



PRESERVING CALIFORNIA'S JAPANTOWNS SYMPOSIUM

Building for the Future

June 9, 2006 | Miyako Hotel, San Francisco's Japantown

This one-day symposium brought together experts and practitioners of historic and cultural preservation and folks from California's three Japantowns to collectively converse for the first time about why it is important and how to preserve the nation's remaining Japantowns in their respective spaces. The attendees discussed the preservation of California's Japantowns, acknowledged the 2005 California Civil Liberties Public Education Program (CCLPEP) cultural and historic preservation projects and honored the individuals and organizations that support and implement preservation efforts for past and present Japantown communities. Funded by the California State Library and the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program (CCLPEP), the symposium was a successful event that attracted over 140 participants from the Japanese American (Nikkei) community and practitioners of historic and cultural preservation from across the state of California.

This symposium achieved its goals in bringing together the Nikkei and non-Nikkei communities to acknowledge and discuss the imminent importance of maintaining the cultural integrity of California's Japantowns while creating dialogue about how to carry preservation efforts into the future. Attendees learned about the unique history, opportunities and challenges of preserving our Japantown communities and how the latest in preservation tools and techniques can be applied to Japantowns. Three key missions for preserving California's Japantowns are: **reclaiming** historic resources from the numerous pre-World War II Japantowns; **capturing** memories of Nisei on the historic development and disruptions of California's Japanese American communities; **expanding** knowledge of California's history by documenting over 40 Japantowns that existed prior to World War II. The discussions and outcomes of the symposium sessions help shaped the future directives and priorities for cultural and historic preservation efforts of California's Japantowns.

The symposium successfully demonstrated the resiliency of the Japanese American community, which has continued to forge forward while also preserving the past.