

Fiscal Year 2010-2011 CCLPEP Grant Recipients

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Recipient: Hank Umemoto

Project: Adventures of a Nisei Hiker

Grant Amount: \$25,000

Preparation and publication of the memoirs of Hank Umemoto, formerly incarcerated at Manzanar, will be published as a non-fiction book. Hank wrote over 50 literary autobiographical essays covering the prewar, camp and post-war periods.

Recipient: Lewis Kawahara

Project: An Afternoon with CCLPEP Films

Grant Amount: \$6,000

“The Afternoon Matinee with CCLPEP Films” continues to educate students at the College of San Mateo Asian Pacific American film festival. By the viewing of these films, the students have the opportunity to understand more about the Japanese American Internment Camp experience.

Recipient: Alameda Free Library

Project: The Japanese-American Internee Experience

Grant Amount: \$19,500

This grant was to preserve local memories of what is now acknowledged to have been an unprecedented denial of civil liberties, in the midst of a war to preserve those very ideals of American liberty. The project is to develop a series of video oral history interviews with Japanese American internees of Alameda-especially former residents of Alameda’s Japantown, members of Alameda’s Buddhist Temple, and the Buena Vista Methodist church.

Recipient: Amelia Chua

Project: Being Human, Being True

Grant Amount: \$24,500

The purpose of this project is to create a half-hour, color, video documentary in high definition. This documentary will be shown at community screenings and is targeted for broadcast by Northern California Public Television. Producer and the subjects hope to inspire the audience to become involved in the social justice issues of their day. This

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work reviews the history of the internment experience and encapsulates it within the emotional space of two individuals.

Recipient: Jennifer M. Kroot

Project: Beyond Sulu

Grant Amount: \$25,000

The purpose of “Beyond Sulu” is multi-dimensional; however, the overarching goal of this documentary is to appeal to a wide audience lest the tragic event of the Japanese American Internment during World War II not be forgotten or repeated.

Recipient: Japanese American historical Society of San Diego

Project: A Border, an Island and Japanese American Internment

Grant Amount: \$18,800

The purpose of “A Border, an Island and Japanese American Internment” is to document and preserve the life experiences of San Diego Nisei and to disseminate the story of Japanese American Internment during World War II through public exhibits, outreach to schools and civic groups, and online resources.

Recipient: California Japanese American Community Leadership Council

Project: The Clarksburg Japanese School: Cultivating a Farming Community

Grant Amount: \$25,000

Our project will collect oral histories and related materials (photos, memorabilia, etc.) from Nisei who attended the Clarksburg Japanese School, combined with archival research, these first person stories will allow us to produce the first history of the language school, the community that built it and their experienced during WWII. This history and its current relevance will be shared with a broad audience through print, the web and press coverage.

Recipient: Brian Komei Dempster

Project: Collecting Nisei Stories: Writing Reflections on Incarceration and Resettlement

Grant Amount: \$25,000

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“Collecting Nisei Stories” will gather incarceration and resettlement stories before they are forever lost. This task is time sensitive: With the advancing age of the Nisei, this project has added urgency and only a brief window of years for the stories to be accessed. “Collecting Nisei Stories” is an essential step towards transforming this small group project into a regional and collective movement.

Recipient: Japanese American National Museum

Project: Farewell to Manzanar: Restoration, Release and Renewal

Grant Amount: \$25,000

Despite the enormous popularity of the NBC/Universal TV movie (released in 1976) “Farewell to Manzanar”- in both California Schools and among the public- NBC/Universal has never released the film as a commercial product. After months of discussion with NBC/Universal, the Museum is in the final stages of obtaining a contract for the licensing and distribution rights to the film for a period of five years. The Museum plans to strategically market the release of the film and make it available to the public-for the first time ever-through wholesale and retail sale.

Recipient: Satsuki Ina

Project: From a Silk Cocoon: A Book of Letters, Diaries, and Poetry of a Nisei Couple during WWII

Grant Amount: \$16,050

The renunciation of American citizenship by Japanese Americans is a little known and generally misrepresented aspect of the WWII incarceration experience. The purpose of this project is to shed light on the complexity of this issue through the eyes of a young Nisei Kibe couple, Shizuno and Itaru Ina, as reflected in their writings over the course of their 8 year courtship, marriage, imprisonment and release.

Recipient: Christine Toy Johnson

Project: From Topaz to Peace Plaza

Grant Amount: \$10,000

This project will produce oral histories transcribed from multiple group interviews with twenty one former internees about their resettlement, and a public reading/performance of the original play inspired by those interviews, performed in San Francisco’s Japantown.

Recipient: Karen Matsumoto

Project: Honor and Sacrifice: Nisei Patriots in the MIS

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Grant Amount: \$24,000

The purpose of this project is to illuminate for students and the general public the true meaning of the many stories of loyalty and sacrifice exemplified by California's Japanese Americans during WWII. In addition, light will be shed on a little known chapter of US Military History, the invaluable contribution of the Nisei linguists in the Pacific Theatre.

Recipient: KEET-TV Redwood Empire Television

Project: JA Jive! Jazz Music in the Japanese American Internment Camps

Grant Amount: \$22,000

The purpose of this project is to educate the public through schools, universities, libraries, and the general television viewing audience how big band music played such an important role in the Nisei community in the Japanese American assembly centers and internment camps during World War II. This multi-faceted project exposes an aspect of the internees' lives that is not well-known outside of a small proportion of the Japanese American population.

Recipient: San Leandro Public Library

Project: Legacy of the Nisei

Grant Amount: \$25,000

The purpose of this project is to record and preserve the untold stories of Nisei Japanese Americans who were interned at internment camps during World War II and the brave men who served in the 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Unit of the Military Intelligence Service. It is important for the project to be completed and preserved for those young and old, present and future generations, to understand the causes and circumstances of the internment of people of Japanese ancestry to ensure that these events will be remembered and never repeated.

Recipient: Little Tokyo Service Center

Project: The Little Tokyo Reporter Film

Grant Amount: \$25,000

This project presents an early history about the struggle of an immigrant community adapting into the American society, specifically revolving around the events of exclusion preceding World War II. The historical narrative is of an Issei newspaperman, Sei Fujii, and tells the story of an unsung hero who laid the groundwork and fought along side the many civil rights leaders that grew from the internment experiences and redress.

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Recipient: Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California

Project: Nikkei Family Legacy Project-The Legacy Continues

Grant Amount: \$23,948

Although many people are not interested in genealogy, there currently are not enough resources for Japanese Americans and communities of color to conduct research and preserve their findings. People often hit the wall because they do not know where to start, where to find the resources, hence the Nikkei Family Legacy Project-the Legacy Continues will provide the necessary resources and tools to empower Japanese Americans to discover their family stories and understand who and which experience shaped them to become who they are today.

Recipient: Densho: The Japanese American Legacy Project

Project: Online Encyclopedia of the Japanese American Incarceration

Grant Amount: \$25,000

The purpose of the project is to create a comprehensive online reference about the World War II incarceration of Japanese Americans. The free, accessible and reliable reference will offer an easy-to-use encyclopedia, with links to additional recommended resources and primary sources. The encyclopedia will deliver concise, accurate, balanced articles that are reviewed by the top scholars in the field of World War II Japanese American history and carefully cite the publications where additional information can be found.

Recipient: The California Museum for History, Women and the Arts

Project: Part Two: Uprooted! Oral History Project: Japanese Americans Remember WWII Internment

Grant Amount: \$16,381

The second year of the Uprooted! Project is to utilize the oral histories of 20 articulate Japanese Americans, who are deeply committed to the importance of education, civil liberties, democracy and the lessons of history. These volunteers are older, and their oral histories have been captured in order to honor and preserve their legacy of truth telling.

Recipient: National Japanese American Historical Society, Inc.

Project: Secrets Revealed: The Presidio Project

Grant Amount: \$25,000

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The purpose of the “Secrets Revealed: Presidio Project” is to gather the untold stories of Nisei former camp internees including military enlistees not publicly broadcast, for a permanent exhibition at this site of historical significance at the Presidio in San Francisco. It is the original site of the US Army’s first military intelligence language school which trained the 1st class of Nisei soldier linguists one month before the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Recipient: Densho: The Japanese American Legacy Project

Project: Stories Less Told – California Japanese Americans during World War II

Grant Amount: \$25,000

The purpose of this project is to identify and capture California Japanese American stories that are not known or documented, for example, stories of resistance and dissent, stories of pro-Japanese sentiments, stories of voluntary relocation before mass removal, stories of the Kibei experience, pre-war stories of small California communities and others.

Recipient: Elk Grove Unified School District

Project: Time of Remembrance Oral Histories Project

Grant Amount: \$18,771

The purpose of this project is that the Time of Remembrance Oral Histories serves many communities through broad accessibility of primary source materials based on the people and history of a community. It is through the sharing and examination of our collective yet unique histories that we will avoid the errors of the past.
