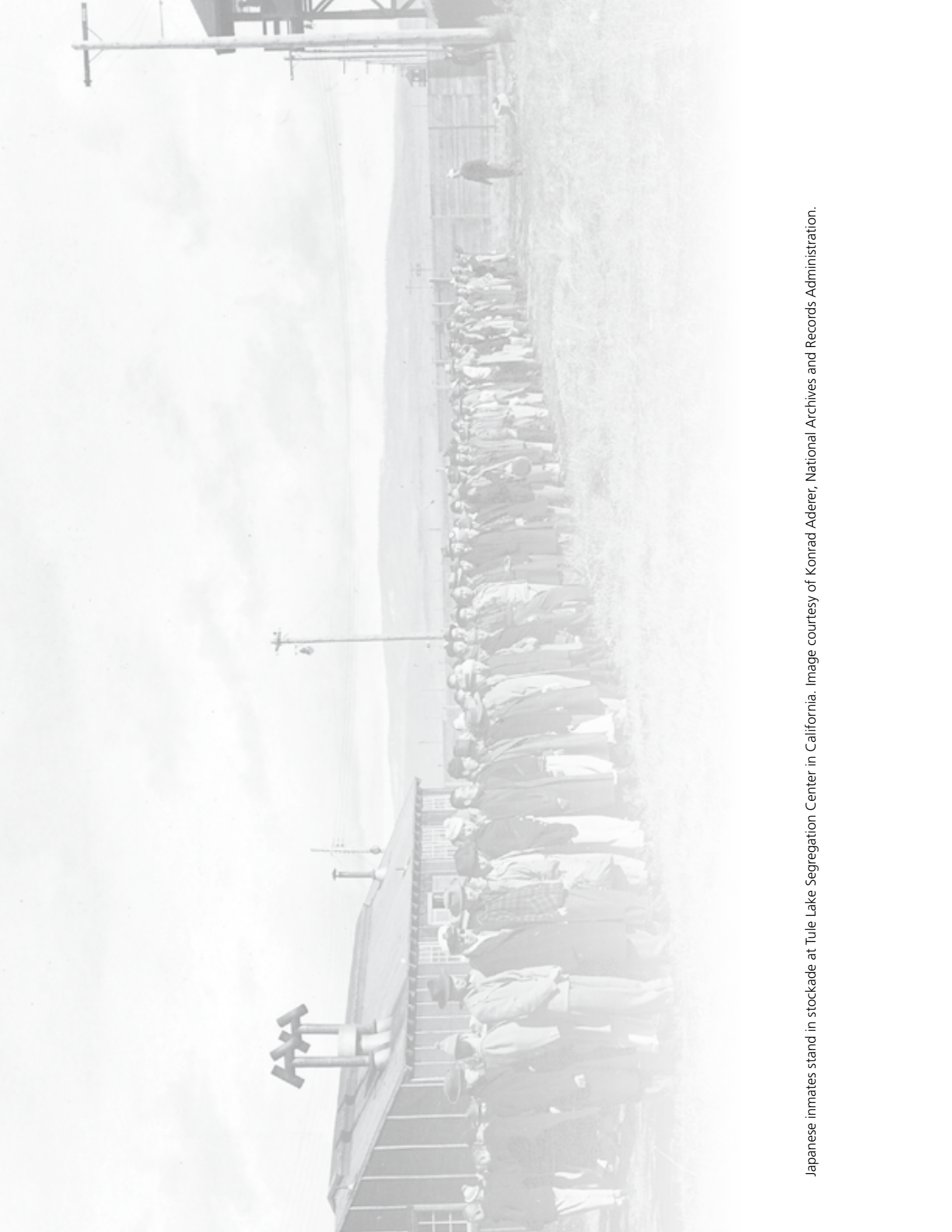


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Japanese inmates stand in stockade at Tule Lake Segregation Center in California. Image courtesy of Konrad Aderer, National Archives and Records Administration.

## Inside This Issue



Original War Relocation Authority (WRA) caption: "Japanese repatriates embarking for Japan." Although the WRA caption specifically refers to repatriates, many Japanese Americans who left were citizens of the United States and therefore, expatriates. Seattle, WA, November 24, 1945. Image courtesy of Densho (ddr-densho-37-280), National Archives and Records Administration.

### **2020: A Year In Review—Preserving and Interpreting World War II Japanese American**

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## Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program



Award-winning *Mission US: Prisoner in My Homeland*, created by the WNET Group to engage youth in learning about the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II, is featured on page 25. Images courtesy of The WNET Group.

## 2020: A Year In Review – Preserving and Interpreting World War II Japanese American Confinement Sites

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

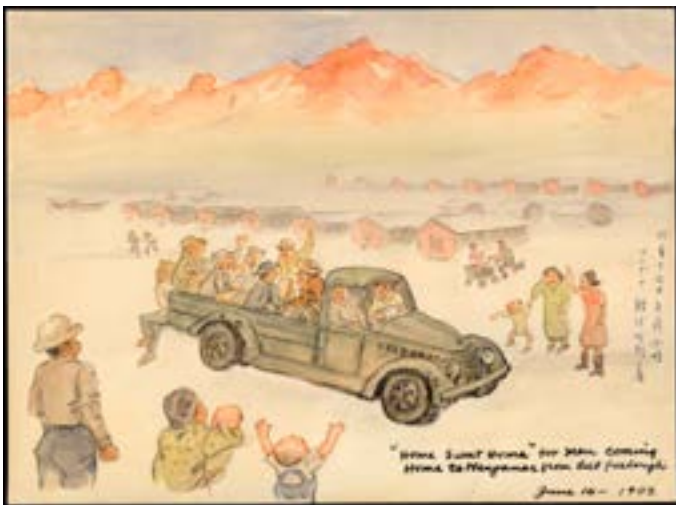
Over the past 12 years, the program has awarded 247 grant awards totaling more than \$32 million to private nonprofit organizations; educational institutions; state, local, and tribal governments; and other public entities. The projects involve 23 states and the District of Columbia and include oral histories, preservation of camp artifacts and buildings, documentaries and educational curricula, and exhibits and memorials that preserve what remains of the confinement sites and honor the people who were incarcerated there by sharing their experiences.

The Fiscal Year 2020 grant awards featured in this report include a project to engage former incarcerated and their descendants in recording short films about their personal experiences during World War II to share with educators, youth, and others unfamiliar with this part of our nation’s history and an assessment of two original barracks moved back to the former Fort Missoula World War II Department of Justice internment site in Montana to help guide future restoration of the buildings, and interpretation of the site’s history.

The 22 grants awarded in 2020 range from \$28,481 to Go For Broke National Education Center to research the little-known history of Japanese American women who were recruited from Japanese American WWII incarceration sites to serve in the United States (US) Cadet Nurse Corps to help fill the nation’s shortage of nurses to \$379,017 to Michigan State University to create a digital archive to preserve and interpret a robust digitized collection of archeological materials, archival documents, and oral histories related to Kooskia Internment Site and Minidoka National Incarceration Site, both located in Idaho.

Each year, as new projects begin, past JACS-funded projects are completed. Some of those completed this year include the development of curricula to highlight the history of Japanese Americans who served in the military during World War II, preservation of oral histories to share the history of Tuna Canyon Detention Station in California, and the creation of a video game and curriculum designed to engage students in learning about the history of Japanese American incarceration during World War II.

The dedication demonstrated by the various organizations committed to preserving and interpreting this significant period in US history is remarkable. Altogether, these projects enrich our understanding of the Japanese American incarceration, and they ensure that this important chapter in American history is not forgotten.



“‘Home sweet home’ for men coming home to Manzanar from beet furlough,” June 16, 1942. Image courtesy of Densho (ddr-manz-2-41), Manzanar National Historic Site and the Kango Takamura Collection.

“As America’s storytellers, the National Park Service is committed to preserving the stories of our shared history,” National Park Service Deputy Director P. Daniel Smith said. “These projects help ensure future generations of Americans learn from the struggles and perseverance of Japanese Americans incarcerated during World War II.”

## Eligible Sites and Projects

As defined by Public Law 109-441, eligible confinement sites include the 10 War Relocation Authority camps: Gila River (AZ), Amache (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 National Park Service (NPS) report *Confinement and Ethnicity* and as determined by the secretary of the interior, where Japanese Americans were imprisoned during World War II.

Seven major categories of activities are eligible for JACS grants: capital projects (such as the construction of new interpretive centers); documentation (such as archeological surveys); oral history interviews; interpretation and education related to historic confinement sites (such as wayside exhibits or educational curricula); preservation of confinement sites and related historic resources (such as restoration of historic buildings or collections conservation); planning projects (such as resource management plans); and nonfederal 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).



My papa, oil painting on canvas by Henry Sugimoto, circa 1943. Image courtesy of Japanese American National Museum, Gift of Madeleine Sugimoto and Naomi Tagawa (92.97.139).

## Overview of the 2020 Grant Program Process

For the Fiscal Year 2020 grant program, on September 10, 2019, the National Park Service announced the availability of application materials through the grant program website, grants.gov, social media, and e-mail correspondence.

By the application deadline of November 19, 2019, the National Park Service received 41 applications requesting more than \$5.7 million in federal

funds. During the week of February 10, 2020, the JACS grant review panel convened at the NPS Intermountain Regional Office in Lakewood, Colorado, to evaluate the proposals. The panel was composed of NPS staff from the Intermountain, Midwest, and Pacific West regions. The six panel members represented a variety of backgrounds and disciplines, including expertise in curation, history, interpretation, and cultural and natural resources. The panel evaluated and ranked each proposal using criteria and guidelines that were established for the program based on public input.

On April 27, 2020, the National Park Service announced 22 grant awards totaling more than \$3.1 million, with funding provided through the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2020 (enacted as Public Law 116-94).

“These grants help to preserve an important piece of our nation’s history, educating generations of visitors about the injustice of the World War II confinement of Japanese Americans,” said Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt.

“The National Park Service is dedicated to the preservation and protection of natural, cultural, and historical resources across the United States,” said David Vela, NPS deputy director. “Through these projects, we have the honor of educating our visitors about the strength and perseverance of the Japanese Americans incarcerated during World War II.”

## Fiscal Year 2020 Grant Awards

In 2020—the JACS Grant Program’s twelfth year—22 grants provided more than \$3.1 million to projects in nine states. A list of the winning projects follows. For a full list of grant award project summaries, visit the JACS Grant Program website at: [www.nps.gov/JACS/](http://www.nps.gov/JACS/).

### CALIFORNIA

**Recipient:** Alameda Free Library  
(Alameda, CA)

**Project Title:** The Impact of Japanese American Incarceration on Alameda, CA – the First California Community Removed under Executive Order 9066

**Grant Award:** \$139,220

**Site(s):** Multiple Sites

**Recipient:** Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Los Angeles  
(Los Angeles, CA)

**Project Title:** Vigilant Love Solidarity Arts Fellowship

**Grant Award:** \$47,518

**Site(s):** Manzanar Incarceration Site, Inyo County, CA

**Recipient:** City of Richmond (Richmond, CA)

**Project Title:** Roses & Thorns: Sustaining Stories of Japanese American Lives in Richmond’s Miraflores Development

**Grant Award:** \$97,500

**Site(s):** Tanforan “Assembly Center,” San Bruno, San Mateo County, CA; Topaz Incarceration Site, Millard County, UT



Photo of Teruko Yamashita in her cadet nurse uniform and her US Cadet Nurse Corps Membership Card. Image courtesy of Saint Marys Nursing School Archives.

**Recipient:** Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association (Bishop, CA)

**Project Title:** Relocation of a WRA Staff Building Back to Manzanar National Historic Site

**Grant Award:** \$44,152

**Site(s):** Manzanar Incarceration Site, Inyo County, CA

**Recipient:** Fred T. Korematsu Institute (San Francisco, CA)

**Project Title:** “Then They Came for Me” Traveling Exhibition

**Grant Award:** \$247,540

**Site(s):** Multiple Sites



**Recipient:** Go For Broke National Education Center (Los Angeles, CA)  
**Project Title:** **Unsung Service: Preserving the Nisei Cadet Nurse Corps**  
**Grant Award:** \$28,481  
**Site(s):** Multiple Sites

**Recipient:** Go For Broke National Education Center (Los Angeles, CA)  
**Project Title:** **Valor in Confinement: Perspectives of the Japanese American Veterans of World War II**  
**Grant Award:** \$96,729  
**Site(s):** Multiple Sites

**Recipient:** Japanese American National Museum (Los Angeles, CA)  
**Project Title:** **JANM Camp Digitization Project**  
**Grant Award:** \$286,508  
**Site(s):** Multiple Sites

**Recipient:** Japanese American National Museum (Los Angeles, CA)  
**Project Title:** **Sutra and Bible: Faith and Japanese American World War II Incarceration**  
**Grant Award:** \$245,382  
**Site(s):** Multiple Sites

**Recipient:** National Japanese American Historical Society (San Francisco, CA)  
**Project Title:** **WRA Incarceree Farm Labor Teacher Education Project**  
**Grant Award:** \$156,018  
**Site(s):** Multiple Sites

**Recipient:** Poston Community Alliance (Pleasant Hill, CA)  
**Project Title:** **Poston Live: Its Lessons and Multicultural Legacy**  
**Grant Award:** \$50,075  
**Site(s):** Poston Incarceration Site, La Paz County, AZ

**Recipient:** San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit (Oakland, CA)  
**Project Title:** **Tanforan Assembly Center Exhibit**  
**Grant Award:** \$62,100  
**Site(s):** Tanforan "Assembly Center," San Bruno, San Mateo County, CA

**Recipient:** Story Boldly (West Hills, CA)  
**Project Title:** **Digital Storytelling Workshops**  
**Grant Award:** \$110,586  
**Site(s):** Multiple Sites

**Recipient:** Visual Communications Media (Los Angeles, CA)  
**Project Title:** **They Answered No-No: Wayne Collins and the Renunciants**  
**Grant Award:** \$198,284  
**Site(s):** Tule Lake Segregation Center, Modoc County, CA; Crystal City Internment Site (Department of Justice), Zavala County, TX



Preparing mochi for New Years, Gila River incarceration site in Arizona. Image courtesy of Japanese American National Museum, Gift of George Teruo Esaki (96.25.8).

COLORADO

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**Recipient:** Colorado Preservation, Inc.  
(Denver, CO)

**Project Title:** Amache Barrack-Interior Interpretation

**Grant Award:** \$64,000

**Site(s):** Amache Incarceration Site, Prowers County, CO

HAWAII

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**Recipient:** Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii  
(Honolulu, HI)

**Project Title:** Remembering the Past to Change the Future

**Grant Award:** \$151,960

**Site(s):** Honouliuli Internment Site (US Army), Ewa, Honolulu County, HI; Sand Island Detention Site, (US Army), Honolulu County, HI

LOUISIANA

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**Recipient:** National World War II Museum of New Orleans (New Orleans, LA)

**Project Title:** Japanese American Experiences in World War II Electronic Field Trip

**Grant Award:** \$100,594

**Site(s):** Heart Mountain Incarceration Site, Park County, WY; Amache Incarceration Site, Prowers County, CO

MASSACHUSETTS

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**Recipient:** Center for Independent Documentary (Boston, MA)

**Project Title:** Baseball Behind Barbed Wire

**Grant Award:** \$208,945

**Site(s):** Multiple Sites



Original Ansel Adams caption: Baseball game, Manzanar Relocation Center, Calif., 1943. Photo by Ansel Adams, courtesy of Densho (ddr-densho-93-37), Library of Congress.



The Historical Museum at Fort Missoula will conduct an assessment of two original barracks moved back to the former World War II Department of Justice internment site to inform future restoration of the buildings and interpretation of the site's history. Image courtesy of Historical Museum at Fort Missoula.

**MICHIGAN**

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**Recipient:** Michigan State University  
(East Lansing, MI)  
**Project Title:** Internment Archaeology Digital Archive  
**Grant Award:** \$379,017  
**Site(s):** Kooskia Internment Site  
(Department of Justice),  
Idaho County, ID; Minidoka  
Incarceration Site, Jerome  
County, ID

**MONTANA**

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**Recipient:** Historical Museum at Fort Missoula  
(Missoula, MT)  
**Project Title:** Fort Missoula Internment Camp  
Barracks Assessment  
**Grant Award:** \$40,000  
**Site(s):** Fort Missoula Internment Site  
(Department of Justice), Missoula  
County, MT

**NEW YORK**

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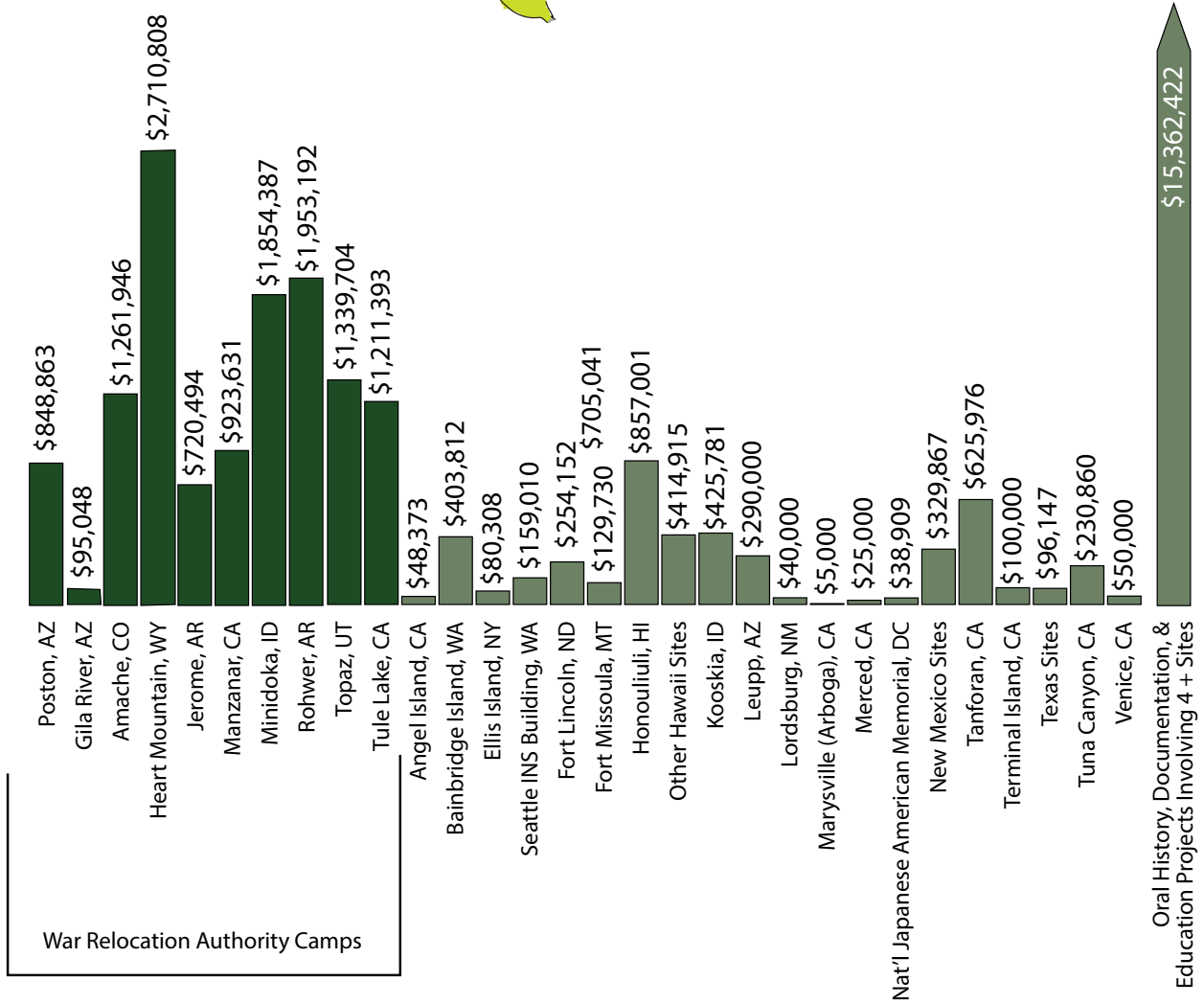
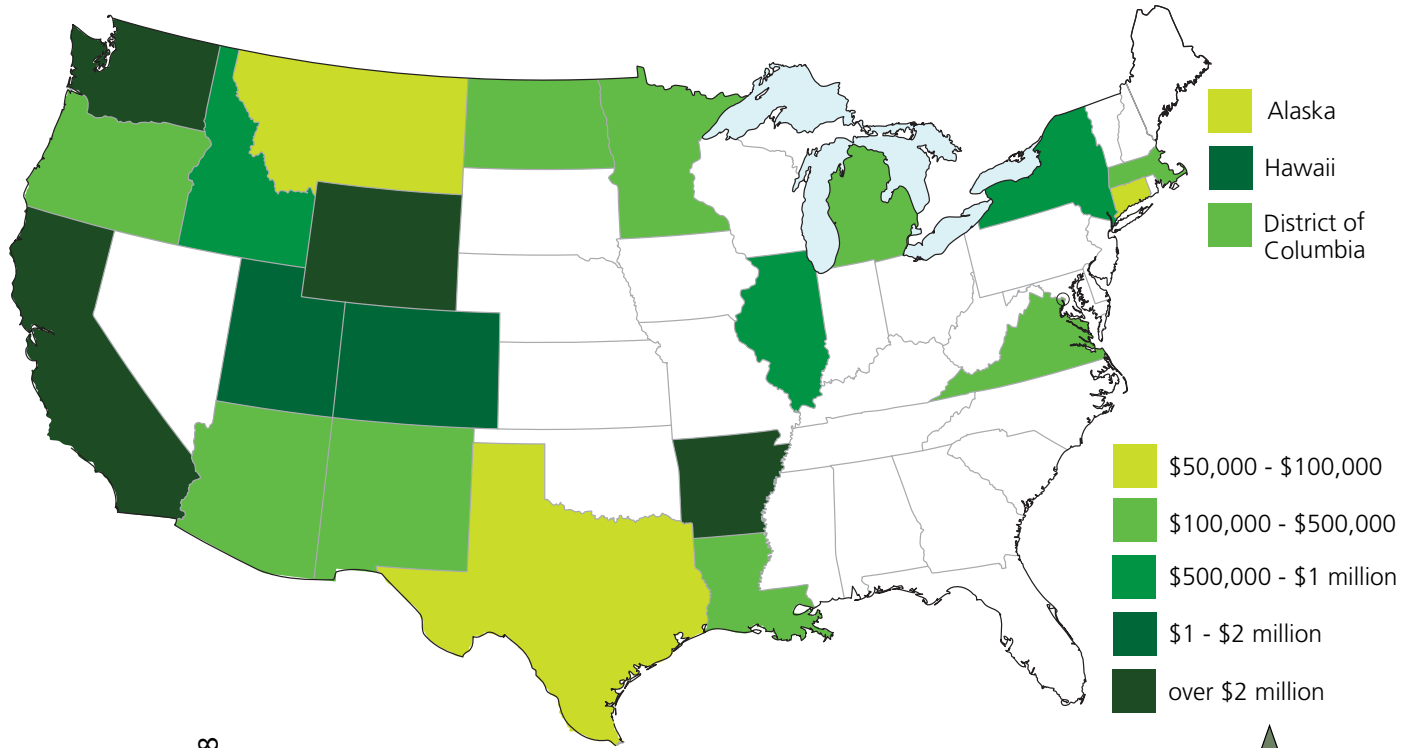
**Recipient:** Global Kids, Inc. (New York, NY)  
**Project Title:** GRIT-Global Kids (G2K) Project  
**Grant Award:** \$210,258  
**Site(s):** Manzanar Incarceration Site,  
Inyo County, CA

**NORTH DAKOTA**

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**Recipient:** United Tribes Technical College  
(Bismarck, ND)  
**Project Title:** Fort Lincoln Memorial Courtyard  
**Grant Award:** \$190,133  
**Site(s):** Fort Lincoln Internment Camp  
(Department of Justice), Burleigh  
County, ND

### Grant Funding by State (Map) and Grant Funding by Site (Graph), 2009–2020





A painting displayed in a camp art exhibit at the Minidoka incarceration site in Idaho, ca.1942–1945. Image courtesy of Densho (ddr-fom-1-127), Friends of Minidoka Collection, National Archives.

## Completed Projects Highlighted During Fiscal Year 2020

Following is an overview of projects successfully completed during Fiscal Year 2020. These stories reflect the dedicated commitment and hard work

of numerous groups to preserve, interpret, and disseminate the history of Japanese American incarceration during World War II.

## Central Arkansas Library System's Butler Center for Arkansas Studies Exhibits Artwork, Writings to Tell Story of Japanese American Incarcerees in Arkansas

Thousands of drawings, paintings, photos, writings, and documents created by Japanese Americans incarcerated in Arkansas during World War II were exhibited by the Central Arkansas Library as part of a unique effort to tell their story.

The exhibition opened in January 2017 and was staged over two years by the library's Butler Center for Arkansas Studies in Little Rock, AR. It was supported by a 2016 National Park Service (NPS) JACS grant of \$153,699 and matching grants from the library.

Attended by thousands of people, the exhibition was broken into four parts:

- *The American Dream Deferred: Japanese American Incarceration in World War II, Arkansas*
- *The Art of Injustice: Paul Faris's Photographs of Japanese American Incarceration, Rohwer, Arkansas, 1945*
- *Education in Exile: Student Experience at Rohwer Relocation Center*
- *A Matter of Mind and Heart: Portraits of Japanese American Identity*

A highlight of the exhibition was the Gould-Vogel collection, which consists of thousands of documents and more than 300 pieces of artwork produced by people imprisoned at the Rohwer incarceration site in McGehee, AR. Many incarcerated took art lessons from a high school teacher at the camp named Mabel "Jamie" Jamison Vogel. Out of gratitude, many let her keep pieces of art they created.

Vogel later willed them to Rosalie Santine Gould, McGehee's former mayor and a champion of

preserving the stories of the people imprisoned at Rohwer and the nearby Jerome incarceration site. Gould chose the library's Butler Center as the permanent home for the collection because she believed it should be available for research and display. The collection is available to the public six days a week in the library's research room.

Organizers of the event said the final "exhibition held up a mirror to Arkansas and US culture and asked what it means to be an American today. Displaying portraits created by Japanese Americans unjustly incarcerated in Arkansas during World War II, this exhibition invited visitors to reflect on American identity and challenge widely held assumptions about living in a diverse society."

As part of the exhibition, an interpreter also embarked on a "reverse field trip," reaching nearly 5,800 more students and adults by visiting nine libraries, 14 schools, and conducting 14 tours and two teacher in-services. Among the attendees to those presentations were groups from Hiroshima, Japan, and another large group on a pilgrimage to Rohwer and Jerome to attend the fifth-anniversary celebration of the opening of the Jerome-Rohwer Interpretive Museum and Visitor Center.



Classroom at Rohwer incarceration site in Arkansas. Image courtesy of Central Arkansas System's Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, National Archives.



Kansa Project participants and Alumni Leadership Board members gather for the Kansa Culmination at the Lakeside Church of Chicago in Skokie, Illinois. Photo by Brian Hara, courtesy of Chicago Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League.

## Chicago Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League Connects Young Leaders with Japanese American WWII Incarceration History

In 2017, the Chicago Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL Chicago) was awarded an NPS JACS grant of \$78,956 to fund educational trips for participants of JACL Chicago's Kansa Project. Founded in 2011, the Kansa Project is a youth-led leadership program designed to help college-aged Japanese Americans in Chicago connect to their identity, history, and community by examining the WWII incarceration of Nikkei in the United States.

Chicago residents face unique challenges in connecting with this history. Because Chicago is far removed from all the WWII confinement sites and other West Coast historic sites, Japanese American residents are often unable to travel to these meaningful places. Even Chicago's historic Japantowns have largely faded away over the years. As a result, younger generations of Japanese Americans feel detached from their community, and their understanding of community and identity is no longer rooted in a physical space.

In 2018 and 2019, the Kansa Project implemented educational immersion trips for 10 participants

to California. The program consisted of three components: a predeparture orientation session in Chicago; a four-day educational trip to Manzanar National Historic Site and the Little Tokyo district in Los Angeles; and a culmination event in Chicago where participants shared their experiences with the local Japanese American community. Visiting sites like Manzanar and Little Tokyo gives participants a physical connection to their history in a visceral and emotional way. At Manzanar, participants learned more about the incarceration experience, and in Little Tokyo, they gained an understanding of the community's historic foundations. Throughout the program, participants captured their observations, experiences, and reflections using photography, music, poetry, video, collage, and essay, which can be found on the JACL Chicago website: <https://jaclchicago.org/programs/kansa-project/>.

The Kansa Project is already showing outstanding results. Program alumni have served in leadership positions for Japanese American community organizations at local, regional, and national levels. Many participants have taken active roles in speaking out against injustices, volunteering with local civic engagement initiatives, and organizing coalition-building opportunities with other marginalized communities.

Since 2015, the Kansa Project has been coordinated by alumni, allowing participants to continue taking an active role in the program. In addition to the immersive trips, the project's Alumni Leadership Board organizes educational opportunities centered around the Japanese American incarceration experience and the way it has shaped Chicago. The board has also worked to expand the scope, depth, and reach of the project by pursuing collaborations with diverse communities and developing an implementation guide to help other regions recreate the program.

The Kansa Project has not only served to connect younger generations of Japanese Americans with the legacy of Japanese American confinement sites but has also provided an avenue for them to continuously engage with each other and their community, further shaping the future of Nikkei in the United States.

## Fred T. Korematsu Institute Develops New Curriculum Linking Japanese American Imprisonment to Present-Day Threats to Civil Liberties

It's no secret there's a lack of education in US schools about the government's incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II.

Teachers, however, now have access to a new curriculum linking that past injustice to present-day threats to American civil liberties while simultaneously making history "come to life" for students. It was developed by educators working with the Fred T. Korematsu Institute in San Francisco, CA, and funded with a 2018 NPS JACS grant of \$100,579 and matching grants from private and public donors.

Based on the internationally acclaimed documentary film, *And Then They Came for Us*, the curriculum features lesson plans such as "Confronting Bias and Hate," "Challenging the Government Narrative on Immigration," and "The Successes & Challenges of When They Come for Others." Each lesson integrates clips from the film and includes background, objectives, and materials designed to enhance students' historical thinking skills.

Nine top educators from around the country started writing the curriculum in summer 2019 at a two-and-a-half day workshop at the institute's headquarters at the Presidio in San Francisco. The lesson plans were then distributed in partnership with PBS LearningMedia. They were also presented at the National Council for Social Studies Annual Conference, the California Council for Social Studies Annual Meeting, and virtually through the *Tadaima!* Virtual Pilgrimage event in summer 2020.

The lessons are available on the PBS LearningMedia website at: <https://thinktv.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/korematsu-institute-lesson-plans/>.

The institute advances the legacy of Fred Korematsu, a Japanese American convicted of

refusing to go to the government's incarceration camps in 1942. He appealed to the US Supreme Court but lost when it ruled his incarceration was justified because of military necessity. In 1983, however, Korematsu's conviction was overturned after it was discovered key documents had been hidden from the court by government intelligence agencies. In 1998, the lifetime civil rights activist received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor.

Since 2010, the Korematsu Institute has given out nearly 12,000 curriculum kits to more than 1 million students in all 50 states and 12 foreign countries. Demand for the materials has soared in recent years as anti-immigrant policies and discrimination against Muslim Americans has grown.

Korematsu Institute Executive Director Karen Korematsu shared, "Due to the pandemic, last year we have made the curriculum and other materials available to parents as well as educators. There has been a greater demand for education materials from our institute, especially in this time of Anti-Asian Hate."



Karen Korematsu gives tour and talk to educator curriculum writers participating in the JACS grant-funded project at the "And Then They Came For Us" exhibit at the Presidio in San Francisco. Image courtesy of Fred T. Korematsu Institute.



## Friends of Minidoka Partners with Densho on Digital Repository and Develops Exhibit to Honor Issei

Friends of Minidoka is a private nonprofit group that supports education, research, and historic preservation at Minidoka National Historic Site in Idaho. In 2020, Friends of Minidoka saw the completion of two projects for which it had received JACS Grant Program funding: digitization of historic images related to the former Minidoka incarceration site and a memorial exhibit honoring the Issei generation.

### Friends of Minidoka Collection Densho Digital Repository Project

Primary-source images are instrumental not only for understanding camp experiences but also for making an emotional connection. Historic images allow incarcerated to become more than statistics or numbers on a tag—they are seen as real people with carefully styled hair, athletic interests, carpentry skills, and children to take care of. But many historic images, documents, and film reels are at risk of deteriorating and perhaps being lost forever.

A 2018 NPS JACS grant of \$13,464 empowered Friends of Minidoka to assist in digitizing and processing collections stored at the National Archives. As a result, around 1,000 images and documents related to the former Minidoka incarceration site have been professionally scanned, indexed, and tagged using best archival practices. They have also been made available online for free educational use through the Densho Digital Repository. Densho will also house, protect, and virtually maintain the collection.

Most of these images had never been printed or even seen before. Captured by employees of the War Relocation Authority (WRA), who operated Minidoka along with nine other camps, these film negatives sat untouched in the National Archives for decades. Now, they can help provide insight into life at Minidoka as well as facilitate future interpretive and educational programs. But these images are also important for reasons beyond creating content; scholars may examine details

in the images that lead to research projects about aspects of camp life, WRA operations, and even specific people or families. Preservation, therefore, can inspire further information-gathering.

Friends of Minidoka, Densho, and NPS staff worked in partnership to bring this project to fruition and make these images available for public viewing. Park visitors, students, and others now have the opportunity to see the community that Japanese Americans forged in spite of their incarceration at Minidoka. Friends of Minidoka hopes the results of this digitization project will support similar efforts as well as encourage broad access to other materials that document the Japanese American experience during World War II.

To access the digital collection, visit: <https://ddr.densho.org/ddr-fom-1>.

### Minidoka Legacy Memorial Interpretation Exhibit Project

Funded in part by a 2016 NPS JACS grant of \$78,000, Friends of Minidoka recently completed its work on an Issei Memorial exhibit at the Minidoka National Historic Site. The Issei Memorial honors first-generation Japanese who immigrated to the United States and who suffered the heaviest losses during the forced removal of Nikkei from the West Coast.

The project has two main components: a memorial wall listing the names of more than 4,400 Issei who were incarcerated at Minidoka incarceration site and an interpretive exhibit that tells their unique story. The exhibit is richly detailed with poems written by Issei incarcerated, scans of family photos, and documents showing their life journeys such as letters and Japanese passports. The exhibit panels, in chronological order, lead viewers through the Issei experience in the United States: immigration in the 1800s; the establishment of the Japanese American community; the escalation of racial discrimination in the early 1900s; war hysteria in the wake of the attack on Pearl Harbor; incarceration in camps run by the War Relocation Authority and the Department of Justice; and finally, the legacy Issei left behind for subsequent generations.

Both the exhibit and memorial wall are featured prominently in a gallery space at the Minidoka Visitor Center, with a large window overlooking the historic barrack and mess hall at Block 22. Also sharing this space is a matching bookcase exhibit, which holds Japanese-language books donated by the Japanese Community and Cultural Center of Washington. These books were originally part of the library collection at Minidoka, bringing diversion and comfort to the Issei during their incarceration. Nearly 80 years later, the books have returned to the site.

Another set of objects that have made the journey back to Minidoka are several pieces of greasewood that were collected by an Issei man named Edward Abe in December 1942. Abe became lost in a snowstorm while collecting the wood from the

desert landscape. He perished of exposure, and when his body was recovered by a search party two days later, he was found with the greasewood. His family kept the wood in his memory, eventually giving it to Mira Nakashima decades later. Mira's father George Nakashima, a famous woodworker, was also incarcerated at Minidoka, and Mira carries on his legacy today. She polished the wood and designed a commemorative art installation that now hangs over the Issei Memorial in the visitor center.

Both the installation and the memorial were unveiled at the soft opening of the visitor center in July 2019, coinciding with the annual Minidoka Pilgrimage. Since February 2020, they have been on display to the general public, aiding in the interpretation of the Issei story.



Group photograph of a New Year Grand Recital, Minidoka incarceration site, Idaho, ca.1942–1945. Image courtesy of Densho (ddr-fom-1-127), Friends of Minidoka Collection, National Archives.



JACS Consortium meeting participants convene in front of the Japanese American National Museum's Tateuchi Democracy Forum in Los Angeles's Little Tokyo. Photo by Brian Liesinger, courtesy of JACS Consortium.

## Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation Supports Further Development of Japanese American Confinement Sites Consortium

The Japanese American Confinement Sites Consortium is a national coalition of historic sites, museums, advocacy organizations, and educational organizations. These entities seek to preserve, protect, and interpret historic sites, artifacts, and stories related to the World War II incarceration of Japanese Americans. They also work to elevate the social justice lessons of those experiences, highlighting the risks that occur for all Americans when civil rights are abused.

The consortium serves to unify the various Japanese American confinement sites and other partners. In doing so, members can bring together related visions and share resources. For example, partners may share interpretive content and exhibits or lend technology and expertise to each other. Through increased networking, organizations can broadcast their events to wider audiences and draw in greater attendance at the sites. The consortium also enables members to build a set of standards and guides that help advance the goals of each partner. By

connecting with one another on a regular basis, the organizations are able to establish best practices for pilgrimages, create standards for terminology, and enhance programming to better serve the public.

A 2017 NPS JACS grant of \$60,599 was awarded toward continuing the consortium. As a result of this grant, two significant business meetings were held in February and October 2018 to facilitate planning for more strategic outreach and communication. Partners also established an administrative council as well as refined advocacy goals and the consortium's overall mission. At present, advisory council members include the Friends of Minidoka, Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation, Japanese American National Museum, the Japanese American Citizens League, and National Japanese American Memorial Foundation.

The consortium has already shown positive results. In 2018, former President Trump's budget proposal for fiscal year 2019 declined to request funding for the NPS Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program. In response, the consortium met with legislators to educate them about the program, including the significant impact it has had in facilitating preservation and education of the WWII incarceration of Japanese Americans. As a result, the program was restored.

## Japanese American Citizens League Pacific Southwest District Hosts Arts Fellowship to Connect and Combat Historic Anti-Japanese Racism, Modern Islamophobia

Fifteen college-aged Japanese American and Muslim American students participated in a six-month arts fellowship designed to combat racism by drawing connections between historic anti-Japanese racism and contemporary Islamophobia.

The 2019 Bridging Communities Solidarity Arts Fellowship was sponsored by Vigilant Love, a Los Angeles-based grassroots multiethnic, intergenerational, and interfaith collective. It's co-sponsored by the Japanese American Citizens League, Nikkei for Civil Rights and Redress, the Japanese American Cultural & Community Center, the Muslim Anti-Racism Collaborative, and the Tuna Canyon Detention Station Coalition. It originates from Bridging Communities, which started in 2007 as a proactive partnership between Nikkei for Civil Rights and Redress, the Japanese American Citizens League, and the Council on American Islamic Relations in the aftermath of 9/11.

The fellowship kicked off in January 2019 when the students met in Los Angeles's Little Tokyo neighborhood for two days to attend workshops on community history and identity, participate in dialogues around themes such as oppression, shame, and resilience, and to do creative arts projects.

In February, they attended the world premiere of *Tales of Clamor*, a play that uses ensemble storytelling, circus arts, and archival footage from the hearings of the 1981 Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, when the Japanese American community first broke its silence about the US government's mass incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II. Members of Nikkei for Civil Rights and Redress also met with the students to explore how their history connects to experiences of Islamophobia and xenophobia in today's political climate.

In March and April, the students took a field trip to the Tuna Canyon Detention Station in Los Angeles and joined an anti-Islamophobia workshop at a Los Angeles mosque. They also attended the 50th Annual Manzanar pilgrimage with 40 other multigenerational people from diverse backgrounds that included Muslim Americans, Japanese Americans, people of color, immigrants, and members of the LGBTQ community.

In May, they again gathered in Little Tokyo to write a poetry multimedia piece to perform at Vigilant Love's Annual Bridging Communities Iftar. It was presented during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan and highlighted themes including vulnerability, relationships, healing, and solidarity.

The fellowship culminated in June with a one-day retreat allowing the students to reflect on how they had learned about community history, Islamophobia, solidarity, creative arts, and relationship building throughout the program. The fellows envisioned ways to continue connecting and creating projects together in the future, including a self-published zine finished in October.

This fellowship was supported by a 2016 NPS JACS grant of \$41,340 and matching grants from Vigilant Love, the California Wellness Foundation, the California Endowment, and the Japanese American Citizens League-Pacific Southwest District, among others.



Participants of the 2019 Bridging Communities Solidarity Arts Fellowship gather at the Manzanar National Historic Site in California. Photo by Daren Mooko, courtesy of Japanese American Citizens League Southwest Pacific District.

## National Japanese American Historical Society Digitizes WWII Artifacts for Online Access, Expands Museum Exhibits

The National Japanese American Historical Society (NJAHS) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation and dissemination of historical information related to the Japanese American experience. In 2020, NJAHS completed two major projects for which it had received JACS Grant Program funding:

- Digitizing an online collection of rare objects and documents from Japanese Americans who volunteered to leave US government concentration camps to join the US Army's fight against Japan in World War II; and
- Expanding a military exhibit at the Military Intelligence Service Historic Learning Center in San Francisco, CA, and creating a new traveling exhibition explaining the causes and consequences of Japanese American incarceration.



Shigeya Kihara was one of the first Military Intelligence Service Language School instructors in Presidio, San Francisco, CA. Image courtesy of National Japanese American Historical Society, Shigeya Kihara.

## From the Camps They Served: Nisei Soldier Digital Collections

Through a collaborative partnership, the National Japanese American Historical Society worked with the University of San Francisco (USF) to provide free public online access to artifacts from NJAHS Japanese Americans in the US Military and Internment Collections. Funded in part by a 2017 NPS JACS grant of \$79,700, the project consisted of digitizing, cataloging, and rehousing artifacts and making selected ones accessible online by uploading high resolution digital scans/ photographs and metadata to the Japanese American Confinement Sites online database, which is hosted by the university's Gleeson Library Digital Collections website.

Led by USF Project Manager Paloma Añoveros, NJAHS Project Director Rosalyn Tonai, and NJAHS Collections & Exhibitions Manager Max Nihei, interns inventoried and researched more than 2,700 objects and documents. Of those, more than 300 were chosen to be uploaded to the online database, which was also revamped to make it more user-friendly.

The objects and documents include everything from artwork and furniture to photographs and soldiers' letters. They can be viewed at the following links: <https://njahs.org/confinementsites> and <https://digitalcollections.usfca.edu/digital/>.

## Development of New Museum Exhibits

Funded in part by a 2017 NPS JACS grant of \$196,200, the National Japanese American Historical Society also created five new sections in the Incarceration Area of its permanent exhibit at the museum's 10,000-square-foot gallery at the Presidio in San Francisco, CA. They're part of its *Dislocation & Divergence: Causes & Consequences of E.O. 9066* project, and include:

- *War Clouds Brewing*, which sets Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor in its full historical context and points out that the FBI and Office of Naval Intelligence started surveilling Japanese Americans even before Japan attacked Pearl Harbor;



*Dislocation & Divergence* exhibit located at the Military Intelligence Service Historic Learning Center, Presidio, San Francisco. Pictured left to right: NJAHS's Program Development Associate Melissa Bailey Nihei, Education Coordinator Grace Morizawa, and Collections & Exhibitions Manager Max Nihei. NPS photo.

- *America Enters the War*, which explains how the Pearl Harbor attack catalyzed fear and prejudice, leading to Executive Order 9066 and the US government's mass incarceration of some 120,000 Japanese Americans and people of Japanese descent;
- *Exclusion and Removal*, which tells the story of the government's rapid incarceration process, including forcing many people of Japanese ancestry into temporary housing—some of it in converted horse stalls—before being sent to permanent quarters at the 10 concentration camps the government euphemistically called “relocation centers”;
- *Hidden Truths*, which explains how Executive Order 9066 and imprisonment were the result of government coverups, propaganda, prejudice, war hysteria, and a failure of political leadership; and
- *Hidden Treasures*, which describes how many people of Japanese ancestry were faced with a false choice between being either Japanese or loyal Americans and then destroyed, burned, or buried treasured items that linked them to Japanese culture.

The new portable exhibit about the incarceration also debuted at the NJAHS Peace Gallery in San Francisco's Japantown and is now available to tour free to other organizations nationwide.

## National Japanese American Memorial Foundation Shares Digital Storytelling Project Showcasing Student Films About Japanese American WWII Incarceration

Ten WWII-era Japanese American incarceration sites, 10 short student films bridging the gap between the sites' often sorrowful history and the modern civil rights movement. That's a top goal of the Digital Storytelling Project completed by the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation (NJAMF) in Washington, DC.

“One of the most powerful statements of these videos is that the incarceration experience during World War II is not a Japanese American story, it is an American story,” says Cal Shintani, former chairman of the NJAMF Board of Directors. “The students who poured their heart and soul into these videos not only included students of Japanese American ancestry who had grandparents in the camps, but we also had students who were Korean American, Chinese American, and a student whose grandparents were Jews in WWII Poland. All of these students related to this history, and all of them compared the events from 75 years ago to events occurring today.”

Working in partnership with the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation, the foundations tapped the creativity of 10 exceptional high school students from around the country who wanted to learn about the Japanese American experience during World War II. Each student researched an incarceration site, conducted interviews with former prisoners and their families, and created a short video after being trained in digital production at Heart Mountain by Emmy Award-winning documentarian Jeff MacIntyre.

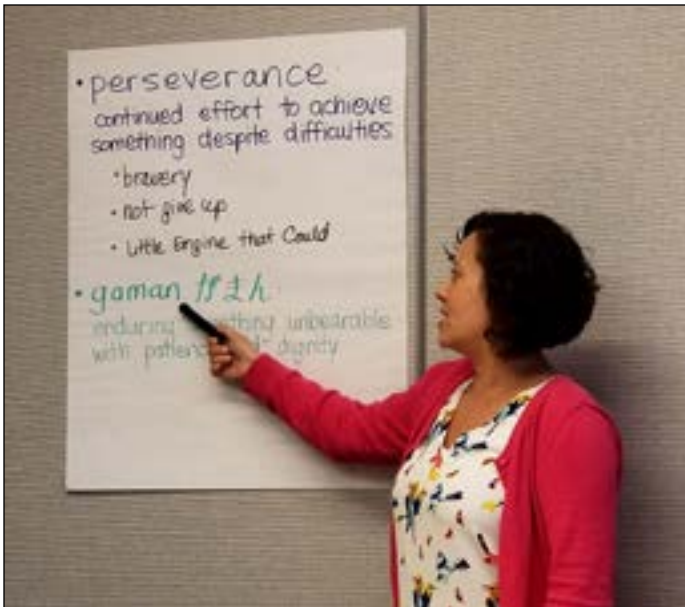
The videos tell the stories of the 10 Japanese American incarceration sites: Gila River, AZ; Amache (Granada), CO; Heart Mountain, WY; Jerome, AR; Manzanar, CA; Minidoka, ID; Poston, AZ; Rohwer, AR; Topaz, UT; and Tule Lake, CA. The videos made by students Kendall Matsumoto, Becca Jackson, Annie Schillo, Ryan Nguyen, Jackson Sousa, Halle Sousa, Connor Yu, Julia Shin, Reed Leventis, and Carolyn Hoover can be seen at <https://www.njamemorial.org/digital-storytelling-project>.

The project was supported by a 2017 NPS JACS grant of \$27,066 and matching grants from private donors.

The National Japanese American Memorial Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to education and public awareness about the incarceration of Japanese Americans by the US government during World War II and to protecting the constitutional rights of all Americans.



The Digital Storytelling Project engages youth directly in the preservation and interpretation of the WWII Japanese American incarceration history. Image courtesy of Jeff MacIntyre.



Erin Miranda teaching *Perseverance and Gaman* lesson. Image courtesy of National Veterans Network.

## National Veterans Network/Tides Center Partners with Smithsonian to Develop New Curriculum Highlighting Legacy of Japanese American WWII Soldiers

In 2017, the National Veterans Network (NVN) was awarded an NPS JACS grant of \$107,708 to collaborate with the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center on the development of new school curriculums. Designed for grades 2–5 and grades 6–8, these curriculums teach social justice and equal rights through the Nisei soldier experience.

Fiscally sponsored by the Tides Center, a nonprofit organization, the NVN’s mission is to develop programs that preserve and advocate for the legacy of Japanese American World War II soldiers. Using the Japanese American WWII experience as a backdrop, the new curriculums pose two powerful, overarching questions:

1. How can events from the past inform the decisions we make today and for our future?
2. Why is it important to think critically about the consequences of racial discrimination?

Depending on the age group, themes range from “home” and “fairness,” to “art as expression” and “team building,” to “patriotism” and “rights and responsibilities as citizens.” By using real life references, students can engage in meaningful dialogue about tensions in today’s society and reflect on the roles they play in their own communities.

A key element of these curriculums is to not only provide teachers with the necessary resources to discuss an underrepresented segment of WWII history but to also provide “Do Something” action tasks. This approach helps students recognize they have the agency to take action when identifying issues in their community, in their country, and throughout the world.

For grades 6 through 8, the curriculum focuses more specifically on Nisei servicemembers and the difficult choices Japanese Americans were forced to make. Students explore the lives and decisions of three people: Daniel K. Inouye, as a veteran who saw combat; Terry Toyome Nakanishi, as a veteran who served in the Women’s Army Corps and Military Intelligence Service; and Fred T. Korematsu, who chose to resist incarceration. By considering each person’s unique perspectives and choices (or lack of choices), students can discuss the varied interpretations of loyalty and patriotism. This step will move students to consider Americans who either choose to support their government even when it violates their communities’ rights or to challenge their government’s actions.

These curriculums bring the WWII Japanese American experience to a heightened relevance. By learning these remarkable stories in depth, students are not only equipped to see the world’s issues in all their complexities but to also think critically about what they can and would do. To access these lessons, visit: <https://nationalveteransnetwork.com/resources-for-researchers-educators/#>.



## Smith College Designs Exhibition, Book to Draw Attention to a Little-Known Japanese American Artist

Incarceration at the Minidoka Relocation Center in Idaho informed the life and art of Munio Makuuchi, an enigmatic, often restless artist who achieved little recognition during his lifetime and was sometimes described as a secretive outsider.

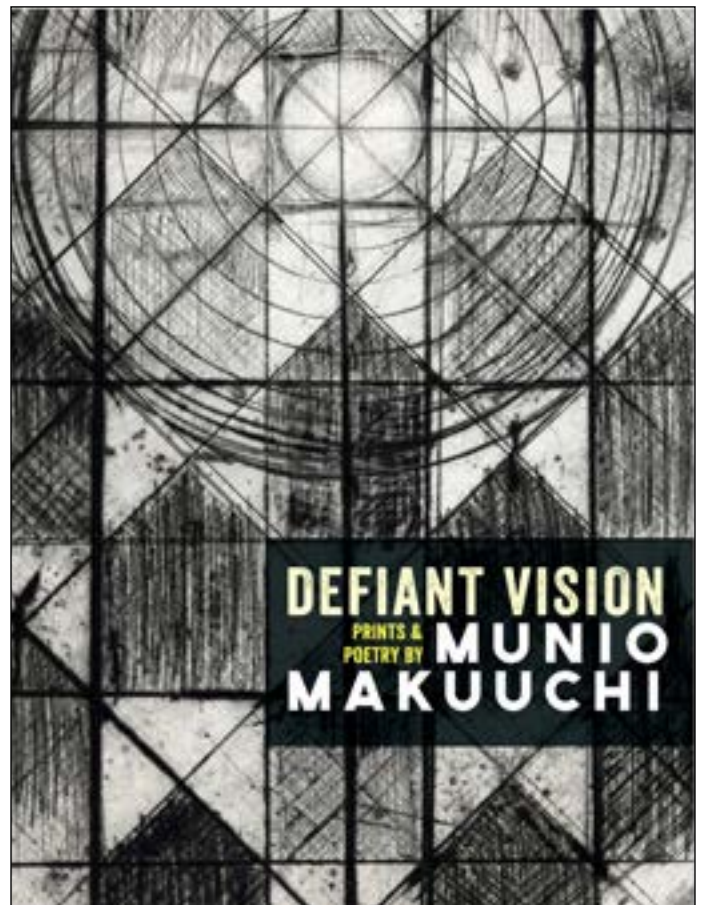
That changed in 2019 when The Smith College Museum of Art in Northampton, MA, staged an exhibition and published a book about his life and art.

More than 9,000 people attended *Defiant Vision: Prints & Poetry* by Munio Makuuchi during its 15-week run at the museum. Hundreds of copies of a book by the same name have been given to leading universities in every state and sold to the public. Born Howard Takahashi in 1934, the artist and his extended family were incarcerated at Minidoka from 1942 to 1945. Exhibition organizers say the experience “was a catalyst for his visual and poetic works as well as a contributing factor in his rootless existence,” adding that “even his closest friends describe Makuuchi as combative, secretive, and mercurial, which, coupled with his frequent moves worked against recognition of his art during his lifetime.”

Most of Makuuchi’s prints feature layered figures in dream-like scenarios. They are infused with reflections on his personal experiences and philosophy and draw from his camp experiences, art history, mythology, and dreams. Organizers say they hope the exhibition and book not only preserve Makuuchi’s artistic legacy but introduce a wide audience to the long-term impacts of Japanese American WWII incarceration.

In 2021, the exhibition catalogue was selected as a finalist for the College Art Association’s Alfred H. Barr, Jr. Award for Smaller Museums, Libraries, Collections, and Exhibitions. To learn more about the exhibition, visit the following link: <https://scma.smith.edu/art/exhibitions/defiant-vision-prints-poetry-munio-makuuchi>.

The project was made possible with a 2018 NPS JACS grant of \$37,822 and matching funds from Smith College and the Wyeth Foundation for American Art.



*Defiant Vision* exhibit catalogue cover. Image courtesy of Collection of Smith College Museum of Art, Northampton, MA.



Interviewee Fujiko Yamashita points to her father's name, Tokujiro Ikeda, on the Tuna Canyon Detention Station Coalition Honor Roll at the Tuna Canyon exhibit at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles. Image courtesy of Tuna Canyon Detention Station Coalition.

## Tuna Canyon Detention Station Coalition History Preserved in Interviews of Prisoners' Children

Twenty-five people, all descendants of prisoners at the former Tuna Canyon Detention Station in California, have been interviewed as part of an effort to learn more about the site and preserve its history.

The effort was undertaken by the Tuna Canyon Detention Station Coalition with a 2017 NPS JACS grant of \$54,000 and matching funds from public and private donors.

Many Japanese immigrants were temporarily imprisoned in Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) detention centers during World War II before being moved to other INS and Army confinement sites. Little is known about the history of those detention centers, including Tuna Canyon, which was located in Tujunga, a community within the City of Los Angeles, CA.

The detention station was a former Civilian Conservation Corps camp and had a capacity of just 300 people. But more than 2,000 Japanese, German, and Italian immigrants, Japanese Peruvians, and others moved through the camp between December 16, 1941—nine days after Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor—and October 30, 1943.

Those interviewed were the sons and daughters of detainees, and many interviewees were in their 80s and 90s. Before being interviewed, each person was given the detainee's Department of Justice case file. Each interview was digitized, transcribed, and preserved in the archives of the Tuna Canyon Detention Station and the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles, CA.

The idea stemmed from the Coalition's 2016 traveling museum-quality exhibit, *Only the Oaks Remain*.

As the exhibit traveled to the San Diego History Museum, the Japanese American National Museum, the Manzanar National Historic Site, and beyond, many attendees found their parents' or grandparents' names in the exhibit. Often, it was the first time they had heard of Tuna Canyon. Over 220 names were collected and used to organize the interviews.

Coalition leaders say the interviews brought to light stories of pain and family separation and the violation of basic human rights. They vowed to share the stories "so that such suffering and injustice might never again occur."

## University of Colorado Denver Documents Distant Past, Present at Amache with Sophisticated Laser Technology

One of the enduring mysteries about former incarceration sites like Amache in southeastern Colorado, historically called the Granada Relocation Center, is knowing what was once there and what remains. Now researchers, architects, and preservationists are using sophisticated laser technology called LiDAR to reveal the past and create digital 3D models of the present.



UC Denver uses LiDAR scanning technology to document existing and reconstructed buildings at the former Amache incarceration site. Photo courtesy of Michael Nulty, University of Colorado Denver.

LiDAR is an acronym for light detection and ranging. The data gathered captures evidence of structures that were razed and accurately documents the present landscape. Combined with high-resolution photographs, the data can accurately map sites like Amache, which once spread out over nearly 10,000 acres, most of it concentrated in one square mile holding 29 Army-style barracks.

Mapping is important at Amache because many of its buildings, including a hospital, post office, and barracks that once housed as many as 7,300 people, were destroyed when World War II ended and the land reverted to private farming. Today, the only surviving evidence of the original camp is its cemetery, a reservoir, a water well and tank, koi pond, the roads, concrete foundations, the military police compound, the original security perimeter fence, and trees planted by people imprisoned there.

Amache is one of 10 centers constructed in the United States during World War II to imprison Japanese Americans and people of Japanese descent.

More than 10,000 people passed through Amache, some two-thirds of them US citizens. The site was declared a National Historic Landmark in 2006. Today, it's maintained by the Town of Granada, Amache Preservation Society, and other organizations. It's currently being studied by the National Park Service for potential inclusion in the national park system.

The Amache LiDAR project was completed last year by a team led by Ekaterini Vlahos as the Principal Investigator, and Michael Nulty as the Documentation Coordinator. The project was funded in part by a 2018 NPS JACS grant of \$37,047 and matching funds from the university. Similar work has also been completed by the team at other former incarceration sites, including Heart Mountain in Wyoming, Topaz in Utah, and Tule Lake in California.

## Visual Communications Premieres *Manzanar, Diverted: When Water Becomes Dust*

Visual Communications, a nonprofit dedicated to supporting Asian American and Pacific Islander filmmakers and media artists who empower communities and challenge perspectives, completed and premiered a new documentary entitled *Manzanar, Diverted: When Water Becomes Dust* at the critically acclaimed Big Sky Documentary Film Festival in February 2021. Directed by Ann Kaneko and produced by Jin Yoo-Kim and Ann Kaneko, this film looks at intersecting environmental and political histories that enhance our understanding of Manzanar, which is located in California's Eastern Sierras in Payahuunadü (Owens River Valley). The film had its Los Angeles premiere in September 2021 at the Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival, presented by Visual Communications, where it was the Opening Night film.

Funded in part by a 2017 NPS JACS grant of \$83,765, the 84-minute film situates Manzanar's WWII Japanese American incarceration site story in a larger historical context. The Jury from the 2021 Center for Asian American Media

Festival (CAAMFest) described it as “a powerful documentary that explores vital topics including the devastating impact of climate change, water and land rights and intersectionality between the Asian American and Indigenous communities. . . an impressive film that equally entertains and educates.”

Featuring diverse perspectives of those who inhabited Manzanar, the film unpacks complex, interlocking histories of forced Indigenous removal, Japanese American incarceration, the LA Department of Water and Power's monopolization of land, and farmers and ranchers' fight for resources. These stories are woven together under a common thread of environmental and social exploitation and highlight the strength of its survivors working to overcome these barriers. Visual Communications hopes the film encourages audience to be more curious and critical about how resources like water are managed and to consider how this management impacts communities locally and beyond.

An informational website for the film, including film festival tour screenings, can be found at [www.manzanardiverted.com](http://www.manzanardiverted.com). For more information, visit <https://www.facebook.com/manzanardiverted>.



Ann Kaneko, director and producer of *Manzanar, Diverted: When Water Becomes Dust*, films the LA Aqueduct on a lush, spring day. Photo by Yumi Miki.

## The WNET Group Produces New Video Game Teaching Japanese American World War II Incarceration History

*Prisoner in My Homeland* is a new digital game and curriculum guide designed to teach students about the ordeals young Japanese Americans and their families endured when they were imprisoned in US incarceration sites during World War II.

Developers say the game allows players to “step into the role of Henry Tanaka, a 16-year-old Japanese American boy whose family is forced to leave their home on Bainbridge Island, WA, for a prison camp in Manzanar, CA. Players must make decisions that reflect broader strategies of survival and resistance: Will they help their community, focus on family, support the war effort, resist injustice?”

*Prisoner* was released in fall 2020. It’s the sixth installment in Mission US, a series of free, award-winning, online games designed to teach kids about pivotal topics in American history such as the colonial era, slavery and abolitionism, and westward expansion from an indigenous perspective.

It was produced by New York public media organization The WNET Group in partnership with the American Social History Project at the Graduate School of the City University of New York, Electric Funstuff, and Education Development Center. Input was also provided by the Japanese American community, including scholars, Densho, the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community, the Manzanar Committee, the Yuri Education Project, and others.

The Mission US games are targeted at 9- to 13-year-old middle school students. However, since launching in 2010 the games have reached more

than 3 million registered users from elementary to high school age in all 50 states. That includes more than 100,000 teachers. *USA Today* has called Mission US “a powerful game that all kids should experience,” and research shows it boosts students’ historical knowledge and thinking skills. *Prisoner* has been honored with the 2021 Japan Prize (Best Work, Digital Media Division) and a Gold Medal at the 2021 International Serious Play Awards.

The cast of *Prisoner* includes Asian American voiceover actors, several of whom are descendants of Japanese American incarcerated. Its soundtrack includes songs by Mary Nomura, who was known as the “Songbird of Manzanar” as well as popular big band tunes from the period, performed by the Minidoka Swing Band.

To play, visit <https://www.mission-us.org/games/prisoner-in-my-homeland/>

*Prisoner* was made possible by a 2015 NPS JACS grant of \$400,000 and matching funds from private foundations and individual donors.



The educational game *Prisoner in My Homeland* enables players to interact with primary source materials, including photos, documents, radio excerpts and period music. Image courtesy of The WNET Group.



The *Out of the Desert* digital portal provides the public with resources to learn about Japanese American World War II incarceration history. Image courtesy of Yale University.

## Yale University Creates Symposium, Curriculum, Interactive Website to Mark 75th Anniversary of Executive Order 9066

Yale University hosted a symposium, created a high school curriculum, and established an immersive interactive digital website as part of its wide-ranging *Out of the Desert* project to mark the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9066 in 2017. The order led to the US government's imprisonment of nearly 120,000 Japanese Americans and people of Japanese ancestry during World War II and was signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on February 19, 1942.

The project spans many years and locations. It featured a two-day symposium in October 2017 designed to foster cross-disciplinary dialogue. Titled *Out of the Desert: Legacies of Incarceration*, more than 220 people attended, hearing 38 presentations from a diverse set of scholars, historians, archivists, museum specialists, and Japanese American community leaders from across the country.

One major outcome of the symposium and related events is that it sparked a national discussion about how Japanese American artifacts at Yale and

elsewhere should be catalogued, cared for, and described in antioppressive terms. The symposium was cohosted by the Yale Center for the Study of Race, Indigeneity and Transnational Migration, and the Yale Asian American Cultural Center.

Meanwhile, nearly 275,000 students and 2,780 teachers in 8,000 schools nationwide have downloaded the project's free digital high school curriculum so far. The course includes readings, study guides, and videos explaining the history of Japanese American incarceration as well as its historical and present-day implications. It is available at the following link: <https://www.choices.edu/curriculum-unit/japanese-american-incarceration-world-war-ii/>

The project also further developed the *Out of the Desert* immersive digital portal, which features an interactive map and gallery that narrates the story of the US "assembly centers" and 10 WRA incarceration sites using detailed demographic information, videos, letters, and other digitized artifacts and archival sources. The site has received tens of thousands of visitors, and can be explored at the following link: <https://outofthedesert.yale.edu/>.

The project was funded with a 2017 NPS JACS grant of \$76,374 and matching funds from private and public donors.

## 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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**Midwest Region**  
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**ND, OH, SD, WI**

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**Pacific West Region**  
**CA, HI, ID, NV, OR, WA,**  
**and other states not listed**

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**Intermountain Region**  
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**Grant Program**

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**Lakewood, CO 80228**

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

**Website:** [www.nps.gov/JACS/](http://www.nps.gov/JACS/)



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



Turlock "assembly center," California, May 2, 1942. Photo by Dorothea Lange, courtesy of Densho (ddr-densho-151-9), National Archives and Records Administration.