



The World War II Japanese American Internment Museum, said George Takei in his keynote address at the dedication ceremony on April 16, 2013, “transports us in time and space to another time for America. It has resonances that are profoundly important.” The museum project was funded in part by a Japanese American Confinement Sites grant, featured on pages 26-27. Photo courtesy: Arkansas Online/David Harten

## ANNUAL REPORT: 2013—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 Grant Program. On December 21, 2006, President George W. Bush signed Public Law 109-441 (16 USC 461) – 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. Japanese American Confinement Sites 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 five years, the program has awarded 107 grant awards totaling nearly \$12.4 million to private nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, state, local, and tribal governments, and other public entities. The projects involve 18 states and the District of Columbia, and include oral histories, preservation of camp artifacts and buildings,

documentaries and educational curricula, and exhibits and memorials that protect the confinement sites and provide creative ways to engage present and future generations with the compelling stories associated with these significant places.

The Fiscal Year 2013 grant awards, featured in this report, include the construction of a memorial honoring the Japanese Americans forcibly removed from Alaska and sent to Minidoka Relocation Center in Idaho and Camp Lordsburg Internment Camp in New Mexico, the development of five teacher-training workshops to increase the understanding of Japanese American World War II confinement at middle school and high school levels, and the creation of a photographic exhibit on the internment of Japanese Americans from California’s Bay Area, featuring the works of Dorothea Lange and Paul Kitagaki.

The 24 grants awarded in 2013 range from \$9,380 for the City of Chandler, Arizona, to design and install a kiosk at Nozomi Park (a multi-use recreational park) to tell the story

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## 2013: A YEAR IN REVIEW

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of the internment in Arizona, with a focus on daily life and the importance of baseball at the Gila River Internment Camp, to \$369,765 for the Go For Broke National Education Center to help produce an exhibit on “Divergent Paths to a Convergent America: A 360 Degree Perspective of the Japanese American Response to WWII” in Los Angeles.

As several new projects begin, many of the previously funded projects have been completed. The completed projects highlighted in this annual report include video oral histories of Japanese American students who left confinement to attend college, a research document that lays the groundwork for future public outreach and preservation projects on internment and segregation camps in New Mexico, and a full-length educational documentary about the sites in Hawai'i where Japanese American community leaders were incarcerated. The NPS is fortunate to have the opportunity

to work with Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program recipients to continue the legacy of those who persevered and to educate younger generations by connecting them to these places, inspiring them to carry forward these stories and lessons on social justice.

“Our national parks tell the stories not only of American success, but of our failures such as the dark history of the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II,” said NPS Director Jonathan B. Jarvis, when announcing the 2013 grant awards. “We make these grants so that present and future generations are reminded what happened and how the people survived these camps. And we make these grants to demonstrate our nation’s commitment to the concept of ‘equal justice under law’ that grew out of these and other civil rights experiences.”



A group of men gather inside the Santa Fe Internment Camp canteen store. The man at left wears the camp's *Aloha* baseball team jersey. Photo courtesy: [manymountains.org](http://manymountains.org). Photo by T. Harmon Parkhurst



## Eligible Sites and Projects

As defined by Public Law 109-441, eligible confinement sites include the ten War Relocation Authority camps: Gila River (AZ), 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 detained during World War II.

Seven major categories of activities are eligible for Japanese American Confinement Sites 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 2013 Grant Program Process

For the 2013 grant program, the NPS mailed postcards announcing the availability of grant applications and guidelines in early August 2012 to approximately 7,500 individuals and organizations. On August 31, 2012, 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 1, 2012, the NPS received 38 applications, requesting more than \$5.5 million in Federal funds. During the week of December 2, 2012, the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program selection panel convened at the NPS Intermountain Regional Office in Lakewood, Colorado, to evaluate the grant 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 historic preservation, landscape architecture, interpretation, audiovisual production, and partnerships. The panel evaluated and ranked each proposal using criteria and guidelines that were established based on public input.



Artwork from the Santa Fe Internment Camp is among the aspects of “identity” in confinement explored in a new study by JACL, featured on page 17. This painting includes a haiku by Kyohaku: “In blooming chrysanthemum is seen one’s true intention.”

Photo courtesy: manymountains.org

The panel recommended 24 proposals to receive funding. The Continuing Resolution for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112-175), provided funding authority for the period from October 1, 2012, through March 27, 2013, or 48.77% of the fiscal year’s budget. Thus, on April 2, 2013, NPS Director Jonathan B. Jarvis announced 10 grants totaling over \$1.4 million in funding. On July 11, 2013, Director Jarvis announced the award of the remaining 14 grants totaling more than \$1.3 million, with funding provided through the second Continuing Resolution, or the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2013 (Public Law 113-6).



## STATUS OF FUNDING FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2014 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. At the time of this publication, Congress has not yet passed the government's formal operating budget, known as an appropriations bill, for Fiscal Year 2014.

In order to ensure that the NPS can successfully award Japanese American Confinement Sites grants in 2014, the grant program will proceed with the 2014 grant cycle. Awards will be dependent on funds appropriated by Congress.

As we receive updated information about funds available for the 2014 cycle, we will post it on the Japanese American Confinement Sites grant program website: <http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/hpg/JACS/index.html>



Sisters Aya and Masa Murakami in their Higo Variety Store, which was the focus of a recently completed project by the Wing Luke Museum, featured on page 25. Photo courtesy: Dean Wong



The traveling exhibit, *Meet Me at Higo: An Enduring Story of a Japanese American Family*, on display at the Seattle Cherry Blossom Festival. Photo courtesy: Wing Luke Museum



## FISCAL YEAR 2013 GRANT AWARDS

In 2013 – the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program’s fifth year of funding – 24 awards provided more than \$2.7 million to projects in 11 states. A list of the winning projects follows.

### Fiscal Year 2013 Project Descriptions by State

#### ALASKA

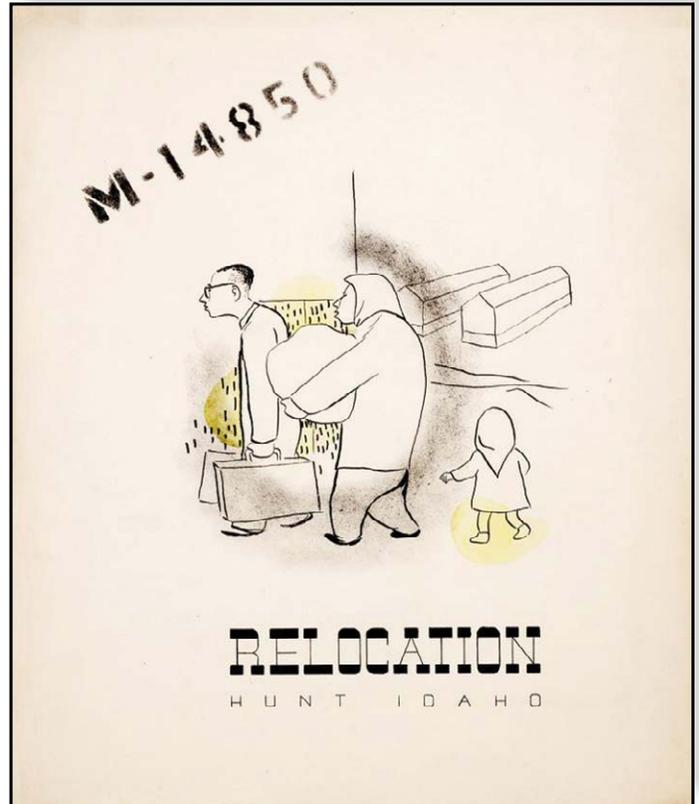
**Recipient:** City and Borough of Juneau  
**Project Title:** Empty Chair Project  
**Grant Award:** \$80,000  
**Site(s):** Minidoka Relocation Center, Jerome County, ID, and Camp Lordsburg Internment Camp, Hidalgo County, NM

**Description:** The City and Borough of Juneau, AK will create a memorial to honor Japanese Americans forcibly removed from Juneau and sent to Camp Lordsburg (NM), which was administered by the U.S. Army, and later to the Minidoka Relocation Center (ID). Interviews with survivors and community members will be conducted, and educational materials will be produced relating to the evacuee experience.

#### ARIZONA

**Recipient:** City of Chandler  
**Project Title:** Nozomi Park History Kiosk  
**Grant Award:** \$9,380  
**Site(s):** Gila River Relocation Center, Pinal County, AZ

**Description:** The City of Chandler will create and install a kiosk at Nozomi Park, a multi-use recreational park with baseball fields. Originally known as West Chandler, the park was renamed Nozomi – Japanese for “hope” – in 2011 to honor Japanese Americans who were detained in Arizona. The kiosk will provide an overview of the internment in Arizona, with a focus on daily life and the importance of baseball at the Gila River Internment Camp.



This drawing, titled “Relocation,” was drawn by a Nisei man at Minidoka. Photo courtesy: Densho (denshopd-p166-00015), Mayeno Family Collection



Ball games between the Gila River Japanese American team and local teams transcended the many barriers of internment, and penned a new chapter for America’s pastime. Photo courtesy: Nisei Baseball Research Project



## ARKANSAS

**Recipient:** University of Arkansas at Fayetteville  
**Project Title:** Rohwer Reconstructed: Interpreting Place through Experience  
**Grant Award:** \$300,378  
**Site(s):** Rohwer Relocation Center, Desha County, AR

**Description:** The University of Arkansas will create an online 3D visualization of Rohwer Relocation Center during World War II. Documents, oral histories, photographs and material objects currently housed in multiple collections throughout Arkansas will be digitized and integrated into the interactive virtual environment, allowing online visitors to experience a sense of Rohwer during its occupation.



A mother and child at Rohwer concentration camp, c. 1943.  
 Photo courtesy: Densho (denshopd-p167-00006), Kuroishi Family Collection

## CALIFORNIA

**Recipient:** Contra Costa Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League  
**Project Title:** They Wore Their Best: Photographic Exhibit of the Works of Dorothea Lange and Paul Kitagaki  
**Grant Award:** \$67,537  
**Site(s):** Tanforan Assembly Center, San Mateo County, CA and 10 WRA Sites

**Description:** The Contra Costa Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League will create exhibits focused on the forced relocation of Japanese Americans in California's Bay Area. The exhibits will feature photographs by Dorothea Lange and Paul Kitagaki. A permanent exhibit will be installed at the San Bruno Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) station, and a traveling exhibit will be shown at other venues.

**Recipient:** Go For Broke National Education Center  
**Project Title:** Divergent Paths to a Convergent America: A 360-Degree Perspective of the Japanese American Response to WWII Incarceration  
**Grant Award:** \$369,765  
**Site(s):** Multiple Sites



Friends and neighbors congregate to bid farewell, though not for long, to their friends who are enroute to the Tanforan Assembly Center. They, themselves, will be evacuated within three days, 1942. Photo courtesy: The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley - photo by Dorothea Lange



**Description:** The Go For Broke National Education Center will plan for a permanent exhibit and accompanying website at the Japanese American National Museum that will explore the divergent choices made by incarcerated Japanese Americans. These choices included service in the military, resistance, and renunciation of U.S. citizenship. Following the planning project, the final design and installation of the exhibit will be completed through a separate funding source.

**Recipient:** Japanese American Citizens League  
**Project Title:** JACL Teacher Training: Incarceration and Confinement Sites  
**Grant Award:** \$62,845  
**Site(s):** Multiple Sites

**Description:** The Japanese American Citizens League will hold five teacher-training workshops to increase understanding of the Japanese American World War II confinement site experience among a broad range of educators. The workshops will be developed for social studies and history teachers working at the middle school and high school levels.



**Recipient:** National Japanese American Historical Society  
**Project Title:** Camp Collection: A Digital Library  
**Grant Award:** \$33,467  
**Site(s):** Multiple Sites

**Description:** The National Japanese American Historical Society will document and digitize 200 objects recently added to its collection. The historical society will then make its collection publicly accessible by posting it to the University of San Francisco Gleeson Library Digital Collections website.



**Recipient:** National Japanese American Historical Society  
**Project Title:** Tule Lake Teacher Education Project  
**Grant Award:** \$73,675  
**Site(s):** Tule Lake Segregation Center, Modoc County, CA

**Description:** The National Japanese American Historical Society will work closely with partner organizations to develop a curriculum focusing on the Tule Lake Segregation Center for grades 4-12. Through the project, a core group of teachers will develop curriculum guides that will be accessible online.

Images of artifacts from Tule Lake, like these hand-made pins created by internees, help educators bring confinement experiences to life. Photo courtesy: National Japanese American Historical Society



**Recipient:** The California Museum  
**Project Title:** Time of Remembrance  
**Grant Award:** \$103,602  
**Site(s):** Multiple Sites

**Description:** The California Museum will complete several projects to enhance its ongoing exhibit, “Uprooted! Japanese Americans During World War II.” The museum will edit previously recorded oral histories, develop software for museum kiosks that play the oral histories, install an interactive map showing the location of all assembly centers and confinement sites, and produce DVD copies of the oral histories.

**Recipient:** The Regents of the University of California (UC-Berkeley, History Department)  
**Project Title:** Japanese American Confinement in the Records of the Federal Reserve Bank  
**Grant Award:** \$28,488  
**Site(s):** Multiple Sites

**Description:** The Regents of the University of California will create a prototype process to capture hand-written information on microfilm images at the Federal Reserve Bank in San Francisco, and convert it to a format that can be stored in a searchable database. During the war, the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco served as a fiscal agent for the U.S. government, assisting Japanese Americans who wanted help in protecting their property while they were held in confinement sites.



A business man of Japanese ancestry confers with a representative of the Federal Reserve Bank prior to evacuation. Photo courtesy: Densho (denshopd-i151-00098), National Archives Collection - photo by Dorothea Lange

**Recipient:** Tule Lake Committee  
**Project Title:** Restoring the Tule Lake Segregation Center Jail, Phase II  
**Grant Award:** \$192,467  
**Site(s):** Tule Lake Segregation Center, Modoc County, CA

**Description:** The Tule Lake Committee will complete planning and compliance activities necessary to stabilize and restore the Tule Lake Segregation Center jail. Project activities include an environmental assessment, historic preservation compliance, development of design documents and cost estimates, and preparation of a construction bid.



Hoshidan members exit the Tule Lake Segregation Center for the Department of Justice’s Santa Fe Internment Camp. Photo courtesy: Densho (denshopd-i37-00197), National Archives and Records Administration Collection



**Recipient:** UCLA Asian American Studies Center  
**Project Title:** Aiko and Jack Herzig Archival Collection Project  
**Grant Award:** \$154,960  
**Site(s):** Multiple Sites

**Description:** The UCLA Asian American Studies Center will catalog, preserve and make accessible the Jack and Aiko Herzig-Yoshinaga papers, which will be held at the Charles E. Young Library Special Collections Department at UCLA for permanent storage. Community workshops and outreach programs will be held to disseminate information about the collection and how it may be accessed.



## **COLORADO**

**Recipient:** Colorado Preservation, Inc.  
**Project Title:** Amache Site Interpretation  
**Grant Award:** \$29,060  
**Site(s):** Granada Relocation Center (Amache), Prowers County, CO

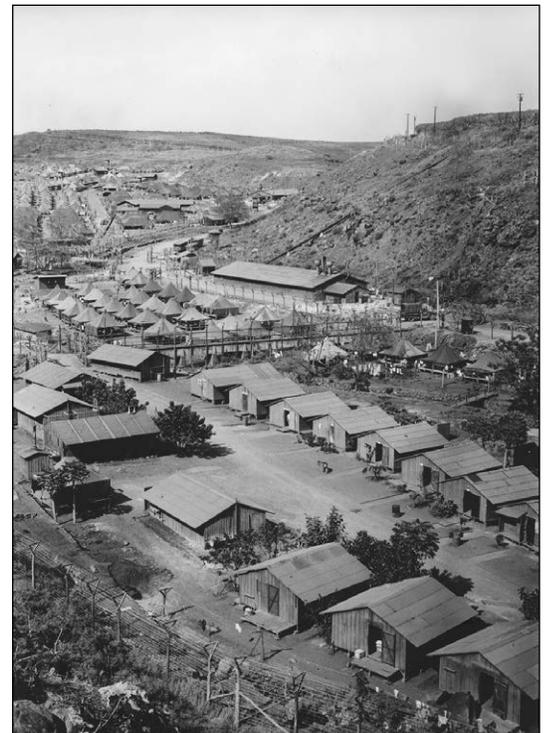
**Description:** Colorado Preservation, Inc. will complete a visitor interpretation package for the Granada Relocation Center (Amache). The package will include new wayfinding signs and podcasting tools for a driving tour, updated informational brochures, and iPods that will be made available to visitors at the Amache Museum in Granada to accompany the on-site driving tour.

Summer carnival at the Granada (Amache) concentration camp. Photo courtesy: Densho (denshopd-p159-00273), courtesy of the George Ochikubo Collection - photo by George Ochikubo

## **HAWAII**

**Recipient:** Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i  
**Project Title:** Exploring Honouliuli: A Multimedia and Virtual Tour  
**Grant Award:** \$111,557  
**Site(s):** Honouliuli Internment Camp, Honolulu County, HI

**Description:** The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i will develop an iPod-based multimedia tour application to be used by Honouliuli on-site visitors, and a web-based virtual tour of Honouliuli that will be accessible online. These tours will incorporate oral histories of former internees, historical photos of the site, and commentary by



Overview of the Honouliuli Internment Camp. Photo courtesy: Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i/Japanese American Relocation and Internment: The Hawai'i Experience Archival Collection - photo by R.H. Lodge

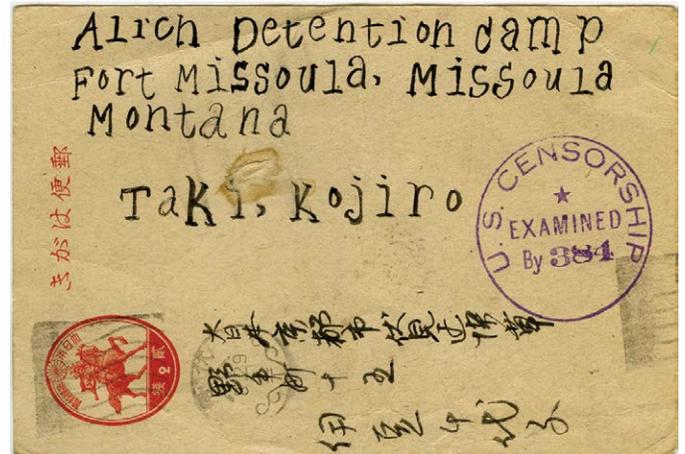


historical experts. The U.S. Army administered the Honouliuli internment camp, which was one of at least five sites in Hawai'i.

### MONTANA

**Recipient:** The Historical Museum at Fort Missoula  
**Project Title:** Fort Missoula Alien Detention Camp Interpretive Projects  
**Grant Award:** \$39,730  
**Site(s):** Department of Justice Fort Missoula Internment Camp, Missoula County, MT

**Description:** The Historical Museum at Fort Missoula will upgrade existing exhibits and create interpretive signs and a broadcast-quality video to tell the history of the former Department of Justice Fort Missoula internment camp. During the war, 1,200 Italians, 23 Germans, 1,000 Japanese resident aliens, and 123 Japanese Latin and South Americans were detained at Fort Missoula.



A U.S. Censorship stamp marks this letter, written by an Issei man at Fort Missoula Internment Camp, as "examined." Photo courtesy: Densho (denshopd-p164-00130), Taki Family Collection

### NORTH DAKOTA

**Recipient:** United Tribes Technical College  
**Project Title:** Fort Lincoln Preservation and Rehabilitation  
**Grant Award:** \$45,100  
**Site(s):** Fort Lincoln Internment Camp, Burleigh County, ND

**Description:** United Tribes Technical College will complete a condition and feasibility assessment of two historic buildings at the former Department of Justice Fort Lincoln internment camp for use as an educational interpretive center. The assessment will determine what is needed to bring the buildings up to current code regulations and estimate the cost of rehabilitation.



A hospital building at the former Fort Lincoln Internment Camp. Photo courtesy: United Tribes Technical College

### OREGON

**Recipient:** ORE-CAL Resources Conservation and Development Area Council  
**Project Title:** The Art of Survival: Tule Lake 1942-1946  
**Grant Award:** \$123,890  
**Site(s):** Tule Lake Segregation Center, Modoc County, CA

**Description:** ORE-CAL Resources Conservation and Development Council will create an art-based traveling exhibit



focusing on the Tule Lake Segregation Center. The exhibit will include fine art photographs of Tule Lake artifacts, interpretive panels on the camp, and DVDs with oral histories from individuals formerly incarcerated at Tule Lake. A website will also be developed detailing the travels of the exhibit.

**Recipient:** Oregon Cultural Heritage Commission  
**Project Title:** Farm Security Administration Documentation of Agricultural Labor Internment Camps in the Pacific Northwest

**Grant Award:** \$92,386  
**Site(s):** Multiple Sites: Nyssa, Malheur County, OR; Rupert, Minidoka County, ID; Shelley, Bingham County, ID; Twin Falls, Twin Falls County, ID

**Description:** The Oregon Cultural Heritage Commission will produce a traveling exhibit focused on photographs by Russell Lee of Department of Agriculture farm labor camps in Oregon and Idaho. Hundreds of laborers were recruited from the Portland Assembly Center and Minidoka Relocation Center to work in these camps. The exhibit will include prints of Lee's work, a set of text panels providing context, and a collection of video oral histories.



A Japanese American farm worker toils at a Farm Security Administration camp near Rupert, Idaho. Photo courtesy: Library of Congress (LC-USZ62-130353) - photo by Russell Lee, Farm Security Administration

## **WASHINGTON**

**Recipient:** Densho  
**Project Title:** Online Repository-Japanese American Collections

**Grant Award:** \$300,000  
**Site(s):** Multiple Sites

**Description:** Densho will develop a free online archive that digitally preserves and makes accessible historic photographs, documents and videos that document the World War II Japanese American incarceration experience. Densho will also create a database containing the names and records of individuals listed in the Final Accountability Rosters from the ten War Relocation Authority centers.



A family inside the barracks at Puyallup Assembly Center. Photo courtesy: University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections, UW526



**Recipient:** Densho  
**Project Title:** Teach the Teachers-Online  
**Grant Award:** \$194,403  
**Site(s):** Multiple Sites

**Description:** Densho will create a free, online teacher-training course focused on integrating primary source materials about the World War II incarceration of Japanese Americans in the classroom. The project will include website development, marketing of the online course, and the creation of teacher resource kits.

**Recipient:** Nikkei Heritage Association of Washington, DBA Japanese Cultural & Community Center of Washington  
**Project Title:** Unsettled – Resettled: Seattle’s “Hunt Hotel”  
**Grant Award:** \$102,810  
**Site(s):** Minidoka Relocation Center, Jerome County, ID

**Description:** The Nikkei Heritage Association of Washington will research the experiences of Japanese Americans who, upon returning to Seattle from Minidoka, lived at the “Hunt Hotel.” The “hotel”, so named because Hunt Camp was a nickname for Minidoka, is the former Seattle Japanese Language School and now home to the Japanese Cultural & Community Center of Washington. The project will result in a memorial marker, book, online catalog and traveling exhibit.



Children pose on the steps of Seattle’s “Hunt Hotel” (Japanese Language School) just after the end of the war. Photo courtesy: Densho (denshophd-p30-00003), Ohashi Family Collection

**Recipient:** Wing Luke Memorial Foundation, DBA Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience  
**Project Title:** Inspiring Future Generations: Journeying from Confinement Sites to Battlefields with Japanese American Soldiers  
**Grant Award:** \$111,600  
**Site(s):** Minidoka Relocation Center, Jerome County, ID

**Description:** The Wing Luke Memorial Foundation will create a graphic novel with six chapters, each telling the story of a World War II Japanese American soldier. The Foundation also will create a stand-alone publication from one of the chapters in the novel, with an accompanying curriculum guide. A website will provide access to the novel and the chapter and curriculum publication.



Pvt. Harry Koka of Ewa, O’ahu, is awarded the Purple Heart by Col. Ernst T. Barco at Sand Island, Honolulu, June 6, 1945. Koka was wounded while fighting with the famed 100th Infantry Division in the Italian Campaign. Photo courtesy: Densho (denshophd-i114-00155), courtesy of the Seattle Nisei Veterans Committee and the U.S. Army



## **WYOMING**

**Recipient:** Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation  
**Project Title:** Heart Mountain Archives Project  
**Grant Award:** \$97,279  
**Site(s):** Heart Mountain Relocation Center, Park County, WY

**Description:** The Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation will establish an archives center that will arrange, describe and make its collections accessible for research, including the recently acquired Frank Emi papers. The Foundation will hire an archivist, process the archives, and produce a guide that will provide an overview of the scope, content and research significance of the collections.



Frank Emi (right), leader of the Heart Mountain Fair Play Committee, stands with a supporter in a photo taken at the height of the draft resistance movement. Emi's papers have been donated to the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation. Photo courtesy: Densho (denshopd-p122-00003), courtesy of Frank Abe and Frank Emi

**Recipient:** Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation  
**Project Title:** Heart Mountain Root Cellar Planning and Preservation Project  
**Grant Award:** \$33,621  
**Site(s):** Heart Mountain Relocation Center, Park County, WY

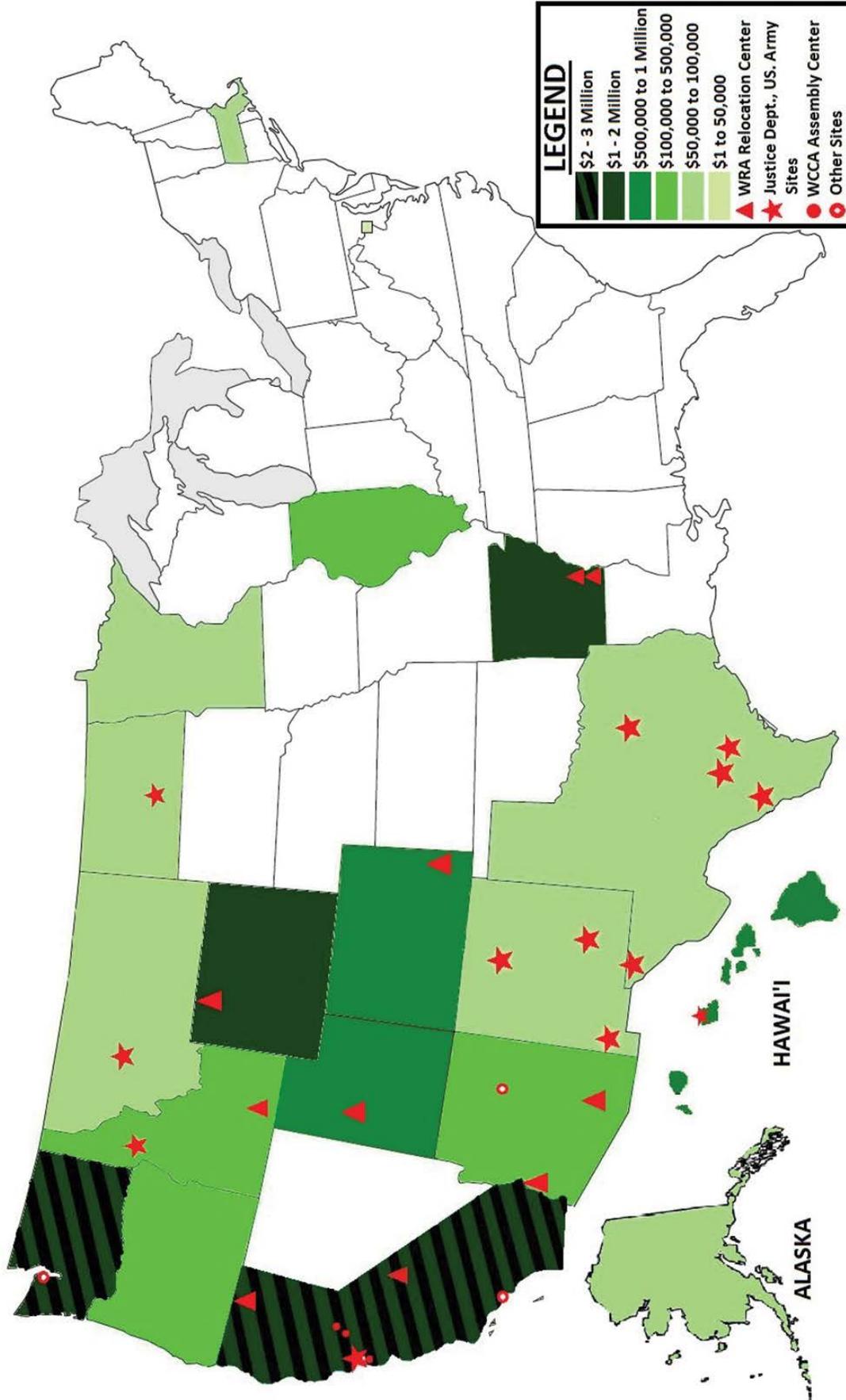
**Description:** The Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation will plan for the acquisition, conservation, preservation, interim stabilization, and future use of a root cellar that was used by internees to store produce grown at the camp. The abandoned root cellar is one of the few remaining original structures at Heart Mountain, and a reminder of the ingenuity of Japanese American farmers who produced 45 different crops at the camp.



The underground root cellar at Heart Mountain extends more than 130 feet. Photo courtesy: Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation



# GRANT FUNDING BY STATE

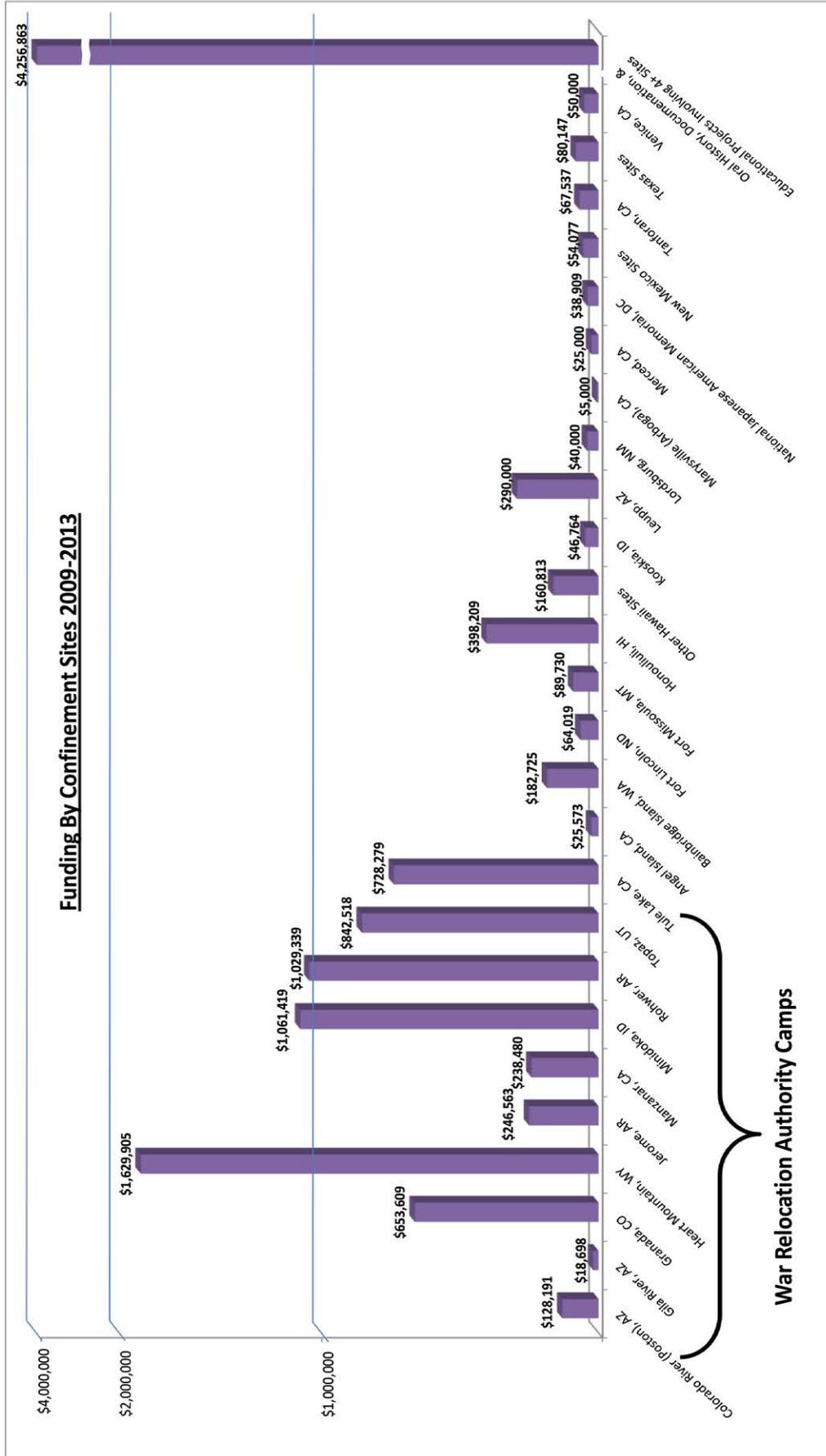


This map shows total 2013 Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program funding by the states where the grantees are located. Also shown (with red symbols) are the Japanese American confinement sites that are the specific focus of those grant funds. In some cases, the grantee is in a different state than that of the confinement sites. For example, the Wing Luke Memorial Foundation, which is in

Washington, received funding to preserve a historic collection related to the Minidoka Relocation Center in Idaho. In addition, some projects generally benefit all confinement sites and/or interpret the overall Japanese American internment experience. While this map shows the location of those grantees, it does not show every confinement site that benefits from those general projects.



**GRANT FUNDING BY SITE**



This graph shows total (2009-2013) 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 internment experience.



## EIGHTEEN PROJECTS COMPLETED DURING FISCAL YEAR 2013

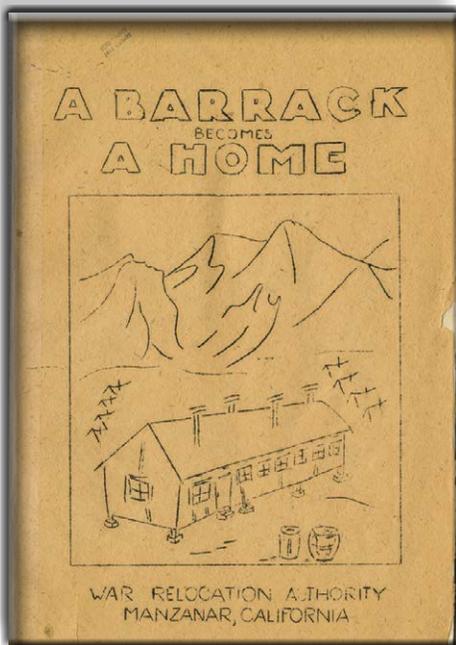
During the last year, 18 projects that received Japanese American Confinement Sites grant program funding were completed. Following is an overview of these project success stories, all of which reflect the dedicated commitment and hard work of numerous groups to preserve, interpret and disseminate the history of the Japanese American internment during World War II.

### Friends of Manzanar Enhance the Block 14 Experience with Oral Histories and Documentary Research

As a young man at Manzanar Relocation Center, Akira Kageyama often slipped past the fence at night to go fishing. “I got caught once, and I think I spent about three days in jail, and everybody in the camp heard about it,” he recounts playfully. “They’d come to the window and laugh at me.” As Akira’s story illustrates, many Japanese Americans tried to live life as normally as possible while incarcerated, but the reality of their situation infused everyday life. A recent project by Friends of Manzanar captured stories like Kageyama’s and that of Arnold Maeda, who remembers that his barrack bordered U.S Highway 395. When he opened the door in the morning and looked across the fence at the highway, he was immediately reminded of where he was, and thought, “Why can’t I be in one of those cars going north or south?”



Former internee Akira Kageyama shares his experiences for the Friends of Manzanar project. Photo courtesy: Densho



The Friends of Manazar researched repositories to identify documents, such as this booklet created in camp. Photo courtesy: Inyo County Free Library

Internees’ stories, ranging from humor and romance, to anger and fear, capture a wide spectrum of the human experience shared by Japanese Americans during World War II. With help from a 2010 Japanese American Confinement Sites grant of \$58,833, Friends of Manzanar logged more than 1,500 hours of archival research, and recorded 16 oral histories to enhance the interpretation at Manzanar Block 14, now part of Manzanar National Historic Site. Friends of Manzanar collaborated with Densho, a

long-standing partner, to preserve online the oral histories, including those of Kageyama and Maeda. The interviews, under the Friends of Manzanar Visual History Collection, can be found at [www.archive.densho.org](http://www.archive.densho.org).

Grant monies also allowed researchers to comb through state, federal, museum, and university collections, which enhanced Manzanar National Historic Site’s reference files and expanded the information and media used to accurately interpret the site. Along with documenting relevant materials – such as images, official documents, newspaper articles, and letters – this work also assists researchers because it identifies what repositories do or do not contain Japanese American confinement sites information.

As research reveals the intricacies of day-to-day activities, as well as the overarching structure of confinement, it helps Friends of Manzanar to work with the National Park Service to provide a more direct connection to life within Manzanar National Historic Site’s Block 14, a “demonstration block” used to interpret life of the 11,070 Japanese Americans interned at the site.

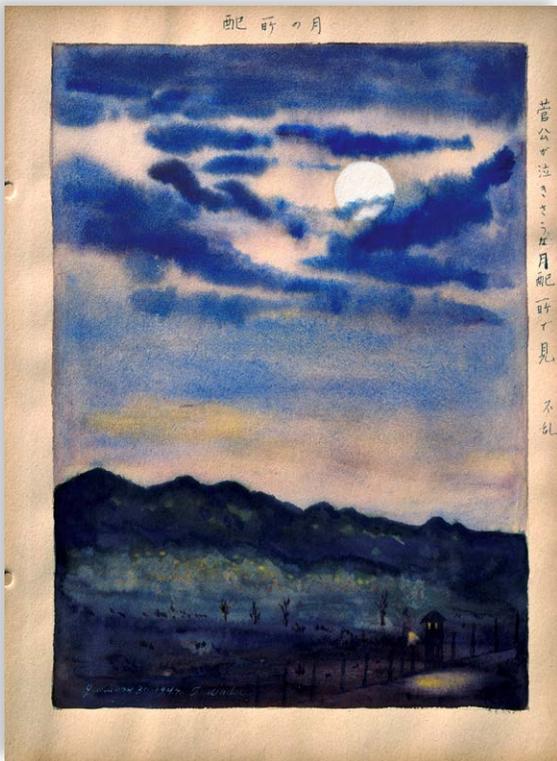


## Japanese American Identities in New Mexico Camps Examined by the Japanese American Citizens League, New Mexico Chapter

Was the physical evidence of Japanese American internment in New Mexico “erased” by design, or by accident? How did internees identify themselves, and did their identities shift while in camp? These and many other questions emerged from the first phase of a research and public engagement project on World War II Japanese American internment in New Mexico. A 2011 Japanese American Confinement Sites grant of \$54,077 was awarded to the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), New Mexico Chapter for the one-year planning project. In partnership with Albuquerque-based Van Citters, Historic Preservation, LLC., JACL produced a planning report that established project goals to inspire curiosity, thought, and discourse concerning Japanese American internment sites, with “identity” as the central theme.



Internees formed new identities behind barbed wire as artists, poets, and performers, among others. Here, a poetry group at Santa Fe poses for a group photo. Photo courtesy: manymountains.org - photo by T. Harmon Parkhurst



A 1944 watercolor by Tameichi Wada, titled “Lonesome Moon”, depicts the Santa Fe Internment Camp. Photo courtesy: manymountains.org - illustration: Tameichi Wada

In New Mexico, Japanese Americans from around the country, including Japanese community leaders whom the Department of Justice and the FBI deemed “troublemakers,” were interned at Camp Lordsburg Internment and Prisoner of War Camp, Fort Stanton Segregation Camp, and Santa Fe Internment Camp. A fourth site, Old Raton (Baca) Ranch Camp, detained 32 Japanese Americans from Clovis, New Mexico. Among them was Dr. Roy Ebihara, then a child, who said parents and children had very different experiences at the isolated Baca Ranch. “Us kids were always discovering nature... I guess it was very depressing for [adults]... This was just too overwhelming for them I’m sure.” Revisiting the site, Dr. Ebihara identified chimney remains and a concrete slab as “the only reminder that we were here.”

To capture the numerous, and perhaps conflicting, faces of internment, the project team stretched the meaning of “identity” to include ascribed, self, and legal identities, among others. Through this lens, the team outlined a permanent website, created designs for interpretive historical markers, and conceptualized a multi-media, interactive traveling exhibit, with a proposed schedule and publicity plan. JACL also developed brochure specifications, completed an archeological report of Camp Lordsburg, synthesized existing materials, recorded all new documented primary materials, captured three new oral histories, and outlined a work plan for public engagement. All of these efforts are combined in one document, titled *Confinement in the Land of Enchantment*, providing an exceptional resource for anyone researching Japanese American confinement in New Mexico.



## Friends of the Texas Historical Commission Interpret Previously Untold Stories at Five Texas Sites

From 1942 to 1948, the Immigration and Naturalization Service administered Crystal City Family Internment Camp, which encompassed hundreds of acres southwest of San Antonio. Here the Department of Justice (DOJ) incarcerated “enemy aliens”—Japanese, German, and Italian citizens in the U.S. and Latin America, whom the government considered potentially dangerous. Frequently interned with them, often voluntarily, were their spouses and American-born children. Seiji Aizawa’s father was interned there. And when Seiji and his brother left the Tanforan Assembly Center near San Francisco to attend college, he watched painfully as his mother and sister joined his father at Crystal City. “The family split up twice,” Seiji said. “Once when my father was taken away and the second time when the government asked my mother and sister to join him.” Among DOJ camps, Crystal City was unusual because it was the only one established specifically for families.

With a 2009 Japanese American Confinement Sites grant of \$34,400, Friends of the Texas Historical Commission installed eight interpretive panels at various sites around the camp’s large footprint. The panels were dedicated in November 2011 with more than 100 community residents and former internees in attendance. The panels outline the site’s history, life and work at Crystal City, schools at the camp, and the repatriation process. To supplement the signage and promote heritage tourism, grant monies also were used to create and publish 25,000 copies of a full-



Installation of an interpretive panel at the Crystal City Family Internment Camp. Photo courtesy: Texas Historical Commission/Friends of the Texas Historical Commission

color, eight-page travel brochure on the Crystal City Family Internment Camp. These efforts, led by project manager William McWhorter of the Texas Historical Commission, corrected what had been a lack of accurate historical interpretation at the site. The project, which was the focus of an Associated Press article, also brought international attention to the history of the Japanese American and Enemy Alien World War II internment in Texas.

Phase two of the project, funded by a 2010 Japanese American Confinement Sites grant of \$20,167, allowed Friends of the Texas Historical Commission to extend research, interpretation, and public outreach efforts to four additional World War II confinement sites in Texas – Kenedy Enemy Alien Detention Station, Seagoville Enemy Alien Detention Station, Dodd Field Enemy Alien Detention Center at Fort Sam Houston, and Fort Bliss Enemy Alien Detention Station. The four camps now have historical markers that tell their stories. While these markers ensure long-term local awareness, a 12-page color brochure, support from the Texas Heritage Trails program, and the Texas Historical Commission website extend outreach to the region and nation. The website features a research-based history of all five camps at <http://www.thc.state.tx.us/preserve/projects-and-programs/military-history/texas-world-war-ii/japanese-german-and-italian>.



William McWhorter (right) and former Crystal City German American internee Werner R. Ulrich at the dedication.

Photo courtesy: Texas Historical Commission/Friends of the Texas Historical Commission



## The University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu Brings Together Multiple Disciplines for Research and Education at Honouliuli Internment and POW Camp

For more than 50 years following the end of World War II, an overgrown gulch hid the remains of the Honouliuli Internment Camp, nicknamed Jigoku Dani—"Hell Valley"—by Japanese Americans confined there during the war. Located west of Pearl Harbor, the Honouliuli Internment and Prisoner of War (POW) Camp, which was Hawai'i's largest and longest-used confinement site, was the recent focus of a multidisciplinary research and education project funded by two Japanese American Confinement Sites grants awarded to the University of Hawai'i (UH)-West O'ahu. Dr. Suzanne Falgout, anthropologist at the University and principal investigator for the project, explains that Honouliuli "provides an excellent opportunity to demonstrate the integration of archival information, oral history, archeology, and architectural assessment." To jump-start the project, a 2009 Japanese American Confinement Sites grant of \$26,148 funded archival research on the Honouliuli Internment and POW Camp and a 2010 archeological field school. Also, UH-West O'ahu professors from six disciplines—anthropology, economics, education, English, history, and sociology—completed five oral histories and transcriptions, exploring interviewees' layered incarceration stories.

A second award, a 2010 grant of \$98,544, helped fund the next phase of the project. Several UH-West O'ahu researchers, again representing six different disciplines, combed archives in Hawai'i and on the mainland. The scholars shared their findings through journal articles, and the creation of two college courses—"Hawai'i During World War II" and "Japanese American Internment Literature." The team conducted additional oral histories with 34 individuals, which students transcribed and archived at UH-West O'ahu. In 2012, grant funds also brought to campus Distinguished Visiting Scholar Dr.



Dr. Falgout (center) of the University of Hawai'i-O'ahu leads a multidisciplinary team at the Honouliuli site. Photo by Valentino Valdez, courtesy University of Hawai'i West O'ahu

Gary Okihiro from Columbia University, who spoke to students and groups throughout the islands about Hawai'i incarceration.

The story of the Honouliuli Camp, which was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2012, was largely unknown and untold until recently. Working together, UH-West O'ahu's multidisciplinary team contributed to a deeper understanding of Hawai'i's distinctive patterns and rationales for internment, including information about the wide variety of people interned at Honouliuli. The Camp held more than 4,000 POWs from both Atlantic and Pacific theaters—Japanese, Okinawans, Koreans, Italians, and Filipinos. The interned population included 200-300 locally prominent Japanese and Okinawans, plus a smaller number of Europeans categorized as "Germans" and "Italians." A few Japanese families with young children were sent to Honouliuli from wartime locations in Micronesia. Grant funds also supported archeological field schools in 2011 and 2012. In total, the three field schools attracted students from Hawai'i, the U.S. mainland, and even Australia. Often working in sweltering heat not unlike conditions that inspired the camp's nickname, UH-West O'ahu faculty and preservation professionals helped students unearth resources and clear the site for safe access. "It's a big deal," expressed field school student Julie Baxter. "You're actually helping to uncover history."

Distinguished Visiting Scholar Dr. Gary Okihiro (right) visits with Dr. Richard Kosaki, Chancellor Emeritus, University of Hawai'i Manoa. Photo by Valentino Valdez, courtesy University of Hawai'i West O'ahu





## Poston Community Alliance Completes Two JACS-Funded Projects: Preserving Oral Histories of Former Poston Detainees, and Relocating a Historic Barrack Back to Poston Camp I

The War Relocation Authority detained Japanese Americans in three camps—Poston I, II, and III—at the Colorado River Relocation Center, situated on the Colorado River Indian Reservation near Parker, Arizona. Now, with funding from the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program, the Poston Community Alliance, in cooperation with the Colorado River Indian Tribes, is helping protect this “reservation within a reservation,” and interpret the experiences of both Japanese Americans and American Indians on the reservation. The Alliance’s long-term goal envisions Poston Camp I restored on a 40-acre plat within the Colorado River Indian Tribes Reservation, with a multi-cultural museum and archive.

As part of this initiative, and with help from a 2009 Japanese American Confinement Sites grant of \$25,994, the Alliance recorded, digitized, and transcribed more than 60 oral histories of former Poston detainees, adding to its present collection of 40 oral histories.

Working towards its vision for a living museum and archive, the Alliance is planning to



Before its move, the fragile barrack was stabilized with cross-bracing and tie rods, and then lifted onto steel beams. With a police escort, the barrack made a slow haul through the town of Parker. After months of coordination, the project team brought the original barrack back to the Poston site on July 19, 2012. Photo courtesy: Scheuber + Darden Architects



develop interpretive themes from the oral histories, as well as safeguard photographs, memorabilia, artwork, and other documents collected during the process.

A second Japanese American Confinement Sites grant, a 2010 award of \$31,000, helped the Poston Community Alliance relocate a Poston barrack that had been moved 15 miles away to a plant nursery in the town of Parker. The Alliance opened bids for relocation and restoration, surveyed possible locations for the relocated barrack and, in partnership with Scheuber and Darden Architects, LLC, brought the intact barrack home to Poston—a giant stride towards the Alliance’s master plan for the site. Another important step in the Tribes’ and Alliance’s efforts to protect Poston was realized when the Secretary of the Interior designated the Poston Elementary School, Unit 1—which is the only extant elementary school within a former relocation center—as a National Historic Landmark in 2012.

The Poston barrack relocation project team included the Poston Community Alliance, Colorado River Indian Tribes, and Scheuber + Darden Architects; from left: Johnny Hill, Marlene Shigekawa, Barbara Darden, and Guthrie Dick. Photo courtesy: Poston Community Alliance - Photo by Vernon Taniguchi



## Densho Expands its Website with More 'Stories Less Told' and an Online Encyclopedia on the Japanese American Wartime Incarceration

One person's life illustrates a unique sequence of events, and by documenting the lives of hundreds of Japanese Americans incarcerated during World War II, Densho has crafted a more complete story. With a 2010 Japanese American Confinement Sites grant of \$210,000, Densho completed *Stories Less Told Part II*. Building upon *Part I*, which was accomplished with a previous Japanese American Confinement Sites grant, this second installment added to the Densho website 140 video oral histories – 80 new and 60 donated, which Densho digitally processed and transcribed. Densho's current database now includes more than 750 fully transcribed, searchable interviews, all free of charge to the public at [archive.densho.org](http://archive.densho.org).

*Stories Less Told Part II* filled gaps in Densho's database by pursuing stories of Kibei (Japanese Americans educated in Japan), women's experiences, and non-Japanese Americans who administered camps or witnessed Japanese American removal. For a truly national collection of oral histories, an additional effort was made to broaden the geographic representation of interviewees, with birthplaces ranging from Peru to Hawai'i. Interviewee Atsumi Ozawa's life addresses several of these themes. Among other things, Ozawa witnessed her mother deal with a miscarriage as her family traveled from their hometown in Peru to Crystal City Family Internment Camp in Texas. All these different experiences, Ozawa believes, "made us...strong."

The new oral histories satisfy Densho's goal of offering broad and diverse perspectives on the mass incarceration. With a 2010 Japanese American Confinement Sites grant



Atsumi Ozawa's experiences, recorded through an oral history by Densho, contribute to the story of Japanese incarceration. Photo courtesy: Densho

of \$166,145, Densho further enhanced its website with the creation of an online encyclopedia. Densho collaborated with more than 70 scholars of Japanese American history and developed a reference and resource website that includes 310 annotated scholarly articles cross-linked to primary sources and recommended resources on Japanese American history. Catering to young students and in-depth researchers alike, the user-friendly website, online at <http://encyclopedia.densho.org>, also includes biographies, testimonies, terminology, interactive maps, and a timeline. Additional links to social media sites such

as Facebook anticipate the ways people access online information. Also, a custom software platform, workflow processes, and authoring style guidelines were developed to efficiently update the online encyclopedia. Through this website, Densho illuminates the stories behind mass removal, encouraging honest and open discussion about loyalty, cultural conflicts, and national security.

This screenshot of the Densho Encyclopedia website homepage illustrates how online visitors are connected to ever-expanding resources on the Japanese American internment.



## Heart Mountain Boiler House Chimney Restored by Wyoming State Parks and Cultural Resources, State Historic Preservation Office

Midway between the towns of Cody and Powell, a boiler house chimney pierces the Wyoming skyline, marking the location of the Heart Mountain Relocation Center, where more than 10,000 Japanese Americans were interned during World War II – making it the third largest town in Wyoming at the time. Built in 1942 as part of the heating system for the camp hospital, the red brick tower rises 75 feet above the broad plains. The smokestack appeared in internees’ artwork, and distinguished the camp to nearby towns. In 2006, the chimney contributed to Heart Mountain’s designation as a National Historic Landmark; its hospital complex is the most intact of the ten Japanese American Relocation Centers constructed during World War II. However, 70 years of wind, rain, snow, and freeze/thaw had dampened the chimney’s mortar, causing it to bow approximately 16 inches off plumb. To prevent the chimney from toppling, the Wyoming State Parks and Cultural Resources, State Historic Preservation Office used a 2011 Japanese American Confinement Sites grant of \$215,911 to document, stabilize, and interpret the preservation of this Heart Mountain icon through a three-phase plan.



Heart Mountain Pilgrimage attendees gather around the restored boiler house chimney for its dedication. Photo courtesy: Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation - Photo by Bacon Sakatani

To accomplish the restoration, the State Historic Preservation Office formed a Chimney Work Group that involved representatives from the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation, the National Park Service, and the Bureau of Reclamation, which owns the boiler house chimney property. Beginning in the spring of 2011, Phase I documented the chimney’s existing conditions and

developed a plan for its stabilization. The project team also created a brochure and installed an interpretive sign to educate visitors to the nearby Heart Mountain Interpretive Learning Center about the preservation efforts. Ready for Phase II by September 2011, the Chimney Work Group contracted with architecture and engineering firms, Tobin and Associates, P.C., and Wiss, Janney, and Elstner, Inc. The team mapped cracks, analyzed the brick and mortar, tested for wall moisture, and inspected the chimney’s foundation, concluding that moisture in the mortar caused the lean, rather than strong eastern winds as initially presumed. Based on these findings, Phase III restored and stabilized the chimney, under contract with Enola Contracting Services, Inc., by inserting a structural lining, and replacing the deteriorated mortar with new mortar that maintained its original look. Other improvements included new flashing to divert moisture away from the brick at the wall steps, helical pins to reinforce the brick, and an enhanced lightning protection system.



Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation board members and Wyoming State Parks and Cultural Resources Director Milward Simpson (third from right), joined former internees born in the camp at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the restored chimney. Photo courtesy: Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation - Photo by Sharyl McDowell

On July 20, 2013, former Heart Mountain internees and their families helped dedicate the preserved chimney during the 2013 Heart Mountain Pilgrimage. At the ribbon-cutting ceremony, Milward Simpson, Director of Wyoming State Parks and Cultural Resources, declared that through these efforts, “this structure will stand for years to come and educate future generations of the story of Japanese American Internment in this country and specifically in Wyoming.”

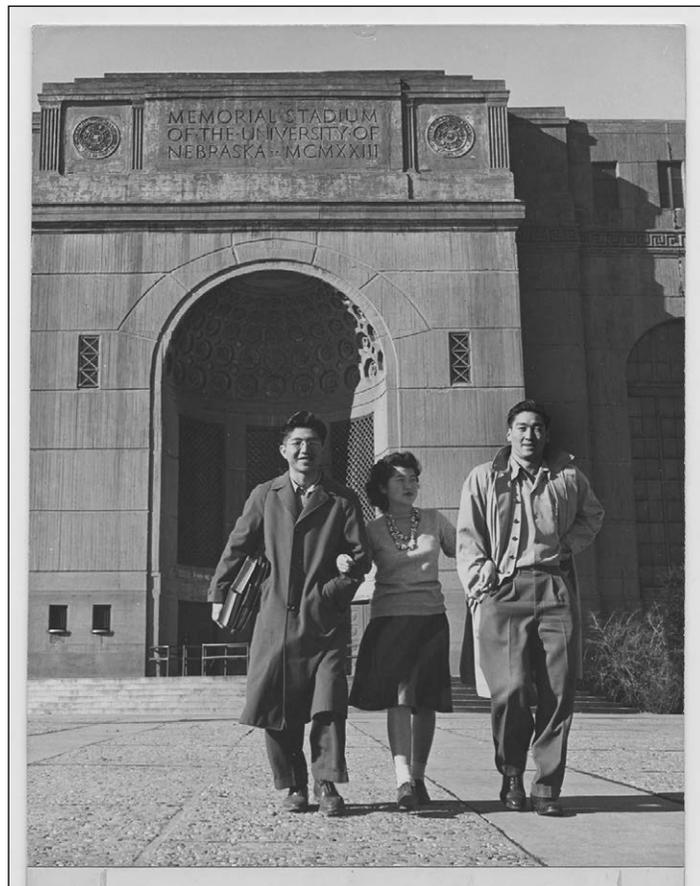


## From Confinement to College: Oral Histories Recorded by the University of Massachusetts Boston

“Education is like brickwork,” states Ujinobu Niwa, “if you take a few bricks out, it’s very hard to regain it.” In a new oral history, Niwa shared the struggle many Japanese American teenagers feared when Executive Order 9066 interrupted their educations and plans for college. This was not the United States that interviewee Esther Nishio knew from her life in America, nor from her high school civics class. “I realized the government was interning American citizens and putting them behind barbed wire,” she recounts. “I just could not believe it.” With help from agencies such as the Quaker-affiliated National Japanese American Student Relocation Council, Niwa, Nishio, and more than 4,000 other young Japanese Americans left confinement sites, and their families, to attend mainland colleges, mostly in the East and Midwest.



Interviewee Ujinobu Niwa (left) with Paul Watanabe, professor and IAAS Director at University of Massachusetts Boston. Photo courtesy: University of Massachusetts Boston



Three evacuee students, Cromwell Mukai (Topaz), Marie Yamashita (Heart Mountain) and Joe Nishimura (Manzanar) leave the stadium at the University of Nebraska. Photo courtesy: The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley

To document this lesser known chapter of confinement, a 2010 Japanese American Confinement Sites grant of \$68,852 awarded to the Institute for Asian American Students (IAAS) at the University of Massachusetts Boston, helped chronicle, through video oral histories, the experiences of 18 Japanese Americans who left confinement as young men and women to receive formal educations. They later entered the workforce as chemists, engineers, professors, and accountants.

For Japanese Americans, World War II and the reverberations felt for years after were defining moments, explains Paul Watanabe, a professor and IAAS director at the University of Massachusetts Boston. To preserve the legacy of agencies and individuals who aided Japanese American students, Watanabe, IAAS staff member Jenny Lau, and graduate student Laura Ng traveled throughout New England, then to California, Washington, Louisiana, Maryland, and Illinois, to meet with the former students, whose ages now range from 83 to 90. The 18 transcribed video oral histories are available to researchers and the public on the IAAS website ([www.iaas.umb.edu/JA\\_archive](http://www.iaas.umb.edu/JA_archive)).



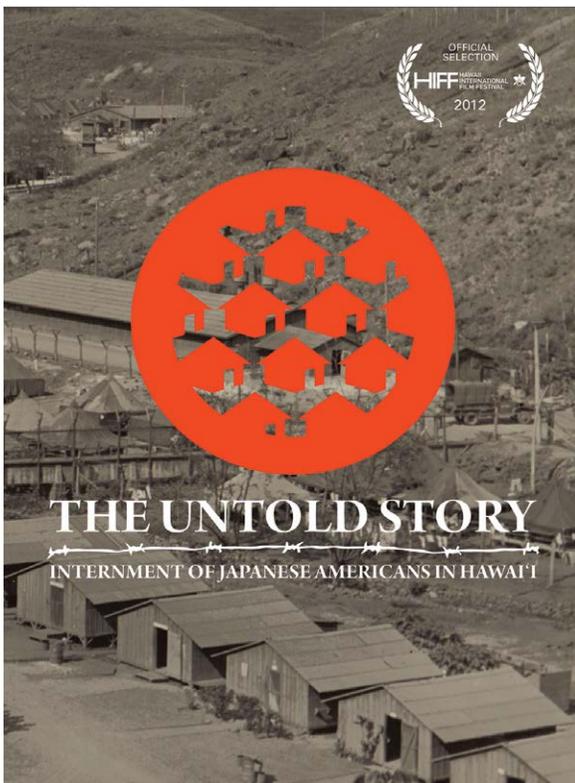
## Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i Produces First Full-Length Documentary of Japanese American Internment in Hawai'i

In 1941, a Japanese American community of more than 150,000 people flourished in Hawai'i – representing more than a third of Hawai'i's population. Within 49 hours of Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i authorities arrested several hundred local Japanese on O'ahu, Maui, Hawai'i and Kaua'i. In total, over 2,000 men and women of Japanese ancestry were arrested, detained and interned in Hawai'i. Although these internees represented "only" one percent of the Japanese American population, the effects were disproportionately large because the government sought out community leaders, whose removal resulted in closed Japanese schools, newspapers, temples, and churches.

With a 2010 Japanese American Confinement Sites grant award of \$117,626, the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i (JCCH) produced the first full-length documentary film on the incarceration of Hawai'i Japanese, titled "The Untold Story: The Internment of Japanese Americans in Hawai'i." In the film, the late Senator Daniel Inouye of Hawai'i says this story should be told, if only as a reminder, "that this can happen in our democracy if we're not vigilant. Because it did."



"The Untold Story" Director Ryan Kawamoto with JCCH associates; from left: Jane Kurahara, Betsy Young, and JCCH President and Executive Director Carole Hayashino. Photo courtesy: Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i



Poster for "The Untold Story" film, which premiered at the Hawai'i International Film Festival. Photo courtesy: Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i

The grant helped fund all production costs, as well as duplication of the documentary film. Written and directed by Ryan Kawamoto, "The Untold Story" is illustrated by historic photographs and research-based reenactment scenes. The film features personal interviews and oral histories gathered by JCCH with internees, their children, and scholars. JCCH premiered the film during four screenings at the Hawai'i International Film Festival in October 2012. Two additional sold-out screenings in Honolulu in November 2012 reached more than 2,200 people in the first few months of its release. This turnout led to additional screenings on Maui, Hawai'i, Kaua'i, and O'ahu, including a 13-week run at a Honolulu theater. JCCH estimates that the film has reached approximately 6,000 people. Requests from California will bring the film to San Jose, San Francisco, and Los Angeles in the fall of 2013. Also, JCCH produced a 25-minute version of the documentary for use in the state's public and private high school classrooms to correspond with Hawai'i confinement sites lesson plans.

The Hawai'i confinement sites represent the ill will and hatred that can result from racial profiling. "We can be pretty cruel," scholar Franklin Odo acknowledged, "and treat entire groups of people as non-people." The "Untold Story" also supports JCCH's broader goals of public education and the preservation of Hawai'i confinement sites as physical reminders of internment.



## Minidoka Stories from Seattle's Higo Ten Cent Store are Shared with the Public through Wing Luke Museum Exhibits and Book

In 1909, Issei immigrant Sanzo Murakami opened the Higo Ten Cent Store in Seattle's Nihonmachi (Japantown). While the Murakami family was confined at Minidoka from 1942 to 1945, their non-Japanese American neighbors guarded the boarded-up shop. When Sanzo Murakami died eight days after returning to Seattle, his wife, Matsuyo, and their three children continued his legacy by re-opening the family business. Realizing a different fate from many Japanese businesses, the Higo Ten Cent Store linked pre- and post-War Nihonmachi.

In 2003, Higo closed its doors when daughter Masa Murakami, at age 83, could no longer care for the store. The building was transferred to grandnephew Paul Murakami, who leased the store's space to the art gallery, KOBO at Higo. During the move, boxes of rare historic materials from Minidoka surfaced, including first-person writings and photographs. These artifacts revealed the intimate experiences of Issei and Nisei Japanese Americans before, during, and after World War II internment. Capturing the Issei experience is especially important because, as Nihonmachi resident Hiro Nishimura explains, "The story should be coming from our parents. . . They were the ones that have the stories." With help from a 2010 Japanese American Confinement Sites grant of \$100,000 awarded to the Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific



Matsuyo Murakami stands in the doorway of the Higo Ten Cent Store on South Weller Street, circa 1912. Photo courtesy: Murakami Family Collection, Wing Luke Museum

American Experience, these stories have been preserved and made accessible to the public through artifact preservation, 12 oral histories, a permanent display at KOBO at Higo, a traveling exhibit titled *Meet Me at Higo: An Enduring Story of a Japanese American Family*, and a book by the same title, by local author Ken Mochizuki.

Showcased at six locations between December 2011 and September 2012, the exhibit's inaugural tour reached an estimated 43,000 visitors, with an additional 740 participants engaged through walking tours. The book received the Award of Publication Excellence from the Washington Museum Association in June 2012. Through KOBO at Higo, the Higo Ten Cent Store's legacy contributes a sense of place to the revitalizing Nihonmachi. Less remote than incarceration sites, the Wing Luke Museum and KOBO at Higo provide accessible venues to tell the compelling local story of Japanese American internment, with continued reach through the traveling exhibit. In early 2013, the National Park Service designated the Wing Luke Museum as an affiliated area. Having led the effort, Congressman Jim McDermott stated, "We are very lucky to have a nationally recognized cultural center in our backyard, especially one that invests so much in our city and our Pan-Asian Pacific community."



Two community members reminisce about the antique cash register used in the former Higo Ten Cent Store, on display at the Meet Me at Higo exhibit. Photo courtesy: Wing Luke Museum



## Three Grants Help the McGehee Industrial Foundation and Arkansas State University Bring the Story of Japanese American Internment Back to Arkansas through a New Museum, Signage, and Audio Tours

George Takei is well-known for his role as Hikaru Sulu in “Star Trek.” But in 1942, long before Takei was a famous actor, armed soldiers forced five-year-old George and his family from their California home to the Rohwer Relocation Center near McGehee, Arkansas. “I could see from my kindergarten window, a barbed wire fence that imprisoned me,” Takei said of learning the Pledge of Allegiance at his camp school. “I didn’t know then that those words I spoke meant the exact opposite of what was happening to me, my family, and 120,000 other Japanese Americans.”

Today, the guard towers and barbed wire fences of Rohwer and the nearby Jerome Relocation Center, which together interned more than 16,000 Japanese Americans, are gone. But a new museum in the town of McGehee, as well as interpretive signage and an audio walking tour at the Rohwer site, tell the story of Japanese American internment in Arkansas. These projects were accomplished through three Japanese American Confinement Sites grants. The first, a 2010 award of \$434,967, enabled the McGehee Industrial Foundation to rehabilitate the city’s abandoned railroad depot “eating house” as a museum to house a \$2-million exhibit titled “Against Their Will: The Japanese American Experience in World War II.” Two other Japanese American Confinement Sites grants, awarded in 2010 and 2011 to Arkansas State University, made possible the interpretative signage and walking tour at Rohwer.

In April 2013, nearly 500 people were on hand to dedicate the new museum in McGehee. George Takei gave the keynote address. “To be an American citizen is something very important that too many people take too lightly,” he said. “I value my



George Takei releases butterflies—symbolizing “beauty confined”—as a part of the dedication ceremony. Photo courtesy: Grav Weldon

citizenship profoundly. That is represented by the stories told by this museum.”

The “Against Their Will” exhibit, developed in part by the Rockefeller Foundation, had been sitting in storage following a temporary display in the Little Rock Statehouse Convention Center. That was until the McGehee Industrial Foundation saw a way to address two needs at once: rehabilitate the town’s old railroad “eating house” and utilize the space to bring the Japanese American story to McGehee, which is centrally located between the two Arkansas camps. Thus, the exhibit came out of storage, and the city’s vacant depot, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, found new life. The grant helped fund the renovation of the depot’s south building, including a new roof, sheet rock placement, cleaning, brick wall sealing, electrical updates, new plumbing, heating and ventilation. It also paid for exhibit lighting.



The historic McGehee Depot, now the WWII Japanese American Internment Museum in McGehee, Arkansas. Photo courtesy: WWII Japanese American Internment Museum



By September 2013, the museum counted more than 1,850 visitors from 28 states. “Most of those folks were completely unaware of this story before they walked in,” said McGehee Mayor Jack May, who attributes the success of the museum and the interpretive projects to the unique story they tell. Bringing that story to the American public, as well as international visitors, May said, “was our main purpose.” The World War II Japanese American Internment Museum is located at 100 S. Railroad Street, McGehee, Arkansas, and is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

From the museum, visitors can travel the 11 miles to the Rohwer site, now interpreted through two grants awarded to Arkansas State University. In cooperation with its Heritage Studies doctoral program, the Arkansas Heritage Sites Program, and the Arkansas Delta Rural Heritage Development Initiative, the university used a 2010 Japanese American Confinement Sites grant of \$100,502 to identify major themes and events surrounding the internment in Arkansas. In consultation with the community and stakeholders, Arkansas State University and the project consultant—Section 106 Group of Minneapolis, Minnesota—developed an interpretive plan for the Rohwer Relocation Center site, installed a four-paneled interpretive kiosk and wayside panel, and printed 5,000 brochures.



McGehee Mayor Jack May speaks at the World War II Japanese American Internment Museum dedication. Photo courtesy: McGehee Industrial Foundation

A 2011 award of \$93,155 funded Phase II of the project, again in partnership with the Arkansas Heritage Sites Program and Arkansas Delta Rural Heritage Development Initiative, which added three wayside interpretive panels, welcome signage, and 20,000 additional brochures. The grant also was used to develop an audio tour of the site, narrated by George Takei. The tour includes stops at Rohwer’s brick smokestack and cemetery, which is a National Historic Landmark. Dr. Ruth Hawkins, Director of the Arkansas Heritage Sites Program at Arkansas State University, noted that the tour and signage are “thought-provoking reminders of how fear and insecurity can dramatically affect people’s lives.”



The World War II Japanese American Internment Museum provides a sense of what life held for Japanese Americans at Jerome and Rohwer. Photo courtesy: National Park Service



The Rohwer Relocation Center Cemetery National Historic Landmark includes a memorial for Rohwer internees who died serving in World War II. Photo courtesy: Arkansas State University



## University of Hawai'i Center for Oral History Saves the Stories of Hawai'i Residents Captive on the Mainland during the War Years

On December 7, 1941, nursing student Alice Watanabe was popping bread in the kitchen toaster at San Francisco's St. Luke's Hospital when she saw the newspaper headline: "War." Watanabe's immediate concern for her family back in Hawai'i was eased when her brother wired, "Everyone's safe." However, Executive Order 9066 loomed, and Watanabe feared she would be interned alone, without the security of family and friends. A friend's family claimed Watanabe as their niece, she explained, "so I could be with them" at Tule Lake War Relocation Center. With a Japanese American Confinement Sites 2009 grant of \$14,955, the University of Hawai'i (UH) Center for Oral History recorded oral histories of ten Hawai'i Japanese Americans, like Watanabe, who were attending school or working on the West Coast when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor.

Of the ten, five were in college when confined, two in high school, one in vocational school, and two employed, dispelling the notion that the government only incarcerated prominent Hawai'i Japanese Americans. The project was inspired by a 2004 interview with the late Sidney Kosasa, founder of Hawai'i's ABC Stores, who remembered that there were Hawai'i-born internees with him at Tule Lake War Relocation Center. The ten oral histories, which cover childhood and youth in Hawai'i, as well as West Coast experiences, internment, and postwar life, are now documented, transcribed, and distributed to repositories at the



St. Luke's nursing students, 1939.  
Photo courtesy: Watanabe Family Collection

National Park Service, University of Hawai'i libraries, the Hawai'i State libraries, and the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i. Transcripts are also online at <http://www.oralhistory.hawaii.edu/pages/historical/captive.html>, with the project's nearly 34 hours of audio recordings archived at UH's Hamilton Library.

During the project, Watanabe was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. When asked to reflect on her life, she recalled these wise words: "You teach your children how to live. Before you die, you teach them how to die, and that's what I'm trying to do." With these words, she concluded her interviews, preserving her experiences for her children, grandchildren, and the public. Watanabe passed away two weeks later, underscoring the importance of preserving these rarely examined stories.



Left: Alice and her husband, Dr. Tetsui Watanabe (also interviewed for this project), met while working at the Tule Lake medical facility. Right: Alice Watanabe, 1941.  
Photos courtesy: Watanabe Family Collection



## CONTACT INFORMATION

Please contact one of the NPS regional representatives if you have any questions about the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program.

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Phone: 510-232-1542 ext. 6301  
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Hawai'i  
Contact: Paul DePrey, Superintendent  
World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument  
Phone: 808-266-0826  
Email: paul\_deprey@nps.gov

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

National Park Service  
Intermountain Region  
Japanese American Confinement Sites  
Grant Program  
ATTN: Kara Miyagishima  
12795 W. Alameda Parkway  
Lakewood, CO 80228

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/history/hps/hpg/JACS/index.html>.

Join us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/jacsgrant](http://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.*

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Winter 2013



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- Japanese American Identities in New Mexico Camps Examined by the Japanese American Citizens League, New Mexico Chapter
- Friends of the Texas Historical Commission Interpret Previously Untold Stories at Five Texas Sites
- The University of Hawai'i-West O'ahu Brings Together Multiple Disciplines for Research and Education at Honouliuli Internment and POW Camp
- Poston Community Alliance Completes Two JACS-Funded Projects: Preserving Oral Histories of Former Poston Detainees, and Relocating a Historic Barrack Back to Poston Camp I
- Densho Expands its Website with More 'Stories Less Told' and an Online Encyclopedia on the Japanese American Incarceration
- Heart Mountain Boiler House Chimney Restored by Wyoming State Parks and Cultural Resources, State Historic Preservation Office
- From Confinement to College: Oral Histories Recorded by the University of Massachusetts Boston
- Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i Produces First Full-Length Documentary on Japanese American Internment in Hawai'i
- Minidoka Stories from Seattle's Higo Ten Cent Store are Shared with the Public through Wing Luke Museum Exhibits and Book
- Three Grants Help the McGehee Industrial Foundation and Arkansas State University Bring the Story of Japanese American Internment Back to Arkansas through a New Museum, Signage, and Audio Tours
- University of Hawai'i Center for Oral History Saves the Stories of Hawai'i Residents Captive on the Mainland during the War Years

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