

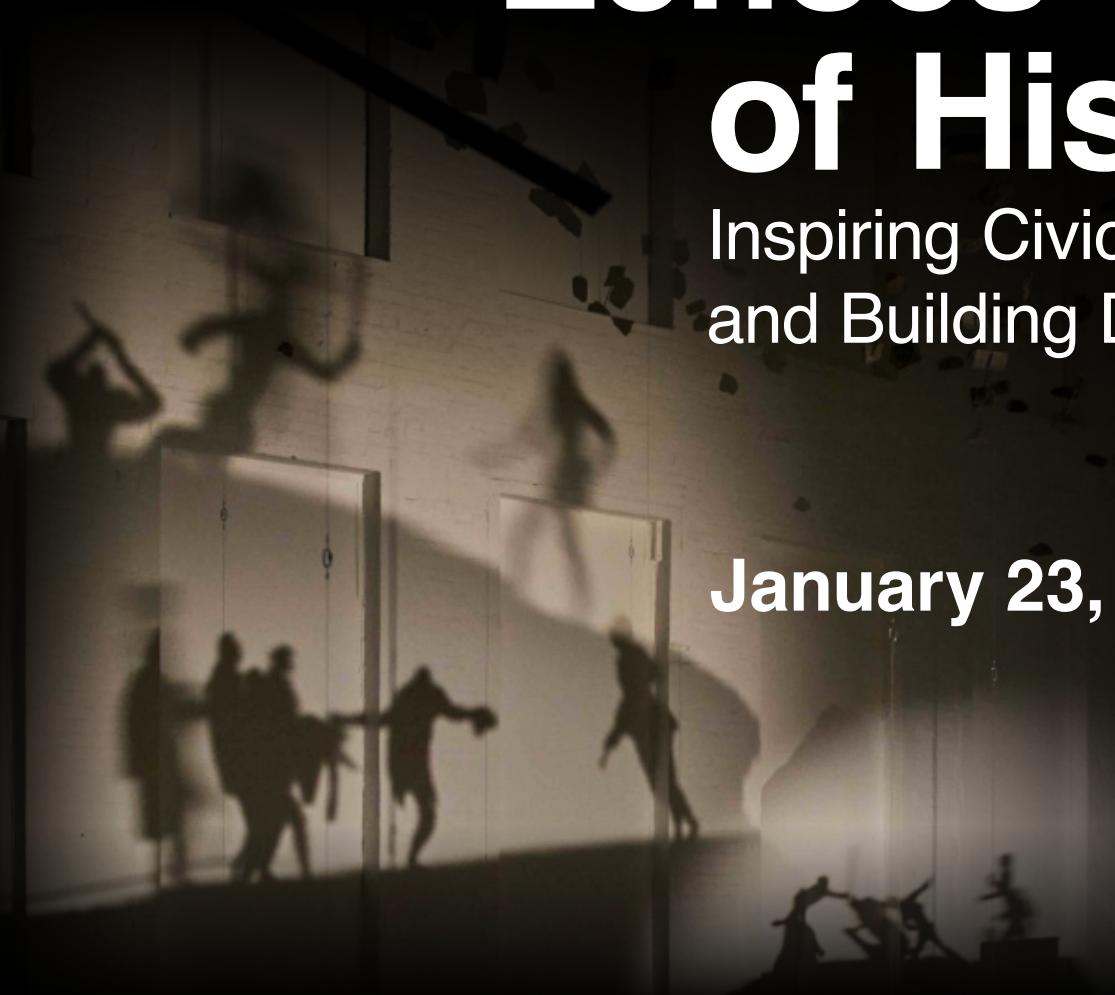
DEMOCRACY  
CENTER

janm  
JAPANESE AMERICAN  
NATIONAL MUSEUM

# Echoes of History

Inspiring Civic Action  
and Building Democracy

January 23, 2026



# PROGRAM

*All talks will be held in the Tateuchi Democracy Forum unless otherwise noted.*

**9:00 A.M.      Coffee Hour (Democracy Lab)**

**10:00 A.M.      Land Welcome**

**Samuel Lopez**, SAN GABRIEL BAND OF MISSION INDIANS

**JANM Welcome**

**William T Fujioka**, JANM BOARD CHAIR

**JANM Introduction**

**Ann Burroughs**, JANM PRESIDENT & CEO

**10:15 A.M.      Video Keynote**

**Agnès Callamard**, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

**10:35 A.M.      Morning Keynote**

**Robert Evans**, *BEHIND THE BASTARDS*

**Fireside Chat**

**Ann Burroughs AND Robert Evans**

**11:15 A.M.      Break**

**11:25 A.M.      Panel: Anti-Authoritarianism—Building a Legacy for the Future**

**Damon Brown**, CALIFORNIA SPECIAL ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL

**Margaret Huang**, SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER

**Scot Nakagawa**, 22<sup>ND</sup> CENTURY INITIATIVE

**Viet Thanh Nguyen**, PULITZER-PRIZE WINNING AUTHOR

**Don Chen**, SURDNA FOUNDATION

*The Democracy Center is a place for ideas and issues. The opinions expressed are those of the speakers and do not necessarily reflect those of the Japanese American National Museum or its representatives.*

**12:45 P.M.** **Lunch (The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA)**

**Curatorial Remarks on *MONUMENTS***

**Bennett Simpson**, MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART

**Self-Guided Visits to *MONUMENTS*** (SEE ACTIVITIES PAGE)

**2:00 P.M.** **Afternoon Welcome**

**James E. Herr**, DEMOCRACY CENTER AT JANM

**Panel: How Does a City Respond?**

**Gustavo Arellano**, *LOS ANGELES TIMES*

**Angelica Salas**, COALITION FOR HUMANE IMMIGRANT RIGHTS

**Miguel Santana**, CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

**Memo Torres**, *L.A. TACO*

**3:20 P.M.** **Break**

**3:30 P.M.** **Introduction**

**Rick Noguchi**, CALIFORNIA HUMANITIES

**Keynote**

**Glenn Kaino**, ARTIST

**Fireside Chat**

**Glenn Kaino AND Tyler Green**

**4:10 P.M.** **Panel: Memory as Resistance—Defending Culture in Authoritarian Times**

**Tyler Green**, *THE MODERN ART NOTES PODCAST*

**Rafael Gonzalez**, GRAND PERFORMANCES

**Renee Tajima-Peña**, UCLA

**Hamza Walker**, THE BRICK

**5:30 P.M.** **Closing Participatory Event by Great Leap (Norman Y. Mineta Democracy Plaza)**

# ACTIVITIES

*All talks will be simulcast in the Democracy Lab.*

## 11:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. | Am I Next? Photobooth | Democracy Lab

Am I Next? is a public declaration against silence in the face of growing injustice. What began as a response to immigration raids has become a larger stand against racialized targeting and the erosion of civil liberties. Through projections, billboards, and visual storytelling, the campaign brings real faces and truths into public view—reminding us that when one voice is silenced, all voices are at risk. It is both an act of resistance and an invitation for collective responsibility. Add your photo to those of everyday Angelenos who have asked, “Am I next?”

Am I Next? is presented by the California Community Foundation and is projected onto JANM’s Pavilion nightly from sunset to sunrise.

## 9:00 A.M. – 5:30 P.M. | Wish Wall for America’s 250th | Democracy Lab

As the US approaches its 250th birthday in 2026, we invite you to reflect on the future we want to build together. Join the Democracy Center and hundreds of museums, libraries, and community organizations across the country in sharing your wish for America on the Wish Wall—part of a national project led by Made By Us. [OnOur250th.org](http://OnOur250th.org)

## 12:00 P.M. – 6:30 P.M. | Bloom Wild Bookmobile | Norman Y. Mineta Democracy Plaza

Explore a curated selection of books for adults, young adults, and children that highlight civic courage, historical memory, resistance, and imagination. Bloom Wild Bookshop is bilingual, BIPOC-centered mobile bookstore dedicated to uplifting diverse voices and histories that challenge erasure and inspire collective action.

## 12:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M. | JANM Store Pop Up

Our products enlighten, educate, and celebrate Japanese American culture in all its complexity and diversity and remind of the importance of preserving Japanese American stories. Selections include books about America’s concentration camps and gifts that celebrate the Bill of Rights.

## 11:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. | MONUMENTS | The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA

Co-organized and co-presented by MOCA and The Brick, *MONUMENTS* marks the recent wave of monument removals as a historic moment. The exhibition reflects on the histories and legacies of post-Civil War America as they continue to resonate today, bringing together a selection of decommissioned monuments, many of which are Confederate, with contemporary artworks borrowed and newly created for the occasion. Removed from their original outdoor public context, the monuments in the exhibition will be shown in their varying states of transformation, from unmarred to heavily vandalized.

**Bring your name badge to MOCA’s members’ line for complimentary admission to MONUMENTS.**

MOCA Code of Conduct:

- Photos and short video clips are great as long as there is no flash/light from your devices.
- Do not touch the artwork. Maintain a 2-foot (half a meter) distance between you and the artwork.
- Free bag check is available.
- Service animals are welcome at MOCA. For the safety of our visitors and security of the artwork which we steward, MOCA does not allow pets or emotional support animals in the museum.
- MOCA is a member of the Safe Space Alliance. MOCA does not tolerate violence, bullying, or hate speech.

# KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

**Agnès Callamard** is the secretary general at Amnesty International. She leads the organization's human rights work and is responsible for providing overall leadership of the International Secretariat, including setting the strategic direction for the organization and managing relations with Amnesty International's national entities. As a leading advocate for freedom of expression, a feminist, and an anti-racism activist, she pushes out the frontiers of rights through her scholarship and advocacy.



**Robert Evans** is a journalist and host of the podcasts *Behind the Bastards* and *It Could Happen Here*. He is the author of the books *A Brief History of Vice* and *After the Revolution*. Over the course of his career, he has reported from war zones in Iraq and Ukraine, experimented on his co-workers with strange ancient narcotics, and interviewed hundreds of people about their baffling careers. His writing has appeared at *Bellingcat*, *New Lines Magazine*, *Rolling Stone*, *Business Insider*, and more.



**Glenn Kaino** is an acclaimed contemporary artist whose practice spans sculpture, painting, filmmaking, performance, installation, and large-scale public work. He also operates outside the traditional purview of contemporary art, instigating collaborations with other modes of culture—ranging from technology to music to political organizing. His works *In the Light of a Shadow* and *With Drawn Arms* bridge the past to the present by exploring the power of collective action to forge a more just world and reckoning with racial injustice in America. His critically acclaimed virtual reality work, *Aki's Market*, was commissioned by JANM in 2023.



# PANELISTS



**Gustavo Arellano** is a columnist for the *Los Angeles Times*, covering Southern California everything and a bunch of the West and beyond. He was a finalist for the 2025 Pulitzer Prize in Commentary and the Mike Royko Award for Commentary and Column Writing and was part of the team that won the 2023 Pulitzer Prize in Breaking News for reporting on a leaked audio recording that upended Los Angeles politics.



**Damon Brown** is the special assistant attorney general at the California Department of Justice, serving as chief legal and policy advisor to Attorney General Rob Bonta on civil rights, labor, education, public safety, and immigration. He leads complex federal accountability litigation involving civil and voting rights, coordinating with state attorneys general, experts, and community stakeholders to shape national enforcement priorities.



**Ann Burroughs** is the president and CEO of the Japanese American National Museum. An internationally recognized leader in the fight for human rights, she is the chair of the International Board of Amnesty International. Previously, she was chair of the Board of Amnesty International USA and chair of Amnesty International's Global Assembly. She is chair of the Japanese American Confinement Sites Consortium and serves on the board of the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation.

# PANELISTS

**Don Chen** is the president of the Surdna Foundation. He leads the foundation's efforts to advance social justice and racial equity in America's communities. Before joining Surdna in 2018, he directed the Cities & States program at the Ford Foundation. There, he supported urban development initiatives to make housing more affordable, promote more equitable land use practices, and bolster community voice and decision-making power in US and Global South cities.



**Rafael Gonzalez** serves as president and CEO of Grand Performances, leading its mission to inspire community, celebrate diversity, and unite Los Angeles through free access to global performing arts. His career reflects a deep conviction that the arts are essential to a thriving society in its ability to be transformative, democratizing, and central to civic life. He champions the arts as a force that shapes identity, strengthens belonging, and sparks social change.



**Tyler Green** is an historian, critic, author, and host of *The Modern Art Notes Podcast*. He is the author of *Carleton Watkins: Making the West American*, which won a 2019 California Book Award gold medal, and *Emerson's 'Nature' and the Artists*. His forthcoming book, tentatively titled *Claiming Yosemite: The Civil War, the California Genocide, and the Invention of National Parks*, is planned for 2026. He is also the cofounder and director of The Darkwater Project, which contributes to the construction of an anti-racist US art history by revealing and interrogating historical American art's role in the construction of white supremacy.



# PANELISTS



**Margaret Huang** serves as a senior fellow for the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, where she advises the president and senior staff on centering racial equity in efforts to advance democratic reforms. Previously, she served as the president and CEO of the Southern Poverty Law Center, where she led the organization through transformative strategic change, expanded civic power initiatives across the Deep South, and launched an annual grantmaking program supporting grassroots movement organizations.



**Scot Nakagawa** is the cofounder and executive director of 22nd Century Initiative and has served as an organizer, political strategist, and social movement analyst in the struggle against authoritarianism and for equitable and inclusive democracy since 1988. He has worked with organizations such as the Coalition for Human Dignity, the National Anti-Klan Network, the National LGBTQ Task Force, the Highlander Research and Education Center, and numerous political campaigns to limit the power and influence of racist, antisemitic, patriarchal, and religious fundamentalist leaders and groups.



**Viet Thanh Nguyen** is a Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist and professor of English and American Studies and Ethnicity, and Comparative Literature at the University of Southern California. He is the author of *Race and Resistance: Literature and Politics in Asian America* and the novel *The Sympathizer*. *The Sympathizer* won the 2016 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, the Dayton Literary Peace Prize, an Edgar Award for Best First Novel from the Mystery Writers of America, the First Novel Prize from the Center for Fiction, the Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction from the American Library Association, le Prix du meilleur livre étranger (Best Foreign Book in France), a California Book Award, and the Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature in Fiction from the Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association.

# PANELISTS

**Renee Tajima-Peña** is a professor of Asian American Studies, the director of the Center for EthnoCommunications, and holder of the Alumni and Friends of Japanese American Ancestry Endowed Chair at the University of California Los Angeles. She is an Academy Award–nominated documentary filmmaker who chronicles the Asian American experience.



**Angelica Salas** is the executive director of Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA). She has transformed CHIRLA into a mass membership immigrant-led organization that empowers immigrants and their families to win local, state, and national policies to advance human, civil, and labor rights. She has grown CHIRLA into one of the nation's largest and most effective immigrant rights organizations. She has spearheaded ambitious statewide and national campaigns to expand immigrant rights.



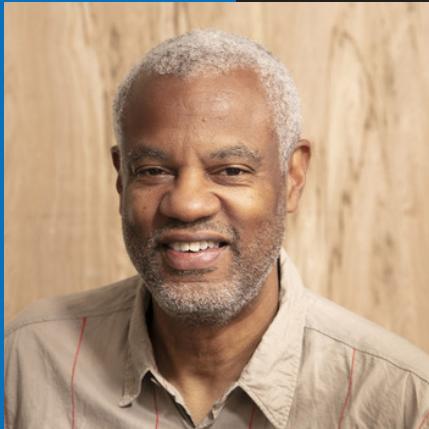
**Miguel Santana** is the president and CEO of the California Community Foundation (CCF), one of Southern California's largest and most active philanthropic organizations, which has served Angelenos for more than a century. CCF stewards \$2.3 billion in assets and manages more than 1,900 charitable foundations, funds, and legacies. Previously, Santana served as president and CEO of the Weingart Foundation.



# PANELISTS



**Memo Torres** is the Director of Engagement and a multimedia journalist for the James Beard award-winning *L.A. Taco*. He is also the host of the Daily Memo where he recaps all ICE and Border Patrol Raids nightly. He also writes a food guide for Apple Maps' 'Where Memo Torres Eats in L.A.' You can see him on Netflix's *Taco Chronicles* and *Pressure Cooker*. You can hear him on KCRW's 'Good Food' occasionally. He has received various recognitions and awards as was also finalist for the Ruben Salazar Award for Latino journalists and a former third-generation landscaper.



**Hamza Walker** has served as director of The Brick, formerly known as LAXART, a nonprofit alternative art space in Los Angeles since 2016. Prior to The Brick, Walker served as Associate Curator/Director of Education at The Renaissance Society, a non-collecting museum of contemporary art on the University of Chicago campus. Recent exhibitions include *MONUMENTS* (2025-2026); *Betsy Paige Smith: Unshade Me Of You* (2025) *Gregg Bordowitz: This is Not A Love Song* (2025), *Nikita Gale, Takers*, (2022); *Ari Marcopoulos/Joe McPhee: Alone Together* (2021); Kandis Williams/Cassandra Press's *The Absolute Right to Exclude* (2021); and Postcommodity's *Some Reach While Others Clap* (2020).

# HOSTS

**William T Fujioka** is the chair of the Japanese American National Museum Board of Trustees. He stepped into his role as chair in 2022 after serving on JANM's board for the past five years and as the executive committee chair for nearly two years. His mother, Linda Fujioka, participated in JANM's initial fundraising effort and was a longtime volunteer and docent. He is a third-generation Japanese American who was the first chief executive officer for Los Angeles County during his forty-four-year career in public service.



**James E. Herr** is the director of the Daniel K. Inouye National Center for the Preservation of Democracy (Democracy Center) at the Japanese American National Museum. The Democracy Center explores the rights, freedoms, and fragility of democracy, helping to build bridges, and find common ground between people of diverse backgrounds and opinions.



**Samuel Lopez** is the Development Director of the Gabrieleno Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians. With a diverse background in land restoration, entertainment, and undergraduate admissions, he brings a unique blend of environmental stewardship and community engagement to his work. As a dedicated member of the Gabrieleno Tongva Land Stewardship Crew, he actively cares for the land while supporting his community through educational presentations and events that foster connection, awareness, and shared responsibility.



**Rick Noguchi** is the president and CEO of California Humanities and a member of the Japanese American National Museum Board of Governors. Previously, he served as the chief operating officer at the Japanese American National Museum, where he led the strategic direction of the Museum and oversaw programs and external relations. Positions at the James Irvine Foundation and California Community Foundation have contributed to his extensive experience in programming, planning, fundraising, management, and strategic grantmaking.





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## DANIEL K. INOUYE NATIONAL CENTER FOR THE PRESERVATION OF DEMOCRACY

An enduring American democracy requires participation by all people, with each of us understanding our rights and responsibilities. The Daniel K. Inouye National Center for the Preservation of Democracy (Democracy Center) explores the rights, freedoms, and fragility of democracy, helping to build bridges, and find common ground between people of diverse backgrounds and opinions.

Through the Arts and a wide range of public programs, the Democracy Center convenes people of all ages and diverse backgrounds to examine issues about race, identity, and social justice to transform attitudes, celebrate culture, and promote civic engagement.

A program of the Japanese American National Museum, the revitalized Democracy Center builds on the founding vision of U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye. It is a place for education and civic engagement to examine not only issues that seek to divide us, but also the shared values and beliefs that unite us with the goal of securing an enduring democracy for all.

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### Great Leap

Great Leap creates bridges to a more just world, weaving performing arts, cultural practices, and community engagement to transform our relationships to the Earth and each other. Join Alison De La Cruz, Nobuko Miyamoto, Quetzal Flores, Kifah Muhammad, and Martha Gonzalez for a participatory musical event that inspires us to celebrate memory, joy, and collective action.



### Homegirl Catering

Homegirl Catering is a unique women-run social enterprise whose mission is to help formerly gang-involved and previously incarcerated women become contributing members of our community while empowering them with a sense of ownership of their work.

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