



**NOTES FROM THE  
CULTURAL HERITAGE COMMITTEE MEETING  
OF THE JAPANTOWN TASK FORCE**

1684 POST STREET  
TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2015

**BOARD MEMBER PRESENT:**

Rosalyn Tonai, Seiko Fujimoto, Judy Hamaguchi, Glynis Nakahara

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Bob Hamaguchi, Greg Marutani

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Patty Wada, Karen Kai, Merry Nishimura,

The meeting began at 12:05 p.m.

**LANDMARKING THE PAGODA**

Patty Wada reported that her contact, Tami Suzuki at the SF Main Library referred her to Claudia Guerra who said she would send a staff person to research the Office of Community Investment and Infrastructure for the original drawings of the Peace Plaza as a number of names and organizations have been mentioned but those contacts have either closed the business or are unable to locate the drawings.

Efforts continue to arrange a meeting of the major departments (SF Metropolitan Authority, Department of Public Works, and Recreations and Park Department) involved with the Peace Plaza. It appears the target is some time in late July.

Karen Kai volunteered to reach out the Department of Public Works to see if anyone there is able to located a set of drawings for the Peace Plaza.

As there was a lawsuit filed by the City against the contractor who supposedly applied the waterproofing on to the Plaza during a rain and that the court ruled in favor of the City and County of San Francisco, that the drawings were probably brought into evidence, that there may be another source to pursue.

**RUTH ASAWA FOUNTAINS IN BUCHANAN MALL**

No further update at this time.

**BUCHANAN MALL**

Work on the refurbishing of the benches in the Buchanan Mall and will include armrests in the middle of the benches has begun. The delay is a result of the manufacturing customized armrests and applying an anodized coating.

**SF ARTS COMMISSION "PASSPORT DAYS"**

The SF Arts Commission (SFAC) has selected Japantown for their 2015 "Passport Day" event. Previous events have taken place in the Mission, Castro, Divisadero Corridor, Hayes Valley.

The SFAC will select approximately twelve to fifteen local artists and find venues within in Japantown businesses and organizations that will allow one of the artists to be placed to stamp the “passports” purchased by the individual from SFAC.

The SFAC needs a central point to set up on the day of the event. While the SFAC staff mentioned the Peace Plaza, it was mentioned that the JTF recommend setting up in the Buchanan Mall area as the Ruth Asawa Fountains are SFAC project.

It was emphasized that a lot of outreach will need to occur for this event as nearly all of the merchants in Japantown do not advertise in the mainstream and man of the more established businesss do not use the Internet and others do not have a presence on the Internet.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

With recent announcement of the Japantown Foundation grant proposal requests are due July 31, 2015, those attending the Cultural Heritage meeting were asked to consider what projects in 2016 might be in the “pipeline” that funds could be requested from the Foundation (up to \$01,000) could be used. The deadline for submission is Friday July 31, 2015.

Possible purposes for applying for funds include landmarking of Pagoda / Peace Plaza; repair of the Ruth Asawa Fountains, Peace Pagoda/Plaza research, etc.

A request was made to review the last summary of community input regarding the “bigger” picture for Japantown.

It was noted that new lanterns have been installed on the Webster Street Bridge; it appears the Department of Public Works (DPW) may have had it on their work schedule and proceeded to replace all of them.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- July 25-26 SF Buddhist Church Obon <http://bcsfweb.org/update/index.php/2-uncategorised/208-welcome-to-the-2015-ginza-bazaar-sign-up-page>
- July 10 Masanori Murakami Luncheon
- July 13 JACL National Convention [jacl.org/2015convention/](http://jacl.org/2015convention/)
- July 18 Truth of Kites and Kite Making
- August 1-2 “1945: Year of Infamy” musical performance at Nihonmachi Street Fair
- August 6 “1945: Year of Infamy” musical performance at Asian Art Museum
- August 16 JACL - San Francisco Chapter Gil Asakawa Book Signing (location and time to be determined)

JACL - San Francisco Chapter: Masanori Murakami Scholarship four \$2,000 athletic scholarships available for Northern and Central California.

The next meeting will be at Noon, Tuesday, August 11, 2015 at the NJAHS,

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.