

janm 

JAPANESE AMERICAN  
NATIONAL MUSEUM

2025

IMPACT REPORT

# Preserving Stories

At JANM, our mission is rooted in one of the gravest civil liberties violations in US history: the forced incarceration of more than 125,000 Japanese Americans during World War II. We stand on the very ground where Los Angeles's Japanese American families were forced to board the buses that carried them to concentration camps in 1942. A ground zero point in the civil rights history of our country.

That history is in our DNA—and it is why JANM exists: to confront difficult truths about race and identity, to defend democracy against fragility, and to ensure that the injustice of history is never forgotten or repeated.



This past year, as institutions like ours faced unprecedented challenges, we leaned even more deeply into that purpose. We amplified community voices, safeguarded stories that others might try to silence, and affirmed that history will not yield to censorship. Together, we make clear: our past will not be erased, and its lessons will continue to guide us toward a more just future. Anything less risks severing the vital threads that connect history to hope.



Ann Burroughs  
President and CEO



## FINANCIALS

### Revenue

Contributed Revenue	\$ 7,239,865
Grant Funding	\$ 740,953
Earned Revenue	\$ 4,312,144
Other Gains	\$ 3,020,262

Total	\$ 15,313,224
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### Expenses

Program Services	(\$ 9,570,307)
Management and General	(\$ 2,489,738)
Development	(\$ 1,628,232)

Total	(\$ 13,688,277)
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Surplus	\$1,624,947
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Financials (unaudited):

July 1, 2024–June 30, 2025

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*“I believe JANM is an invaluable asset to my community and me personally.”*  
—Jennifer H., Sherman Oaks

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*“An important museum in LA. Proud of them for taking a stand. #scrubnothing”*  
—H. Jim on Bluesky

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*“In honor of your stance for DEI, for America, for free speech, & for Fujioka’s statement ‘We will scrub nothing.’ And in honor of all who were imprisoned unjustly in...concentration camps in America.”*  
— Anonymous, Miami, FL

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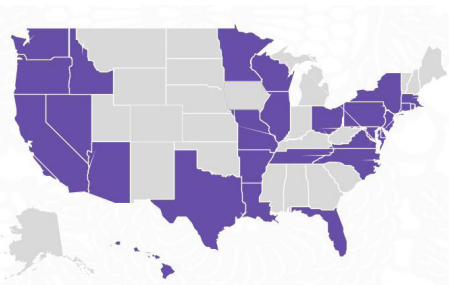
Image credits: Joe Akira, Paloma Dooley, Cyan Hsu, Tracy Kumono, Kazz Morohashi, Doug Mukai, Mike Palma, Sumber Rejeki, Tsuneo Takasugi, Albert Ting.

“We are unwavering in our mission—to tell the full story of the Japanese American community, both its struggles and triumphs. JANM is proud to be among the first institutions standing firmly and unapologetically in defense of truth and justice. In doing so, we proudly stand true to our mission and honor the legacy of generations who came before us.”

William T Fujioka  
Chair, JANM Board of Trustees

## A YEAR AT A GLANCE

### EDUCATION



**28** states  
reached by education program

**8,912** K–12 students reached

**3,214** students at  
11 schools experienced  
new in-school education  
program

### SMITHSONIAN

Affiliate

**AAM**

(American Alliance of Museums)

Accredited

International Coalition of

**SITES of  
CONSCIENCE**

Affiliate



**8** fellows in inaugural Watanabe Democracy Fellowship





**74,496**  
visitors served



**7,123**  
Museum Members  
(Households)



**189**  
volunteers gave  
12,000+ hours



**55,670**  
General Museum Admission  
(July 1, 2024–January 5, 2025)

**30,133**  
Education,  
Public Programs,  
and Events On-site



**15,495**  
Off-site Programs



**2,095**  
Virtual Programs



**37** film festivals screened  
Watase Media Arts Center  
films



**79**  
Collections  
Acquired



**41.1K**  
followers



**33K**  
followers



**10,800**  
hours of views



**3.3K**  
followers



**4.2K**  
followers



**514K**  
active users on  
DiscoverNikkei.org



**\$1.3 Million**  
raised at Annual Benefit



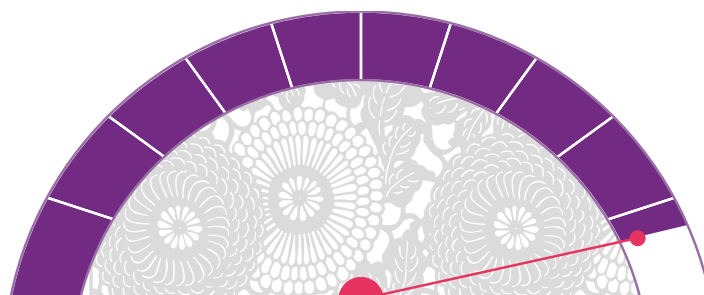
**5** summer interns  
**2** Yamamoto Arts Writers Fellows

# OUR MISSION

## janm our promise

**\$78 million raised**

92% to goal



### JANM's Our Promise Campaign

The \$85 million comprehensive campaign will help us:

#### Revitalize

Redesign and repurpose JANM's campus to provide welcoming, cohesive, and dynamic spaces for everyone (\$25 million)

#### Amplify

Re-energize the Daniel K. Inouye National Center for the Preservation of Democracy as a platform for civic engagement with events and issues that shape our nation—including race, the fragility of democracy, shared values, civil rights and social justice, and the arts (\$7.5 million)

#### Deliver

Strengthen the Museum's ability to tell stories in bold new ways, create new experiences using smart technology, share our resources nationally, and provide learning opportunities with general operating support (\$32.5 million)

#### Secure


Secure JANM's future by endowing core functions (\$20 million)



**SUPPORT JANM** [janm.org/give](https://janm.org/give)

Please contact our Development Office to learn about ways to give:

**Email:** [development@janm.org](mailto:development@janm.org) **Phone:** 213.830.5646 **Online:** [janm.org/give](https://janm.org/give)



To promote the understanding and appreciation of America's ethnic and cultural diversity by sharing the Japanese American experience.



## COLLECTIONS

JANM closed the Pavilion doors for renovation on January 5, 2025, and immediately JANM's collections team began the careful work of deinstalling and storing the collection artifacts from *Common Ground*, including the disassembly and conservation of the Heart Mountain barracks, which will be at the center of the new core exhibition, *In the Future We Call Now: Realities of Racism, Dreams of Democracy*. Joining the barracks and other familiar objects will be a new selection of rarely or never before seen artifacts from the collection, including the 280-square-foot Monterey JACL American flag. In April, the flag was unfurled in Aratani Central Hall for cleaning and conservation in preparation for display. This flag was made in 1938 in a show of patriotism by a community soon to be incarcerated.

Another interpretation of the American flag will be in visual dialogue with the Monterey JACL flag: Na Omi Shintani's *Pledge Allegiance*, 2014. Shintani's powerful sculpture of a flag made from barbed wire and wood

originally from barracks at Tule Lake was added to JANM's permanent collection, one of 79 collections acquired by the Museum this fiscal year. Other acquisition highlights include the "enemy alien jacket" issued to Itaru Ina upon his arrival at the Department of Justice internment camp at Fort Lincoln.

## DEMOCRACY CENTER

JANM's Daniel K. Inouye National Center for the Preservation of Democracy had a robust program throughout a consequential election and its aftermath. The Democracy Center served as a voting center for the first time this November, hosted the Smithsonian's National Conversation on Race, and presented a pop-up of Mark Mothersbaugh's and Beatie Wolfe's project *Postcards for Democracy*. The Smithsonian's Lonnie G. Bunch III spoke at the inaugural Irene Hirano Inouye Distinguished Lecture—a prescient conversation that addressed threats facing US museums.

For *Our Fragile Democracy: The Role of State Attorneys General in Upholding the Law in Times of Crisis*, Rob Bonta, Attorney General of the State of California, and other experts discussed legal strategies to counter attacks on civil liberties.

In July 2024, the Democracy Center welcomed the inaugural eight recipients of the Watanabe Democracy Fellowship to Los Angeles and Washington, DC. Established to advance global democracy through a strong partnership between Japan and the United States, the Fellowship brings emerging leaders from Japan across various sectors—government, the arts, and the corporate world, to foster dialogue and cooperation.

## DISCOVER NIKKEI

Discover Nikkei, JANM's international online community, celebrated its twentieth anniversary with Discover Nikkei Fest in February. Filled with music, food, and family fun, the Fest launched a major redesign funded by the Nippon Foundation. New features like translation, social media integration, and improved navigation make it easier than ever for people to connect with fellow Nikkei around the world.

## EDUCATION

After concluding the first half of the academic year with 4,352 school children visiting JANM before it closed for renovation, JANM's educators did not miss a beat. They launched into virtual visits and piloted a new, in-school program. Educators brought lessons of Japanese American history to middle and high school student classrooms and assemblies, often reaching entire grades—in some cases, the entire school—in one day.

In May 2025, the National Endowment for the Humanities funding for JANM's annual Landmarks of American History teacher workshops was terminated by DOGE. But disappointment soon changed to elation as hundreds of people across the country stepped up with donations to bring teachers from across the US to JANM. The sixty-four teachers attending the workshops in FY2025 met camp survivors and toured Little Tokyo and Manzanar, bringing back experiences that will collectively reach thousands of students across the country every year.

## JANM on the GO

While the Pavilion is under construction, *JANM on the Go* continues to provide programming to people throughout Southern California and the US. The Ireichō National Tour launched at the US Navy Memorial Visitor Center and the Smithsonian on the Day of Remembrance and brought the Book of Names to Manzanar, the first of twenty stops of the two-year tour. Outreach volunteers helped JANM reach new communities by bringing activities to events like AllToyotafest in Long Beach, Nikkei Student Union Celebration at USC, AAPI Day at LA General Medical Center, and many more. JANM hosted fellow museum professionals during the Alliance of American Museums' conference in May, offering AR experiences on our



*The Smithsonian's Lonnie G. Bunch III at the inaugural Irene Hirano Inouye Distinguished Lecture (previous page), Giorgiko live painting during Giant Robot Biennale 5 (above), Pictures of Belonging exhibition visitors (next page, top), Okinawan drummers at JANM's family festival (next page, bottom).*

campus and providing speakers at panels throughout the conference.

*JANM on the Go's* reach extends to Japan with exhibitions of JANM's collections at regional museums, the symposium "Transbordering" with our sister museum in Wakayama, and screenings of Watase Media Arts Center films at locations across Japan.

## PUBLIC PROGRAMS

JANM's year of public programs ranged from JANM Book Club events with authors like George Takei and Giant Robot's Eric Nakamura to community programs celebrating the Manzanar Baseball Project, musician June Kuramoto, and Earth Day. JANM also celebrated summer and the New Year with more than 6,300 people at the Museum's free Natsumatsuri and Oshogatsu family festivals. The program Honoring Common Ground gave a meaningful farewell to the core exhibition, inviting the community to share their stories.





## EXHIBITIONS

### SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

#### *Giant Robot Biennale 5*

through Jan. 5, 2025

#### *Celebrating Little Tokyo at 140 Years*

Aug. 10, 2024 – Jan. 5, 2025

#### *Contested Histories: Preserving and Sharing a Community Collection*

Oct. 19, 2024 – Jan. 5, 2025

#### *Mario Gershom Reyes: OBRAS DE LUZ (Works of Light)*

Dec. 6, 2024 – Jan. 5, 2025

### TRAVELING

#### *Pictures of Belonging: Miki Hayakawa, Hisako Hibi, and Miné Okubo*

Nov. 15, 2024 – Aug. 17, 2025,

Smithsonian American Art Museum  
(Washington, DC)

#### *Japanese American History and Art from JANM's Collection*

Aug. 23, 2024 – Sept. 21, 2025

Furukawa Art Museum (Nagoya, Japan)

May 29, 2024 – Mar. 31, 2025

International Exhibition Hall Nagoya City Civic  
Reception House (Nagoya, Japan)



## WATASE MEDIA ARTS CENTER

It was a banner year for JANM's Watase Media Arts Center. *Third Act*, MAC Director Tadashi Nakamura's moving documentary about his father, MAC founder Robert Nakamura, premiered as an Official Selection of the 2025 Sundance Film Festival. The MAC and PBS SoCal production *Nobuko Miyamoto: A Song in Movement* had its broadcast premiere in October and won the Spirit Award at the Silicon Valley Asian Pacific Film Festival and the Audience Award for Best Documentary Feature at the Boston Asian American Film Festival. Both films continue to tour the US and Japan.



“Thank you for your refusal to scrub DEI. Diversity of voices, equitable treatment and inclusion of full histories are principles that hold great value. I don’t have a lot to give. But I am glad to support you.”

—new donor, Evanston IL



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Please contact our Development Office to learn about ways to give:

**Email:** [development@janm.org](mailto:development@janm.org)

**Phone:** 213.830.5646    **Online:** [janm.org/give](https://janm.org/give)