

# Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Winter 2014 / 2015



In this Nov. 2, 2011 photo, Speaker of the House John Boehner presents the Congressional Gold Medal to Japanese American veterans of World War II. At the ceremony were, from left, Mitsuo Hamasu (100th Infantry Battalion), Boehner, Susumu Ito (442), House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Grant Ichikawa (MIS), and the late Sen. Daniel K. Inouye (442). A new Japanese American Confinement Sites grant (see page 11) will fund a Smithsonian Institution digital exhibition about the Congressional Gold Medal. Photo courtesy: KAREN BLEIER/AFP/Getty Images

## 2014: 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 six years, the program has awarded 128 grant awards totaling more than \$15.3 million to private nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, state, local, and tribal governments, and other public entities. The projects involve 19 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 the confinement sites and honor the people incarcerated there by sharing their experiences.

The Fiscal Year 2014 grant awards, featured in this report, include the stabilization of historic elementary school buildings at the former Poston site in Arizona; an

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educational training program for 600 teachers across California on local and national stories about the forced removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II; and an exhibition exploring the significance of the Congressional Gold Medal awarded to Japanese American veterans of World War II who served in the military while their families lived behind barbed wire.

The 21 grants awarded in 2014 range from \$12,650 awarded to the Nikkei for Civil Rights and Redress organization for a *Speak Out for Justice* DVD video series that highlights the testimonies of 157 people who spoke before the Los Angeles public hearing of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians in 1981, to \$497,186 for the Topaz Museum to create exhibits for the newly constructed Topaz Museum and Education Center in Delta, Utah, located 16 miles from the Topaz incarceration site in Millard County, Utah.

As several new projects begin, many of the previously funded projects have been completed. The completed

projects highlighted in this annual report include archaeological field work at the lesser-known Kooskia Internment Camp in Idaho, recruitment and training of volunteer docents for the Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism During World War II in Washington D.C., and the creation of an exhibit featuring preserved artwork by students incarcerated at Rohwer in Arkansas. The NPS is fortunate to have the opportunity to work with Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program recipients to remember those who persevered and to inspire younger generations to become stewards of their historic places so they may carry forward these stories and lessons on social justice.

"As America's storyteller, the National Park Service is committed to sharing this tragic episode of our nation's past and what it teaches us about the fragility of our constitutional rights," National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis said. "These grants fund projects to help us gain a better understanding of the past, engage new audiences, and build new partnerships in the preservation of these historic sites and lessons they hold."



When renowned artist Henry Sugimoto was incarcerated, his view of himself, his art, and the Japanese American experience was forever changed. His artwork portrays the compelling story of an immigrant, a Japanese American, and an artist. Sugimoto donated 36 paintings and 18 watercolors to the city of Wakayama, Japan, where he was born. Photo courtesy: Wakayama Civic Library, Wakayama, Japan



## 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 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).



Families gather for their departure to Salinas Assembly Center, where they will await transfer to an incarceration site, March 31, 1942.  
Photo courtesy: Densho (ddr-densho-37-581), National Archives and Records Administration - photo by Clem Albers

## Overview of the 2014 Grant Program Process

For the 2014 grant program, the NPS mailed postcards announcing the availability of grant applications and guidelines in early August 2013 to approximately 7,500 individuals and organizations. On August 30, 2013, 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 19, 2013, the NPS received 36 applications, requesting more than \$5.5 million in Federal funds. (The deadline was extended from the original date of November 1 to November 19 due to the government shutdown, as application materials were not available on the grant program website during the shutdown). During the week of December 9, 2013, 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 archeology, interpretive media, historic preservation, history, and landscape architecture. The panel evaluated and ranked each proposal using criteria and guidelines that were established based on public input.



At Tanforan Assembly Center in San Bruno, California, families moved into small, two-room units located in barracks.  
Photo courtesy: Densho (ddr-densho-151-19), National Archives and Records Administration - photo by Dorothea Lange

The panel recommended 21 proposals to receive funding. Director Jarvis announced the 21 grant awards on June 12, 2014.



## Status of Funding for the Fiscal Year 2015 Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Cycle

In December 2014, Congress appropriated approximately \$3 million for the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program. This appropriation allows the National Park Service to move forward with the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program for Fiscal Year 2015.

The application deadline for the Fiscal Year 2015 Japanese American Confinement Sites proposals was November 12, 2014, by which time the National Park Service received 36 grant applications. The Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Selection Panel, a panel of Federal agency experts representing applicable preservation, history, education, and conservation disciplines, reviewed and evaluated all eligible applications according to the grant program criteria. The panel will provide recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior for final project selection.

The NPS anticipates that the grant recipients and projects will be announced in late spring 2015. Information on the FY2015 grant awards will be posted on the grant program website as soon as it becomes available: <http://www.nps.gov/jacs/>



Kazuko Matsumoto carved this wooden duck pin while incarcerated at Gila River in Arizona. A new interactive website featuring artifacts from the ten incarceration sites was funded, in part, by a Japanese American Confinement Sites grant, featured on page 23. Photo courtesy: National Japanese American Historical Society



Award-winning woodblock animation from the documentary *Searchlight Serenade: Big Bands in the WWII Japanese American Incarceration Camps*. The documentary was funded in part by a Japanese American Confinement Sites grant, featured on page 19. Image courtesy: KEET-TV, created by Amy Uyeki



Frances "Chickie" Ishihara White, who sang with the Harmonaires at Puyallup Assembly Center, and later the Tets Bessho Band in Los Angeles, shares her experiences in *Searchlight Serenade*. Photo courtesy: Chickie Ishihara White



## FISCAL YEAR 2014 GRANT AWARDS

In 2014 – the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program's sixth year – 21 awards provided more than \$2.9 million to projects in 7 states, and the District of Columbia. A list of the winning projects follows.

### Fiscal Year 2014 Project Descriptions by State

#### ARKANSAS

**Recipient:** Central Arkansas Library System (Little Rock, AR)

**Project Title:** Rohwer Art Textile Conservation and Preservation Project

**Grant Award:** \$26,827

**Site(s):** Rohwer Relocation Center, Desha County, AR

**Description:** The Central Arkansas Library System will restore and conserve 30 textile pieces created by Japanese American students at Rohwer under the instruction of their high school art teacher, Mabel "Jamie" Jamison Vogel. These textiles are part of a larger collection of artwork that was donated to the library system in 2010, the conservation of which began with a 2011 Japanese American Confinement Sites grant.

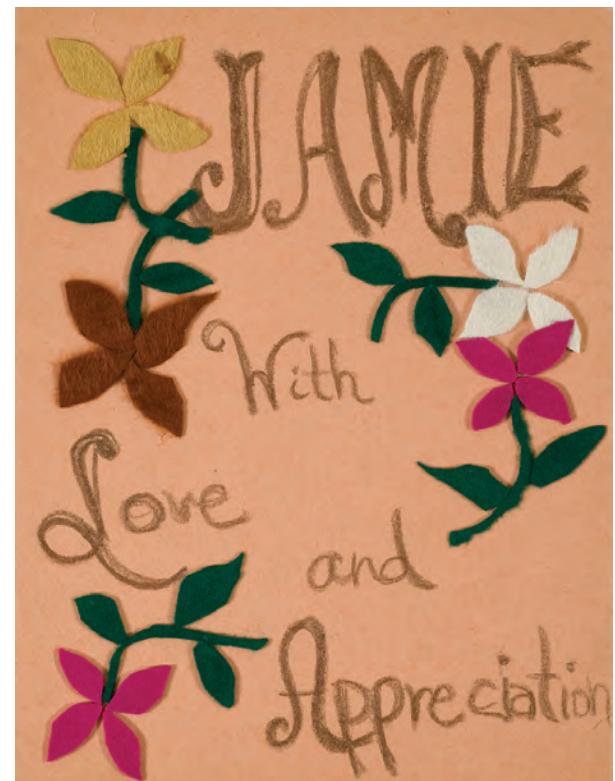
**Recipient:** University of Arkansas at Little Rock (Little Rock, AR)

**Project Title:** The Rohwer Relocation Center Cemetery Conservation, Phase II

**Grant Award:** \$220,706

**Site(s):** Rohwer Relocation Center, Desha County, AR

**Description:** The University of Arkansas at Little Rock will continue its preservation efforts at the historic Rohwer Relocation Center cemetery. Twenty-four concrete headstones and graves will be reset, repaired, and cleaned of biological staining. The original concrete pathways between monuments and headstones will be restored, as will the original drainage patterns and channels in the cemetery.



Student artwork by one of Jamie Vogel's young artists at Rohwer. Image courtesy: Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Central Arkansas Library System



The deteriorating headstones at Rohwer Relocation Center Cemetery, a National Historic Landmark, will be restored with assistance from a Japanese American Confinement Sites grant. Photo courtesy: NPS Photo



## CALIFORNIA

**Recipient:** ABAS Law Foundation (Sacramento, CA)  
**Project Title:** Research Documents for Tule Lake Segregation Center  
**Grant Award:** \$47,400  
**Site(s):** Tule Lake Segregation Center, Modoc County, CA

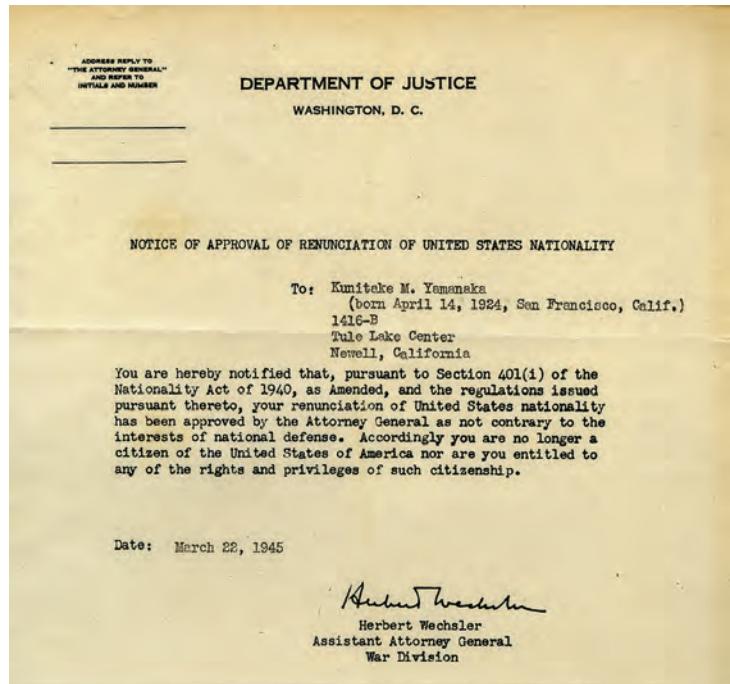
**Description:** The Asian/Pacific Bar Association of Sacramento (ABAS) Law Foundation will conduct archival research focused on the thousands of Japanese Americans who protested the injustice of their incarceration, were segregated at Tule Lake, renounced their U.S. citizenship and then spent decades fighting the Department of Justice to regain their citizenship. Research materials will be used to develop a book about the Tule Lake Segregation Center; the research materials will then be donated to Densho, who will make them available to the public on its website.

**Recipient:** CyArk (Oakland, CA)  
**Project Title:** Rediscovering Honouliuli: Exploring Japanese American Confinement through Student Narratives and Digital Documentation

**Grant Award:** \$39,020  
**Site(s):** Honouliuli Internment Site, Honolulu, HI

**Description:** CyArk will work with high school students from the Mid-Pacific Institute's CyArk Technology Center to digitally document the remaining resources at the Honouliuli Internment Camp. Students will also conduct historical research on the site under the supervision of their teachers and work in partnership with the non-profit Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i.

**Recipient:** Japanese American National Museum (Los Angeles, CA)  
**Project Title:** A Collections-Based Guide for Digitally Exploring America's Concentration Camps  
**Grant Award:** \$130,432  
**Site(s):** Multiple Sites



At age 16, Kunitake M. Yamanaka received a Notice of Approval of Renunciation of United States Nationality from the Department of Justice, dated March 22, 1945, while incarcerated at the Tule Lake Segregation Center. Image courtesy: Densho (ddr-densho-188-31), K. Morgan Yamanaka



Honouliuli Internment Camp, pictured here circa 1945-1946, was constructed on 160 acres of agricultural land northwest of Honolulu. Photo courtesy: Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i / Japanese American Relocation and Internment: The Hawai'i Experience Archival Collection – photo by R.H. Lodge.



**Description:** The Japanese American National Museum (JANM) will create online materials that will thematically explore the Japanese American World War II experience, and incorporate objects from the museum's permanent collection as well as newly preserved first-hand recollections. Also as part of the project, deteriorating content currently housed on outdated media will be preserved, and ephemera such as scrapbooks and diaries related to the War Relocation Authority centers will be digitized. The resulting online guide and new webpages will be made available on the JANM website.

**Recipient:** Los Angeles Harbor Department (San Pedro, CA)

**Project Title:** Lost Communities of Terminal Island, Publication

**Grant Award:** \$100,000

**Site(s):** Terminal Island, Los Angeles County, CA

**Description:** The Los Angeles Harbor Department (Port of Los Angeles) will produce a book, *Lost Communities of Terminal Island*, focused on the Terminal Island Japanese American community—the first community to face arrest and removal following the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Archival materials gathered for the book will be scanned and made available on the Port's website and on the Online Archive of California (OAC). Materials will also be made available to the public at the Port of Los Angeles Historical Archives, where they will be used in rotating exhibitions.

**Recipient:** National Japanese American Historical Society (San Francisco, CA)

**Project Title:** Western Region Confinement Sites Education Project

**Grant Award:** \$63,755

**Site(s):** Multiple Sites

**Description:** The National Japanese American Historical Society (NJAHS) will design and implement “Regional Perspectives on Western U.S. Confinement Sites,” a professional development training for historians, site interpreters, and classroom educators. The training program will focus on the central



Aerial view of Canal Camp, the eastern part of Gila River incarceration site in southern Arizona. Photo courtesy: The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley



Five “L.A. girls,” as written on the back of the photograph, pose for a photo at Heart Mountain. Photo courtesy: Japanese American National Museum (Gift of Mori Shimada, 92.10.2AY)



question of, "What role did place have in determining the fate of Japanese Americans after the bombing of Pearl Harbor?" Key activities will include the identification of a cohesive regional story, the design of curriculum materials for classroom use, and resources for a field-based educational program. Teaching materials will be accessible via a web portal.

**Recipient:** Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress (Los Angeles, CA)

**Project Title:** Courage of Japanese Americans as They Speak Out for Justice (CWRIC Los Angeles)

**Grant Award:** \$12,650

**Site(s):** Multiple Sites

**Description:** Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress (NCRR) will enhance their *Stand Up for Justice* DVD set, which contains testimonies of 157 people who spoke at the 1981 Los Angeles hearing of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC). Content will be organized into chapters and made menu-driven, allowing viewers to quickly find each testimony. An updated Viewer's Companion will be created, and a highlights DVD will be produced. The NCRR will distribute 300 copies of the DVDs to academics, teachers, students, and others in California.



The Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC) was created mainly to investigate matters surrounding the World War II incarceration of Japanese Americans and to recommend remedies. It conducted hearings in twenty cities beginning in 1981. Photo courtesy: Densho (ddr-densho-37-370), National Archives and Records Administration

**Recipient:** Poston Community Alliance (Lafayette, CA)

**Project Title:** Historic Structures Assessment and Stabilization for the Poston Elementary School Site

**Grant Award:** \$163,750

**Site(s):** Colorado River (Poston) Relocation Center, La Paz County, AZ

**Description:** The Poston Community Alliance will assess the condition of the rapidly deteriorating elementary school buildings at the former Poston site and create a plan to stabilize and preserve these historic resources. The project will also result in the temporary stabilization of the buildings, while a phased restoration plan is developed for future work.



Poston Elementary School, Unit 1, Colorado River Relocation Center was designated as a National Historic Landmark on October 16, 2012. Photo courtesy: NPS Photo - photo by Front Range Research Associates, Inc.



**Recipient:** The Regents of the University of California,  
c/o UC Berkeley Sponsored Projects Office  
(Berkeley, CA)

**Project Title:** Voices in Confinement: A Digital Archive of  
Japanese American Internees

**Grant Award:** \$287,265

**Site(s):** Multiple Sites

**Description:** The Bancroft Library will create a comprehensive digital archive of their collections related to the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II. The digitized material will be scanned and linked to existing finding aids, and made accessible through a website created with funds from a 2011 Japanese American Confinement Sites grant.

**Recipient:** San Joaquin County Office of Education  
(Stockton, CA)

**Project Title:** California Legacy Voice Network (CLVN)

**Grant Award:** \$180,836

**Site(s):** Manzanar Relocation Center, Inyo County, CA; Tule Lake Segregation Center, Modoc County, CA; and all California WCCA Assembly Centers

**Description:** The San Joaquin County Office of Education, working in collaboration with the Fred T. Korematsu Institute for Civil Rights and Education, will create an educational training program for 600 teachers across California that focuses on the local and national stories about the forced removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II. The training will highlight the stories of Fred Korematsu, the “assembly centers” in California, and the personal stories of those affected by the incarceration experience. Lesson plans will be developed for elementary, middle, and high school students.

**Recipient:** Visual Communications  
(Los Angeles, CA)

**Project Title:** Building History 3.0: Learning about  
Japanese American Incarceration  
Camps through Minecraft

**Grant Award:** \$97,150



Dressed in uniform, a World War I veteran arrives at Santa Anita Assembly Center from his home, April 5, 1942. Photo courtesy: Densho (ddr-densho-37-765), National Archives and Records Administration - photo by Clem Albers



The Santa Anita Racetrack was converted into an “assembly center” to detain thousands of Japanese Americans, Arcadia, California, April 6, 1942. Photo courtesy: National Archives and Records Administration (ARC #537403) - photo by Clem Albers



Site(s):	Multiple Sites	
Description:	Visual Communications will create <i>Building History 3.0</i> , a website and curriculum project that uses the popular video construction game Minecraft to engage elementary and middle-school-aged youth with the history and meaning of Japanese American incarceration during World War II. Students will research and analyze themes such as civil liberties, citizenship and democracy, in addition to exploring the built environment of the incarceration sites through Minecraft.	
Recipient:	Visual Communications (Los Angeles, CA)	
Project Title:	The Heart Mountain Barracks Project	
Grant Award:	\$89,510	
Site(s):	Heart Mountain Relocation Center, Park County, WY	Heart Mountain Relocation Center, near Powell, Wyoming, 1943. Photo courtesy: Densho (ddr-densho-157-1), Wada and Homma Family Collection
Description:	Visual Communications will update Sharon Yamato's book, <i>Moving Walls: Preserving the Barracks of America's Concentration Camps</i> , and produce a video documentary focused on present-day efforts to identify and preserve barracks formerly located at Heart Mountain.	
<h2>COLORADO</h2>		
Recipient:	Colorado Preservation, Inc. (Denver, CO)	
Project Title:	Amache Laundry Building Relocation and Restoration, Mess Hall Planning, and Guard/Water Tower Security	
Grant Award:	\$150,254	
Site(s):	Granada Relocation Center (Amache), Prowers County, CO	
Description:	Colorado Preservation, Inc., will relocate a historic laundry building from a nearby farm back to Amache, placing it upon an original concrete foundation. Following the closure of Amache in 1945, the government dismantled or sold most of the buildings, many of them to local schools, farms and ranches. The laundry building will be placed near the site's guard and water towers and soon-to-be reconstructed barracks building. Colorado Preservation, Inc. will also develop reconstruction plans for a mess hall, and install lighting and security fencing for the guard and water towers.	Amache, as viewed from the water tower platform during World War II. As one of the highest points around, photographers often climbed it to capture aerial views of the camp. Photo courtesy: Amache Preservation Society, McClellan Archive Collection



<b>Recipient:</b>	Colorado State University (Fort Collins, CO)
<b>Project Title:</b>	<b>“Confinement in the Land of Enchantment” Historic Markers, Publication, and Website Implementation</b>
<b>Grant Award:</b>	\$189,864
<b>Site(s):</b>	Santa Fe Internment Camp, Santa Fe County, NM; Fort Stanton Internment Camp, Lincoln County, NM; Camp Lordsburg (US Army Internment Facility), Hidalgo County, NM; and Old Raton (Baca) Ranch Camp, Santa Fe County, NM
<b>Description:</b>	Colorado State University will create historical markers and develop an outreach publication and website pages focused on the Japanese American confinement sites in New Mexico. Markers will be installed at Ft. Stanton and at Camp Lordsburg. The publication will be distributed at schools and libraries across the state, and web pages will be hosted on the website of the New Mexico Office of the State Historian.



Two soldiers visit with internees in the Santa Fe Internment Camp in New Mexico, January 23, 1945. Photo courtesy: Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i / Joan Oya Collection



## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

<b>Recipient:</b>	Smithsonian Institution (Washington, DC)
<b>Project Title:</b>	<b>Congressional Gold Medal Digital Exhibition: The Untold Stories of the Nisei Soldiers</b>
<b>Grant Award:</b>	\$238,090
<b>Site(s):</b>	Multiple Sites
<b>Description:</b>	The Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center, working in partnership with the National Veterans Network, will create a digital exhibition that explores the significance of the Congressional Gold Medal awarded to Japanese American veterans of World War II who served in the military while their families lived behind barbed wire. A curriculum toolkit will also be developed and offered along with the digital program as a resource to educators nationwide.

On November 2, 2011, the Congressional Gold Medal was awarded to the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team and Military Intelligence Service. The decoration is the highest civilian award in the United States and is awarded to an individual or unit who performs an outstanding deed or act of service to the security, prosperity, and national interest of the United States. Image courtesy: National Veterans Network



## NEW YORK

**Recipient:** Camera News, Inc., dba Third World Newsreel (New York, NY)

**Project Title:** Resistance at Tule Lake

**Grant Award:** \$109,961

**Site(s):** Tule Lake Segregation Center, Modoc County, CA

**Description:** Camera News, Inc., will produce a documentary film that tells the story of Japanese Americans who were branded as "no-nos" or "disloyals" and incarcerated at the Tule Lake Segregation Center. Three versions of the film will be developed: a 60-80 minute theatrical feature, an hour-long public television broadcast, and a short version geared for the classroom, which will be accompanied by supplemental educational materials.



Under heavy guard, 25 "lay-down" strikers from Tule Lake Segregation Center are marched to the Department of Justice train that will take them to the Santa Fe Internment Camp, June 24, 1945. Photo courtesy: Densho (ddr-densho-37-196), National Archives and Records Administration

## UTAH

**Recipient:** Topaz Museum (Delta, UT)

**Project Title:** Manufacturing and Installation of Exhibits for the Topaz Museum and Education Center

**Grant Award:** \$497,186

**Site(s):** Topaz Relocation Center, Millard County, UT

**Description:** The Topaz Museum will design, manufacture and install educational and interpretive exhibits within the newly constructed Topaz Museum and Education Center. Curatorial storage will also be fabricated to house the museum's collection of artifacts, artwork, books, video interviews, photographs and primary documents.



## WASHINGTON

**Recipient:** Densho (Seattle, WA)

**Project Title:** Online Repository for Editing Confinement Sites Video Testimonies

**Grant Award:** \$209,982

**Site(s):** Multiple Sites

**Description:** Densho will make available for download over 800 video interviews that focus on the impact of the World War II incarceration on Japanese Americans, in order to facilitate the use of the

The Topaz Museum, located near Delta, Utah, was constructed with assistance from a 2012 Japanese American Confinement Sites grant.

Photo courtesy: Topaz Museum Board - photo by Brian Buroker



video clips in the classroom. A website also will be developed to help users access the video clips, and will include policies, guidelines and tutorials regarding their use.

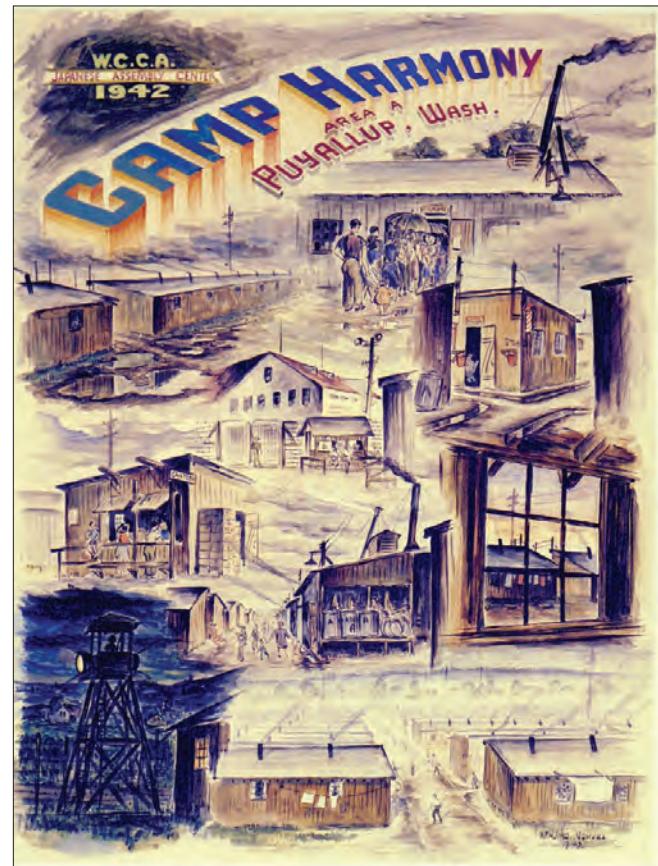
**Recipient:** Earshot Jazz Society of Seattle  
(Seattle, WA)

**Project Title:** Panama Hotel Jazz Education and Performance Extension

**Grant Award:** \$33,419

**Site(s):** Bainbridge Island, Kitsap County, WA; Seattle Temporary Detention Facility, King County, WA; Puyallup Assembly Center, King County, WA

**Description:** The Earshot Jazz Society of Seattle will present "Panama Hotel Jazz: Music Made from Memories," a 90-minute program of music and narration that tells the history of Seattle's Panama Hotel and its significance to the Japanese American community, especially during World War II. The musical program will be performed 34 times over a two-year period at four locations: the Bainbridge Island Eagledale Ferry Dock, the Seattle Temporary Detention Station, the Puyallup Fairgrounds, and the Panama Hotel, a 103-year-old building designed by Japanese American architect, Sabro Ozasa, in the heart of Seattle's Nihonmachi (Japantown).



The Puyallup Fairgrounds will host a musical program that will educate people about World War II incarceration. Image courtesy: Kenjiro Nomura, Camp Harmony, 1942 Watercolor on paper, Collection of Tacoma Art Museum, The George and Betty Nomura Collection

## WYOMING

**Recipient:** Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation  
(Powell, WY)

**Project Title:** Heart Mountain Accessibility Project

**Grant Award:** \$16,943

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

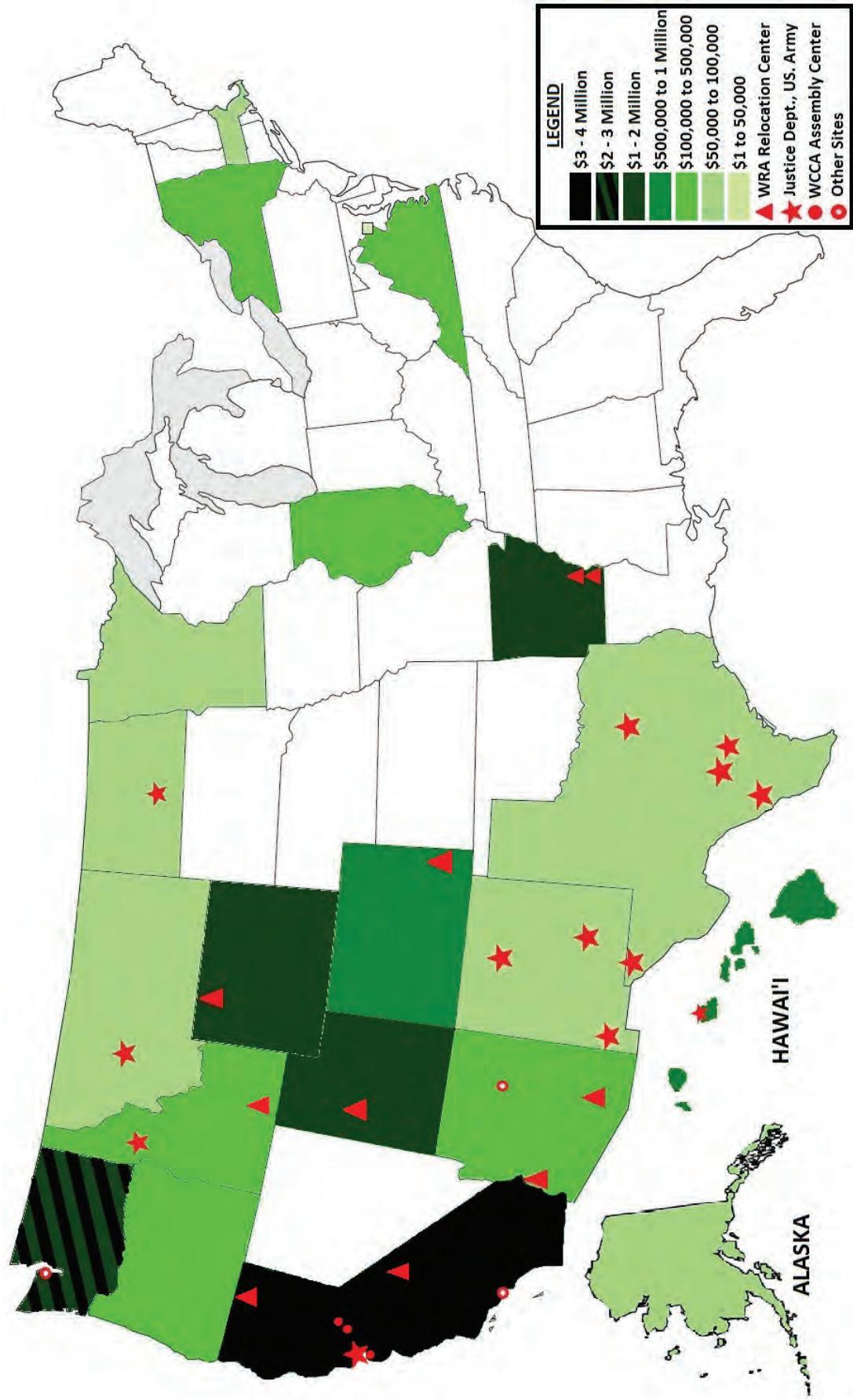
**Description:** The Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation (HMWF) will increase accessibility to the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center exhibits in order to provide an increasingly diverse visitation with a greater understanding of the Heart Mountain experience. Through this project, the museum's introductory film and iPod-based audio tours of the exhibits will include Spanish, German and Japanese language versions, and the outdoor Walking Trail will be upgraded with braille interpretation stations.



Heart Mountain incarcerees head back to camp after saying goodbye to their friends when the camp began to close, May 1945. Some families returned to their homes before the war, while others resumed their lives somewhere new. Photo courtesy: Japanese American National Museum (Gift of Mori Shimada, 92.10.2D)



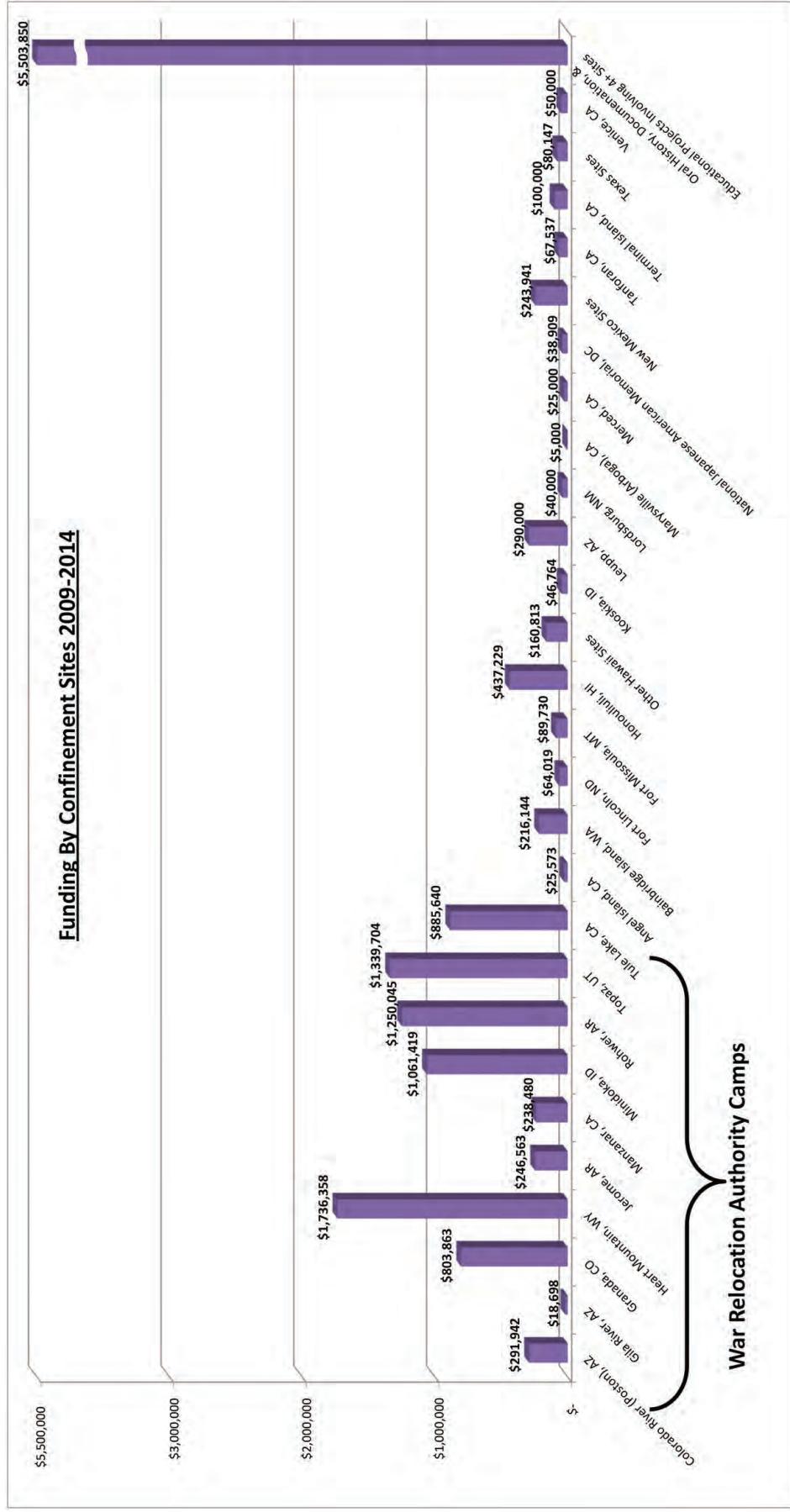
GRANT FUNDING BY STATE



This map shows total (2009 - 2014) 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 Poston Community Alliance, which is in California, received funding to stabilize historic elements

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.

## GRANT FUNDING BY SITE



This graph shows total (2009-2014) 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.





## SEVENTEEN GRANT PROJECTS COMPLETED IN FISCAL YEAR 2014

Following is an overview of 17 project success stories, all of which were completed during Fiscal Year 2014, and which reflect the dedicated commitment and hard work of numerous groups to preserve, interpret and disseminate the history of the Japanese American incarceration during World War II.

### Central Arkansas Library System Preserves Student Artwork at Rohwer

From 1942 to 1945, Mabel "Jamie" Jamison Vogel taught art to Japanese American students incarcerated at Rohwer Relocation Center near McGehee, Arkansas. Faced with a meager budget, her students crafted modest materials, such as scrap wood and cardboard found in the camp, into hand-painted bird pins, charcoal portraits, and watercolor scenes of life at Rohwer.

When the war ended and the confinement site closed, Jamie Vogel hung on to 306 pieces of her students' artwork, as well as 185 handwritten autobiographies that captured daily life in the concentration camp. Before Vogel died in 1994, she willed the collection to a friend, Rosalie Santine Gould, who was the mayor of McGehee. Gould housed the collection in her home, where, over the years, she hosted as many as 1,500 researchers who were interested in the artwork and biographies. In December 2010, Gould donated the remarkable collection to the Central Arkansas Library System (CALS) to be made accessible to the

public as a tribute to Jamie Vogel and to the people who created art in the face of incarceration at Rohwer. With a 2011 NPS Japanese American Confinement Sites grant of \$67,821, CALS preserved the pieces, now more than 65 years old, and brought them to the public through a multifaceted exhibit titled, *The Art of Living: Japanese American Creative Experience at Rohwer*.



Students used various media to illustrate their lives at Rohwer, such as this gouache painting, titled "Rohwer Camp #2," created by Mas. Kitake. Image courtesy: Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Central Arkansas Library System



Mabel "Jamie" Jamison Vogel helped her students, both youth and adult, find resourceful ways to express themselves through art. Photo courtesy: Japanese American National Museum (Gift of Mabel Rose Jamison (Jamie) Vogel, 88.25.58N)

During the project, the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, which is the history and genealogy department of CALS, cleaned, mended, and conserved the paper art, then matted and framed the pieces to ensure their safety. They also purchased customized containers to protect the items during storage. Meanwhile, they developed *The Art of Living* exhibit and a corresponding book that placed the artwork in time, describing, for example, how the collection's drawings reflected a shift in women's fashion trends, and how original posters demonstrated Japanese American support for the war effort. Two major public exhibitions were held at Concordia Hall at the Arkansas Studies Institute (ASI), where more than 6,000 visitors, including numerous school groups, viewed the collection. A third exhibition was also held in another gallery in the ASI. Butler Center staff members created a cell-phone audio tour as part of the free exhibitions. The center also created a small permanent exhibit featuring rotating artifacts for the ASI research room. Furthermore, the Butler Center inaugurated and maintained a website (<http://www.butlercenter.org/rohwer/>) to highlight the collection and its value as an educational resource.



## Chicago Japanese American Historical Society Organizes, Catalogs and Preserves Its Collections

Two wooden birds, a cardinal and a blue jay, handcrafted by an incarceree at Topaz; a Purple Heart awarded to Tom Arai for his service in World War II; athletic uniforms, yearbooks, and family photo albums – these artifacts are among those found in the archives of the Chicago Japanese American Historical Society (CJAHS). A 2011 NPS Japanese American Confinement Sites grant of \$5,000 helped CJAHS organize, catalogue, and better preserve its collections, which, through donations by incarcerees and the general public since the 1990s, capture the wave of Japanese Americans who resettled in Chicago directly from incarceration sites after World War II.

Upgrading the archive's organization and storage materials makes its collections more accessible and protects the artifacts for future generations. With the grant, CJAHS purchased acid-free corrugated board and boxes, acid-free tissue paper, archival polyester batting, polyethylene microfoam, polyester film (Mylar), and untreated cotton fabric for state-of-the-art storage. The grant also helped CJAHS hire two interns who catalogued the artifacts in a searchable database and stored the materials for safe-keeping.

“After working with so many objects from Japanese Americans in Chicago, I now have a greater appreciation for our community here,” observed CJAHS intern Alexandra Vasilou in her blog “Chicago Japanese American Historical Society Internship,” at [cjahsarchivevasilou.blogspot.com](http://cjahsarchivevasilou.blogspot.com). Vasilou was surprised by the amount and variety of artifacts from the Chicago area, because she had always considered the West Coast to be the center of Japanese American culture.

Some of the artifacts, including a former incarceree’s box of Hanafuda playing cards, were put on permanent display in Chicago History Museum’s “Facing Freedom” exhibit. The Japanese “flower cards” were kept by a courageous Japanese American family despite the scrutiny of their culture during wartime. A second Chicago History Museum exhibit, “American Heroes: Japanese American WWII Nisei Soldiers and the Congressional Gold Medal,” featured other CJAHS artifacts, including Sam Ozaki’s 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team jacket.

Vasilou, whose grandfather was incarcerated during World War II, reflected upon her work on the collection, “I cannot help but think that in studying history that is far from us we will always be able to find a road back to home.”



The Hanafuda card set is now safely preserved in the CJAHS archive.  
Photo courtesy: Chicago Japanese American Historical Society



The Purple Heart, awarded to Tom Arai during World War II, is a combat medal awarded to members of the U.S. armed forces who are wounded or killed in action. Photo courtesy: Chicago Japanese American Historical Society



## Colorado Preservation, Inc. Rehabilitates and Reconstructs the Guard Tower and Water Tower at Amache

With a 2011 NPS Japanese American Confinement Sites grant of \$291,025, Colorado Preservation, Inc. (CPI) has both rehabilitated the historic water tower and reconstructed a guard tower at the site of the Granada Relocation Center, commonly known as Amache. The unmistakable presence of these towers on the barren Colorado plains once stood as a stark reminder of the loss of freedom to more than 7,000 Japanese Americans incarcerated there at the height of World War II. Today, the towers are a tangible reminder of the events that occurred at Amache.

Amache operated from 1942 to 1945; the last of its buildings were sold or removed within two years after it closed. Although the buildings are long gone, concrete slabs where barracks once stood, the street grid, and the camp cemetery still mark Amache's past. In 2006, Amache was designated a National Historic Landmark. A year later, the NPS, in cooperation with the Town of Granada, Friends of Amache, and others, prepared an interpretive plan to guide the preservation of the site. The plan called for the reconstruction of a guard tower as critical for providing visitors a physical reminder of incarceration. This plan, coupled with the recent acquisition of portions of Amache's original water tank, created an opportune time to bring both structures back to Amache.

CPI worked with a team of preservation professionals to carry out the project. Scheuber + Darden Architects guided and oversaw the construction process using plans and specifications previously completed with two Japanese American Confinement Sites grants awarded in 2010. Wattle & Daub Contractors of Fort Collins, Colorado, completed the restoration and reconstruction work. An archeological team comprised of Richard Carillo, Bonnie Clark (Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Denver), and Abby Hopper monitored ground disturbance during construction. Finally, CPI fabricated and installed wayside exhibit panels for the water and guard towers.

The water tower and guard tower project has returned two landmark structures to the site, helping create a more meaningful experience at Amache, whose growing visitor base includes former incarcerees and their families, school groups, and the general public.



On September 11, 2013, the rehabilitated water tank was returned to its historic post. Contemporary photo courtesy: Scheuber + Darden Architects, historic photo courtesy: Hideo Takeuchi



The reconstructed guard tower at Amache. The man sitting on the ladder in the historic photograph is the photographer's brother, Torao Fuchigami, circa 1943-44. Contemporary photo courtesy: Wattle & Daub Contractors, historic photo courtesy: Robert Fuchigami Collection - photo by Bill Fuchigami



## KEET-TV Highlights Japanese American Incarceration Sites' Jazz Bands in New Documentary

As young Japanese Americans filed into confinement sites, forcibly removed from their friends, schools, and neighborhoods, they brought with them a totally American art form—jazz music. With help from a 2011 NPS Japanese American Confinement Sites grant of \$96,465, KEET-TV (PBS, Eureka, CA) produced, promoted, broadcast, and distributed a one-hour documentary about the jazz bands that Japanese Americans started while incarcerated during World War II. The documentary is called *Searchlight Serenade: Big Bands in the WWII Japanese American Incarceration Camps*.

"All of the camps had dance bands," recalled George Yoshida, who remembered the thrill of playing jazz at Poston. In all, 20 bands were created and thrived in 13 "assembly centers" and incarceration sites from 1941 to 1945. Carrying this quintessential form of American music behind barbed wire, Yoshida explained, "was certainly a matter of healing in my self-image, healing my frustration about being put in the camps, being labeled an alien." Playing in the band, he said, was about "more than just having fun."

Featured in the documentary are nine musicians—big band trumpet players, saxophonists, and singers—whose tunes provided a soulful escape from prison life. Frances "Chickie" Ishihara White, who sang with the Harmonaires at Puyallup Assembly Center, remembered, "that was the time to forget that we were incarcerated... It was a very good thing for everyone." In the film, jazz melodies evoke the energy of the 1940s, even as KEET-TV producers artistically contrast the music with the musicians' recollections and historic photos of confinement. Also illustrating the documentary is award-winning woodblock animation by artist Amy Uyeki, whose inspiration for the animated stories came from interviews, archival footage, and her own parents' experiences at Gila River and Minidoka.

KEET-TV distributed the documentary to public television stations nationwide. Also, film screenings were held in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle, and Portland, followed by panel discussions with some of the musicians featured in the documentary and KEET-TV producers. A website, [www.searchlight-serenade.org](http://www.searchlight-serenade.org), was also created for the project, and includes a behind-the-scenes look at the making of the documentary. The website will be maintained and the film aired on American screens through 2017, the length of the music and television rights for the documentary.



George Yoshida jams for the documentary film crew. Also an advisor for the project, he was "the guiding light and inspiration behind *Searchlight Serenade*." Photo courtesy: KEET-TV - photo by Claire Reynolds



Frances "Chickie" Ishihara White reminisces about singing with the Harmonaires at Puyallup Assembly Center, also known as "Camp Harmony." Photo courtesy: KEET-TV - photo by Claire Reynolds



## Densho Completes Two Projects to “Teach the Teachers” and Partner with Museums and Organizations to Digitally Preserve Their Collections

To be effective, teachers need more than a blackboard and chalk. They need knowledge and a creative plan to pass information along in a way that inspires students to think. If the subject matter is the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II, then teachers have a key ally in Densho, which has preserved abundant source materials and made them available online.

And now, with the help of a 2011 NPS Japanese American Confinement Sites grant of \$281,733, Densho has developed a program to introduce teachers to Japanese American incarceration source material for use in the classroom. The *Teach the Teachers* project included 16 workshops, during which 625 teachers from 22 states and the District of Columbia were trained in the use of “Thinking Routine” activities developed by the Harvard Graduate School of Education’s Project Zero, which investigates the essential aspects of human learning. Teachers, for instance, might show students a World War II poster and then challenge them to discover the message in the symbols they see.

The “Teach the Teachers” project also resulted in a standards-based curriculum and a resource package with primary materials. The package went not only to teachers at the workshops, but to thousands of others through the creation of 10,000 CDs distributed to school districts, educational organizations, list-serves and conferences. Workshop materials also were placed online.



Janet Hayakawa, Densho’s education specialist, encouraged Hawai‘i teachers to use a variety of classroom materials such as photographs, oral histories, documents, and newspaper articles to develop their students’ analytical and reasoning skills. Photo courtesy: Densho

In a separate 2011 NPS Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program award of \$262,980, Densho designed and created the Densho Digital Repository (DDR) while partnering with four Japanese American heritage and preservation organizations. The project provided the technology for partner organizations to digitally preserve and share materials in their collections, thus increasing Densho’s outreach.

The partners in the project, *Digital Archive System for Community Organizations*, were: the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation (Powell, Wyoming); the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai‘i (Honolulu); the Oregon Nikkei Endowment (Portland, Oregon); and the Japanese American Museum of San Jose (San Jose, California). DDR staff set up a computer workstation at each partner site and provided on-site training in the collection and processing of materials. Staff also developed a *DDR Digitization and Preservation Manual* and a suite of software components to support the DDR.

During the two-year project period, more than 50,000 historic materials relating to the Japanese American experience before, during, and after World War II were processed and added to the DDR system. The material comprised photographs, correspondence, diaries, artwork, and other documents and ephemera.

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Densho Digital Repository. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for Home, Browse, About, and Submitting. Below that is a section titled "Explore the Digital Repository" with a sub-instruction: "Find thousands of historic photographs, documents, newspapers, letters and other primary source materials that tell the story of the Japanese American community, from immigration to the WWII Incarceration and its aftermath." There are two buttons: "Browse" and "Search". Below this is a large grid of thumbnail images representing various historical documents and photographs. Some visible thumbnails include a "SCENE" magazine cover, a newspaper clipping from "TERRAPINER", a photograph of a person in a field, a landscape photo of Mount Rainier, and several other historical documents and portraits.

Users can browse the repository by collection, topic, or facility, or perform a keyword search. Photo courtesy: Densho



## Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i Completes Pilot Program for Educational Tours of the Honouliuli Internment Camp Site

“When I was in elementary school, we took a field trip to Pearl Harbor, visited the memorial, and learned about what took place on December 7, 1941,” recalls a student at Waialua High School in Hawai'i. But it wasn’t until high school that many students learned the rest of the story about what took place in Hawai'i after the bombing. Within 49 hours of the attack on Pearl Harbor, hundreds of Hawai'i Japanese Americans were arrested and detained in camps on the islands. Hawai'i's largest internment site, Honouliuli Internment Camp on O'ahu, opened in 1943. The student continued, “I believe we should see every aspect of World War II history, especially if it is in our own backyard.”

With a 2011 NPS Japanese American Confinement Sites grant of \$38,565, the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i (JCCH) developed an educational tour of Honouliuli, making it accessible to students and the general public. The Honouliuli site is owned by Monsanto, which restricts access to the site but gave permission to JCCH for this pilot program of educational tours. The demand for tours of Honouliuli is very high. During the pilot program, JCCH conducted 18 tours for 616 individuals, including high school and college students, members of the public, Hawai'i legislators, and veterans from the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team.

As a pilot program, JCCH had the flexibility to try different approaches to navigating the remote gulch where Honouliuli



JCCH Hawai'i Internment Education Committee Chairperson, Jane Kurahara, uses a historic photo to point out the aqueduct running through the Honouliuli Internment Camp. Photo courtesy: Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i

is located, and also develop creative ways to engage participants. As the tour evolved, JCCH incorporated stories shared by former internees' family members who went on the tours, and highlighted archeological resources both on site and, for inaccessible areas due to brush overgrowth, through photographs. The process also included a “Train the Trainers” session where program coordinators taught tour presenters and sought input from tour guides on what stories resonated the most with tour-goers. A fine-tuned program resulted, which began with a classroom session for around 50 tour participants that featured a short presentation and film, *The Untold Story: Internment of Japanese Americans in Hawai'i*, which was completed with a FY2010 Japanese American Confinement Sites grant. Then, participants and guides traveled to Honouliuli, where they explored the site within the confines of the gulch. JCCH also created a brochure as a reference for the history and resources of Honouliuli.

Over the two years of the project, JCCH fostered strong partnerships with former internees' families and local organizations that support the need to maintain and access the Honouliuli site, including landowner Monsanto. JCCH prepared a report evaluating the pilot program, and will use it to implement regular educational tours at Honouliuli.



St. Andrew's Schools teacher Hallie Gleason and her U.S. History and AP History classes tour Honouliuli, led by Jane Kurahara in March, 2013.  
Photo courtesy: St. Andrew's Schools



## Klamath County Friends of the Library Breaks the Silence of Japanese American Dissent During World War II with Oral History Project

Already confined to prison camps across the country during World War II, Japanese Americans were further affronted by their government when the War Department and the War Relocation Authority required every incarcerated, age 17 and older, to fill out forms that became known as the “loyalty questionnaire.” Two questions, in particular, caused concern. Question 27 asked: “Are you willing to serve in the armed forces of the United States on combat duty, wherever ordered?” And Question 28 asked: “Will you swear unqualified allegiance to the United States of America and faithfully defend the United States from any or all attack by foreign or domestic forces, and forswear any form of allegiance or obedience to the Japanese emperor, or any other foreign government, power, or organization?”

With a 2010 NPS Japanese American Confinement Sites grant of \$55,000, Klamath County Friends of the Library interviewed 22 former incarcerated individuals who were affected by the loyalty questionnaire, which subsequently divided the Japanese American community between those considered “loyal” for answering the two questions “yes, yes,” and those deemed “disloyal” for answering “no” to one or both questions. The “disloyals” were branded “no-no boys” or “troublemakers,” and were transferred by the federal government to Tule Lake Segregation Center. A stigma around those incarcerated at the high-security Tule Lake Segregation Center still endures today.



Interviewee Sadako Betty Abe looks through mementos from her young life, which carried on in the midst of incarceration. Photo courtesy: Gayle Yamasaki

The Klamath County Friends of the Library project challenged the notion that protest equaled “disloyalty.” It also dispels the myth that Japanese Americans were passive victims of wartime incarceration.

The interviewees included thirteen women and nine men. One interviewee said he answered “no, no” out of hurt and anger from his unjustified expulsion from the military at the start of the war – only to be followed by the loyalty questionnaire. Another interviewee, Sadako Betty Abe, was too young to answer the questionnaire, but remembers moving from Manzanar to Tule Lake, although her parents never mentioned the loyalty questions. “We were just going,” was the explanation she recalled. She went on to say, “it’s amazing how strong my parents were.”

To capture the oral histories, project director Gayle Yamasaki contacted people in the Japanese American community in California, Oregon, and Washington. Along with transcribing the interviews, the project team also collected photographs, scrapbooks, yearbooks, publications, letters, cards, and other artifacts such as kitchen utensils and shell jewelry. The interviews, both audio and visual footage, historic and current photographs, and documents compiled during the project have been submitted to the Tule Lake Unit of the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument for long-term safekeeping.



Gayle Yamasaki (center) with interviewee Mary Kawano Fong (far right) and her relatives during one of the Tule Lake pilgrimages. Mary was instrumental in opening the way for many interviews captured for this project. Photo courtesy: Gayle Yamasaki



## National Japanese American Historical Society Develops Place-Based Database and "Why Do We Remember" Teacher Training with Two NPS Grants

With a 2009 NPS Japanese American Confinement Sites grant of \$18,568, the National Japanese American Historical Society (NJAHS) has completed a searchable database that integrates confinement site plans, architectural drawings, works of art, and artifacts from the ten War Relocation Authority “relocation centers.” NJAHS partnered with the Department of Art and Architecture at the University of San Francisco (Seth Wachtel, Department Chair, and Dr. Lynne Horiuchi, Visiting Scholar) to develop the website as an interpretive tool that links these resources together – making connections that bring a richness that the plans, drawings and objects cannot individually convey.

More than 230 artifacts, drawings, and plans are available to the public on the interactive website ([www.njahs.org/confinementsites/](http://www.njahs.org/confinementsites/)). Approximately one-third of the drawings and plans in the NJAHS collection were made publicly accessible by Jimi Yamaichi, a former incarceree who advocated for the preservation of the Tule Lake Segregation Center. Other maps and drawings were researched and scanned from the collections of the National Archives and Records Administration. With technical support from the University of San Francisco Gleeson Library, more images can be indexed and loaded onto the database in the future.

Continuing its mission to share the Japanese American experience with a diverse community, NJAHS used a second Japanese American Confinement Sites grant of \$85,200 that it received in 2011 to develop a curriculum to engage students in rigorous thinking about the Japanese American experience during World War II. Then, in partnership with Golden Gate National Recreation Area, NJAHS held a three-day training for 20 secondary school teachers from four areas: Los Angeles, Salt Lake City, Northern California, and the Pacific Northwest. Held at the Presidio of San Francisco, the training was titled “Why Do We Remember?: Teachers’ Presidio Institute on the Japanese American Internment Camps—Historic Inquiry and Place-Based Learning.” The teachers who attended the Presidio Institute then trained a total of 106 teachers at their regional sites, including at Manzanar, Tule Lake, Topaz, and Bainbridge Island. These teachers then trained an additional 150 teachers. The ripple effect has now reached more than 270 teachers, and it is anticipated that the current will continue.



Teachers and National Park Service educators gather for a group photo during the three-day, 2012 summer institute. Photo courtesy: National Japanese American Historical Society

**JAPANESE AMERICAN CONFINEMENT**  
National Japanese American Historical Society

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**Drawings, Maps, and Artifacts of Japanese American Confinement Sites**

The digital collection featured here includes three types of images relating to the War Relocation (WRA) Centers: i) architectural drawings, ii) objects, and iii) engineering plans or maps made or related to the WRA Centers. These images are provided as a research resource of primary graphic documentation of the built environments of the WRA Centers for students, teachers, researchers, and the general public. To browse by WRA Center on the map, click on a red dot.

Please send inquiry requests to [ryahs@ryahs.org](mailto:ryahs@ryahs.org).

Relocation Project Site Location Map, 12/31/1942, Department of War, Western Defense Command and Fourth Army, Wartime Civil Control Administration, From the National Archives Records and Administration

By clicking on a map of incarceration sites, users of the NJAHS website can connect to digitized plans, drawings, and objects from each specific site.

Photo courtesy: National Japanese American Historical Society



## National Japanese American Memorial Foundation Recruits and Trains Ten Docents to Guide Tours of the National Japanese American Memorial in Washington, DC

The National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism During World War II in Washington, D.C., honors the 120,000 Japanese Americans unjustly incarcerated during the war. Located a stone's throw from the U.S. Capitol, where laws were enacted forcing Japanese Americans into incarceration sites, the memorial is the only major location in the eastern United States that now tells this important story. Guided tours of the memorial offer visitors – including federal officials, journalists, civil rights leaders, educators, and the general public – insight into the memorial's origins, symbols, architecture and artistic elements, information that is not explained by signage.

With a 2010 NPS Japanese American Confinement Sites grant of \$38,909, the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation trained ten new docents to guide tours of the memorial. Previously, the foundation had only four docents, all of whom were members of the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team or had been confined in one of the incarceration centers. Now in their 80s and 90s, these docents could only accommodate approximately ten of the dozens of tour requests the foundation receives each year.

Author and historian Dr. Franklin Odo developed training sessions in collaboration with the foundation to recruit a new generation of docents for the memorial. The docents are diverse in ethnicity, and range from students to retirees. Over a nine-month period, they were trained during five, two-hour workshops that included visits to the memorial, training regarding the memorial's development and design, and attendance at special programs that utilize tours, such as the Cherry Blossom Freedom Walk and the Day of Remembrance, which included a special screening of the documentary *442: Live with Honor, Die with Dignity* and Q&A with filmmaker Junichiro Suzuki. They also learned about the fundraising efforts used to build a memorial on the National Mall. The docents will provide routine tours, as well as tours during events held at the memorial and for specific anniversaries.

The grant also funded educational materials on the foundation's website at [www.njamf.com](http://www.njamf.com). The website supplements the memorial's Wall of Honor, which lists the names of the 810 Japanese American men who died during World War II, with more information such as the men's ranks, medals received, and memories from family and friends.



The Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism During World War II in Washington, D.C. Davis Buckley Architects and Planners designed the memorial; Paul Matisse designed the memorial bell; and Nina Akuma created the "Golden Cranes" sculpture. Photo courtesy: Davis Buckley Architects and Planners



Volunteer docents-in-training, guest speakers, and project director Franklin Odo met at the Memorial during the first training session. From L-R: Raymond Murakami, Noriko Sanefuji, Ted Gong, Betty Taira, John Kusano, Mai Ichihara, Mike Balis (NPS), Warren Minami, Bruce Yamashita, Gale Awaya McCallum, Franklin Odo. Photo courtesy: National Japanese American Memorial Foundation



## Two NPS Grants Help the University of Idaho Reveal the History of Kooskia Internment Camp

Forty miles east of Kooskia, Idaho, the thick woodlands of Clearwater National Forest conceal the deteriorating Kooskia Internment Camp site, a World War II U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) detention facility and work camp. Between May 1943 and May 1945, 256 men of Japanese heritage were interned here, many of whom the U.S. government had removed from Peru, Mexico, and Panama. They were tasked with constructing U.S. Highway 12 between Idaho and Montana, representing the government's first attempt to utilize internee labor for its construction projects.

With a 2009 NPS Japanese American Confinement Sites grant of \$16,456, the University of Idaho uncovered the history of this lesser-known internment site through a summer 2010 archeological field school and subsequent laboratory work. University of Idaho archeologist and historian Dr. Priscilla Wegars spearheaded the project with her extensive research of Kooskia, and encouragement for an archeological survey. Then, led by Dr. Stacey Lynn Camp, assistant professor of anthropology at the University of Idaho, students searched for architectural remains, surveyed landscape features, unearthed artifacts, then catalogued the objects and shared their findings with the public.

During the archeology field school, University of Idaho students conducted a surface survey, shovel testing, a ground penetrating radar (GPR) survey, and digital mapping of the site. Among the discoveries were the foundation of a camp building, Japanese gaming pieces, and home medicinal



This porcelain dragon artifact was uncovered during the project.  
Photo courtesy: University of Idaho – photo by Dr. Stacey Camp

products. Students then cleaned, sorted, and rehoused 1,968 artifacts into 18 boxes. For public outreach, a website was created (<http://www.uidaho.edu/class/kicap>) to share the site's history, project updates, and student and faculty experiences. The project team also advertised and hosted a Public Archaeology Day, where more than 40 participants toured the site and learned about its history.

For Phase II of the project, the University of Idaho was awarded a second grant during the 2011 funding cycle for \$6,176. During this phase, students catalogued 26 additional boxes of artifacts. The grant also helped expedite the lengthy process to analyze and interpret the artifacts discovered during the first phase. Artifact analysis plays a critical role in communicating the experiences of Kooskia's internees to the public. For example, the Japanese gaming pieces made from local stone were a creative way internees sought to transform their environment into some semblance of home. Dr. Camp and her students shared their findings related to Kooskia Internment Camp at several academic conferences. The artifact interpretation and analysis will provide ample support for the Kooskia Internment Camp's nomination to the National Register of Historic Places and inform the creation of interpretive signage at the site, processes that Dr. Wegars, Dr. Camp, her students, and the Clearwater National Forest set into motion.



University of Idaho archeology students unearth artifacts from Kooskia Internment Camp. Photo courtesy: University of Idaho – photo by Dr. Stacey Camp



## The Japanese American Service Committee's Legacy Center Archives in Chicago Catalogs its Collection and Places Records Online

The Japanese American Service Committee's (JASC) Legacy Center Archives in Chicago houses materials that touch on every facet of Japanese American life from 1890 to the present. Here you will find Japanese passports, diary entries about the attack on Pearl Harbor, and personal letters written from World War II confinement sites. From photographs to official government documents, the archives is a treasure trove overseen by JASC, a group founded in 1946 to help former incarcerees start new lives in Chicago, the largest postwar resettlement community.

With the help of a 2012 NPS Japanese American Confinement Sites grant of \$75,268, the JASC was able to purchase database software and hire two archivists to assist the Legacy Center's Manager and Project Director Karen Kanemoto in processing and cataloguing 86 collections containing 3,700 records. About three-quarters of the archive is now catalogued.

The new software – Eloquent Archives using the WebGENCAT toolkit (which maintains applications and allows the building of new ones) – enabled Legacy Center staff to digitize finding aids and all descriptive content associated with the manuscript collections, and then put them online for easy access. Researchers now can visit the Legacy Center's catalog via a link posted on the JASC website: <http://www.jasc-chicago.org/cultural-and-community-programs/legacy-center/archives/>. In the catalog, researchers will find links to all collections and can locate materials through a keyword search. The software also enhances the Legacy Center's capabilities to manage collections through the generation of record forms and accession records.

The grant also allowed Kanemoto to attend two weeks of training at the Georgia Archives Institute, where she enhanced her knowledge of preservation and conservation, cataloging, and the use of data management software. She oversaw selection of the Eloquent Archives software, drafted language for the archives database and helped prioritize collections for processing. Working with Kanemoto were Project Archivist Justine Wagner-Mackow and Consulting Archivist Jane Kenamore.



A Girl Scout troop at Rohwer. Photo courtesy: Japanese American Service Committee Legacy Center Archives, Chicago, Illinois



The Certificate of Naturalization for Cho Yamamoto from 1956. Issei were not allowed to become U.S. citizens until the passage of the Immigration Act of 1952. Photo courtesy: Japanese American Service Committee Legacy Center Archives, Chicago, Illinois



## Bancroft Library Creates the Japanese American Evacuation and Resettlement Digital Archive and Makes Thousands of Manuscript Items Available Online

The Bancroft Library at the University of California-Berkeley holds a wealth of manuscript and archival collections documenting the experience of Japanese Americans in the forced removal from their homes and incarceration at confinement sites during World War II. The materials are among the most heavily used at the library, but locating and accessing them has been difficult because they are widely dispersed in various formats throughout the library.

To solve that problem, the library created the Japanese American Evacuation and Resettlement Digital Archive, where nearly 100,000 original manuscript items from its collection have been made available online (<http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/collections/jais/index.html>). The project was funded with the help of a 2011 grant award of \$220,493 from the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program.

The digital archive showcases holdings from the Japanese American Evacuation and Resettlement Study (JERS), a research project initiated in 1942 at the University of California, Berkeley, to document and examine the mass incarceration of Japanese Americans. The project recruited Nisei social science students from the Berkeley campus and placed them into selected War Relocation Authority-administered sites. As a staff member for JERS, Richard S. Nishimoto observed incarcerees' initial reactions to the rescinded exclusion orders at the end of the War.



Overall Community Council of the three units at Poston. Minoru Okamoto, quoted in the report, is in the third row, fourth from the left, September 1, 1943. Photo courtesy: The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley

In one firsthand account from Poston, he penned, "M. Okamoto, City Manager, remarked, 'It has finally come.'" The study also documented the postwar resettlement phase in Chicago. The collection, which comprises journals, field reports, life histories, correspondence, and secondary research materials, was deposited in the University Library in 1948 by Dorothy Swaine Thomas, a sociologist and JERS director.

Users of the new website can find materials in a variety of ways, from a textual search to GIS tagging and interactive mapping. In addition, materials have been linked to an existing finding aid located at the Online Archive of California (OAC).

Digitization of the JERS collection is Phase One of what the Bancroft Library anticipates will be a three-phase project to digitize all of its holdings related to the Japanese American experience. In Phase Two, the library hopes to place online cartons of personal papers donated to the library by various camp detainees, as well as film, photographs, maps, broadsides, drawings, and oral interviews. Phase Three will focus on the library's collection of War Relocation Authority (WRA) records and those in the National Archives.

**Title:** Topaz Volunteers for the U.S. Army, 1944  
**Creator:** Citizen Committee of Topaz  
**Confinement Site:** Topaz/Central Utah  
**Call Number:** BANC MSS 67/14 c, Box 95, Folder H 8-10

**Confinement Sites**  
 Learn more about confinement sites that were established in Arizona, California, Idaho, and Utah. See maps and details, search by location, or view documents related to an individual confinement site.

**Timeline**  
 Explore major events of the Japanese American internment during the Second World War, including accounts of the incarceration experience, written and collected by the Japanese American Evacuation and Resettlement Study (JERS). Link to photograph collections and other primary source materials available online.

**Resources**  
 Find more information about the Japanese American internment and the Japanese American Evacuation and Resettlement Study (JERS). Link to photograph collections and other primary source materials available online.

The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720-4000 | (510) 642-3781  
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Users can browse the content-rich database, or search the digital archive by incarceration site location or a keyword search. Photo courtesy: The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley



## Hawai'i Heritage Center Assesses Condition of Surviving Buildings at Honouliuli for Future Preservation

In Hawaiian, *Honouliuli* means “blue harbor” or “dark bay.” But to those interned there during World War II, *Jigoku Dani*, meaning “hell valley,” was a more fitting name. Established in March 1943 in an isolated gulch on the island of O‘ahu, Honouliuli was the largest of Hawai‘i’s confinement sites, though today it bears little resemblance to its use as an internment site 70 years ago. Although this history is evident in the property’s more than 130 archeological sites, of its approximately 175 original buildings, only two remain.

With the help of a 2011 NPS Japanese American Confinement Sites grant of \$58,600, the Hawai‘i Heritage Center evaluated the two buildings, both of which are in poor condition due to heat, encroaching vegetation, and water and termite damage. With the grant, Hawai‘i Heritage Center hired Minatoishi Architects, Inc. of Honolulu to prepare an Existing Conditions Report. The study determined that the buildings, located immediately inside the front gate, most likely are a guard duty station, and a barrack used by the guards.

The Existing Conditions Report recommends that the guard duty station, which retains its integrity of design, be rehabilitated with limited reconstruction of a missing rear section. The barrack, on the other hand, lacks enough original material that reconstruction, the report concludes, is “the only feasible treatment.” The barrack’s walls, front



The guard duty station (left) and barrack are situated at the entrance of the camp, just inside the main gate. Photo courtesy: Hawai‘i Heritage Center – photo by David Franzen

porch, and original roof have been removed and half of the original foundation exists. After the war, the building was used as a chicken coop.

Honouliuli, situated in a deep gulch between two large, agricultural fields, has limited access. But still, the landscape and remaining features, which include rock alignments, foundations, and parts of the sewer, water, and road systems, as well as the historic guard duty station and barrack, offer the potential “to provide a unique opportunity for increasing our understanding of the Hawaiian internment and other aspects of World War II history,” the report states. The 122-acre Honouliuli site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

In addition to the Existing Conditions Report, the Hawai‘i Heritage Center prepared Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) documentation of the two buildings, including photographs and measured drawings that will assist in their restoration and reconstruction. Finally, the project also included a fire protection plan and rehabilitation cost estimate for the guard duty station. The estimated cost for rehabilitating the building is \$1,143,790.



Termites and carpenter bees have eaten away at the wooden walls and floors of the guard duty station. Photo courtesy: Hawai‘i Heritage Center – photo by David Franzen



## CyArk Employs 3D Technology to Virtually Reconstruct Manzanar, Topaz, and Tule Lake

When Manzanar Relocation Center closed in 1945, most of the buildings were sold as scrap lumber or moved to private property. The same was true at Topaz and Tule Lake. While a few original structures were left standing – such as the jail at Tule Lake and the auditorium at Manzanar – the limited physical remains can make it difficult today to envision the detail and vast sweep of fences and barracks as they once appeared.

Modern 3D digital technology can reconstruct simulated long-lost buildings, locate them graphically to show where they once stood, and then provide a 360-degree virtual tour of historic sites. This technology, which employs 3D laser scanning, the global positioning system (GPS), and high definition photography, is the specialty of CyArk, a non-profit organization founded in 2003 with the goal of helping to conserve historic sites through digital documentation. The name CyArk stems from the words *cyber* and *archive*.

In 2011, CyArk, based in Oakland, California, was awarded a \$240,611 NPS Japanese American Confinement Sites grant to digitally preserve the Manzanar and Tule Lake sites in California and the Topaz site in Utah. The digital content created for the project may be seen at <http://archive.cyark.org/wwii-japanese-american-confinement-sites-theme>. The project was completed with the assistance of the Densho Digital Archive and the University of Colorado at Denver. CyArk also consulted with Manzanar National Historic Site, the Tule Lake unit of the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument, and the Topaz Museum Board to ensure proper modeling and interpretation in capturing features unique to each site.

In addition to the virtual tours, which allow visitors to switch back and forth between current and historic views, the CyArk web portal also provides a roster of statistical and personal information about those incarcerated at the three sites. Visitors can locate the barrack block on which an incarceree lived if a location was specified. Also included on the website are oral interview videos, drawings, three-dimensional representations of buildings, and images of documents and photographs, both historic and current.



Perspective of the reconstructed Topaz site. Photo courtesy: CyArk



Point cloud perspective of the interior of Barrack 01 at Block 14. This block has been partially reconstructed at Manzanar to interpret the living conditions of the incarcerees.

Photo courtesy: CyArk



## JAPANESE AMERICAN CONFINEMENT SITES GRANT PROGRAM QUESTIONNAIRE-SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The 2013 Annual Report for the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program included a questionnaire that invited comments regarding the progress of the grant program, which was then at its five-year mark. The questionnaire was included as an insert in the 2013 Annual Report, and mailed in December 2013 to over 7,200 individuals and organizations. Fifty-one people returned their questionnaires to NPS by the March 7, 2014 deadline.

We are grateful that people took time to fill out the questionnaire, and appreciate the informative and constructive responses. Overall, the majority of respondents believe that the projects that have been funded through the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program have met the intent of the legislation, and that the criteria for evaluating projects is effective.

In addition, the majority of comments reflected continued support for the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program, and appreciation for the work that has been accomplished by the grantees. As one respondent noted, "Our history is being preserved in a way I never dreamed could happen!" Another said, "I'm grateful that funds are available to store, catalog and share this part of U.S. history, for after all, what happened to the 120,000 Japanese Americans is truly an American story. We just can't let it happen again." Many respondents also expressed appreciation to the NPS for its administration of the program, with encouragement to "keep up the good work." Several people also noted that they found the annual newsletter informative. In addition, some respondents offered their thoughts on the types of projects that they supported or would like to see funded in the future. A number of people also gave recommendations as to how the NPS could improve the impact and effectiveness of the program, particularly requests for more information on completed projects to be posted on the NPS website, and for more use of social media, such as Facebook and Twitter.

The NPS asked four questions in the questionnaire:

- 1) Do you believe that the funded projects have met the intent of the legislation? If not, please explain.
- 2) Do you believe that the project proposal criteria should be changed in any way to better meet the intent of Public Law 109-441? If so, how?
- 3) Is there anything that you believe should be done to help improve the impact and effectiveness of the grant program?
- 4) Do you have any other suggestions or comments?

### Responses to Questionnaire

Thirty-two people responded to Question 1. Of those 32 people, 31 (97%) said that the funded projects met the intent of the legislation. The one person who replied "no" stated that the "NPS has made an honest effort," but noted that the program has been constrained by the budgetary process, adding that although the 2006 enabling legislation authorized \$38 million, only \$12.4 million had been appropriated by 2013. Nisei and even Sansei "are rapidly dying off," the person wrote, adding that, "We need to better and more quickly preserve their knowledge, experiences and general history."

Twenty-two people directly responded "yes" or "no" to Question 2. Of those 22 people, 19 (86%) said that the program criteria should not be changed. The remaining 3 (14%) gave a qualified "yes" response, with 2 providing specific recommendations as to how the project criteria should be changed – to focus future funding on the training of docents, and to encourage projects on the WRA personnel that lived and worked in the camps. In response to Question 2, the NPS received additional comments that expressed support for specific types of projects. These include:

- Nine comments supported projects to document and interpret lesser known and more diverse sites and stories of incarceration.
- Six comments expressed the need for education projects. Three of those comments stressed student education, with one person noting the importance of educating "the public schools on the U.S. Constitution and how it failed during World War II." The other three comments underscored the importance of educating the general public, with one person adding "so that as citizens we can both appreciate the safeguards we have but also understand that these safeguards are only as effective as we are vigilant and watchful."



- Four comments emphasized the importance of prioritizing oral history projects.
- Three comments wanted more funding for restoration and reconstruction projects.
- Two comments encouraged projects to increase volunteerism and help elders and youth to work together to build bridges within their communities, as well as let the general public know how they can get involved with these efforts.

There were also many comments with individual recommendations, including: “keep the focus on the 10 WRA camps”; search for “artists such as painters, potters, musicians who could add their views of internment and recovery”; fund projects that preserve historic photographs; “fast-track” funding for well-researched and documented projects; and encourage projects that “connect” all of the confinement sites in order to create a stronger national impact.

In response to Question 3, there were 12 recommendations as to how the NPS could improve the impact and effectiveness of the grant program. Five people asked NPS to provide more information on completed grant projects in order to increase awareness of their achievements, including more information on the program website. Two people suggested more use of social media, such as Facebook and Twitter. One person noted the importance of making all grant program information available by mail so as not to exclude people who do not have access to the internet. And one person stated a desire for NPS to take a more active role in identifying sites for preservation and inviting people to lead those projects.

In terms of additional suggestions and comments given in response to Question 4, nearly half the respondents took this opportunity to state their support for the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program, as well as to remember and honor those who lived through the incarceration, with one admonition to “never forget.” One person also expressed gratitude for the Japanese American community activists who led the initial efforts to preserve and interpret the incarceration sites.

Again, NPS thanks everyone who took the time to respond to the questionnaire. Since the establishment of the grant program in 2009, the NPS has asked the public to provide input and feedback to make sure the projects funded through the program are meeting the intent of Public Law 109-441, which established this program to preserve and interpret the historic confinement sites where Japanese Americans were detained during World War II in order to educate the public and future generations. We greatly appreciate your input and will use these comments in our continuing efforts to improve the effectiveness of the program. If you have additional comments, please share them with us as we move into the seventh year of the grant program.



Photo published in the *Minidoka Irrigator* in Hunt, Idaho, 1943.  
Photo courtesy: The Wing Luke Museum - photo by Joe Tanaka



A badge worn by the young wife of a Japanese American serviceman at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, where new recruits from both Hawai'i and the mainland began training. Photo courtesy: Densho (ddr-densho-105-7), Tsubota 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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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](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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Two children journey down a dirt lane lined with tar-papered barracks at Minidoka. Photo courtesy: The Wing Luke Museum

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- Chicago Japanese American Historical Society Organizes, Catalogs and Preserves Its Collections
- Colorado Preservation, Inc. Rehabilitates and Reconstructs the Guard Tower and Water Tower at Amache
- KEET-TV Highlights Japanese American Incarceration Sites' Jazz Bands in New Documentary
- Densho Completes Two Projects to "Teach the Teachers" and Partner with Museums and Organizations to Digitally Preserve Their Collections
- Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i Completes Pilot Program for Educational Tours of the Honouliuli Internment Camp Site
- Klamath County Friends of the Library Breaks the Silence of Japanese American Dissent During World War II with Oral History Project
- National Japanese American Historical Society Develops Place-Based Database and "Why Do We Remember" Teacher Training with Two NPS Grants
- National Japanese American Memorial Foundation Recruits and Trains Ten Docents to Guide Tours of the National Japanese American Memorial in Washington, DC
- Two NPS Grants Help the University of Idaho Reveal the History of Kooskia Internment Camp
- The Japanese American Service Committee's Legacy Center Archives in Chicago Catalogs its Collection and Places Records Online
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### **JAPANESE AMERICAN CONFINEMENT SITES GRANT PROGRAM QUESTIONNAIRE— SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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