



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

1684 POST STREET

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2015

BOARD MEMBER PRESENT:

Rosalyn Tonai, Glynis Nakahara

STAFF PRESENT:

Bob Hamaguchi, Greg Marutani

OTHERS PRESENT:

Patty Wada, Karen Kai, Shiz Mihara

The meeting began at 12:10 p.m.

SF ARTS COMMISSION “PASSPORT DAY”

It was reported that nearly all of the selected venues in Japantown and the artists have been confirmed for the Passport Day scheduled for Sunday October 18, 2015 from Noon to 4:00 p.m. (Attachment A). Promotional material will be prepared by the SFAC and distributed to their constituents and to Japantown to promote the event. Rosalyn will check w/ the Asawa family.

Passports must be purchased in advance through SFAC (\$25.00) and then picked up in Japantown the day of the event. A very limited number of “passports” will be available, making the ones that obtain all the stamps would be collector items.

LANDMARKING THE PAGODA

Meeting with Planning, Park & Recreation, and SF Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Diane Matsuda, Bob Hamaguchi, and Rich Hashimoto will attend the meeting and present a number of items to the representatives from the various city departments. (Attachment B)

Concern was expressed that the current water structure and “Peace” flame should be on the list for discussion, noting that both need to be redone in a way that reflects more accurately reflect the original intent and design of these two significant aspects of the Peace Plaza.

It was also noted that the circular planter in the Peace Plaza has been designated the Willie Brown Jr. Black Pine Tree and may require some special consideration should the planter and/or tree be moved and/or replaced.

A letter from the Historic Preservation Commission of the SF Planning Department stated “*there is nothing in the landmark designation that would preclude such repairs from being made* [to the Pagoda, Plaza or Garage]”

Follow up was recommended to find out what “gaps” are in the draft report prepared by Jonathan Lammers and if there is still time to research and fill in those “gaps” such as blueprints for the original Peace Plaza, anecdotes from individuals in the community who witnessed the development.

RUTH ASAWA FOUNTAINS IN BUCHANAN MALL

No further update at this time, except the graffiti on one of the fountains has “faded” quite a bit due in part to the natural elements and/or aging of the graffiti.

NEW BUSINESS:

Cmte Members discussed the Comfort Women monument resolution presented by Supervisor Eric Mar, as requested by JTF President. Last week, the committee learned that an informational meeting was requested from Mar’s office by Peter Yamamoto, as a concerned citizen. While the committee chair did not attend, few, mostly JAs attended including Pres. Alice Kawahatsu and board member Judy Hamaguchi. There was a general concern that not all parties in the JA community were approached before the resolution was put forth, so that its purpose and intent and outcome were understood. It was clear at the meeting, that the need for delay and review was necessary as there was dissention in the JA community on this complex issue. It was noted that the resolution will be discussed at a subcommittee on Thursday, Sept. 17.

It was reported that the Asian Art Museum “How Japan Inspired Monet, Van Gogh, and Other Western Artists” exhibit will open October 30, 2015 through February 7, 2016 in which concern has been noted on the Internet that some are concerned about one of the projects includes the possibility of people being able to have a photo taken with a kimono that was used in an earlier version of the exhibit when it traveled.

The JTF staff has been made aware that Japan Center Malls (3D) is proposing a large-scale murals on the facade of the East and West Malls along the entire length of Geary Street. They are polling the tenants within the two malls for feedback. .

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- 1481 Post Street Project Meeting @ JCCCNC..... September 15, 2015
- Kimochi, Inc. *Golf Tournament* September 18, 2015
- JCCCNC *Tabemasho* September 19, 2015
- Asian Law Caucus *Trivia Pursuit Tournament*..... September 19, 2015
- Chinese Historical Society of America *Annual Dinner* September 19, 2015
- Planning Commission hearing o September 22, 2015
- API Legal Outreach *Annual Fund Raiser*.....October 2, 2015
- Nichi Bei Times/NJAHS *Angel Island Nikkei Pilgrimage*October 3, 2015
- Nihonmachi Little Friends *Groundbreaking*October 9, 2015
- SF Arts Commission *Passport Day*October 18, 2015

The meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

The next meeting will be at Noon, Tuesday, October 13, 2015 at the NJAHS.

ATTACHMENT A

**SF ARTS COMMISSION
PASSPORT DAY
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2015
NOON TO 4:00 P.M.**

ARTIST VENUE

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Vicky and Linda Mihara | PAPER TREE |
| 2. Kota Ezawa | Tokaido Arts |
| 3. Sandra Ono | MaruQ |
| 4. Tina Takemoto | NJAHS |
| 5. Masako Miki | Kinokuniya |
| 6. Kathy Aoki | Ichiban Kan |
| 7. Taravat Talepasand | Yakini Q Café |
| 8. Li Ma, | Katachi |
| 9. Robert Minervini, | Ma-Shi-ko Folk Art |
| 10 Takehito Etani, | Pika Pika |
| 11. _____ | Aloha Warehouse |
| 12. _____ | JCCCNC |

Pre-Event (October 7)

On Wednesday evening, the artists will meet at the JAACL Headquarters (1765 Sutter Street) from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. to pre-stamp approximately 120 passport books for use by the SFAC. Sponsoring merchants will be invited to stop in and meet their particular artist before the actual event.

Day of the Event (October 18)

SFAC will set up two tents one in the Peace Plaza, the other in the Buchanan Mall. Individuals who ordered their passport book on line from the SFAC will be able to pick up their passport at Noon and begin searching out the venues where the artists are located.

Signage will be prepared to direct people to the two tents, in particular in the Japan Center Garage.

Post-Event (October 18)

The post event is open to the artists, venue owners, Japantown Task Force, Japantown Merchants Association, as well as past Passport participants will be invited to the post-event to be held at Dosa on the corner of Fillmore and Post Streets.

For more information visit: <http://www.sfartscommission.org/product/passport-2015/>

SF ART COMMISSION PASSPORT 2015

Stamping Day: Sunday, October 18, noon – 4 p.m.

Where: Japantown, San Francisco

Passport Home Base / Will Call: Japantown Peace Plaza, an outdoor court which connects the Miyako and Kintetsu Malls. (Between Geary & Post and Webster & Laguna)

Presented in Partnership with: [Invest in Neighborhoods](#)

Wait, what is Passport?

Passport is the SFAC Galleries signature outreach event and where you create your own limited edition art book by collecting artist-designed stamps in a customized “passport” journal. Bring your friends and family to Japantown this year, where hot emerging and established Bay Area artists will be stamping at neighborhood businesses that help define this treasured historic district.

I want to go! How do I get a Passport?

Step 1: Purchase your passport for \$25 here. Or at Passport 2015’s Home Base (Japantown, Peace Plaza) on Sunday, October 18, 2015 between 11:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Step 2: Pick up your passport and event map at will call at Home Base (Japantown, Peace Plaza) between 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Sunday, October 18 come rain or shine.

Step 3: Follow the Passport map to sixteen amazing local business where artists will be waiting to stamp your passport with an original artwork.

Step 4: Allow 2 – 3 hours to complete the route. Bring sunscreen and plan to shop and eat along the way.

I can’t go that day but I still want a Passport. Help!

Don’t worry; we’ll stamp it for you. Collectors can purchase a Concierge Passport for \$125; gallery staff will collect all the stamps and mail it to the purchaser’s home. To purchase click [here](#) or call the SFAC Galleries at 415.252.2568 or email Meg Shiffler, gallery director at meg.shiffler@sfgov.org. All proceeds go to SFAC Gallery’s programming fund supporting artist honoraria and exhibition costs.

Who are the awesome participating artists?

[Kathy Aoki](#), [Vicky Mihara Avery](#) & [Linda Mihara](#), [Takehito Etani](#), [Rodney Ewing](#), [Kota Ezawa](#), [Renee Gertler](#), [Taro Hattori](#), [Ma Li](#), [Masako Miki](#), [Robert Minervini](#), [Sandra Ono](#), [Hadi Tabatabai](#), [Tina Takemoto](#), [Taravat Talepasand](#) and more!

Who are the amazing partner host venues?

Passport Home Base: Japantown, Peace Plaza; [Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California \(JCCNC\)](#), [Paper Tree](#), [National Japanese American Historical Society \(NJAHS\)](#), [Tokaido Arts](#), [Pika Pika](#), [Mashiko Folkcraft](#), [MaruQ](#), [Yakini Q Café](#), [Ichiban Kan](#), [Kinokuniya](#), [Akabanaa](#), [Katsura](#) and more!

Can’t attend the event? No problem. We’ll stamp your passport for you and mail it to you after the event. Passport 2015 is Sunday, October 18 in San Francisco’s historic Japantown.

This is not a regular, blank passport journal. This is our Concierge Passport for those that cannot attend the event, but want to add this year’s passport to their collection. Purchase the Concierge Passport (\$125.00) and we’ll stamp it for you and mail it to you after the event.



Landmarking Pagoda / Peace Plaza Improvements
September 8, 2015

Landmarking the Pagoda must not unnecessarily delay or prevent repairs of waterproofing and remodeling of the Peace Plaza. The various City agencies that have purview of the plaza include the Recreation and Parks (Peace Plaza and Pagoda), and SFMTA (Japan Center Garage).

A short list of immediate needs are:

- the recommendations of the MTA assessment (bond).
Make an inquiry on the possibility of assigning three years garage revenues towards waterproof renovation.
- study where the leaks are coming from and remediate as soon as possible
We pretty much know the source of where the water leaks are coming from.
- commitment to keep up the landscaping
JMA offered to enter into a maintenance agreement years ago with Rec/Park but has not responded. Add regular lighting maintenance and pressure washing. Union Square has a management agreement with their BID. We should look into a similar arrangement so we, the community, can control the maintenance and use of the plaza.
- replace the broken tiles, and slate on the wall next to the West Mall.
Look into removing tiles completely and install architectural flatwork.
- repaint the pagoda and stage area.
Pagoda requires pressure washing all five tiers and make assessment if painting is needed. Replace light bulbs on top tier for spire...Should be done annually.

Others

- Install a system of gutters and drip pans in garage.
- Install more No Skateboard signs and nubs.
- Replace copper flashing on Pagoda.
- Remove dead or diseased cherry trees.
- Replace expansion joint seals and thresholds at mall entries.
- Replace wood planter boxes with concrete planters.
- Replace Japanese black pine in circular planter.
- Remove and transfer electrical power from garage to Rec/Park.
- Waive plaza use fees for community events.

Wish List

- Paint Pagoda black and red.
- Install outlets on pagoda for holiday lighting.
- Install waterfall cascade on pagoda.
- Canopy connecting the two mall buildings.
- More lighting.