

# Janm



JAPANESE AMERICAN  
NATIONAL MUSEUM

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## ***In the Future We Call Now: Realities of Racism, Dreams of Democracy—JANM’s New Core Exhibition to Open in 2026***

**LOS ANGELES, CA** – In the most significant change since it opened the Pavilion in 1999, the **Japanese American National Museum (JANM)** is creating a new core exhibition. Slated to open in 2026, *In the Future We Call Now: Realities of Racism, Dreams of Democracy* will draw on today’s technological advances and national discussion around race and democracy, as well as the Museum’s important collection of more than 150,000 objects, to re-imagine the way it tells the stories of Japanese Americans from the early days of immigration in the mid-1800s through World War II to today. The exhibition’s title, taken from writer traci kato-kiriyama’s latest book, reflects the complexity, urgency, and universality of the Japanese American story.

“The Japanese American story is an American story, equally forged by the realities of racism and the dreams of democracy,” said Chief Curator Karen Ishizuka. “Our new core exhibition will offer visitors a journey that begins with curiosity and ends with action.”

*In the Future We Call Now* will be located in 10,150 square-feet of new and renovated gallery space on **JANM’s** first floor. The current core exhibition *Common Ground: The Heart of Community*, which opened in 1999, will end on December 30, 2024, when the Museum will close for renovation.

Tracing Japanese American history before, during, and after World War II, the exhibition will present the Japanese American experience as part of the larger American story, explore the many different ways to be Japanese American, and examine the changes and evolution of Japanese America and the US.

The exhibition will incorporate artifacts familiar to the Museum’s visitors as well as rarely seen, rotating examples from its extensive collection. Prewar home movies will convey the vibrance of the community interrupted by unjust incarceration. In addition to the Heart Mountain barracks at the center of the exhibition, the new installation will include objects from the Tule Lake concentration camp and incorporate the wartime experience of Japanese Americans in Hawai‘i, Alaska, and South Americas. The postwar section will follow the evolving Japanese American community from resettlement, through the Asian American movement, and into the fight for justice today. Woven throughout the exhibition will be videos featuring personal histories told by people of multiple generations of the same family.

The core exhibition is supported in whole by funding provided by the State of California, administered by the California State Library.

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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](http://janm.org) or follow us on social media @jamuseum.