Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program

2015: A YEAR IN REVIEW – PRESERVING AND INTERPRETING WORLD WAR II JAPANESE AMERICAN CONFINEMENT SITES

The National Park Service (NPS) is pleased to report on the progress of the Japanese American Confinement Sites (JACS) Grant Program. On December 21, 2006, President George W. Bush signed Public Law 109-441 (120 STAT 3288) – Preservation of Japanese American Confinement Sites – which authorized the NPS to create a grant program to encourage and support the preservation and interpretation of historic confinement sites where Japanese Americans were detained. The law authorized up to $38 million for the life of the grant program. Congress first appropriated funding for the program in 2009. JACS grants are awarded through a competitive process in which $2 of Federal money matches every $1 in non-Federal funds and “in-kind” contributions.

Over the past seven years, the program has awarded 148 grant awards totaling more than $18.2 million to private nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, state, local, and tribal governments, and other public entities. The projects involve 20 states and the District of Columbia, and include oral histories, preservation of camp artifacts and buildings, documentaries and educational curriculum, and exhibits and memorials that preserve what remains of the confinement sites and honor the people who were incarcerated there by sharing their experiences.

The Fiscal Year 2015 grant awards, featured in this report, include a traveling exhibition to tell the lesser known story of the former Tuna Canyon Detention Station in California; the emergency stabilization of a root cellar used by incarcerees to store fruit and vegetables that they grew and harvested at Heart Mountain, Wyoming; and the creation of an online archive that will include more than 1,300 digitally scanned documents and photographs related to the Rohwer incarceration site in Arkansas.

The 20 grants awarded in 2015 range from $16,000 to the Friends of the Texas Historical Commission, Inc., continued on page 2
to research and document a 70-year-old mural that was painted by an internee at the Seagoville Internment Camp (INS Detention Station) in Dallas County, Texas, to $400,000 for New York’s public media station WNET to create “Prisoner in My Homeland,” a series of free online educational video games to engage middle school-age students with the history of Japanese American incarceration during World War II.

Each year, as new projects begin, past JACS-funded projects are completed. Some of those completed include an exhibit honoring Japanese Americans who served in the military while their families were incarcerated, the preservation of a rare family photo collection providing insight into life at Heart Mountain, and educational projects encouraging youth to make connections between the history of World War II incarceration sites and civil liberties issues of today.

The NPS is appreciative of the hard work and dedication demonstrated by JACS grant recipients to preserve the various sites, to educate the public about the injustices of World War II incarceration, and to document and share the first-hand experiences of those who lived it and the lasting impacts on their families.

“As stewards of our nation’s history, the National Park Service recognizes the importance of preserving these confinement sites,” NPS Director Jonathan B. Jarvis said. “They are poignant reminders – today and for future generations – that we must be always vigilant in upholding civil liberties for all. These grants help us share valuable lessons on the fragility of our constitutional rights and ensure the experiences of those who were incarcerated are not forgotten.”

Eligible Sites and Projects

As defined by Public Law 109-441, eligible confinement sites include the ten War Relocation Authority camps: Gila River (AZ), Amache (Granada) (CO), Heart Mountain (WY), Jerome (AR), Manzanar (CA), Minidoka (ID), Poston (AZ), Rohwer (AR), Topaz (UT), and Tule Lake (CA), as well as other sites – including “assembly,” “relocation,” and “isolation” centers– identified in the NPS report Confinement and Ethnicity and as determined by the Secretary of the Interior, where Japanese Americans were imprisoned during World War II.

Seven major categories of activities are eligible for JACS grants: capital projects (such as the construction of new interpretive centers); documentation (such as archeological surveys); oral history interviews; interpretation and education related to historic confinement sites (such as wayside exhibits or educational curricula); preservation of confinement sites and related historic resources (such as restoration of historic buildings or collections conservation); planning projects (such as resource management plans); and non-Federal real property acquisition (allowed only at Heart Mountain (WY), Honouliuli (HI), Jerome (AR), Rohwer (AR), and Topaz (UT), per stipulations of Public Laws 109-441 and 111-88).

Overview of the 2015 Grant Program Process

For the 2015 grant program, the NPS mailed postcards announcing the availability of grant applications and guidelines to approximately 7,500 individuals and organizations. On September 12, 2014, the NPS also announced the availability of application materials through a national press release, the grant program website, and other correspondence.

By the application deadline of November 12, 2014, the NPS received 36 applications requesting more than $5.7 million in Federal funds. During the week of December 9, 2014, the JACS grant review panel convened at the NPS Intermountain Regional Office in Lakewood, Colorado, to evaluate the proposals. The panel was composed of NPS staff from the Intermountain, Midwest, and Pacific West regions. Appointed by NPS Regional Directors, the six panel members represented a variety of backgrounds and disciplines, including expertise in archeology, interpretive media, cultural anthropology, architectural history, curation, and historical architecture. The panel evaluated and ranked each proposal using criteria and guidelines that were established based on public input.

The panel recommended 20 proposals to receive funding. Director Jarvis announced the 20 grant awards on June 16, 2015.
FISCAL YEAR 2015 GRANT AWARDS

In 2015 – the JACS Grant Program’s seventh year – 20 awards provided more than $2.8 million to projects in 8 states, and the District of Columbia. A list of the winning projects follows.

Fiscal Year 2015 Project Descriptions by State

ARKANSAS

Recipient: University of Arkansas (Fayetteville, AR)
Project Title: Rohwer Reconstructed II: Making Connections Through Time and Space
Grant Award: $254,606
Site(s): Jerome Relocation Center, Chicot and Drew counties, AR; Rohwer Relocation Center, Desha County, AR

Description: The University of Arkansas will add an estimated 1,300 items to its existing online database of Rohwer and Jerome materials, including photographs and biographies of incarcerees and administrative staff. Also, a 3D visualization of Barracks Block 12 at Rohwer, created with a 2013 JACS grant, will be expanded to include the auditorium, library and athletic fields, with audio narratives integrated into the model.

Recipient: University of Central Arkansas (Conway, AR)
Project Title: A Season of Remembrance: Rohwer and Jerome at 70
Grant Award: $75,908
Site(s): Jerome Relocation Center, Chicot and Drew counties, AR; Rohwer Relocation Center, Desha County, AR

Description: The University of Central Arkansas will commemorate the 70-year anniversary of the closing of the Rohwer and Jerome incarceration sites through the production of Remembrance, a theatrical performance based on stories from the Japanese American World War II incarceration experience. Remembrance will be the centerpiece of “A Season of Remembrance: Rohwer and Jerome at 70,” a series of public events—lectures, readings, exhibitions, and workshops. The project also will include lectures and demonstration performances for high schools, and a video documenting the work’s creation and performance.
**CALIFORNIA**

Recipient: California State University, Dominguez Hills (Carson, CA)

Project Title: California State University Japanese American Digitization Project

Grant Award: $321,554

Site(s): Multiple Sites

Description: California State University (CSU) will digitize nearly 10,000 documents and more than 100 oral histories related to the confinement of Japanese Americans during World War II, and make those materials available on a CSU-sponsored website. In addition, the project will result in a teaching guide and traveling exhibit for schools and the public. A consortium of the following 13 CSU archives will participate in the project: Dominguez Hills, Bakersfield, Channel Islands, Fresno, Fullerton, Northridge, Sacramento, San Jose, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, San Francisco, and Sonoma.

Recipient: Heyday (Berkeley, CA)

Project Title: “Journeys from Manzanar,” a Published Book Project

Grant Award: $100,000

Site(s): Manzanar Relocation Center, Inyo County, CA

Description: Heyday, a non-profit publisher, will partner with the Manzanar History Association to co-publish a book about the post-World War II experiences of the children of Manzanar. Drawing on 500 oral histories, the book’s essays will provide an intimate glimpse into their lives and the ways in which they left lasting imprints on the American landscape far beyond Manzanar. Topics range from the challenges and prejudices faced during the post-war years to federal redress and reparations in the 1980s and 1990s.
Recipient: National Japanese American Historical Society (San Francisco, CA)
Project Title: Camp Digital Archives
Grant Award: $83,875
Site(s): Multiple Sites
Description: The National Japanese American Historical Society will digitize approximately 400 new entries from its collections and upload them to a database hosted on the University of San Francisco’s Gleeson Library Digital Collections website. The selections will comprise letters, photographs, oral history transcripts, and other personal documents, as well as official documents and manuscripts related to all ten War Relocation Authority incarceration sites and some Department of Justice internment sites.

Recipient: The Regents of the University of California, c/o UC Berkeley Sponsored Projects Office (Berkeley, CA)
Project Title: Japanese American Internment Sites: A Digital Archive
Grant Award: $296,347
Site(s): Multiple Sites, including Colorado River Relocation Center (Poston), La Paz County, AZ; Tule Lake Segregation Center, Modoc County, CA; Gila River Relocation Center, Pinal County, AZ; Manzanar Relocation Center, Inyo County, CA
Description: The Bancroft Library at the University of California, Berkeley, will establish a comprehensive virtual archive of its holdings of War Relocation Authority (WRA) records – the largest repository of WRA records outside of the National Archives. While the Bancroft Library holdings about the forced removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II are among its most heavily used materials, the documents are widely dispersed. This project will connect the WRA holdings to the existing finding aid and allow users to access the records via a thematic website.
Recipient: San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center (Pacoima, CA)

Project Title: Only the Oaks Remain: The Tuna Canyon Detention Station Traveling Exhibit

Grant Award: $102,190

Site(s): Tuna Canyon Detention Station, Los Angeles County, CA

Description: The San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center will create a museum-quality traveling exhibit to tell the story of the former Tuna Canyon Detention Station in Tujunga, California. The exhibit will include the names of the more than 2,000 people of Japanese, Italian, German, and Japanese-Peruvian descent detained at Tuna Canyon, along with brief biographies of several detainees. The traveling exhibit also will include video interviews with detainees’ children, and a diorama of the Tuna Canyon Detention Station, which was torn down in 1960.

Recipient: Special Service for Groups (Los Angeles, CA)

Project Title: “A Flicker in Eternity” Interactive Curriculum: Teaching Stories of Confinement

Grant Award: $20,000

Site(s): Heart Mountain Relocation Center, Park County, WY; Manzanar Relocation Center, Inyo County, CA

Description: Special Service for Groups, a non-profit health and human service organization, will partner with Kizuna, a community-based non-profit organization, to create an interactive educational curriculum to teach more than 300 elementary through college-aged students about the history of Japanese American incarceration during World War II. Workshops will utilize Sharon Yamato’s A Flicker in Eternity, a film that chronicles the life of Stanley Hayami, a Japanese American teenager incarcerated at Heart Mountain, to engage students through hands-on learning activities and discussions. The curriculum and workshops will be implemented at former Japanese American incarceration sites, Japanese American community centers, and made available online.
COLORADO

Recipient: University of Colorado, Denver (Denver, CO)
Project Title: Amache 3D Digital Documentation
Grant Award: $24,202
Site(s): Granada Relocation Center (Amache), Prowers County, CO

Description: The University of Colorado Denver’s Center for Preservation Research will use LiDAR scanning technology to produce a complete 3D digital model of the existing landscape, buildings, and site features at Amache. In addition, the University will produce 3D images of buildings that were removed from the site upon the camps closure. The 3D digital scans, panoramas, and data will serve as powerful tools to inform future research and preservation efforts.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Recipient: National Trust for Historic Preservation (Washington, DC)
Project Title: Left Behind: Documenting the Japanese American Collections at Seattle’s Panama Hotel
Grant Award: $137,178
Site(s): Minidoka Relocation Center, Jerome County, ID

Description: The National Trust for Historic Preservation will inventory, catalog, and photograph personal belongings stored in the basement of the Panama Hotel by Japanese Americans who could only take what they could carry with them to the incarceration sites. Prior to World War II, the Panama Hotel in the heart of Seattle’s Japantown was a central gathering place for the Japanese immigrant community. After the war, many Japanese Americans never returned to the hotel to retrieve their belongings. The National Trust will partner with the Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience to evaluate the significance of these objects, develop a collections hierarchy to guide the next steps for their preservation and interpretation, and create a searchable database of these personal items.
**HAWAI‘I**

**Recipient:** Friends of Waipahu Cultural Garden Park (aka Hawai‘i’s Plantation Village) (Waipahu, HI)

**Project Title:** Phase Two, Administration Building Construction Documents, Student Participation and Exhibit

**Grant Award:** $112,000

**Site(s):** Honouliuli Internment Site, Honolulu County, HI

**Description:** Friends of Waipahu Cultural Garden Park (aka Hawai‘i’s Plantation Village) will work with an architect and university students to produce construction documents to demonstrate how an administration building, believed to be a guard house, could be restored at the Honouliuli Internment Site. The project builds on a 2009 JACS grant for an Existing Conditions Report that documented the two remaining buildings at Honouliuli. A museum exhibit focusing on restoration efforts and the history of Honouliuli also will be assembled at the Friends of Cultural Garden Park in O‘ahu.

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**Recipient:** Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai‘i (Honolulu, HI)

**Project Title:** Hawai‘i Japanese American Internment: Short Documentaries on the Hawai‘i Counties of Kaua‘i, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i, and Maui

**Grant Award:** $215,502

**Site(s):** 17 internment sites on the islands of Hawai‘i, Kaua‘i, O‘ahu, Maui, Moloka‘i, and Lana‘i

**Description:** The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai‘i will produce a four-part documentary sequel to *The Untold Story: Internment of Japanese Americans in Hawai‘i*, which was produced in 2012 through a JACS grant. The sequel will comprise four, 15-minute films, focusing on 17 Japanese American internment sites dispersed throughout the islands of Hawai‘i, Kaua‘i, O‘ahu, Maui, Moloka‘i, and Lana‘i. A one-hour-long DVD of the films will be created and posted online, and 500 copies distributed to partnering organizations and schools.

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Original caption: “Germany. Pfc. William Wada of Blanca, Colo., after being awarded the Bronze Star Medal, is congratulated by Brig. Gen. Ralph M. Immel, CG, Continental Advance Section. Pfc. Wada received the award for outstanding and heroic achievement in action with the 100th Inf. Br. 1 June 1945.” Photo courtesy: Densho (ddr-densho-114-34), Seattle Nisei Veterans Committee and the U.S. Army
Recipient: Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai‘i (Honolulu, HI)

Project Title: The Power of Place: The Archaeology of Hawai‘i’s Internment Sites

Grant Award: $38,600

Site(s): Honouliuli Internment Site, Honolulu County, HI; Haiku Camp, Maui County; Kalaheo Stockade, Kauai County; and other internment sites in Hawai‘i

Description: The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai‘i will produce a comprehensive report that combines existing archaeological studies about Hawai‘i’s internment sites with new field work to identify, record and map newly discovered sites and features. The manuscript will be illustrated with photographs and maps, and will include an annotated list of useful archives and repositories, as well as Geographical Information System (GIS) data on Honouliuli.

NEW YORK

Recipient: Asian CineVision, Inc. (New York, NY)

Project Title: The Orange Story: A Cinematic Digital History Project

Grant Award: $159,548

Site(s): Multiple Sites, including Merced Assembly Center, Merced County, CA; Granada Relocation Center (Amache), Prowers County, CO

Description: Asian CineVision, Inc., will produce The Orange Story, a 15-minute film portraying an historical re-enactment of a day in the life of one Japanese American forced to move from his home and sell his business before being sent to an incarceration site during World War II. The film will be available on a website that also will include educators’ tools and resources, such as an interactive timeline, annotated historical photos, and critical essays related to the Japanese American World War II incarceration. The film will be presented to a wide range of audiences through public programming and other avenues, including film festivals and screenings at colleges and universities.
Recipient: WNET (New York, NY)
Project Title: Mission US: “Prisoner in My Homeland”
Grant Award: $400,000
Site(s): Bainbridge Island, Kitsap County, WA; Manzanar Relocation Center, Inyo County, CA; Minidoka Relocation Center, Jerome County, ID

Description: WNET, a public media station, will produce an online educational video game that places students in the role of a Japanese American teenage boy who must make choices as he and his family are forced to leave their home on Bainbridge Island, Washington, for one of the “temporary detention centers” and then to one of ten WRA incarceration sites during World War II. The game, “Prisoner in My Homeland,” builds on WNET’s Mission US series, an award-winning group of online video games designed to increase young people’s understanding of U.S. history. “Prisoner in My Homeland” and accompanying classroom materials will be accessible for free through any web browser and designed so teachers can fit segments into a typical classroom period.

TEXAS

Recipient: Friends of the Texas Historical Commission, Inc. (Austin, TX)
Project Title: Seagoville Internment Camp: Detainee Mural and “Japanese Colony” Study
Grant Award: $16,000
Site(s): Seagoville Internment Camp (INS Detention Station), Dallas County, TX

Description: Friends of the Texas Historical Commission, Inc., will complete a condition assessment and develop a restoration plan for a fading mural that was painted by an internee in the former Department of Justice Seagoville Enemy Alien Detention Station, used to detain Japanese, German, Italian, and others deemed “enemy aliens” during World War II. The project also includes preparation of a history of the approximately 250 Japanese Latin Americans interned at Seagoville, which will be shared through interpretive banners displayed on-site, at the local public library, and on the Texas Historical Commission website.
WASHINGTON

Recipient: Densho (Seattle, WA)
Project Title: Confinement Sites Encyclopedia Enhanced for Education
Grant Award: $236,777
Site(s): Multiple Sites

Description: Densho will enhance its online encyclopedia with 350 new articles; a detailed tagging and categorization of 587 encyclopedia articles by subject, reading level, and other variables; a resource finder application that allows users to create lists of resources that match specific criteria; and create links to approximately 100 digitized books, videos, and curricula. The encyclopedia includes more than 1,100 multimedia articles written by scholars and researchers of Japanese American history.

Recipient: Densho (Seattle, WA)
Project Title: Making Connections with the Japanese American Incarceration
Grant Award: $131,574
Site(s): Multiple Sites

Description: Densho will partner with the Holocaust Center for Humanity, the Northwest African American Museum, and the United Indians of All Tribes Foundation to create an educational curriculum and teacher-training workshop that connects the Japanese American exclusion and incarceration story with other historical events of civil and human rights violations. Densho will host at least four professional development workshops to train approximately 100 teachers on how to implement this curriculum in their classrooms. The finalized curriculum will be published on Densho’s Learning Center website.

Hide Yasutake, her children May and Joe, and a Nisei soldier stand outside their barracks in Block 4, Apartment C at the Minidoka incarceration site in Idaho. Photo courtesy: Densho (ddr-densho-118-13), Yasutake Family Collection

Barracks at Jerome incarceration site in Arkansas. Photo courtesy: Densho (ddr-densho-187-3), Courtesy of Ben Ankawa
**WYOMING**

Recipient: Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation  
(Powell, WY)

Project Title: Heart Mountain Root Cellar, Phase II:  
Emergency Stabilization

Grant Award: $90,500

Site(s): Heart Mountain Relocation Center, Park County, WY

Description: The Heart Mountain, Wyoming Foundation will stabilize the severely deteriorating 35’ x 312’ root cellar originally used by incarcerees to store produce. This project builds on a 2013 JACS grant that enabled the Heart Mountain, Wyoming Foundation to acquire the root cellar, assess its condition, and begin interim stabilization. Phase II will complete the emergency stabilization and address issues noted in the condition assessment report, such as deterioration of the wood framing and weakening of the earthen roof.

Recipient: Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation  
(Powell, WY)

Project Title: Japanese American Confinement Sites  
Consortium

Grant Award: $28,639

Site(s): Multiple Sites

Description: The Heart Mountain, Wyoming Foundation, in partnership with the Japanese American National Museum, will convene two meetings to bring together a consortium of leaders representing confinement sites and key organizations working to preserve the sites and history related to the Japanese American World War II incarceration. The first meeting took place during the 2015 pilgrimage at Heart Mountain; the second will be held in 2016 in Washington, D.C. The meetings will provide an opportunity for leaders and stakeholders to strengthen their relationships and capacity by sharing information and resources.
This map shows total (2009 - 2015) Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program funding by the states where the grantees are located. Also shown (with red symbols) are the Japanese American confinement sites that are the specific focus of those grant funds. In some cases, the grantee is in a different state than that of the confinement site. For example, the Poston Community Alliance, which is in California, received funding to stabilize historic elementary school buildings at the Colorado River (Poston) Relocation Center in Arizona. In addition, some projects generally benefit all confinement sites and/or interpret the overall Japanese American incarceration experience. While this map shows the location of those grantees, it does not show every confinement site that benefits from those general projects.
This graph shows total (2009-2015) Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program funding by confinement site. Listed is each site that is the focus of a grant project. The last bar in the graph shows funding for general projects that benefit multiple sites – four or more – and/or interpret the overall Japanese American incarceration experience.
Following is an overview of projects successfully completed during Fiscal Year 2015. These stories reflect the dedicated commitment and hard work of numerous groups to preserve, interpret and disseminate the history of Japanese American incarceration during World War II.

Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation Creates Website to Share Stories of Japanese American Detainees on Angel Island

From 1910 to 1940, tens of thousands of immigrants, primarily from countries in Asia, entered the United States through the Angel Island Immigration Station in San Francisco Bay. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Angel Island took on a new role as an intake center for prisoners of war and a processing center for Japanese Americans from Hawai‘i. It also became a temporary detention center for, among others, 600 Hawai‘i Issei and about 100 from the West Coast who, by law, were ineligible for U.S. citizenship. It was not until 1952 that Issei (first generation Japanese immigrants) could become naturalized U.S. citizens.

With the help of a 2012 NPS JACS grant of $25,573, the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation (AIISF) created a website that tells the stories of the World War II detainees at Angel Island. The website lists the names of more than 700 people who were detained at Angel Island, including Yasutaro Soga, a prominent Issei journalist who had been living in Hawai‘i for 45 years when he was arrested on the night of December 7, 1941. “I am living here two-thirds of my life,” he told authorities. His family, his job, his property were in Hawai‘i. “So if anything,” Soga told them, “I am for America.”

The website also lists close to 100 men from Hawai‘i who were detained at Sharp Park, south of San Francisco. George Hoshida, a native of Kumamoto, Japan, was living with his family in Hilo, Hawai‘i, when he was arrested on February 6, 1942, and shipped to Angel Island. An informant had pointed to Hoshida’s involvement with a judo association and a Buddhist group as proof that he was “pro-Japanese.” When questioned by authorities, Hoshida spoke of the sadness and pain he felt “to see my two loved countries injuring each other….” He also pointed out that his wife and daughters were U.S. citizens by birth, and that he, too, would have become a citizen had it been allowed.

Apart from the grant-funded information on detainees, the AIISF website (www.aiisf.org/education/station-history/jacs) also examines Angel Island’s pre-war immigration history, including the poetry written or carved into its barracks walls by Chinese immigrants who were frustrated by long processing delays. The website also invites readers to share their own immigration stories.
East Bay Center for the Performing Arts Shares Hidden Legacy of Japanese Traditional Arts in New Documentary

When more than 120,000 Japanese Americans were imprisoned by their own country during World War II, many found solace in traditional Japanese arts such as kabuki theater, classical buyo dance, koto performance, and Obon Odori. With a 2012 NPS JACS grant of $138,586, East Bay Center for the Performing Arts in Richmond, California, tells this lesser-known story of music, dance, and drama in a new documentary titled Hidden Legacy: Japanese Traditional Performing Arts in the World War II Internment Camps. The preservation of Japanese cultural arts during wartime helped to ensure the survival of Japanese traditions in the United States today.

Shirley Kazuyo Muramoto-Wong, the film’s creative director, identified musicians, performers, and drama groups from nine of the ten War Relocation Authority (WRA) centers and the filmmakers traveled throughout California, Idaho, Wyoming, and even Japan to conduct more than 30 interviews. Muramoto-Wong, herself, learned to play the koto from her mother, who discovered the stringed instrument at Topaz and Tule Lake. Performance footage and historic photographs were used to illustrate the interviewees’ feelings about camp, how they learned or taught the arts while incarcerated, and the comfort found in the traditional arts. Muramoto-Wong also explained that the arts helped incarcerees manage the anger that many kept inside. “If you’re playing an instrument, or you’re doing a dance, or you’re singing,” she says, “you’re able to express some of these feelings in a way that’s acceptable to the culture.”

Interviewee Mary Arii Mah, also known by her professional dance title, Bando Misayasu, carried forward the flame that was passed down from her great-grandparents who performed kabuki before World War II, to her grandfather who learned Noh chanting in camp, to her mother who learned nagauta shamisen at Gila River. Arii Mah also used these arts to teach her children Japanese etiquette. “I do believe that it has helped them in mainstream society,” she shared, “to be respectful, to be thankful, to be grateful, and I think it has served them well.”

Since September 2014, Hidden Legacy has aired on 28 public television stations from Hawai‘i to Ontario, Canada—reaching millions of viewers. The East Bay Center also sent DVDs of the film to the interpretive centers or groups connected to the ten WRA incarceration sites, and created a website (www.jcalegacy.com) that includes information about the film, including media stories and behind-the-scenes photos. The East Bay Center also held nearly 30 screenings across the country, plus six at universities in Tokyo and Kyoto, Japan. Public television stations throughout the country continue to broadcast the documentary.

Shirley Kazuyo Muramoto Wong (royal blue kimono) stands next to Sahomi Tachibana (center, purple kimono) and her current buyo students. Projected in the background is a photo of Tachibana and her students at Tule Lake. Photo courtesy: Robert C. Wong

Sahomi Tachibana (front row, center) and her buyo classical dance group pose in front of a backdrop of Tule Lake’s Castle Rock, painted by artist Enjiro Kodani. Photo courtesy: Sahomi Tachibana, photographer unknown
Densho Expands Reach of Teacher Training and Enhances Online Collection with Three NPS Grants

Densho, a Seattle-based non-profit organization dedicated to preserving, educating, and sharing the story of the World War II-era incarceration of Japanese Americans, completed three JACS-funded projects that make primary materials more accessible to the general public, as well as to teachers, who can use these materials to bring history alive in their classrooms.

**Densho Completes Online Course for Teachers**

With a 2013 NPS JACS grant of $194,403, Densho launched a new course, *Teach the Teachers-Online*. The self-paced, five-hour course integrates components of Densho’s already successful *Teach the Teachers* project, which has included training workshops for hundreds of teachers. The online version was based on a previous JACS-funded *Teach the Teachers* workshop grant and has a goal of reaching 1,000 teachers, including many who might not be able to attend a workshop in person.

To help create the course, Densho recruited 16 high school students for an all-day workshop. As the camera rolled, an instructor led the students in a series of learning activities, thus demonstrating for other teachers how to use primary sources in the classroom. The course includes 13 videos and six interactive activities, including “thinking routines” where students examine images in political cartoons and words and phrases in primary documents.

“In all my years in education and taking professional development online courses,” one teacher commented, “this course is the most powerful lesson I have ever done. It impacted me professionally (fantastic teaching strategies I will incorporate into my lessons) and emotionally (social injustices, so easy to bury your head in the sand).”

As part of the project, and to help publicize the online course, Densho produced a full-color, eight-page educational supplement that was inserted in the April 2015 edition of *The Seattle Times*. The 250,000-copy run includes detailed graphics and stories that illustrate the tensions that led to Executive Order 9066, the personal stories of Japanese Americans Akiko Kurose and Shosuke Sasaki, and the lessons learned from the unjust wartime incarceration.

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Densho’s extensive digital repository includes newly added historic documents such as this group photo in front of the Topaz Community Cooperative Enterprises building. Photo courtesy: Densho (ddr-densho-292-2), Nishioka Family Collection

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Densho’s online course provides teachers with educational tools. Image courtesy: Densho
Densho Adds 55,000 Items to Online Repository

“Primary sources” – documents and objects created by people who lived through an experience – are the raw material of history. These sources, such as personal letters, family photographs, home movies, and historic newsreels, are like voices from the past, allowing us to listen in.

With a 2013 NPS JACS grant of $300,000, Densho added about 55,000 historic photographs, documents, and video testimonials to its already extensive digital archives and repository. To capture these additional primary source materials, Densho set up scanning and cataloging stations in Los Angeles, Honolulu, and Seattle, and processed key collections from the Japanese American National Museum (JANM); the Honolulu newspaper, Nippu Jiji; and the Los Angeles-based Pacific Citizen, which has been publishing news about the Japanese American community since September 1929.

Nearly 30,000 photographs were digitized from the Nippu Jiji (translated “newspaper for telling timely news”). Founded in 1895, the Nippu Jiji was once the most significant Japanese American newspaper in Hawai‘i. When the newspaper closed in 1985, University of Hawai‘i Professor Dennis Ogawa rescued its photo collection from a dumpster. Ogawa made the photos available to Densho for this project. Images of all the primary source materials are now available on Densho’s free, online archive, with links to the Densho Encyclopedia at http://ddr.densho.org/.

Densho Adds 691 Articles to Online Encyclopedia

Densho also used a separate 2012 JACS grant of $362,450, to add 691 new articles to its free, online encyclopedia, which now includes more than one thousand articles written by 80 scholars, writers, and researchers on Japanese American World War II exclusion and incarceration history.

Newly added articles range from the story of wartime hostels to a look at dramatic films that either depict or mention the World War II incarceration of Japanese Americans. The encyclopedia includes photographs, maps, oral history testimonies, and a historical timeline, as well as reference citations and suggestions for further reading. The encyclopedia is available at http://encyclopedia.densho.org/. In addition, highlighted articles are published to the Densho Blog (www.densho.org/blog/), where a reader might find a book review, a Q&A with an artist, or a particularly noteworthy article.

Reflecting on all of the support that has made Densho successful as it celebrates its 20th anniversary, Executive Director Tom Ikeda noted, “This recent round of JACS funding has been particularly helpful in preserving the documents and objects created by people who lived through the World War II Japanese American incarceration experience, providing context to these raw materials of history, and educating teachers and students by using these rich primary sources.”
Friends of the Texas Historical Commission, Inc., Uncovers Artifacts at Crystal City Family Internment Camp

Following World War II, the Department of Justice Internment Camp at Crystal City, Texas, was closed and most of the structures demolished. Today, remnants of concrete foundations can still be found – reminders of Japanese, German, and Italian “enemy aliens” who were living in the United States or Latin America, and then held at Crystal City. At the time, Crystal City was the largest Immigration and Naturalization Service-administered site in the nation, housing at its peak more than 3,300 individuals.

“Enemy aliens,” and often their American-born families, were interned at Crystal City, which was established to house families together and to reunite families whose members had been moved to separate facilities. German aliens and their families were the first to arrive in December 1942. In March 1943, the first Japanese aliens arrived at Crystal City. Each ethnic group was held in a separate area within the camp.

To better understand the internment site at Crystal City, the Friends of the Texas Historical Commission, Inc., with a 2012 NPS JACS grant of $25,580, completed an archeological metal detector survey centered on the site’s former Japanese School and its swimming pool/irrigation reservoir, with two bathhouses; one used by Japanese internees, and the other for German and Italian internees.

A metal detection team from Hicks & Company of Austin, Texas, conducted the survey in April 2013 and turned up 248 “hits.” After targeted shovel tests, the team found items, including green plastic fragments of camp scrip, a marble, and a glass shard with a “Pepsi-Cola” logo that could be linked with the internment site. The artifacts speak to life behind the 10-foot-high, barbed wire fence at Crystal City, where children attended school and played games, and where adults worked. Internees earned 10 cents an hour, paid in camp scrip – tokens made of pressed paper or plastic. The “West Virginia Swirl” marble, likely a Cairo Novelty or Alley Agate type, dates to the late 1930s or 1940s and was found next to the school.

The internment site’s irrigation reservoir also served as a swimming pool. Using auger probes, the survey team located the concrete, circular deck that surrounded the pool’s outer rim and the concrete remnants of the two bathhouses located in the pool area.

William McWhorter of the Texas Historical Commission directed the survey project and, as part of this grant, successfully nominated the historic site to the National Register of Historic Places in August 2014.
Heart Mountain, Wyoming Foundation Extends Reach of Incarceration Story with New Website

With a 2012 NPS JACS grant of $30,976, the Heart Mountain, Wyoming Foundation (HMWF) has redeveloped its website about the Heart Mountain incarceration site, with a virtual tour, curriculum materials, and access to certain collections in its archive. The revamped, state-of-the-art website, located at heartmountain.org, complements the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center in Powell, Wyoming, which opened in August 2011 and draws nearly 15,000 visitors each year. Along with assisting researchers, teachers, students, and other visitors to Heart Mountain, the website brings the lessons of Japanese American incarceration to people who cannot visit the remote site.

The HMWF worked with Big Idea Advertising to conceptualize the new website and develop its appearance, organization, and features, including search engine optimization. As part of the project, HMWF Education and Archives Assistant Kathryn McKee digitized archival material and created a finding aid. Among the materials scanned was the entire Okumoto Collection, which includes 1,333 photographs taken by Yoshio Okumoto while he was incarcerated at Heart Mountain. Also as part of the project, the HMWF partnered with Densho to make 544 of the Okumoto images available through the Densho website. While scanning, McKee also found several photos in the HMWF archive that are related to sports and recreational activities, inspiring her to create an exhibit on sports at Heart Mountain titled, Playing the Game, which ran from February 1 to April 30, 2014.

The JACS grant also funded the creation of grade-specific, interactive, K-12 curriculum that is available through the website. Teachers and students now have access to suggested readings, downloadable curriculum and activities, and information about field trips, site visits, and off-site presentations.

Heart Mountain’s history, news and events, educational content, virtual tour, online store, access to archival material, and virtual connections to other historical sites, museums, and collections, now provide a rich experience to a far larger number of people than those who can visit the site. And, with links to the HMWF’s Facebook and Twitter feed, the site’s social media presence and reach continues to grow.
Japanese American Citizens League’s Bridging Communities Program Expands to Chicago

With a 2012 NPS JACS grant of $150,130, the Japanese American Citizens League engaged students in its “Bridging Communities: Preserving the Legacy” program in San Francisco, Seattle, and Los Angeles, and also developed a new, Chicago-based program in partnership with the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR).

Bridging Communities is a program of educational workshops that links the World War II incarceration of Japanese Americans to civil rights issues of today, including incidents of hate and intolerance directed at American Muslims in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

To initiate the new program in Chicago, 16 high school students and five chaperones traveled to Arkansas in March 2015. There they visited the Rohwer incarceration site and the World War II Japanese American Internment Museum in McGehee, the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies in Little Rock, and the Little Rock Central High National Historic Site. At the Butler Center, students examined artifacts created by incarcerees at Rohwer and Jerome, and heard the story of Richard Yada, a Japanese American who was born at Rohwer after his family was removed from California. At Little Rock Central High, they learned about the struggles faced by nine African American students who enrolled in the previously all-white school in 1957.

Those in the greater Los Angeles area participated in two educational retreats and made a pilgrimage to Manzanar National Historic Site in March 2014, while those in Seattle visited the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial and interviewed members of the Japanese American community who were removed from the island and incarcerated. The interviews they recorded will be used to create an educational video. In June 2013, San Francisco students engaged in a four-day Youth Leadership Summit at the Tule Lake Unit of World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument. In discussions afterward, students shared their reflections and discussed ways in which they could preserve the Tule Lake story through on-site resource documentation. Participant Nina Abshar, age 16, told the Rafu Shimpo newspaper that the program helped her to understand the importance of having “compassion and empathy for communities that may not be our own, and realize that we are all more connected than we think.”
Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai‘i Uses Two NPS Grants to Engage Public with New Curriculum and Virtual Tour that Explores Hawai‘i’s Internment History

For many years, the history of Hawai‘i’s internment sites was unknown to many except for those who were interned there during World War II and their families. Over the past 17 years, the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai‘i (JCCH) has persistently worked to document these sites and to reveal the stories they hold, continuing with the recent development of a high school education project and virtual tour.

With a 2012 NPS JACS grant of $64,795, JCCH developed an educational project that challenged high school students to apply lessons from Hawai‘i’s unique internment history to current human and civil rights issues. JCCH provided sixteen private and public high schools with online curriculum focused on internment history, gave tours of Honouliuli to 440 students, and assisted students with projects that delved into issues of race, injustice, violence, bullying, and democracy. Keala Parker-Lee, a 2014 graduate of Sacred Hearts Academy remarked, “Seeing the remnants of buildings [at Honouliuli] and hearing true stories of families who went through this traumatic experience taught me that we must stand up to social injustice.” Due to its success, many participating schools plan to continue aspects of the project with their own funding.

With a separate 2013 NPS JACS grant of $111,557, JCCH designed a web-based virtual tour to allow students, researchers, and the general public greater access to Honouliuli. The website (www.honouliuli.virtualtour.com) features nine videos that provide a visual overview of the site’s history and key features. The virtual tour also includes maps with embedded current and historic photographs. JCCH also created an iOS application to supplement the docent walking tours of Honouliuli. Visitors use mini iPads to see historic photos and listen to oral histories as they tour the site. In February 2015, President Barrack Obama designated Honouliuli as a National Monument, underscoring the work of JCCH and others to preserve and tell the history of Japanese American internment in Hawai‘i.
Between 1942 and 1946, 29,490 Japanese Americans were incarcerated at Tule Lake in California, representing nearly one fourth of the 120,000 Japanese Americans incarcerated during World War II. However, a critical lack of educational resources existed about Tule Lake. With a 2013 NPS JACS grant of $73,675, the National Japanese American Historical Society (NJAHS) used newly accessible primary documents, secondary sources, photographs, oral histories, and artifacts to develop a web-based curriculum for grades 4-12. By illuminating the stories and experiences of those who lived behind barbed wire at Tule Lake, the lesson plans ask students to think critically about the Japanese American experience during World War II and how it connects to events today.

To produce the curriculum, NJAHS recruited a core group of 13 teachers from four cities near Japanese American incarceration sites—Los Angeles (Manzanar), Seattle (Bainbridge Island), Salt Lake City (Topaz), and the San Francisco Bay Area (Tule Lake). Working in collaboration with curriculum specialists from Stanford University, the University of California, Berkeley, and the NPS, the teachers developed 16 lesson plans under four units of study: high school journalism, high school history, middle school, and elementary school. NJAHS presented the curriculum to 12 teachers at the 2014 Tule Lake Pilgrimage, then revised and piloted the lessons throughout the next school year. Teachers can access the final plans, which include a teacher guide, primary and secondary documents, PowerPoint presentations, and student handouts, at www.njahs.org/tule-lake.

With a second 2013 NPS JACS grant of $33,467, NJAHS documented and digitized 206 objects from its collection. Historians and researchers find the collection invaluable for its camp life artifacts—objects collected and created by Japanese Americans while incarcerated, as well as objects brought to and used in camp. NJAHS partnered with the University of San Francisco (USF) Museum Studies program where 39 graduate students documented, researched, catalogued, and digitized the objects as part of two university courses. NJAHS then made its collection publicly accessible by posting it to the USF Gleeson Library Digital Collections website. The digital collection, found online at www.njahs.org/confinementsites, now includes artifacts from all 10 War Relocation Authority incarceration sites, as well as Tanforan “assembly center,” Santa Fe Internment Camp (Department of Justice), and Lordsburg Internment Camp (U.S. Army).
Oral History Center of The Bancroft Library Adds to World War II Homefront Collection

An extensive oral history collection at the Oral History Center of The Bancroft Library, University of California (UC), Berkeley, details the experiences of those working in the defense industry on the home front in the United States during World War II. The Center was previously known as the Regional Oral History Office, or ROHO. With a 2011 NPS JACS grant of $50,000, the Center expanded upon this initial focus to include experiences of Japanese Americans who were incarcerated during the war.

The project team collaborated with the Japanese American Women Alumnae of UC Berkeley and other alumni, university, and community groups, and reached out through the media to locate 14 Japanese American interviewees, most of whom were graduates of UC Berkeley. UC Berkeley alum, Asako Tokuno, was preparing for finals on the day Japan bombed Pearl Harbor. “It was such dreadful news. Of course, no one knew what was going to happen,” she remembers. “We probably all thought the worst, but never dreamed the kind of thing that did happen.” The next May, she and her sister were bused to Tanforan and eventually incarcerated at Topaz.

Two of the interviewees were Deaf—their interviews conducted in American Sign Language. On that December day in 1941, “we Deaf couldn’t hear what others were saying,” explained interviewee Nancy Ikeda Baldwin, whose mother, father, and four siblings were all Deaf. “We were completely dependent on our aunt and uncle to tell us what was happening.” While incarcerated at Rohwer in Arkansas, Baldwin says other incarcerees would try to communicate with them, but overall, she says her family was “pretty much alone because others didn’t know sign language. As a Deaf family we stayed together.”

The 14 interviews can be accessed in a variety of ways—video oral histories with high quality audio and transcriptions were delivered to Rosie the Riveter World War II Home Front National Historical Park in Richmond, California, and The Bancroft Library of UC Berkeley. Transcripts and video excerpts are available at http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/ROHO/projects/jacs/index.html. Stories from this project were also shared during a presentation at the 2015 Oral History Association Conference and will be incorporated into a 2016 summer teacher workshop in partnership with the National Endowment for the Humanities.
Ore-Cal Resource Conservation and Development Area Council Creates Traveling Art Exhibit on Tule Lake

Art has the power to transcend hardships, to dignify life, and to communicate what words cannot. With a 2013 NPS JACS grant of $123,890, Ore-Cal Resource Conservation and Development Area Council (Ore-Cal) developed a new traveling exhibit titled, *The Art of Survival: Enduring the Turmoil of Tule Lake*, which celebrates the power of art and the people who created it in the midst of wartime incarceration at the controversial Tule Lake Segregation Center.

The exhibit features 42 framed contemporary black and white silver gelatin photographs of Tule Lake artifacts by the internationally-known photographer Hiroshi Watanabe. His haunting artwork portrays crafts and artifacts made from objects such as shells, scavenged lumber, and burlap sacks. Through these images, “we glimpse into the lives of those who were held at Tule Lake,” explained the exhibit’s creative director Madeleine Blake, “and are encouraged to consider both the orchestration of life behind barbed wire, and what it might have been like to live with constant turmoil and uncertainty.” The images are accompanied by historical photographs, text panels and banners, and select video oral histories with individuals who were incarcerated at Tule Lake. In addition to presenting daily life at the camp, the exhibit discusses wartime propaganda, the significance of terminology, and repositions the reputation of those segregated at Tule Lake, deemed “disloyal,” as truly American because they exercised their citizen’s right to protest. To share this story and exhibit details with a wide audience, Ore-Cal developed a website for the exhibit at www.artofsurvival.org.

In April 2014, *The Art of Survival* premiered at Favell Museum in Klamath Falls, Oregon, where it welcomed more than 3,500 visitors in four months. Since its inaugural display, the exhibit has traveled throughout the western United States. This fall, Ore-Cal, NPS staff of the Tule Lake Unit of the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument, and other stakeholders in the region will discuss a permanent location for the exhibit so that this important story continues to be told.
Oregon Cultural Heritage Commission Produces Traveling Exhibit on Farm Labor Camps in the Pacific Northwest

From 1942 to 1944, thousands of Japanese Americans were recruited by the federal government from temporary "assembly centers" and incarceration sites to work in farm labor camps across the western United States. Portland-based historian Morgen Young, who interviewed the former labor camp workers, shared with the Pacific Citizen why many chose to work in the fields: "The Nisei kept reiterating that their parents wanted to get them away from the barbed wire." In the summer of 1942, Farm Security Administration (FSA) photographer Russell Lee documented the camps near Nyssa, Oregon and Shelley, Rupert, and Twin Falls, Idaho, taking photographs of people in camp and at work, often harvesting sugar beets. A 2013 NPS JACS grant of $92,386, enabled the Oregon Cultural Heritage Commission (OCHC) to produce a traveling exhibit titled, Uprooted: Japanese American Farm Labor Camps During World War II, which uses Lee's photographs to share this chapter of U.S. history.

The exhibit displays 45 framed black-and-white photographs, each with two sets of captions—one from Russell Lee and one gleaned from surviving incarcerees and their families. The exhibit also features three text panels that place the photographs within the larger context of the FSA photography project and other Japanese American agricultural labor camps. The panels have Japanese and Spanish translations. The project includes two documentary videos, featuring oral histories with individuals who lived and worked in the labor camps. Interviewee Mathias Uchiyama was nine years old when his family learned of the farm labor camps. "We just can't afford to [stay in camp]," he recalls his father's added impetus for leaving the Portland Assembly Center, "we'll lose everything." Oral history transcripts were sent to the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles, Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center in Portland, Human Rights Education Institute in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, and Four Rivers Cultural Center in Ontario, Oregon.

The first three showings of the exhibits were held in Ontario, Oregon; Rupert, Idaho; and Twin Falls, Idaho—near three of the four farm labor camps featured in the exhibit, with more venues scheduled throughout the West Coast, including the Japanese American National Museum. The exhibit is in such high demand—booked through January 2018—that OCHC produced a second set of the exhibit. Janet Koda, the daughter of two former labor camp workers featured in the exhibit, found the exhibit to be a positive experience, telling the Pacific Citizen, “this exhibit was reconnecting people who had gone through something difficult together.” Oral histories, documentary videos, photographs, and the traveling exhibit schedule can be found on the project’s website: www.uprootedexhibit.com.

Mathias Uchiyama shares his memories of living and working in a farm labor camp as a young boy. Photo courtesy: Oregon Cultural Heritage Commission

Taka Mizote and Aya Fuji share their experiences working on a farm labor camp as part of the Uprooted exhibit. Image Courtesy: Oregon Cultural Heritage Commission
Oregon Nikkei Endowment Documents Experiences of Portland’s Japanese Americans during World War II

When George Nakata was growing up in Portland, Oregon’s Nihonmachi (Japantown), he’d walk by the Sakano Jewelry Store and admire a watch in the window; it was a Mickey Mouse watch that miraculously became his one Christmas Day.

In the video Finding Home, produced by Oregon Nikkei Endowment (ONE) with the help of a 2012 NPS JACS grant of $168,460, Nakata and three other Nikkei -- Jim Tsugawa, Jim Tsujimura, and Yoji J. Matsushima -- recount their boyhood years in and around Portland prior to the bombing of Pearl Harbor, as well as their later incarceration at Minidoka in Idaho. Two other videos were produced: Minidoka: An American Story, and A Community Spreads Its Wings. All three videos will be part of the permanent exhibit at the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center in Portland (www.oregonnikkei.org) and are available to educators, as well as the Minidoka National Historic Site and nearby Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument. The JACS grant also resulted in the digital preservation of 45 existing video interviews and the creation of 30 new oral history interviews, all of which can be found on the Densho website under the Oregon Nikkei Endowment Collection (http://archive.densho.org/main.aspx).

“I was born in Portland, Oregon, around Nihonmachi,” Nakata tells the interviewer in one of the videos. On Christmas, he would reach in the pocket of his jacket and find a walnut. “And when I opened up the walnut, I’d find a quarter inside.” Jim Tsugawa recalls happy times when he played marbles and went to the movies, where he watched Gene Autry and Roy Rogers, his favorite actors. The Nikkei were American boys whose parents had emigrated from Japan before their children were born. But after Pearl Harbor many like Jim Tsujimura found themselves on a train, destination unknown. “Curtains were all pulled down. They didn’t want us to look out,” Tsujimura remembered. “Took about three days to get where we were going, and it turned out to be Minidoka, Idaho.”

Nakata says he will never forget the number given to his family at the Portland Assembly Center: No. 15066. “It was marked on our bag; it was marked on our tag; it was marked on our suitcase.” At Minidoka he got a second number 34-6-A (Block 34, Barrack 6). When the war ended, Nakata boarded a train for the ride back to Oregon. “The window shades were not down,” he says in the Finding Home video. “We could see.” As the train rolled through the Columbia River Gorge, he marveled at the beauty, and as he set foot in Portland, he searched for words to describe his feelings. “Just seeing the Willamette River; seeing the Burnside Bridge…We knew our destination; we were going home.”
Topaz Museum Board Constructs Museum and Education Center to Share History of World War II Incarceration

In May 2014, with the help of a 2012 NPS JACS grant of $714,314, the non-profit Topaz Museum Board completed construction of the Topaz Museum and Education Center located on Main Street in Delta, Utah. On January 13, 2015, the museum featured an inaugural art exhibit: *When Words Weren’t Enough: Works on Paper from Topaz 1942-1945*. The exhibit highlights the work of artists incarcerated at Topaz, including Miné Okubo, Chiura Obata, Charles Erabu Suiko Mikami, Setsu Nagata Kanehara, and Matsusaburo George Hibi.

The completion of the Topaz Museum and Education Center represents years of planning and fundraising by the Topaz Museum Board, which was incorporated in 1996 with the mission to preserve the Topaz site and establish a permanent museum. Between 1942 and 1945, over 11,000 Japanese Americans were incarcerated at Topaz, which is 16 miles northwest of the town of Delta. Today, the Topaz Museum Board, led by President Jane Beckwith, owns 634 acres of the original 640 acres of the camp, which is open for self-guided tours and, upon appointment, guided tours. A former schoolteacher, Beckwith began amassing objects from Topaz as she incorporated the site’s history into her curriculum. “I soon had a trunkful of artifacts. That’s when I realized this was a huge story that deserved a museum,” says Beckwith.

Designed by Sparano & Mooney Architecture, the Topaz Museum and Education Center won a Utah design award for architectural excellence. The 8,254-square-foot modern building was designed to reflect some elements of the Topaz incarceration site. For example, the museum’s honed concrete masonry exterior references Topaz’s grid layout, while other design elements represent the camp’s austere buildings with black tarpaper covering pine boards on the exterior and un-taped square-edge sheetrock on the interior walls. The museum includes a research library, bookstore, art gallery, exhibition space, administrative offices, and a curatorial and storage area for the more than 1,000 artifacts in the museum’s collection. This state-of-the-art facility provides a much-needed museum and education space where the histories and experiences of those incarcerated at Topaz can be shared with the public.

In 2014, the Topaz Museum Board received a JACS grant to create permanent exhibits for the museum, which are scheduled to be completed in 2016.
University of Arkansas at Little Rock Restores Monuments at the Rohwer Cemetery

“May the people of Arkansas keep in beauty and reverence forever this ground where our bodies sleep” reads the Monument to the Rohwer Deceased, designed and constructed by Rohwer incarceree Koheiji Horizawa during World War II. The haunting inscription served as a clarion call to protect and maintain the final resting place of 24 individuals incarcerated in the Rohwer Relocation Center. The cemetery, constructed by incarcerees after the camp opened, is one of few physical remnants of the confinement site that operated in Desha County, Arkansas. Led by former McGehee mayor Rosalie Santine Gould, residents in towns nearby and across the state protected and maintained the cemetery, which was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1992. Yet six decades of weather and vandalism deteriorated the monuments and headstones.

During her first visit to the cemetery, Johanna Miller Lewis, Associate Dean and Professor of History at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR), was also moved by the obelisk’s inscription. She later told AY Magazine, “I made a promise to myself that day to restore the cemetery and honor the wish the Japanese Americans carved on the monument.”

A 2011 NPS JACS grant award of $250,000 allowed UALR, in partnership with Witsell, Evans, and Rasco (WER) Architects and Kinco Constructors, to restore the two monuments in the Rohwer cemetery and begin improvements to drainage systems and walkways at the site. Among the many repairs and stabilization work, Kinco Constructors recreated and installed the original spires, finials, and urns that originally surrounded the base of the obelisk—a dramatic improvement to the historic monument.

This project team also restored the Monument to the 100th Battalion (of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team), a concrete tank also designed by Horizawa, which commemorates Japanese Americans incarcerated in Rohwer who served in World War II. Kinco’s conservationists stabilized the monument, patched cracks, removed a tree that was weakening the monument, and poured a new concrete platform that matched the historic materials.

Through the grant, UALR also created a website at http://ualrexhibits.org/rohwer/, that includes the history of the cemetery’s headstones and monuments, current and historic images, and links to archival collections connected to both the Rohwer and Jerome camps. The preservation of the two monuments and drainage improvements completed Phase I of a comprehensive restoration project. Phase II, also funded by a JACS grant, involves the restoration of the 24 concrete grave markers, original concrete pathways, and the historic landscape.
University of Hawai‘i Center for Oral History Collects Unspoken Memories of Jerome

“While we dearly love this country, we realize that it does have many faults,” declared Hawai‘i native Betty Kagawa during her valedictorian address. The year was 1944 and the place was Denson High School, Jerome Relocation Center, Arkansas. “[T]here are existing conditions that must be improved,” she continued, “one of these deplorable conditions being racial prejudice.” Just two years prior, the U.S. government removed about 1,200 Hawai‘i Issei, Nisei, and Kibei men from the islands, including Kagawa’s father, and detained them on the U.S. mainland. In a new project titled, “Unspoken Memories: Oral Histories of Hawai‘i Internees at Jerome, Arkansas,” the University of Hawai‘i, Center for Oral History (COH), under the direction of Dr. Warren Nishimoto, used a 2010 NPS JACS grant of $29,080 to collect oral histories from individuals who, like Kagawa, left their homes in Hawai‘i to join their fathers behind barbed wire. Through documentary research and community contacts, COH located 15 individuals who went to Jerome, which held about 250 Hawai‘i Japanese Americans, mostly children under the age of nineteen. The 15 participants ranged in age from 72 to 88. Interviewee Doris Taketa Kimura lived with her family on Maui when the FBI woke them to arrest her father, Tora Taketa. When asked if leaving Hawai‘i was a choice, Kimura replied, “Choice? Well...how else would we survive otherwise?” With their father gone, her family had no means of support. These memories and others are now audio-recorded and housed at Hamilton Library at the University of Hawai‘i. The project team also transcribed the interviews and placed them online at: http://scholarspace.manoa.hawaii.edu/handle/10125/33173.

One of the chief advantages of a true democratic state is that each one of us as its citizens can play a part in bringing about changes for the better...” continued Kagawa from her high school podium in 1944. These interviews will educate students, researchers, and the general public about the unjust wartime incarceration of Japanese Americans—an important part in bringing about changes for the better.
University of Idaho Completes Archeological Survey and Artifact Analysis at Kooskia Internment Site

Motorists along Highway 12 between Lewiston, Idaho and Missoula, Montana may reflect upon the area’s beautiful scenery, especially as the road crosses over Lolo Pass, but most probably have no idea that the highway was built by Japanese Americans, Japanese Latin Americans, and Japanese Mexicans who were interned in Idaho during World War II. Detained at Kooskia Internment Camp, run by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), these men unknowingly left behind traces of their lives—buttons, dental tools, gambling pieces, a porcelain vase, and works of art at the now abandoned site, hidden within Clearwater National Forest. With assistance from a 2012 NPS JACS grant of $24,132, the University of Idaho surveyed the lesser-known internment site, continuing the archeological field work and artifact analysis begun during a 2010 archeological field school, which was also supported, in part, by a JACS grant.

To organize the dig, University of Idaho anthropology professor, Dr. Stacey Camp, coordinated a 2013 archeological field school at the former internment site. With the grant, the University hired field school staff, fed, housed, and transported staff and participants, and mapped features. During the field school, students concentrated on a trash site, or midden. In addition to the surface survey, the excavation of two 1x1 meter units may have revealed the location of the camp’s canteen. Students then analyzed the artifacts they found to learn about the internees’ lives. For instance, a carved stone figure, possibly an otter, suggests the men did not simply “make do,” but rather found creative ways to pass the time.

Field school participants shared their findings during a Public Archeology Day, and graduate and undergraduate students shared their research on Kooskia at academic conferences. “Most people in Idaho know about Minidoka, but not about Kooskia,” Laura Ng, the project’s Assistant Director, told the Lewiston Tribune. “It’s unique. It’s hidden. It’s a hidden history.” The archeological project continues to put this lesser known internment site back on the map of Idaho—and American—history.
Washington State University Preserves the Hirahara Photograph Collection and Enhances Access to Heart Mountain Archives

In 2010, Washington State University (WSU) received a remarkable collection of photographs — those taken at the Heart Mountain, Wyoming incarceration site between 1943 and 1945 by a father and son, George and Frank C. Hirahara from Yakima, Washington. With a 2011 NPS JACS grant of $49,217, WSU cleaned and safely re-housed the collection’s over 2,000 photographs and negatives. WSU digitized over 1,000 of the images, made them the focus of an online exhibit about the Japanese American incarceration, and used the collection’s primary sources to craft undergraduate curriculum materials. The finding aid and digital collection are available at libraries.wsu.edu/hirahara; and the online exhibit at http://digitalexhibits.wsulibs.wsu.edu/exhibits/show/jaincarceration/jaincarcerationintro.

Patti Hirahara of Anaheim, California, daughter of Frank C. Hirahara, donated the collection, which she found while helping her grandparents move out of their house in Yakima, Washington and at her parent’s house in Anaheim. Her grandfather, George Hirahara, “felt someday these photos will be able to tell the story,” she said, “by showing what actually happened behind barbed wire over 73 years ago.” When the ban on cameras in the camps was lifted in 1943, Japanese American photographers ordered equipment and built darkrooms beneath the barracks. Indeed, the Hirahara collection shows life at Heart Mountain through the incarceree lens.

The more than 410 news stories about the Hirahara collection prompted others to also donate their Heart Mountain photographs and artifacts to WSU. At the same time, research requests poured in from scholars, documentary filmmakers, and descendants of incarcerees looking for information and photographs of their relatives.

With a second NPS JACS grant of $77,769 awarded in 2012, WSU enhanced access to its Heart Mountain resources. WSU digitized, partially translated, indexed, and made searchable the photos, yearbooks, directories, and other ephemera from five of its Heart Mountain collections: Tom Hide Collection, Hirahara Collection, Kenneth Nishiyori Collection, Okubara Family Collection, and Takeda Family Collection. WSU also transcribed about 200 hours of interviews from the Frank Chin Collection, in which Japanese Americans shared their experiences during World War II, including the effects of the loyalty questionnaire. WSU then collaborated with the non-profit Densho to link and maximize the two institutions’ online resources. In 2013, WSU partnered again with Densho to hold a workshop for WSU faculty and local secondary teachers on using primary sources related to Japanese American incarceration. These sources—photographs, oral histories, and other documents in WSU’s collections—ensure the story of wartime incarceration is told by the people who experienced it and has made WSU a key resource in this area in the United States.
Wing Luke Museum Preserves Stories, Collections of World War II Veterans and Incarcerees

When Ken Mochizuki, noted author working with the Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience, was writing the text for a new permanent exhibit honoring the men who served in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, he listened intently as veterans like Frank Nishimura recounted the horrors of war.

“I used to carry two bazookas because they were too heavy for the bazooka man,” recounted Nishimura, who served with Company B, 100th Infantry. Nishimura said he watched as the “bazooka man,” whose identity is not known, inched to within 50 feet of an enemy tank and knocked it out, knowing that the recoil from the bazooka blast would result in his own death.

That story, Mochizuki said, “tells everything about the courage, the camaraderie, and the sacrifice of the soldiers of the 442nd and other units,” including the Military Intelligence Service. As Mochizuki sat down to write the new exhibit, Voices of the Nisei Veterans, now on permanent display at the Nisei Veterans Committee Memorial Hall in Seattle, the story of the heroic “bazooka man” was among the many included.

The permanent exhibit, which includes oral history testimonies as well as rare artifacts, photographs, and documents, debuted on May 4, 2014, along with the traveling exhibit, Nisei Veteran: Common Story, Common Bond, which tells the story of two brothers – Tadashi, who became a member of the Military Intelligence Service, and Masayuki, who joined the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

Both exhibitions were made possible with the help of a 2012 NPS JACS grant of $170,833 to the Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience, working in partnership with the Nisei Veterans Committee (NVC) and the NVC Foundation. The grant also funded a training manual for volunteer docents, as well as the preservation and digitization of more than nine hundred documents and photographs and oral history videos of 12 veterans, which can be found at www.wingluke.org/voices-nisei-veterans. To view NVC materials on Wing Luke’s searchable online catalog, go to http://db.wingluke.org and search “Nisei Veterans Committee.”
Status of Funding for the Fiscal Year 2016 Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Cycle

As a Federal agency, the NPS fiscal year begins on October 1 and ends on September 30 each year. On December 18, 2015, Congress passed the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (Public Law No: 114-113); the government’s formal operating budget. The Act provides $2,995,000 in funding for the Fiscal Year 2016 JACS Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program.

In order to ensure that the NPS can successfully award JACS grants in 2016, the NPS announced the availability of applications on September 10, 2015. The deadline for applications was November 10, 2015.

It is anticipated that grant awards will be announced in late Spring 2016. As we receive updated information about the grant awards, we will post it on the JACS Grant Program website: www.nps.gov/JACS.

The Uprooted traveling exhibit, funded in part by a Japanese American Confinement Sites grant, captures the stories of Japanese Americans photographed by Russell Lee as they worked and lived in farm labor camps across the western United States during WWII. Image Courtesy: Oregon Cultural Heritage Commission

A carving of twelve barracks, with Heart Mountain in the background, made by Hikotaro Ujito while incarcerated at Heart Mountain Relocation Center. Image courtesy: The National Japanese American Historical Society, Inc.

May Uchiyama at the Nyssa camp in Oregon. Image courtesy: Library of Congress (LC-USF34-073699-E), photo by Russell Lee, Farm Security Administration
Please contact one of the NPS regional representatives if you have any questions about the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program.

**INTERMOUNTAIN REGION**

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**MIDWEST REGION**

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All correspondence and comments may be sent to the address listed below:

National Park Service  
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Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program  
ATTN: Kara Miyagishima  
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Please visit the NPS Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program for more information, including a list of eligible sites and projects, grant program guidelines, funded projects, and past newsletters:

Website: http://www.nps.gov/JACS

“Like” us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/jacsgrant

Thank you for your interest in the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program.

_The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage._

Layout/design by Miranda Samon  
Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program  
Intermountain Region  
Spring 2016
Nisei WACs (Women's Army Corps) gather for a group picture. Photo courtesy: The Wing Luke Museum
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STATUS OF FUNDING FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2015 JAPANESE AMERICAN CONFINEMENT SITES GRANT CYCLE

FISCAL YEAR 2015 GRANT AWARDS

FISCAL YEAR 2015 PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS BY STATE

- Arkansas
- California
- Colorado
- District of Columbia
- Hawai'i
- New York
- Texas
- Washington
- Wyoming

MAP OF GRANT FUNDING BY STATE, 2009-2015

GRAPH OF GRANT FUNDING BY SITE, 2009-2015

PROJECTS COMPLETED DURING FISCAL YEAR 2015

- Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation Creates Website to Share Stories of Japanese American Detainees on Angel Island
- East Bay Center for the Performing Arts Shares Hidden Legacy of Japanese Traditional Arts in New Documentary
- Densho Expands Reach of Teacher Training and Enhances Online Collection with Three NPS Grants
- Friends of the Texas Historical Commission, Inc., Uncovers Artifacts at Crystal City Family Internment Camp
- Heart Mountain, Wyoming Foundation Extends Reach of Incarceration Story with New Website
- Japanese American Citizens League’s Bridging Communities Program Expands to Chicago
- Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai‘i Uses Two NPS Grants to Engage Public with New Curriculum and Virtual Tour that Explore Hawai‘i’s Internment History
- National Japanese American Historical Society Develops Curriculum and Expands Digital Collection with Two NPS Grants
- Oral History Center of The Bancroft Library Adds to World War II Homefront Collection
- Ore-Cal Resource Conservation and Development Area Council Creates Traveling Art Exhibit on Tule Lake
- Oregon Cultural Heritage Commission Produces Traveling Exhibit on Farm Labor Camps in the Pacific Northwest
- Oregon Nikkei Endowment Documents Experiences of Portland’s Japanese Americans during World War II
- Topaz Museum Board Constructs Museum and Education Center to Share History of World War II Incarceration
- University of Arkansas at Little Rock Restores Monuments at the Rohwer Cemetery
- University of Hawai‘i Center for Oral History Collects Unspoken Memories of Jerome
- University of Idaho Completes Archeological Survey and Artifact Analysis at Kooskia Internment Site
- Washington State University Preserves the Hirahara Photograph Collection and Enhances Access to Heart Mountain Archives
- Wing Luke Museum Preserves Stories, Collections of World War II Veterans and Incarcerees

STATUS OF FUNDING FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2016 JAPANESE AMERICAN CONFINEMENT SITES GRANT CYCLE

CONTACT INFORMATION