

Janm



JAPANESE AMERICAN
NATIONAL MUSEUM

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About the Democracy Center

LOS ANGELES, CA – Founded by the Japanese American National Museum in 2000, the National Center for the Preservation of Democracy (Democracy Center) convenes and educates people of all ages about democracy to transform attitudes, celebrate culture, and promote civic engagement. The Democracy Center examines issues around race, identity, social justice, and explores the evolving idea of what is democracy and what it means to be an American. A place for education and participation, the Democracy Center engages the public and leaders from all sectors to bring diverse communities together, advocate for positive change, and promote democracy.

The Democracy Center envisions an enduring American Democracy where all people understand their right and responsibility to participate.

Recent initiatives of the Democracy Center include:

- **The Irene Yamamoto Arts Writers Fellowship**, awarded annually to two emerging writers of color who have demonstrated commitment to writing about the art of communities of color and whose unique perspectives or points of view contribute to arts writing.
- An **artists fellowship program** in collaboration with Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California that is funded by Artists At Work, a national initiative developed by THE OFFICE performing arts + film, with support from the Mellon Foundation, the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture, Asian Arts Initiative, and the Ford Foundation.
- **Empathy & Democracy**, a live podcast series and pop-up art program is presented by the Democracy Center in collaboration with the Gratitude Blooming Podcast.
- Recent and upcoming programs with **community partners** including Asian American Journalists Association, Artistas de Colores Unido, California Black Freedom Fund, Chinese American Museum, The Huey P. Newton Foundation, LA Live, and La Plaza de Cultura y Artes, among others.

In **Fall 2023**, the Democracy Center will relaunch with two major **Distinguished Lecture Series** and a presentation of the Smithsonian Institute's traveling exhibition *The Bias Inside Us*.

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About the Japanese American National Museum (JANM)

Established in 1985, **JANM** promotes understanding and appreciation of America's ethnic and cultural diversity by sharing the Japanese American experience. Located in the historic Little Tokyo district of downtown Los Angeles, **JANM** is a center for civil rights, ensuring that the hard-fought lessons of the World War II incarceration are not forgotten. A Smithsonian Affiliate and one of America's Cultural Treasures, **JANM** is a hybrid institution that straddles traditional museum categories. **JANM** is a center for the arts as well as history. It provides a voice for Japanese Americans and a forum that enables all people to explore their own heritage and culture. Since opening to the public in 1992, **JANM** has presented over 100 exhibitions onsite while traveling 40 exhibits to venues such as the Smithsonian Institution and the Ellis Island Museum in the United States, and to several leading cultural museums in Japan and South America. **JANM** is open on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday–Sunday from 11 a.m.–5 p.m. and on Thursday from 12 p.m.–8 p.m. **JANM** is free every third Thursday of the month. On all other Thursdays, **JANM** is free from 5 p.m.–8 p.m. For more information, visit janm.org or follow us on social media @jamuseum.