



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 2, 2017

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

California Civil Liberties Projects Announced

Twenty-Nine California groups receive funding for projects to remember Japanese American internment and present-day civil liberty issues

(Sacramento) More than \$922,000 has been awarded by the State Library to 29 organizations ranging from community groups to the California State University system through the California Civil Liberties Education program whose purpose is to remind Californians of the civil liberties violations suffered by Japanese Americans during World War II so that no one else goes through the same suffering.

Among the successful applicants are student performances of an opera set in an internment camp, making more internment-related materials publicly available through the California State University's multi-campus digitization project and online and onscreen programming examining civil liberties issues in California's history.

The State Library, which administers the program, also created a simulation to help future generations better understand what it was like being sent to an internment camp. Experience it [here](#).

“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.”

Founded in 1850, the California State Library enriches lives and connects people, libraries and government to information and resources. The State Library has an extensive collection of documents from and about the state's rich history. The library also holds federal and state publications and is home to the Bernard E. Witkin State Law Library and the Braille and Talking Book Library. For more information, go to www.library.ca.gov.

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

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

Projects totaling more than \$4 million vied for the one-time funds authorized by Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr. at the request of Assemblymember Phil Ting of San Francisco.

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 programs 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."

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.

###

California Civil Liberties Public Education Program FY 2016-17 GRANTEE LIST

AjA Project

San Diego Type: Community \$25,000

AjA will engage youth affected by deportation and/or civil liberties violations in participatory photography workshops using documents from various archival documents and items of Japanese Internment to facilitate conversation around personal experiences with exclusion, detention, or deportation. Focusing on documentary photography as a tool for social justice, participants will create photographs inspired by the original images, emphasizing themes of self-representation, self-education, community crossover engagement, youth learning and leadership skills development.

Central California District Council JAACL

Fresno Type: Community \$20,000

The organization's museum exhibit of Japanese Americans in the San Joaquin Valley will be expanded to include a rotating exhibit of items from the Assembly Centers and Internment sites. In addition stories will be developed to showcase the relationship between the Japanese American community in Fresno County and the Muslim Community in relation to abridgement of civil rights. A brochure will be developed to be utilized by teachers visiting the exhibit highlighting the new civil rights sections added to the exhibit.

Community Initiatives/Fred T. Korematsu Institute

San Francisco Type: Community \$40,000

The Fred T. Korematsu Institute, a fiscally sponsored project of Community Initiatives, will implement a California Educational Outreach Program public media project to promote public awareness of California's Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution and the impact of the World War II Japanese American incarceration experience on California. This project will also enhance media resources available to educators and students in schools and public libraries.

Community Youth Center of San Francisco/ *Alternative Facts: The Film*

San Mateo Type: Community \$20,000

Alternative Facts is a documentary film about the series of false and unsubstantiated assertions made by the United States military, public officials, and the media which inflamed and spread fear among the public following the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941. *Alternative Facts* will shed light on the parallels between the fabricated information about Japanese Americans in the early 1940's and the misguided attitudes towards groups that have been targeted for persecution in today's society.

CSU Japanese American Digitization Project

Carson Type: Preservation \$100,000

A consortium of California universities will launch a new phase of the California State University Japanese American Digitization Project (csujad.com). The project will digitize & catalog up to 7,000+ items on Japanese Americans during the mid-20th century and World War II. The public will be provided with a broader account of the hardships endured by Americans whose civil liberties were stripped away. Collaborators may include: CSU Dominguez Hills, CSU Fullerton & Claremont Colleges.

Enrichment Works

Van Nuys Type: Community \$20,000
Enrichment Works will create and produce a play about the life of a family and their experiences before, during and after their internment as a result of Executive Order 9066 and to present 80 performances of the play to the students of the Youth Development Program (YDP) of the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), which is part of the Beyond the Bell Branch offering after school enrichment to elementary and middle school students.

Fresno Arts Council/ Living Memory Lab by the Yonsei Memory Project

Fresno Type: Community \$27,930
The Yonsei Memory Project's "Living Memory Lab," seeks to awaken the archives of Japanese American history by creating cross-cultural and intergenerational memory practices. A series of facilitated focus groups will utilize arts-based inquiry to generate dialogue connecting the WWII incarceration of the Japanese American community with current civil liberties debates. From these gatherings, program leaders will generate an interactive Day of Remembrance community performance in February 2018.

Friends of California Archives

Sacramento Type: Preservation \$50,000
The Friends of California Archives and California State Archives, with the California Museum, will digitize and make available online records documenting the role of California government agencies in the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II and their post-war resettlement. The project includes records of agencies including the Department of Social Welfare-War Services Bureau. The records will be presented in an online exhibit and will have a companion teacher's guide.

Glendale Library Arts and Culture

Glendale Type: Community \$25,000
"Un-American: Reflections On the Japanese Internment" at Glendale Library Arts and Culture (Glendale LAC)'s Contemporary Exhibit Space will speak to the resilience of the human spirit in the face of adversity, touching upon internment history and showcasing contemporary artists' reflections, from a personal viewpoint. Artifacts and artwork, oral histories, and a commissioned site-specific installation will be on view. The Contemporary Exhibit Space features immersive large-scale projections, photographic murals and interactive displays.

Go For Broke National Education Center

Los Angeles Type: Preservation \$50,000
Five hundred audiovisual oral histories from Go For Broke National Education Center's Hanashi Oral History collection will be transcribed and integrated into lesson plans and a public program offered free to schools. The significant oral histories span the subjects' lives from all of the Japanese American segregated units that served in Europe and the Pacific during WWII, making it the largest collection of its kind.

Heyday

Berkeley Type: Community \$14,000
To rise to the surge of interest in Heyday's children's book *Fred Korematsu Speaks Up*, authored by Stan Yogi and Laura Atkins, Heyday will increase its printing of the book and expand the scope of the authors' public and educational outreach program.

Intrepid Theatre Company

Encinitas Type: Community \$10,000
In order to educate the public about the parallels between past instances of racially-motivated injustices, such as the Japanese internment camps, and the current divisive climate regarding the refugee population, Intrepid will create a school tour and multimedia art installation titled *Exiled Voices: The Refugee Art Experience*, a community outreach initiative which tells stories of refugee resettlement through visual and performing arts and cultivates empathy for this vulnerable population.

Japanese American Cultural & Community Center

Los Angeles Type: Community \$10,000
Japanese American Cultural & Community Center in partnership with East West Players will provide 3,000 free seats to students and low-income seniors, as well as produce a Little Tokyo specific study guide and free post-show public programs in conjunction with the Los Angeles premiere of the Broadway musical *Allegiance* (music & lyrics by Jay Kuo. Book by Jay Kuo, Marc Acito and Lorenzo Thione) starring George Takei at the Aratani Theatre in February & March 2018.

Japanese American Museum of San Jose

San Jose Type: Community \$15,000
This project highlights the Japanese American WWII incarceration experience to connect with the historical and contemporary treatment of Mexican, Chinese, and Muslim Americans through civil liberties. This process foregrounds the protection of civil liberties of all Americans and develops actual working ties across individuals and organizations within these groups in the San Jose area. Products include oral histories, community forums, and a model for other community conversations.

Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California

San Francisco Type: Preservation \$60,000
Japanese American History Archives is the largest community-owned collection of rare Issei generation primary documents that survived the tragic loss of property due to EO 9066. The project will focus on preserving and digitizing collections of personal diaries, journals, manuscripts, memoirs, one-of-a kind books and original art that can illuminate similar experiences of political fear, anti-immigration, suspicion, mistrust, hostility, civil rights and racist laws faced by communities today.

KCETLink

Los Angeles Type: Public Media \$100,000
With the purpose of educating the public in order to take an in-depth look at the stories behind the significant events in California's history - where exclusion, forced removal and internment of civilians and immigrants occurred -- KCETLink will produce informative written articles, social media videos, digital short videos, and broadcast episodes on the organization's original multi-platform series, *Lost LA*.

Kingsburg Historical Society

Kingsburg Type: Community \$8,000
The Kingsburg Historical Society will augment an exhibition from Go For Broke called, “Communities of Compassion,” a project initially funded by The National Park Service that includes ten communities across the United States. Kingsburg will host the exhibition and include additional speakers, expanded publicity capability and increased docent hours for the public.

Los Angeles Opera Company

Los Angeles Type: Community \$30,000
LA Opera’s Voices for Tolerance In-School Opera engages 400 secondary students in ten schools and 10,000 audience members in *The White Bird of Poston*, an LA Opera commission set in the Poston Internment Camp. In the ten week residency, students learn the opera and immerse themselves in history and the Japanese American experience. They will perform the opera at each school for students and the community, bringing awareness of this period and an understanding and tolerance for differences.

Media Bridges, Inc./Mineta Legacy Project

Oakland Type: Community \$40,000
The Mineta Legacy Project is ostensibly the story of Norman Y. Mineta, the first Asian American mayor of a major U.S. city, the first Asian American Congressman from the mainland and the first Asian American Cabinet Member. But at its core, the *Mineta Legacy Project* is a multimedia project that examines issues of immigration, civil liberty violations, social equity, redress and the rise of Asian American politics through the life and career of Mineta, which parallels many contemporary issues.

National Japanese American Historical Society, Inc.

San Francisco Type: Community \$25,000
The National Japanese American Historical Society, in coordination with the National Parks Service and Angel Island, will produce *Dislocation & Divergence*, a permanent exhibit of the wartime exclusion and incarceration of Japanese Americans, linking Gen. DeWitt’s implementation of E.O. 9066, in the gallery of the Military Intelligence Service Historic Learning Center at the Presidio of San Francisco. A digital exhibit will also link to Angel Island and Golden Gate National Recreation Area websites.

Nichi Bei Foundation

San Francisco Type: Community \$5,000
The Nichi Bei Foundation will utilize funding for *The Films of Remembrance*, a day-long showcase of films designed to educate the public about the Japanese American incarceration experience during World War II, as well as the Nikkei Angel Island Pilgrimage, a program designed to educate the community and general public about the Japanese and Japanese American legacy at the former Immigration Station, including detention there during WWII, while encouraging family history research.

PEN Center USA West

Beverly Hills Type: Community \$21,000
Under PEN CENTER USA, experienced creative writing instructor Chris Terry will curate a PEN “In The Community” program that will explore notions of identity and what it means to belong in America. The series of creative writing experiences will feature workshops in fiction, nonfiction, and poetry for youth and adults. The workshops will incorporate visiting artists and culminate in a public reading of participants’ work in June 2018.

Poston Community Alliance

Lafayette Type: Community \$10,000
The Poston Community Alliance project, *From Executive Order 9066 to Executive Orders Today: Our Rights, Our Democracy, Our Freedom*, includes a film screening of the documentary film *For the Sake of the Children* and a panel discussion on civil liberties that serve as a public-education model. *For the Sake of the Children* is a feature-length film that shares the stories and reveals the emotional and painful impact of the incarceration on three generations of Japanese Americans. Panelists will be experts in the history of the internment during World War II as well as current challenges presented by immigration initiatives to a variety of groups today.

Riverside Art Museum

Riverside Type: Community \$25,000
Through art exhibits, interactive activities, educational opportunities, dialogue, and artist-driven engagement, Riverside Art Museum's Community Project shares the history of Executive Order 9066, provides information on the stories of those interned during WWII within a local context in the Inland Empire, and provides opportunities to explore current contemporary civil liberty issues – nationally, statewide, and locally.

San Francisco Film Society/A Bitter Legacy

San Francisco Type: Community \$15,000
Funds will be utilized to create a shorter television broadcast and an educational version of the feature documentary, *A Bitter Legacy*. Currently in film festival mode at 74 minutes long, *A Bitter Legacy* has already won Best Documentary Awards at film festivals. The television/educational version will be made available to local public broadcasting stations in California.

San Francisco Japanese American Citizens League/ We Hold These Truths The Gordon Hirabayashi Story

San Francisco Type: Community \$16,500
Jeanne Sakata's solo play, *We Hold These Truths*, the story of Gordon Hirabayashi, will be presented to the San Francisco Bay Area. It will premiere in San Francisco with Greg Watanabe (role of Mike Masaoka in *Allegiance*) playing the part of Hirabayashi, who defied the internment order and took his case to the Supreme Court. The plot of the play has a strong message about civil rights, the Constitution, and one man's battle against civil liberty violations.

Special Service for Groups Inc./Kizuna

Los Angeles Type: Community \$30,000
Kizuna's proposed *Next Generation Media Project* will bring the histories, lessons, and experiences of internment and the Japanese American community to a youth audience through a series of Youtube and Facebook videos that will all be available to the public. These videos will creatively explore internment and the community it has created today through food, stories, interviews, and more.

Valley Public Television, Inc dba ValleyPBS

Fresno Type: Public Media \$100,000
Silent Sacrifice: The Story of Japanese American Incarceration and Beyond in California's San Joaquin Valley will be a 90-120 minute documentary film based on the experience of Japanese Americans before, during and after WWII with a focus on the Merced, Tulare, Fresno and Pinedale Assembly Centers and will include curriculum development for high school students. The documentary and curriculum will feature first-hand accounts by remaining internees and will be made available nationally via PBS.

Young Audiences of San Diego

San Diego

Type: Community

\$10,000

Arts for Learning San Diego, & the Asian Story Theater, will tour the play *There and Home Again: More Stories of the Sun Caf*, to schools and libraries in San Diego. Personal interviews tell the story of San Diegans forcibly registered, removed and incarcerated at the outbreak of WWII; with a focus on life around the iconic Sun Caf, at the heart of San Diego's Japanese community. A DVD recording plus new educational curricula will be distributed at live performances and available nationally.

####