and she will develop other funding sources for programs that support living cultural heritage projects in communities throughout California.

Matsuda says the California Cultural and Historical Endowment marks “the beginning of a new era.” The Endowment will, according to Matsuda, “highlight the life and experience of communities and neighborhoods whose faces, stories and important contributions to California have not been recognized by the larger community.”

Since 1999, Matsuda has been Director of the California State Library’s California Civil Liberties Public Education Program (CCLPEP) (<http://www.library.ca.gov/cclpep/index.cfm>), a grant program whose focus is the infringement of Japanese Americans’ civil liberties during World War II. CCLPEP, part of 1998’s California Civil Liberties Public Education Act (AB1915), was created, like the Endowment, by the California Legislature. CCLPEP’s provides competitive grants for educational activities and materials that ensure that California, and the nation, will

remember the exclusion, forced removal and incarceration of civilians and permanent resident aliens of Japanese ancestry during World War II.

Matsuda has developed policies and procedures that have distributed CCLEP's grant funds to Californians of diverse educational, socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds. She has also successfully aided in the development of legislation (SB307) to preserve California's last three remaining Japan towns and has helped Japan town communities effectively utilize and implement monies secured by Proposition 40 funding. Generally, Matsuda has successfully overseen over 150 grant projects from every region in California.

A native San Franciscan, Diane Matsuda earned her Juris Doctorate from Hastings College of the Law in 1989. Before joining the California State Library as CCLEP Program Manager, Matsuda was International Coordinator for the California International Relations Foundation in Sacramento and Staff Attorney for Nihonmachi Legal Outreach in San Francisco.

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