



California State Library approves 30 project grants in the California Civil Liberties program

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[Sacramento, Calif.] – Thirty diverse projects across the state have received over \$1.6 million in grants from the California State Library to educate Californians about their civil liberties. The successful applications include museums, public media outlets, and community and arts groups.

A list of the grant recipients is attached.

The Civil Liberties Public Education program was created in 1998 to learn from the incarceration of US citizens of Japanese American ancestry during World War II in order to better understand Californians’ civil liberties and the impact of those liberties being usurped.

“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 of past mistakes and connecting them with current events reminds us 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 first in a series funded through a three-year, one-time allocation of \$5 million in the budget approved in June 2021. The program will accept a second round of applications in late fall 2023.

Previous projects funded through the California Civil Liberties program include:

- [An interactive online experience of the hardships and decisions for Japanese Americans during World War II;](#)
- [Comprehensive curriculum for students in civics and American history classes;](#)
- [Documentaries, oral histories](#) and [podcasts](#) from [public broadcasting organizations](#) and [nonprofits](#);
- [Performing and visual arts programming;](#)
- [Teachers’ guides](#) and [lesson suggestions](#) with [primary source materials](#).

There is also a [Science, Technology, Engineering, Math \(STEM\) project involving Minecraft](#) and [a video series from younger generations on the subject](#). A comprehensive list is available on the [California Civil Liberties program website](#). Historical information about the program follows the list of projects funded in this current round. Questions may be addressed to civil.liberties@library.ca.gov.

End of Press Release

About the State Library: Established in 1850, the California State Library is the central reference and research library for state government and the Legislature. The library collection includes more than 4 million titles, 6,000 maps, and 250,000 photographs, and includes an extensive collection of documents from and about the state’s rich history. Around the state, the State Library also serves California’s local libraries, providing more than \$500 million state and federal funds to support public libraries and delivering statewide library programs and services. [State Library website](#)

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 incarcerated over 120,000 Japanese Americans – including whole families -- in guarded compounds for more than 18 months based solely on their heritage. Congress later [investigated and published a report](#) detailing these civil liberties violations, and over 80,000 individuals received redress compensation.

When the state Legislature created the California Civil Liberties Public Education program in 1998, the state's legislative body 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."

List of funded Projects – Summer 2022

Projects utilizing a fiscal sponsor in a different city will list the project city first, followed by the fiscal sponsor city.

The Aja Project - San Diego

Project: Civil Liberties Fellowship

Category: Community Projects

Amount: \$49,521.20

Aja will engage youth affected by deportation and/or civil liberties violations in participatory photography workshops using documents from the California State Library's holdings and other public-domain resources on Japanese Internment to facilitate conversation around personal experiences with exclusion, detention or deportation. With a focus 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 and civil liberties.

API Cultural Center Inc. - Oakland

Project: 2023 Day of Remembrance

Category: Community Projects

Amount: \$24,000.00

The Oakland Asian Cultural Center will create a local Bay Area map marking historic sites significant to the Japanese American incarceration experience before, during and after World War II. Accompanying the map will be two to three free events in partnership with cultural organizations and artists for the cultural center's 2023 Day of Remembrance programming. The project is a vessel to raise awareness, build community and encourage the visitation of historically significant sites in the Bay Area. Sites currently include Building 640, Military Intelligence Service Historic Learning Center; San Bruno Bart Station, Tanforan Memorial; and the Buddhist Church of Oakland.

Art Center College of Design - Pasadena

Project: Never Again 9066

Category: Community Projects

Amount: \$50,000.00

Students at Art Center College of Design will create visually compelling public displays and educational materials that convey an authentic first-person view of World War II Japanese American incarceration to new audiences. Learning from surviving former concentration camp inmates — including alumni of the college — and from civil liberties experts, students will share this important history and connect it to issues in the present such as the wave of anti-Asian hate in California. The project also will develop a college-level class curriculum, state standards-relevant materials for elementary and secondary students, and public panels/lectures that will be digitally recorded and widely shared.

Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach - Oakland

Project: API Racial Justice Project

Category: Education

Amount: \$68,452.00

The API Racial Justice Project will highlight the incarceration of Japanese and Aleut people along with the long history of and current rise of anti-Asian violence and movements for racial justice through an intensive education campaign by and for high school age youth. Through a yearlong series of peer-led educational programming in arts, culture and history — and a national conference — the project will raise awareness of the injustices of the incarceration and the roots of anti-Asian violence today.

California Lutheran University - Thousand Oaks

Project: Taking a Stand

Category: Community Projects

Amount: \$28,555.00

“Taking a Stand: Civil Liberties Then and Now” will offer secondary school teachers and their students an opportunity to make the issues of civil liberties part of their own experience by having them analyze primary sources and then observe the places where the events happened. A series of lessons and the accompanying opportunities to visit these places will allow students to discover that “history” and a denial of civil liberties encourages citizens and non-citizens alike to take a stand. The ability to respond, or “response ability,” has defined the United States since its inception.

The California Museum of History, Women and the Arts - Sacramento

Project: Never Again - California Museum & Nikkei Rising

Category: Community Projects

Amount: \$16,268.00

The California Museum will partner with Nikkei Rising, the young adult branch of the Japanese American Memorial Pilgrimages, to create a new multimedia installation that will be included as part of the renovation of the permanent exhibit “Uprooted! Japanese Americans During World War II.” This multimedia project directly connects the historical impacts of World War II on the Japanese American community and American Civil Liberties with contemporary civic engagement.

Chapman University - Orange

Project: Images and Imaginings of Internment

Category: Education

Amount: \$124,906.00

Images and Imaginings of Internment: Comics and Illustrations of Camp catalogs illustrations that document the Japanese American internment experience to provide insight into the life histories of those who were incarcerated due to their race and ethnicity. This online exhibition will examine how people represented their experiences inside camp, simultaneously examining how life in the camps was being represented and understood by those outside of the camps. It will include pedagogical materials aimed at a middle school through college audience. A physical exhibition at Chapman University will provide proof of concept for subsequent exhibitions.

CULTURPHORIUM - Sacramento

Project: RH Sacramento: Japantown

Category: Community Projects

Amount: \$30,040.50

CULTURPHORIUM staff will research, design and implement *Respect & Heal Sacramento: Japantown*, a community pop-up history exhibit and book for Black History Month & Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage month in Sacramento, California. Exhibit displays, infographics and literature will touch on the exclusion of Japanese Americans from education during World War II and highlight the California citizens who advocated for quality education for all youth.

Delta Educational Cultural Society - Isleton

Project: Revisiting Isleton’s Forgotten Nihonmachi

Category: Community Projects

Amount: \$36,450.00

Revisiting Isleton’s Forgotten Nihonmachi will fill a gap in exhibits in the new Isleton Museum in California’s Delta region, adding the history of Isleton’s once-thriving “Nihonmachi” or historic Japantown. This new ongoing exhibit will be divided into two main sections: Isleton’s Japantown before 1942; and Executive Order 9066, internment, and its aftermath — including photos, graphic displays, artifacts and interactive iPads. The exhibit will highlight the impact of civil liberties violations on the

Japanese American community as well as Isleton's Chinese community and other groups and will draw parallels with more modern civil liberties challenges and violations.

Densho - Los Angeles

Project: Manzanar Sitemap with Inmate Names

Category: Community Projects

Amount: \$50,000.00

Densho will create an interactive online site map for the Manzanar internment camp which will list the names of individual inmates by barrack location. This module will allow users to quickly search for the barrack address of an individual and see who else lived in the same barrack or block, as well as see how far away schools, churches, hospitals, guard towers and other key institutions were located. The Manzanar site map will also be integrated with Sites of Shame, a map-based website, which is one of Densho's most widely used and cited educational properties since its debut in 2008.

Eloise Pickard Smith Gallery at the University of California, Santa Cruz - Santa Cruz

Project: Women's Redress and Antiracist Activism

Category: Community Projects

Amount: \$25,000.00

This multimedia exhibit documents Japanese American women's antiracist activism during and after the redress movement. It includes photographs, artifacts, and videos of women who experienced incarceration during World War II; participated in civil rights campaigns; and helped to obtain a national apology, secure redress compensation and launch a public education fund in 1988. A curriculum guide, tours for college and high school students and two recorded community events will be preserved on a website to help the general public learn about the legacy of redress and contemporary activism.

Get Lit – Words Ignite Inc. - Los Angeles

Project: Get Lit Ethnic Studies Courses

Category: Education

Amount: \$125,000.00

"Get Lit – Words Ignite" will offer three semester-long Ethnic Studies courses to all California high school students through our interactive poetry web platform Uni(verse). Through the lens of poetry and the voices of detainees and their descendants, students will learn the history and lasting effects of the World War II exclusion and detention of people of Japanese ancestry. They will explore how race and ethnicity, gender and sexuality, religion, class and disability all influence our experiences in society both historically and currently.

Heritage Future / Past Forward - Orange

Project: Chapters podcast series

Category: Public Media

Amount: \$94,350.00

The 2022 Chapters podcast series supports California nonprofit organizations funded through the California Civil Liberties Program, showcasing their programs honoring the history of Executive Order 9066. Podcasts will also feature civil liberties advocates discussing current challenges California faces, utilizing voices from Black Lives Matter, LGBTQ+ rights groups, and others, and connecting the threads from the past to social justice of today.

Independent Arts and Media - San Francisco

Project: Returning to the "Harlem of the West"

Category: Community Projects

Amount: \$50,000.00

Returning to the 'Harlem of the West': Japanese American Resettlement in the Fillmore District tells the stories of the return of Persons of Japanese Descent to a radically altered neighborhood in San Francisco after their incarceration. The California Migration Museum, working in partnership with Walking Cinema, will create an immersive narrative walking tour, enhanced with augmented-reality, soundscapes and pop-up physical exhibits, which will both explore this history and link it to ongoing questions about belonging, social justice and tenants' rights. This Japantown tour will be the fourth in a series of 20-minute audio stories telling San Francisco's migration histories.

Japanese American Citizens League - San Francisco

Project: Digitizing Curriculum Guide and Teacher Training Workshops

Category: Community Projects

Amount: \$47,616.00

These funds will update *Japanese American Experience: Curriculum and Resource Guide*, a widely distributed resource for educators on the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II. Last

updated in 2011, the upcoming sixth edition will include new content about Tule Lake and current efforts regarding Black reparations. The guide will also be digitally transformed from a print/PDF format to an online guide that includes videos, photos, articles and curated lesson plans for educators, students and the public. Training workshops will be held for educators on the improved resource guide.

Japanese American Museum of San Jose - San Jose

Project: Japanese American Oral Histories Transcription

Category: Preservation

Amount: \$53,030.00

This project seeks to further educate and inform Japanese American Museum of San Jose's internet visitors about the lives of Japanese Americans held in Internment Camps during World War II. This project builds upon the Manabu Project, previously funded by the civil liberties education program, which transcribed the oral histories of 26 camp survivors. Manabu is the most frequently visited location on the museum's website. This new project will transcribe the remaining 32 video oral histories in this collection.

Kizuna Little Tokyo – Los Angeles

Project: Leadership After School Program

Category: Community Projects

Amount: \$29,500.00

Kizuna's Leadership Program is an after-school program for teens that examines the history of Little Tokyo, individual identity, and the challenges around preserving, remembering and honoring both. The program focuses mainly on Little Tokyo, the effect of World War II internment, gentrification, and the current state of the community through hands-on activities, tours, interviews, speakers and online engagement.

KQED Inc. – San Francisco

Project: Reparations in California

Category: Public Media

Amount: \$125,000.00

The federal government promised land to emancipated Black people, but the pact was rescinded after President Lincoln's assassination. Black people have demanded recompense ever since. KQED is creating a five-part video series exploring the long march to racial equity in California and America. This series will educate the public about the call for reparations for descendants of enslaved Black Americans by the California Reparations Task Force, the first-in-the-nation statewide group to study reparative proposals, and one that is closely connected to the Japanese internment, a more recent civil rights violation for which victims did receive reparations.

KVIE Inc. – Larkspur / Sacramento

Project: In Our Place: Three Communities

Category: Public Media

Amount: \$125,000.00

In Our Place: Three Communities is a new feature documentary exploring the shared experience of uprooting and displacement across Japanese American, African American and Native American communities during World War II. In particular, the film will focus on two sites impacted by the forced removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans in 1942: Japantown in San Francisco, which became a thriving Black cultural center known as the Harlem of the West; and the Gila River Indian Reservation, where an internment camp was established to hold Japanese Americans over the objections of the Gila River Tribal Council.

LA Theatre Works - Venice

Project: Civil Liberties Audio Theatre

Category: Public Media

Amount: \$75,000.00

LA Theatre Works has produced four audio plays about the Japanese Internment, three panel discussions/interviews, and a collection of complementary resources. The theatre also has more than 20 other titles that address civil liberties in diverse contexts. This project will move this content to a more robust online and mobile platform.

National Japanese American Historical Society, Inc. - San Francisco

Project: Life's Angles: Camp Art Boxes - Lesson Plans on the Japanese American Camp Art and Crafts of World War II

Category: Community Projects

Amount: \$50,000.00

The National Japanese American Historical Society, Inc., in collaboration with artists and Japanese American community partners, will implement regional teacher professional development training sessions that provide lesson plans on the Japanese American Camp Art and Crafts of World War II. Using award-winning, place-based pedagogy and specially crafted art box kits, school classroom teachers in grade levels 3-6 will explore themes of civil liberties and social justice through the arts and language arts.

Nichi Bei Foundation (27-0700443) - San Francisco

Project: Films of Remembrance Expansion

Category: Community Projects

Amount: \$30,000.00

Films of Remembrance is a showcase of films commemorating the wartime forced removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans in American concentration camps during World War II. Through the presentation of films and panel discussions, the Nichi Bei Foundation seeks to illuminate the root causes of the wartime incarceration so that such deprivation of civil liberties does not happen again to anyone in the United States. This project not only seeks to have presentations of films in several cities, but also help build a more permanent streaming site for public schools and universities, as well as the general public.

Nisei Baseball Research Project - San Francisco

Project: Baseball Behind Barbed Wire

Category: Community Projects

Amount: \$50,000.00

When Pearl Harbor was attacked, Japanese Americans were incarcerated in desolate desert camps, surrounded by armed guards and barbed wire. For many, the key to their survival was baseball. The short documentary "Baseball Behind Barbed Wire" is about this bitter history told with moments of cheer and laughter as the internees rallied to build baseball diamonds, play ball and even travel long distances to play other camp teams, proclaiming their American heritage through their beloved baseball.

Nikkei Basketball Heritage Association - Redondo Beach

Project: Basketball in The Camps Oral History Project

Category: Education

Amount: \$28,650.00

The Basketball in The Camps Oral History Project will interview and record 20 oral histories of former World War II camp internees and relatives about their experiences related to Japanese American basketball. These oral histories will serve as the research foundation for a comprehensive educational program which will include curriculum, videos and a possible documentary that will help increase understanding of how basketball helped Japanese Americans endure the incarceration experience and, after the war, grow and sustain the overall Japanese American community.

Pasadena Educational Foundation - Pasadena

Project: Concentration, Suspension, Incarceration, and deportation

Category: Community Projects

Amount: \$50,000.00

The Pasadena Unified School District will launch *Concentration, Suspension, Incarceration, Deportation*, through which students collaborate with Ethnic Studies teachers, community activists, artists, archivists, media specialists and historians. The students will explore connections between World War II, when Japanese community members were detained in internment camps, and contemporary civil rights struggles related to race, national origin, immigration status, religion, gender and sexual orientation. This long-term initiative will a) guide the district's Ethnic Studies curriculum and allow students to conduct scholarly research, and b) inform the public through a website, podcasts, restorative justice circles, a publication, art and public performances.

Poston Community Alliance - Pleasant Hill

Project: The Blue Jay - A Short Narrative Film

Category: Education

Amount: \$10,000.00

The Blue Jay is a short, narrative film that is a part of *Poston Live: Its Lessons and Multicultural Legacy*, a multimedia and multicultural online educational project. This project will be available to all high school and college students interested in Ethnic Studies. Grant funding is specifically for safety and health-related expenses due to COVID and other public-health issues.

Tides Center / National Veterans Network - San Francisco / Torrance

Project: What was Life Like in the Camp

Category: Museums

Amount: \$70,000.00

What was Life Like in the Camp: Building Educator Resources for Elementary Schools will be a collection of life stories of California-born Japanese Americans internees that will serve as an educational resource for elementary school teachers and students. These stories of young Japanese American World War II internees will be added to the Smithsonian's Nisei Soldier Congressional Gold Medal online exhibition to represent the experience of California residents during the war. They will become primary source content for elementary school curricula. The project is fiscally sponsored by the Tides Center and developed by the National Veterans Network and Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center.

Tule Lake Committee - Sacramento

Project: Tule Lake's Jail and Deporting Dissidents

Category: Community Projects

Amount: \$50,000.00

Tule Lake's infamous jail was built in 1945 for use in a program to denationalize and deport Japanese Americans who protested the injustice of their incarceration. Shorn of U.S. citizenship, 750 dissidents from Tule Lake were removed to Bismarck, North Dakota as "enemy aliens." Today, the Bismarck site is a Tribal College, constructing a memorial to heal the wounds of racism inflicted on Japanese Americans and Native Americans. The Tule Lake Committee will develop a film about the jail's little-known history in deporting dissidents, and the Tribal College's work to heal wounds caused by racial injustice.

Visual Communications Media - Playa del Rey / Los Angeles

Project: California Assembly Centers

Category: Community Projects

Amount: \$49,856.00

This project is an interactive multimedia website that takes a unique and focused look at California's little-documented but critically important "Assembly/Reception Centers," all 12 in California having been designated California Historic Landmarks. These makeshift centers were hastily built in 1942 to detain approximately 80,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry while the 10 permanent sites for incarceration were being constructed. The website will feature archival and present-day aerial and close-up photos of each site, including current markers and memorial tributes, providing a rare then-and-now look at these significant sites. Oral histories of former detainees and/or community members involved in memorializing each site will also be included.

Visual Communications Media - Monterey Park / Los Angeles

Project: Nakamura Camp Survivor Digitization Project

Category: Preservation

Amount: \$60,000.00

The so-called "Godfather of Asian American media," Robert A. Nakamura, has amassed a large collection of photographs, films and documents in the 80 years since his imprisonment at Manzanar galvanized his life's mission to educate others about the mass incarceration. The Robert A. Nakamura Camp Survivor Digitization Project will digitize this substantial visual and material evidence in order to share his legacy of educating the world about the long-lasting impact of the World War II incarceration of Japanese Americans. The original physical items will then be archived at the Japanese American National Museum, UCLA Film and Television Archive and Visual Communications.

Total funded: \$1,676,194.70