



## **City and County of San Francisco**

London. N. Breed, Mayor

### **Recreation and Park Commission**

Mark Buell, President  
Allan Low, Vice President  
Kat Anderson  
Gloria Bonilla  
Tom Harrison  
Larry Mazzola, Jr.  
Eric McDonnell

Philip A. Ginsburg, General Manager  
Ashley Summers, Commission Liaison

### **RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION MEETING THURSDAY, XXX XX, XXXX 10 A.M. CITY HALL, ROOM 416**

#### **1. Roll Call**

##### **COMMUNICATIONS**

Note: Each item on the Consent or Regular agenda may include the following documents:

- a) Legislation
- b) Budget Analyst report
- c) Legislative Analyst report
- d) Recreation and Park Department cover letter and/or report
- e) Consultant report
- f) Public correspondence
- g) Report or correspondence from other Department or Agency

These items will be available for review at McLaren Lodge, 501 Stanyan St., Commission Room. If any materials related to an item on this agenda have been distributed to the Recreation and Park Commission after distribution of the agenda packet, those materials are available for public inspection at McLaren Lodge, Commission Room, 501 Stanyan Street, San Francisco, CA during normal office hours. The documents for each item may be found on the website at: <http://sfrecrepark.org/about/recreation-park-commission/>

**Note:** The Commission will hear public comment on each item on the agenda before or during consideration of that item.

2. President's Report (DISCUSSION ONLY)  
(DISCUSSION ONLY)
3. General Manager's Report (DISCUSSION ONLY)  
(DISCUSSION ONLY)

- a) Openings and Events
- b) Commission Administrative Matters
- c) Acknowledgements

- a) Financial Matters
- b) Capital Report
- c) Property Management
- d) Recreation Programs
- e) Park, Recreation and Open Space Advisory Committee Report
- f) Events
- g) Legislation

4. General Public Comment  
UP TO 15 MINUTES

At this time, members of the public may address the Commission on items of interest to the public that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission and that do not appear on the agenda. With respect to agenda items, you will have opportunity to address the Commission when the item is reached in the meeting.

5. Consent Calendar (ACTION ITEM)

### General Calendar

6. San Francisco Zoo  
Presentation and discussion only to update the Commission on operational and management issues at the San Francisco Zoo. (DISCUSSION ONLY)

Documents:

[ITEM-6-SF-ZOO-OCTOBER2019RECPARKREPORT.PDF](#)

7. Cottage Row- Plaque Placement  
Discussion and possible action to approve the placement of a plaque on a boulder in the Issei Garden in Cottage Row Mini Park and to approve the wording on the plaque. (ACTION ITEM) This item was referred from the Operations Committee to the General Calendar with a recommendation to approve. Staff: Abigail Maher – 831-2790

Documents:

[ITEM-7-COTTAGE-ROW-ISSEI-GARDEN-COMMISSION-STAFF-REPORT.PDF](#)  
[ITEM-7-ISSEI-GARDEN-SIGN\\_CITY-PLANNING-ZONING-ADMIN\\_ATTACHMENT-](#)

C.PDF  
ITEM-7-ISSEI-GARDEN-SIGN\_PLAQUE-TEXT\_ATTACHMENT-A.PDF  
ITEM-7-ISSEI-GARDEN-SIGN\_REC-PARK-COMMISSION-GIFT-  
POLICY\_ATTACHMENT-B (1).PDF  
ITEM-7-ISSEI-GARDEN-SIGN\_REC-PARK-COMMISSION-GIFT-  
POLICY\_ATTACHMENT-B.PDF  
ITEM-7-ISSEI-GARDEN-SUPPORT-LETTERS.PDF

8. Commissioners' Matters

This item is designed to allow Commissioners to raise issues they believe the Commission should address at future meetings. There will be no discussion of these items at this time.

9. New Business/Agenda Setting (DISCUSSION ONLY)

10. Communications (DISCUSSION ONLY)

11. Adjournment

For questions about the meeting please contact 415-831-2750. The ringing of and use of cell phones, pagers and similar sound producing electronic devices are prohibited at this meeting. Please be advised that the Chair may order the removal from the meeting room of any person (s) responsible for the ringing or use of a cell phone, pager, or other similar sound-producing electronic devices.

**KNOW YOUR RIGHTS UNDER THE SUNSHINE**

**ORDINANCE** Government's duty is to serve the public, reaching its decisions in full view of the public. Commissions, boards, councils, and other agencies of the City and County exist to conduct the people's business. This ordinance assures that deliberations are conducted before the people and that City operations are open to the people's review. For information on your rights under the Sunshine Ordinance (Chapters 67 of the San Francisco Administrative Code) or to report a violation of the ordinance, please contact: Sunshine Ordinance Task Force Administrator City Hall – Room 244 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place San Francisco, CA 94102-4683 415-554-7724 (Office); 415-554-7854 (Fax) E-mail: [SOTF@sfgov.org](mailto:SOTF@sfgov.org)

Copies of the Sunshine Ordinance can be obtained from the Clerk of the Sunshine Task Force, the San Francisco Public Library and on the City's website at [www.sfgov.org](http://www.sfgov.org). Copies of explanatory documents are available to the public online at <http://www.sfbos.org/sunshine> or, upon request to the Commission Secretary, at the above address or phone number.

**ACCESSIBLE MEETING POLICY** Per the American Disabilities Act and the Language Access Ordinance, interpreters will be available for American Sign Language, Chinese, Spanish, Filipino, and other languages upon request. Additionally, every effort will be made to provide a sound enhancement system, meeting materials in alternative formats, and/or a reader. Minutes may be translated after they have been adopted by the Commission. For all these requests, please contact Ashley Summers, Commission Liaison, at least 48 hours before the meeting at 415- 831- 2750. Late requests will be honored if possible. The hearing room is wheelchair accessible.

De acuerdo con la Ley sobre Estadounidenses con Discapacidades y la

Ordenanza de Acceso a Idiomas, intérpretes para la Lengua de Signos Estadounidense, chino, español, filipino y otros idiomas estarán disponibles a petición. Además, se hará todo lo posible para proporcionar un sistema de refuerzo de sonido, los materiales de la reunión en formatos alternativos y un lector. Las actas se pueden traducir después de que la Comisión las haya adoptado. Para realizar todas estas peticiones, por favor contacte con Ashley Summers, Coordinadora de la Comisión, por lo menos 48 horas antes de la reunión al 415-831-2750. Si es posible, se honrarán las solicitudes tardías. La sala de audiencias es accesible para sillas de ruedas.

依據「美國殘疾人士法案」(American Disabilities Act)與「語言服務條例」(Language Access Ordinance), 傳譯員將根據請求予以提供美國手語、中文、西班牙文、菲律賓文或其他語言的傳譯服務。此外, 亦將竭誠提供音效增強系統、其他形式的會議資料, 和/或閱讀器。翻譯版本的會議記錄會在委員會通過後提供。所有的上述要求, 請於會議前最少48小時致電415-831-2750聯絡委員會聯絡員, Ashley Summers。逾期提出的請求, 若可能的話, 亦會被考慮接納。聽證室設有輪椅通道。

Ayon sa American Disabilities Act at Language Access Ordinance may nakalaang mga tagapagsalin sa American Sign Language, Intsik, Espanyol, Filipino at sa iba pang wika kapag ito'y ini-rekwest. Dagdag pa, pagsisikapan ang lahat upang mapahusay ang sistema para sa mas malinaw na marinig ang mga ito, mga materyales ng pagpupulong sa alternatibong pormat, at/o tagapagbasa. Ang katitikan (minutes) ng pulong ay maaaring maisalin kapag ito'y inaprubahan na ng Komisyon. Sa lahat ng mga ganitong rekwest, kontakin lamang po si Ashley Summers, Commission Liaison, sa 415-831-2750 sa panahong di bababa sa 48 oras bago magpulong. Hangga't maaari, ang mga rekwest na nahuli (late) ay pagbibigyan. Ang silid pulongan ay may access para sa mga naka-wheelchair.

In order to assist the City's efforts to accommodate persons with severe allergies, environmental illnesses, multiple chemical sensitivity or related disabilities, attendees at public meetings are reminded that other attendees may be sensitive to various chemical-based products. Please help the City to accommodate these individuals.

**DISABILITY ACCESS** The Recreation and Park Commission meeting will be held in Room 416 at City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco. The meeting location is between Grove and McAllister Streets and is wheelchair accessible. The closet BART and Muni Metro Station is Civic Center, about three blocks from the meeting location. Accessible Muni lines nearest the meeting location are: 42 Downtown Loop, 49 Van Ness-Mission, F-Market & Muni Metro (Civic Center Station). For more information about Muni accessible services call 415-923-6142. There is accessible on-street parking available in the vicinity of the meeting location. For assistance call 415-831-2750. In order to assist the City's efforts to accommodate persons with severe allergies, environmental illnesses, multiple chemical sensitivity or related disabilities, attendees at public meetings are reminded that others may be sensitive to various chemical based products. Please help the City accommodate these individuals.

**LOBBYIST ORDINANCE** Individuals and entities that influence or

attempt to influence local legislative or administrative action may be required by the San Francisco Lobbyist Ordinance [SF Campaign & Governmental Conduct Code 2.100] to register and report lobbying activity. For more information about the Lobbyist Ordinance, please contact the San Francisco Ethics Commission at 25 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 220, San Francisco, CA 94102, (415) 252-3100, FAX (415) 252-3112, website: [sfgov.org/ethics](http://sfgov.org/ethics).

**CEQA APPEALS** CEQA Appeal Rights under Chapter 31 of the San Francisco Administrative Code If the Commission approves an action identified by an exemption or negative declaration as the Approval Action (as defined in S.F. Administrative Code Chapter 31, as amended, Board of Supervisors Ordinance Number 161-13), then the CEQA decision prepared in support of that Approval Action is thereafter subject to appeal within the time frame specified in S.F. Administrative Code Section 31.16. Typically, an appeal must be filed within 30 calendar days of the Approval Action. For information on filing an appeal under Chapter 31, contact the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors at City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244, San Francisco, CA 94102, or call (415) 554-5184. If the Planning Department's Environmental Review Officer has deemed a project to be exempt from further environmental review, an exemption determination has been prepared and can be obtained on-line at <http://sf-planning.org/index.aspx?page=3447>. Under CEQA, in a later court challenge, a litigant may be limited to raising only those issues previously raised at a hearing on the project or in written correspondence delivered to the Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission, Planning Department or other City board, commission or department at, or prior to, such hearing, or as part of the appeal hearing process on the CEQA decision.

**WRITTEN COMMENTS** Persons attending the meeting and those unable to attend may submit written comments regarding the subject of the meeting. Such comments will be made part of the official public record and will be brought to the attention of the Commission. Written comments should be submitted to: Mark Buell, President Recreation and Park Commission McLaren Lodge, Golden Gate Park 501 Stanyan Street San Francisco, CA 94117-1898 [recpark.commission@sfgov.org](mailto:recpark.commission@sfgov.org) Fax Number: 415-831-2096



**SAN FRANCISCO ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY (“SFZS”)  
RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION REPORT  
October 2019**

- **ZOOtoberFest Is Here!**

October is a great time in the Bay Area, especially at SF Zoo & Gardens where we host ZOOtoberFest! With daily hay mazes and weekend concerts ZOOtoberFest is for the whole family!



- **SFZS Welcomes Back Stanford Students!**



SFZS’s mission is to “connect” people with wildlife, including college students! This year, we again hosted Stanford University students and their clinical class “*Life in the Zoo: Behavior, Welfare and Enrichment*”. The class is part of Stanford’s Sophomore College and co-taught by SFZS and Stanford staff. Students design and build animal enrichment devices to improve animal welfare. This is the 5th time the class has been offered and yet another example of how our Dianne Feinstein and Richard Blum Wellness Center serves as an important resource to the wider Bay

Area academic, educational, and animal-focused communities!

- **SFZS’ “Insect Zoo” Receives Praise for Damselfly Project**



SFZS was thrilled to show “odonate” experts Kathy and David Biggs our “Forktail Damselfly Project” located in our California Conservation Corridor. Kathy is the author of [Common Dragonflies of California: A Beginner’s Pocket Guide](#). In a note expressing her thanks to SFZS staff, Kathy wrote “Thanks so much for taking the time to show us around!! What you are doing is marvelous!!” SFZS is taking the lead in ensuring the survival of this beautiful and local damselfly by relocating the remaining

members of the species to more hospitable living environments in San Francisco!

- **A New Class of Turtles Has Arrived at the Zoo!**

As fall arrives, the leaves change colors, birds begin migrations, and pond turtles start to hatch! Eighteen western pond turtle eggs arrived at the Zoo from our Point Reyes research site last month, and so far 15 of 18 have successfully emerged from their eggshells. These tiny turtles range in size from 4.5 to 7.7 grams! The turtles will stay with us for two years until they are bigger than a potential predator bullfrog's mouth before being released back to Point Reyes or to locations in the Marin Headlands to restore the species' populations in our nearest National Park.



- **Thirty Years of Research on Global Amphibian Declines**



Last week, SFZS staff represented the Animal Wellness department at the Amphibian Population Declines Symposium at Redpath Museum in Montreal. This meeting marks 30 years of progress in confronting amphibian declines – first recognized

as a global problem at the 1989 1st World Congress of Herpetology meeting. After three decades of research, sixteen experts presented on past and current threats to amphibians. The leading concerns include disease, habitat loss, invasive species, and climate change. To save amphibians from extinction, conservation action such as San Francisco Zoo and Gardens' amphibian head start and research program is necessary to return endangered species to the wild.

- **St. Jude's Races Toward a Cure with the SF Zoo!**



On September 28<sup>th</sup>, more than 1,600 participants turned out at the Zoo for St. Jude's annual 5k run/walk to help end childhood cancer. Since 2013, supporters of St. Jude's have filled the Zoo on race day, running and walking to raise money for cancer treatment and research. This event was made possible by 150 staff and volunteers, and the Zoo was glad to be represented by our very own IT Director! The race continues to gain popularity, with this year seeing the highest participation yet! Our 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary theme for September highlighted how the Zoo strives to be a good neighbor to our community, and St. Jude's 5k was a very fitting way to finish out the month's celebrations. The San Francisco Zoo is honored to partner with St. Jude's and to support such a vital cause, and we are thankful to all who make it happen year after year.

- **SFZS Teen Volunteer Goes Above and Beyond for Water Conservation**

This month, SFZS’ “Talk on the Wild Side” (TOWS) volunteers gathered family and friends to talk to Zoo visitors about the EarthEcho Water Challenge. At their water monitoring station in the Sculpture Learning Plaza, guests could test temperature, turbidity, dissolved oxygen, and pH, all while learning what water quality means for public health, and what they can do about it. Teen volunteers spoke to more than 200 guests, and had many amazing conversations!



- **Sketching at SF Zoo & Gardens with Walt Disney Family Museum!**



In celebration of both SFZS’ 90th Anniversary and the 10th Anniversary of the Walt Disney Family Museum, the two institutions partnered for a unique wildlife illustration experience. In the sold-out workshop offered at the Zoo’s Lurie Education Center on September 21st, attendees got up close and personal in drawing four ambassador animals from the Koret Animal Resource Center and two alpacas from the Children’s Zoo. Art

is just another way of connecting Zoo visitors to wildlife!

- **NOAA Visitors Enthusiastic to Continue SFZS Partnership**

On September 17th, SFZS welcomed John Armor, Director of the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries along with several of his colleagues from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). SFZS staff met with the visitors and brought them to tour the Coastal Conservation Center. SF Zoo has had a longstanding partnership with NOAA in co-sponsoring past and current programs and looks forward to potential future collaborations between our two organizations!





London N. Breed, Mayor  
Philip A. Ginsburg, General Manager

**Date:** October 17, 2019

**To:** Recreation and Park Commission

**Through:** Philip A. Ginsburg, General Manager  
Lisa Bransten, Director of Partnerships

**From:** Abigail Maher, Deputy Director of Partnerships

**Subject:** Cottage Row - Issei Garden Plaque

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**Agenda Wording:**

Discussion and possible action to approve the placement of a plaque on a boulder in the Issei Garden in Cottage Row Mini Park and to approve the wording on the plaque.

**Strategic Plan Reference:**

Strategy 1, Inspire Public Space  
Objective 1.4, Preserve and celebrate historic and cultural resources

**Background:** The Recreation and Park Department manages the Cottage Row Mini Park, located on Sutter Street between Webster and Fillmore Street, in Supervisorial District 5. The Bush Street-Cottage Row Historic District, which includes the mini-park, became part of the National Register of Historic Places in 1982. The park runs adjacent to a line of Victorian houses that have stood since the 1800s, many of which were built by William Hollis during the late 1860s and 1870s. The park is primarily a brick walkway with two small green areas and landscaping.

On October 19, 2017, by Resolution No. 1710-009, the Recreation and Park Commission accepted an in-kind grant from the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California (the Center) to install new landscaping in the southern, front ornamental bed in Cottage Row Mini Park to honor the Issei (first) generation of Japanese people in San Francisco. The Center, in partnership with the Department, has been working on installation of the Issei Garden. The Center is proposing to install a plaque on one of the boulders in the Garden to provide information about the Garden.

**Plaque:** The wording on the plaque is shown on Attachment A. The proposed plaque is bronze and is approximately 14" x 14" in size, which adheres to the Recreation and Park Commission Gift Policy, Attachment B.

**City Planning:** Since the park is within a Historic District, Department staff shared the proposed sign with City Planning staff. Upon review of the sign, City Planning staff



shared that the Zoning Administrator concluded that the Center qualifies as a “recognized historical association,” therefore a plaque installed by the Center would be exempt from Planning Review, (Planning Code Section 6.03.6): *Article 6, Section 603 Exempted Signs: Commemorative plaques placed or provided by recognized historical agencies.*

In addition, City Planning staff determined that the proposed plaque is not considered a sign under *Article 6, Signs* of the Planning Code and is therefore not subject to *Article 10, Preservation of Historical Architectural and Aesthetic Landmarks*. The proposed plaque location is located on a landscape feature exempt from Article 10.

**Supported By:**

Supervisor Vallie Brown

Paul Osaki, The Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California

Terry Akiyama, The Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California

Richard Hashimoto

Joyce Nakamura

Gerald Kawamoto

Gary Kitahata

Steve Ishii

Jennifer Hamamoto

Steve Nakajo, Japantown Task Force, Inc.

Jeff Staben

Cathy Inamasu, Nihonmachi

Matt Okada

Stephen Katayama, SF-Osaka Sister City Association

Sherilyn Chew

Ryan Kimura, Business Owner

Robert Sakai

David Fukuda

Donna Ong-Kimura

Joanne Tolosa, Head Minister of Konko Church of San Francisco

Lori Matoba

Diane Matsuda

Chris Hirano

**Opposed By:**

Marvin Lambert

**Attachments:**

Attachment A. Issei garden plaque text

Attachment B. Recreation and Park Commission Gift Policy

Attachment C. Emails from city planning staff

Attachment D. Letters of support

Attachment E. Letters of opposition

Attachment F. Additional information from project sponsor



## **Maher, Abigail (REC)**

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**From:** Taylor, Michelle (CPC)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 30, 2019 12:07 PM  
**To:** Maher, Abigail (REC); Gordon-Jonckheer, Elizabeth (CPC)  
**Subject:** RE: Issei sign

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hi Abigail,

I'm so sorry for the delayed response!

We've reviewed the JCCCNC's email with the ZA and concluded that they would qualify as a "recognized historical association." Therefore, a plaque installed by the JCCCNC would be exempt from Planning Review (Planning Code Section 6.03.6).

Please feel free to reach out to Elizabeth or me if you have any questions.

Thank you,

**Michelle Taylor**  
**Senior Preservation Planner**

Planning Department, City and County of San Francisco  
1650 Mission Street, Suite 400, San Francisco, CA 94103

**Direct:** 415-575-9197

**Email:** [Michelle.Taylor@sfgov.org](mailto:Michelle.Taylor@sfgov.org)

**Web:** [www.sfpplanning.org](http://www.sfpplanning.org)

**From:** Maher, Abigail (REC) <abigail.maher@sfgov.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 12:45 PM  
**To:** Gordon-Jonckheer, Elizabeth (CPC) <elizabeth.gordon-jonckheer@sfgov.org>; Taylor, Michelle (CPC) <michelle.taylor@sfgov.org>  
**Subject:** RE: Issei sign

Hi Elizabeth and Michelle,

I've been out of the office since July 3 and am now catching up on projects. Have you had a chance to check with the ZA about the status of the JCCCNC?

One of our Rec Park Commissioners has asked me for an update on the sign.

Thank you,  
Abigail

**From:** Maher, Abigail (REC)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 2, 2019 11:06 AM  
**To:** Paul Osaki <POsaki@jcccnc.org>  
**Cc:** Gordon-Jonckheer, Elizabeth (CPC) <Elizabeth.Gordon-Jonckheer@sfgov.org>; Taylor, Michelle (CPC)

<Michelle.Taylor@sfgov.org>

**Subject:** RE: Issei sign

Hi Paul – thank you for your additional information.

Hi Elizabeth and Michelle – is it the Zoning Administrator in City Planning who could review Paul's email below to determine if JCCNC is considered a historical agency?

Thank you,  
Abigail

**From:** Paul Osaki <POsaki@jccnc.org>

**Sent:** Monday, July 1, 2019 12:58 AM

**To:** Maher, Abigail (REC) <abigail.maher@sfgov.org>

**Cc:** Gordon-Jonckheer, Elizabeth (CPC) <elizabeth.gordon-jonckheer@sfgov.org>; Taylor, Michelle (CPC) <michelle.taylor@sfgov.org>

**Subject:** Re: Issei sign

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Hi Abigail,

I'm not sure what you mean by if the Center is a recognized historical agency? Recognized by who?

Here is a summary of the Center's historic preservation work.

For almost three decades the Center has been the leading advocate of the preservation of Japantown's history. We published the first pictorial history book of Japantown (1998). We created the Japantown History Walk, a 16 panel self-guided walking tour throughout eight blocks of historic Japantown (2008). Another project is the Japantown Landmark a three-sided, nine foot monument at the entrance of the Peace Plaza depicting significant periods in Japantown's history (2005). The Center also received the White House Preserve America Designation for Japantown (2008). We have organized, created and produced several historical projects, events, programs and conferences both locally, state-wide and national focusing on preserving the Japanese American Cultural Heritage and California's Historic Japantown's.

Probably our most significant program pertinent to the Issei Garden is our Japanese American Historical Archives (JAHA).

The Center is the repository for largest community-owned archival collection of rare Issei generation historic documents. Our archives consist of over 10,000 historic items including books, personal diaries, photographs, newspapers, documents and artifacts. The collection contains many primary source materials and very rare and extremely valuable documents to the pre and post war Japanese American community. The majority of the collection is focused on Issei history and the early Japanese community mid 1800s – 1950. Included in our archives are original crafts, paintings and artifacts made by Issei in the concentration camps. Other notable items include original paintings by Gertrude Farquharson Boyle Kanno, Chiura Obata, Hisako Hibi and the desk used by Dean Acheson at the Japanese Peace Conference 1951. There are only two other institutions that have larger archive collections of Issei material. They are UCLA and the Bancroft Library at UC Berkeley. Our archives have been recognized by many historical related institutions, such the Special Collections of California State Library, the Japanese American National Museum, Japanese Immigration Museum in Yokohama, Japan and Stanford University. We are currently in partnership with the Stanford

University Hoover Institute on the preservation of many of our primary source materials. Our collection is very rare because the Issei burned or destroyed many of their personal items in fear of persecution following the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Also because they were allowed to only bring what they could carry to the concentration camps many things were left behind or throw away.

The majority of the text on the plaque is commonly known and accepted historic fact and has already been reviewed and adopted by the Historic Preservation Commission, Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors in the *Japantown Cultural Heritage and Economic Sustainability Strategy Report* (JCHES). See resolutions:

<https://sfgov.org/sfplanningarchive/japantown-cultural-heritage-and-economic-sustainability-strategy-jchess#overview>

Full JCHES Report:

<http://default.sfplanning.org/plans-and-programs/in-your-neighborhood/japantown/JCHES FINAL WEB2.pdf> (see specifically the Historic Overview of Japantown of which the Center was the principal source of information)

The information specific to Cottage Row comes from the research conducted on the nomination of the National Registry of Historic Places on the Bush Street-Cottage Row Historic District by Historic Preservation Expert Anne Bloomfield  
<https://npgallery.nps.gov/pdfhost/docs/NRHP/Text/82000983.pdf>

The census reference of Japanese living on Cottage Row comes from the research by historian Bridget Maley <http://newfillmore.com/2016/09/30/how-japanese-was-cottage-row/>

I'm not sure what kind of documentation you need from us? I can take you on a tour of the History Walk and show you Japantown landmark all of these projects are owned by the Center.

You are also welcome to come see our (JAHA) archival collection.

Let me know how we can proceed. The production of the signage is four to five weeks!

Paul

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**From:** "Maher, Abigail (REC)" <[abigail.maher@sfgov.org](mailto:abigail.maher@sfgov.org)>

**Date:** Friday, June 28, 2019 at 2:15 PM

**To:** Paul Osaki <[posaki@jccnc.org](mailto:posaki@jccnc.org)>

**Cc:** "Gordon-Jonckheer, Elizabeth (CPC)" <[elizabeth.gordon-jonckheer@sfgov.org](mailto:elizabeth.gordon-jonckheer@sfgov.org)>, "Taylor, Michelle (CPC)" <[michelle.taylor@sfgov.org](mailto:michelle.taylor@sfgov.org)>

**Subject:** Issei sign

Hi Paul –

I have been in touch with Elizabeth and Michelle in City Planning. They met with the zoning administrator to determine the review process for the Issei Sign. Is the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California a recognized historical agency?

If so, do you have documentation showing this status?

Thank you,  
Abigail

Final Draft 8-22-19

## **ISSEI GARDEN**

**Dedicated September 2019**

**This Japanese rock garden honors the first generation of Japanese to America, called *Issei*, who began immigrating in the late 1800s. San Francisco became home to the first Japanese American community in the United States.**

**The historic Japantown embraced 30 blocks, with hundreds of stores, businesses and thousands of Japanese American families who called this neighborhood home. From the 1920s, Cottage Row was almost exclusively occupied by residents of Japanese descent and was popularly called Japan Street.**

**The vitality of the community came to a halt during World War II when 120,000 Japanese Americans living on the west coast were unjustly incarcerated into America's concentration camps from 1942 until 1946. As a result, the Issei lost their freedom, jobs, homes and businesses.**

**Historians believe that one in every four Issei men were gardeners. By introducing Japanese gardens to their adopted country, they helped change the landscape of America.**

**Cottage Row is part of the National Registry of Historic Places.**

**RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION  
GIFT POLICY**

**RESOLUTION NO. 15586**

**Adopted January 18, 1990**

**Amended January 16, 1997**

**Resolution No. 9716-230**

**(State Historic and National Landmark Plaques)**

**Amended March 20, 2001**

**Resolution No. 0103-042**

**INTRODUCTION**

Every year hundreds of gifts are donated to the Recreation and Park Department ("Department") from individuals and organizations and nonprofits. Gifts may directly support recreation program objectives, enhance existing and developing horticultural features within San Francisco's many parks and squares, augment approved seismic upgrading, provide equipment, facility improvements or expansion and/or modification of recreational facilities. Other gifts are also offered that serve to commemorate particular individuals, events or organizations, or are of artistic merit.

**TYPES OF GIFTS**

A gift may be monetary, a gift-in-place, an in-kind gift or a commemorative gift. All of these gifts may be defined as a major gift if the value is in excess of \$10,000.00. Gifts may fall into any of the above categories and have been defined below:

- Monetary gifts are cash donations.
- A gift-in-place is any gift that a donor gives the department which is not a cash gift but an actual item such as: capital improvements, artwork, sculpture or park amenities.
- In-kind gifts may be either services or equipment donated to the Department.
- A commemorative gift honors a person or an event and includes memorial gifts. A commemorative gift may include, but is not limited to sculpture, art work, monuments, plaques, fountains, gardens, benches, or park amenities.

# **POLICIES GOVERNING THE ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS**

## **Compatibility with the Recreation and Park Department Mission**

### **Type of gifts encouraged**

The Department encourages such gifts as trees and benches, an endowment of a staff position, programs or equipment. The Recreation and Park Commission ("Commission") may approve and periodically update a list of specific projects or improvements that are suitable gifts which promote the overall mission of the Department.

### **Type of gifts generally discouraged**

The Department generally discourages gifts whose primary focus is the advertisement of a commercial entity and religious gifts.

## **Compatibility with Proposed Site**

### **Site Selection**

Site selection shall be determined by considering such matters as the quality, character, size and proportions of the gift, the contribution of the gift to park landscape or urban design; the relationship of the gift to priorities already established for the Department.

Several siting options should be considered when gifts are proposed. Donors may be asked to broaden their search for an appropriate location and consider other public or privately owned spaces which may provide a more suitable location.

Gift acceptance and placement should be in accordance with adopted policy; current and/or historic land use; and/or master plans, and should be in keeping with general Department goals. If there is no current or historic master plan, the Department shall prepare a "Statement of Character" which describes how the proposed gift relates to the design and character of the suggested park site. The location and design of the gift should be consistent with the character and design intentions of the park. The quality, scale, and character of the gift should be commensurate to the particular park setting.

The gift should significantly contribute to the park setting, from a functional or design standpoint, and significantly enhance the chosen location in a way that is meaningful to park visitors.

The location of the gift should not interfere with existing and proposed circulation and use patterns of the park.

**Restricted sites**

The Department has parks that are of particular historic or natural value. Gifts for these sites will receive extra scrutiny for suitability and compatibility. These parks include: Bernal Heights Park, Bayview Park, Billy Goat Hill, Brooks Property, Corona Heights Park, Dorothy Erskine Park, Duncan Castro Lots, Edgehill Mountain, Everson Digby Lots, Fairmont Plaza, Glen Canyon, Golden Gate Heights, Golden Gate Park, Grandview Heights, Hawk Hill, Interior Green Belt, Kite Hill, Lake Merced, Lake View Ashton Mini park, Park Presidio Blvd. (median strip), Twin Peaks and Tank Hill.

**Compatibility with Recreation and Park Department Programs, Policies and Guidelines for Gifts-In-Place and In-Kind Gifts**

Commemorative gifts will also be judged on the following criteria to determine appropriateness:

- Significance: If a person or event is being memorialized they/it must be deemed significant enough to merit such an honor.
  - The commemoration or memorial represents the mission of the Department.
  - The commemoration or memorial represents broad community values.
  - The commemoration or memorial has timeless qualities and makes a statement of significance to future generations.
- The location of memorials warrant special consideration. There should be specific geographic justification for the memorial being located at a specific site.

**Compliance with the City and County of San Francisco Policies and Guidelines****Gifts Not to Exceed \$10,000**

Pursuant to Section 10.116 of the Administrative Code, the Board of Supervisors authorizes Department heads to accept any gift of cash in an amount not to exceed \$10,000, or goods of market value not to exceed \$10,000, which may be offered to the City and County of San Francisco through any department, board or commission thereof, for the benefit of the designated department, board or commission and for such purposes within its prescribed legal jurisdiction as may be specified by the donors. The Board of Supervisors authorizes said departments, boards and commissions to receive and administer such gifts in accordance with the wishes of the donors.

**Cash Gifts**

In accordance with Section 10.116-1 of the Administrative Code, all cash gifts when received shall be deposited with the Treasurer of the City and County of San Francisco in accounts to be designated by the Controller. All disbursements from such accounts shall be made for the respective purposes, if any, specified by the donors, and in accordance with disbursing procedure as prescribed by the Controller.

**Equipment**

In accordance with Section 10.116-2 of the Administrative Code, all gifts of equipment worth, in total, \$10,000 or less, shall be promptly tagged and in writing reported by the department head to the Controller.

**Reports**

In accordance with Section 10.116-3 of the Administrative Code, the Department will furnish to the Board of Supervisors annually, within the first two weeks of July, a report showing gifts received, the nature or amount of said gifts and the disposition thereof.

**Gifts that have a value in excess of \$10,000**

Any gift in excess of \$10,000 must go to the Recreation and Park Commission for their recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to accept and expend such gift.

**Required Information From Donor**

Under the Sunshine Ordinance the Department is required to disclose the amount of the gift, the name of the contributor, and any financial interest the contributor has involving the City before the acceptance of any gift in aggregate of more than \$100.

In addition to the above requirements, staff should note if the donor wishes the gift to be used for a specific purpose. If the donor gives a gift for an unspecified purpose, staff should make a recommendation to its use.

**Religious Gifts**

It is the policy of this Commission not to accept gifts that are religious in nature.

**Recognition, Naming and Sponsorship**

From time to time a donor may request the naming rights to components of an existing facility or new park that the Commission deems appropriate. For recognition, naming and sponsorship where the allocated gift amount is at least 50% of the total project cost, the Commission may approve the opportunity to naming rights.

## **Improvements**

Improvements on land under the jurisdiction of the Commission become the property of the City and County of San Francisco.

## **Funding**

Funding includes costs for fabrication, installation, insurance and maintenance. These costs must be underwritten by the project sponsor.

## **Maintenance and Security**

### **Maintenance**

If a gift of basic park amenities meets park standards for construction and materials, the Department will assume maintenance responsibilities. If the donor requests materials and/or design that is not standard and will cause increased maintenance, the donor will be asked to provide a maintenance endowment at the time the gift is approved, as part of the acceptance agreement.

Any display or placement of artwork, whether temporary or permanent, must be backed by insurance, a bond or endowment fund adequate to ensure its care so that the gift will remain in a condition satisfactory to the donor and the Department. The posted insurance or bond must also cover costs of installation and/or removal. Maintenance includes not only care of the gift itself, but of the park land immediately surrounding the gift.

### **Security Requirement**

Some gifts will require special security or may be subject to vandalism. This is a factor that creates a liability to the Department and must be addressed in a gift proposal.

### **Durability**

Gifts must be designed of durable materials and placed in a manner that will reduce the potential for vandalism.

### **Safety**

Gifts must be safely designed and not present an attractive nuisance or create hazards for children.

### **Engineering Requirements**

Utility connections, site modifications, structural reinforcements or other engineering requirements or site modifications should be described in the gift proposal and developed in construction plans and specifications.

### **Relocation or Removal**

The Department reserves the right to resite or remove a gift if it becomes a hazard or liability or if the approved terms of acceptance are not fulfilled. The Commission, working with the Art Commission, may consider the deaccession of works of art.

**Accessibility**

In determining whether to accept a gift, the staff shall consider what measures may be required to make the gift accessible.

**PROCEDURES FOR THE REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS****Cash Gifts/Gifts-In-Place and Gifts-In-Kind less than \$10,000**

The Commission authorizes the General Manager of the Department to accept and expend any gift valued at less than \$10,000.

**Gifts-In-Place/In-Kind Gifts****Review of Gift Policy**

Project sponsor should review the gift policy to assure that proposed gifts are consistent with the approval criteria. Copies of the gift policy as well as the naming policy are available by contacting the Commission Secretary. Once the policy has been reviewed, the project sponsor should consult with staff as staff must prepare a write up on the gift. A project sponsor should call the Commission Secretary or the General Manager's Office to be directed to the appropriate staff.

**Submission of a Written Proposal**

A written proposal must be submitted to the General Manager of the Department. The proposal should include as much detail as possible and address the gift policy. Preliminary sketches, site alternatives, plaque wording and a schedule should be included in the written proposal. Donors should not select specific designs prior to "approval in principle" of the proposal and site. Conditions or restrictions attached to a gift may limit its placement on parklands and should be clearly delineated in any gift proposal.

**Staff Review and Recommendation**

Once approved by the General Manager, staff will prepare a recommendation for consideration by the Commission. If no current master plan exists, or if there is some reason to question the suggested location in light of circulation or use patterns, the proposal will be delayed until an analysis can be done. Where a master plan exists and a proposed gift is at variance to the master plan, the proposal will be processed as an amendment to the master plan. Staff may meet with the donor to request additional information or suggest modifications before a recommendation is conveyed to the Commission. Staff will determine if there is a need for additional public meetings, displays or hearings.

### **Committee Review**

It is the intent of the Commission that either the Parks and Planning Committee or the Finance and Administration Committee of the Commission review each major gift proposal at a public hearing to determine if said gift is consistent with the adopted gift policy and the land use and management objectives of the Commission. The Committee may recommend approval or denial by the full Commission, or request modification or continued consultation with staff.

### **Commission Approval**

Following Committee review and recommendation, a major gift proposal will be referred to the full Commission for consideration of acceptance of the conceptual design or plan. An acceptance agreement which includes a description of the proposed gift, the location selected, site modifications and the maintenance endowment requirements, and other pertinent information relative to the placement of the gift will be prepared and presented to the Commission when a gift is considered for final Commission approval.

### **Design Development**

After a gift has been accepted in conceptual design or plan by the full Commission, specific plans for site design, installation, maintenance and protection may be developed and undertaken in cooperation with the Department.

### **Art Commission**

The Art Commission must approve all public structures, including those given as gifts. In addition, the Art Commission must approve the design and location of all works of art.

### **Additional Approvals Required**

Gifts may require approvals from other agencies and jurisdictions or may be subject to an environmental evaluation. Project sponsors should consult with staff to determine if additional approvals are required.

### **Final Commission Approval**

Should any amendment be made to the original acceptance agreement after plans are developed and financing arranged, and subject to required approvals from other agencies and jurisdictions, the project, including a revised acceptance agreement shall be brought before the Commission for final consideration.

Any gift-in-place or in-kind gift valued in excess of \$10,000 must go to the Commission for their recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to accept and expend such gift before construction may begin or a gift is used.

### **Gifts from Foreign Governments**

Gifts offered by foreign governments for statuary or landscape development present special problems and shall be given special consideration to ensure that the location of a gift enhances San Francisco and does not lessen park values. A

committee shall be established composed of a representative from the Mayor's Office, a member of the Commission, a member of the Art Commission and the General Manager of the Department. As warranted, the Director of the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, The Director of the Academy of Sciences, the Director of the Department of Public Works, the Director of the Zoological Gardens or the Director of the Arboretum may be added as committee members. This Committee shall give expeditious consideration to such gifts and report their findings to the Mayor and to the Commission. Gifts presented by foreign governments are subject to the same approval criteria, including the requirement of a maintenance endowment fund as other proposed gifts.

## MATRIX OF GIFTS

GIFT	DESCRIPTION	GIFT-IN-PLACE	IN-KIND GIFT
Commemorative	Honors an event or deceased person. A commemorative gift may include, but is not limited to, any of the following: sculpture, art work, monuments, plaques, fountains, gardens, benches, or park amenities.	May be memorial	
Monuments	Structures, sculptures, or other objects such as a stone marker erected to perpetuate the memory of a person or of an event. Monuments may include inscriptions or plaques.	May be memorial	
Plaques	Plaques are either simple plates, disks, or slab of metal or other material affixed to a statue, ground, wall stone or other material with an inscription or ornamentation. The size should be a maximum of 2' x 2', or 587 square inches, preferably smaller. State historic or national landmark plaques shall also be permitted.	May be memorial	
Fountains	Water features which may be fairly simple or large and complex. Fountains typically require additional infrastructure (plumbing and electrical).	May be memorial	
Basic Park Amenities	Benches, picnic tables, drinking fountains and trash receptacles.	May be memorial	

### MATRIX OF GIFTS

Commemorative Trees	Trees planted in memory or honor of an individual, event or organization in keeping with the memorial tree program administered by the Urban Forestry Division of the Recreation and Park Department.	X	
Tree		X	
Park improvements	Could include building or landscape improvements	X	
Equipment	Could be recreation equipment or maintenance equipment		X
Recreational Programs	Could be recreational or volunteer activities		X
Design Plans	Could include architectural and/or landscape design plans		X
Property		X	

**RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION  
GIFT POLICY**

**RESOLUTION NO. 15586**

**Adopted January 18, 1990**

**Amended January 16, 1997**

**Resolution No. 9716-230**

**(State Historic and National Landmark Plaques)**

**Amended March 20, 2001**

**Resolution No. 0103-042**

**INTRODUCTION**

Every year hundreds of gifts are donated to the Recreation and Park Department ("Department") from individuals and organizations and nonprofits. Gifts may directly support recreation program objectives, enhance existing and developing horticultural features within San Francisco's many parks and squares, augment approved seismic upgrading, provide equipment, facility improvements or expansion and/or modification of recreational facilities. Other gifts are also offered that serve to commemorate particular individuals, events or organizations, or are of artistic merit.

**TYPES OF GIFTS**

A gift may be monetary, a gift-in-place, an in-kind gift or a commemorative gift. All of these gifts may be defined as a major gift if the value is in excess of \$10,000.00. Gifts may fall into any of the above categories and have been defined below:

- Monetary gifts are cash donations.
- A gift-in-place is any gift that a donor gives the department which is not a cash gift but an actual item such as: capital improvements, artwork, sculpture or park amenities.
- In-kind gifts may be either services or equipment donated to the Department.
- A commemorative gift honors a person or an event and includes memorial gifts. A commemorative gift may include, but is not limited to sculpture, art work, monuments, plaques, fountains, gardens, benches, or park amenities.

# **POLICIES GOVERNING THE ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS**

## **Compatibility with the Recreation and Park Department Mission**

### **Type of gifts encouraged**

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## **Compatibility with Proposed Site**

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Site selection shall be determined by considering such matters as the quality, character, size and proportions of the gift, the contribution of the gift to park landscape or urban design; the relationship of the gift to priorities already established for the Department.

Several siting options should be considered when gifts are proposed. Donors may be asked to broaden their search for an appropriate location and consider other public or privately owned spaces which may provide a more suitable location.

Gift acceptance and placement should be in accordance with adopted policy; current and/or historic land use; and/or master plans, and should be in keeping with general Department goals. If there is no current or historic master plan, the Department shall prepare a "Statement of Character" which describes how the proposed gift relates to the design and character of the suggested park site. The location and design of the gift should be consistent with the character and design intentions of the park. The quality, scale, and character of the gift should be commensurate to the particular park setting.

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committee shall be established composed of a representative from the Mayor's Office, a member of the Commission, a member of the Art Commission and the General Manager of the Department. As warranted, the Director of the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, The Director of the Academy of Sciences, the Director of the Department of Public Works, the Director of the Zoological Gardens or the Director of the Arboretum may be added as committee members. This Committee shall give expeditious consideration to such gifts and report their findings to the Mayor and to the Commission. Gifts presented by foreign governments are subject to the same approval criteria, including the requirement of a maintenance endowment fund as other proposed gifts.

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Fountains	Water features which may be fairly simple or large and complex. Fountains typically require additional infrastructure (plumbing and electrical).	May be memorial	
Basic Park Amenities	Benches, picnic tables, drinking fountains and trash receptacles.	May be memorial	

### MATRIX OF GIFTS

Commemorative Trees	Trees planted in memory or honor of an individual, event or organization in keeping with the memorial tree program administered by the Urban Forestry Division of the Recreation and Park Department.	X	
Tree		X	
Park improvements	Could include building or landscape improvements	X	
Equipment	Could be recreation equipment or maintenance equipment		X
Recreational Programs	Could be recreational or volunteer activities		X
Design Plans	Could include architectural and/or landscape design plans		X
Property		X	

**Maher, Abigail (REC)**

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**From:** Terry A. [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 26, 2019 7:46 PM  
**To:** Maher, Abigail (REC)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Support for Issei Garden Signage

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

To the San Francisco Recreation & Parks Department

Subject: Support for Issei Garden Signage

Dear Honorable Commissioners,

I Terry Akiyama would like to add my support for the proposed dedication signage at the newly constructed Issei Commemorative Garden located at the Cottage Row Mini-Park. On October 19, 2017, the Recreation & Parks Commission unanimously approved the Issei Garden Project Proposal, which included accurate historical background information on the Issei generation, Japantown and Cottage Row. The Issei Garden honors the first generation of Japanese to America who began immigrating to the United States in the late 1800s and the historic Japantown they established in the Western Addition following the 1906 earthquake. The Cottage Row Mini-Park is part of the only nationally recognized historic district in the Japantown neighborhood and the signage plays an essential role in educating the public about the Issei and their history to the area.

The goals of the Issei Commemorative Garden (as approved 10/19/17) - to create a Japanese garden to recognize the Issei generation that established Japantown in the Western Addition in 1906. - to instill a sense of Japanese cultural heritage in the park that will connect the neighborhood to the history and spirit of the Japantown community. - to create a Japanese streetscape garden that will become an educational and cultural destination point in Japantown. The signage will enrich the experience of park-goers by educating them about the cultural and historical significance of the Issei generation and their connection to Cottage Row.

I strongly urge the Commission to approve the Issei Garden signage and its content as is, without any changes or modifications.

Yours truly, Terry Akiyama

/S/ Terry Akiyama Date: September 26, 2019 Address: [REDACTED] City: [REDACTED] Zip: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Affiliation/Title (if applicable): Board Member of the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California/VP General Mortgage Capital Corp.

## **Maher, Abigail (REC)**

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**From:** Richard Hashimoto <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 27, 2019 10:26 AM  
**To:** Maher, Abigail (REC); RPDInfo, RPD (REC)  
**Subject:** Letter of Support  
**Attachments:** Support Letter for Issei Garden.pdf

WARNING This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Ms. Maher,

Please find attached my letter supporting the proposed language for the Issei Commemorative Garden plaque as it is written at Cottage Row.

Would you please be kind enough to disseminate my letter to the commissioners and also confirming receipt.

Thank you,  
Richard Hashimoto

1610 Geary Boulevard  
San Francisco, CA 94115

September 27, 2019

San Francisco Recreation and Park Commission  
501 Stanyan Street  
San Francisco, CA 94117

Dear Honorable Commissioners:

I, Richard Hashimoto, am adding my support for the proposed dedication signage at the newly installed Issei Commemorative Garden located at the historic Cottage Row Mini Park.

On October 19, 2017, the Recreation and Park Commission (RPC) unanimously approved the Issei Garden Project Proposal, which included historical background information on the pioneering Issei.

The Issei Garden honors the first generation of Japanese to America who began immigrating to the United States in the late 1800s and settled in the historic Japantown they established in the Western Addition following the 1906 earthquake.

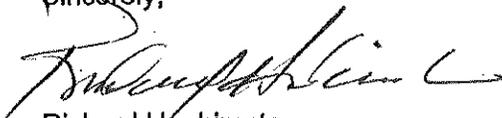
Cottage Row Mini Park is part of the only nationally recognized historic space in the Japantown community and the signage portrays an essential role in educating the public about the Issei, the community they built and hardships they faced.

As the RPC approved at its October 19<sup>th</sup> hearing, the goals of the Issei Commemorative Garden is 1) to create a Japanese garden to recognize the Issei generation that established Japantown in the Western Addition in 1906, 2) to instill a sense of Japanese cultural heritage in the park that will connect the neighborhood to the history and spirit of the Japantown community, 3) to create a Japanese streetscape garden that will become an educational and cultural destination point in Japantown.

The signage will enrich the experience and knowledge of park-goers by educating them about the cultural and historical significance of the Issei generation and their connection to Cottage Row which should not be forgotten.

I strongly urge the Commission to approve the Issei Garden signage and its contents, as it is written, without any revisions or modifications.

Sincerely,



Richard Hashimoto

## **Maher, Abigail (REC)**

---

**From:** Joyce Nakamura [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 27, 2019 10:54 AM  
**To:** Maher, Abigail (REC)  
**Cc:** Paul Osaki  
**Subject:** Support for Issei Garden Signage  
**Attachments:** Support for Issei Garden Signage\_Nakamura\_9.27.19.pdf

 This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Please forward my support letter for the Issei Garden Signage to:

**THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** Commissioner's Chair, Gloria Bonilla, Mark Buell, Kat Anderson

Joyce Nakamura  
[REDACTED]

To: San Francisco Recreation & Parks Department

Subject: Support for Issei Garden Signage

Dear Honorable Commissioners:

I am a long time resident of San Francisco and I would like to add my support for the proposed dedication signage at the newly constructed Issei Commemorative Garden located at the Cottage Row Mini-Park.

On October 19, 2017, the Recreation & Parks Commission unanimously approved the Issei Garden Project Proposal, which included historical background information on the Issei generation, Japantown and Cottage Row.

The Issei Garden honors the first generation of Japanese to America who began immigrating to the United States in the late 1800s and the historic Japantown they established in the Western Addition following the 1906 earthquake.

The Cottage Row Mini-Park is part of the only nationally recognized historic district in the Japantown neighborhood and the signage plays an essential role in educating the public about the Issei and their history to the area. As a Japanese American, I identify with Japantown as my neighborhood and see its preservation as an important part of its history, especially since much of it has been destroyed by redevelopment in the 1960's.

The goals of the Issei Commemorative Garden (as approved 10/19/17):

- to create a Japanese garden to recognize the Issei generation that established Japantown in the Western Addition in 1906.
- to instill a sense of Japanese cultural heritage in the park that will connect the neighborhood to the history and spirit of the Japantown community.
- to create a Japanese streetscape garden that will become an educational and cultural destination point in Japantown.

The signage will enrich the experience of park-goers by educating them about the cultural and historical significance of the Issei generation and their connection to Cottage Row.

I strongly urge the Commission to approve the Issei Garden signage and its content as is, without any changes or modifications.

Name (print): Joyce Nakamura  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 9/27/19  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Affiliation/Title (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

**Maher, Abigail (REC)**

---

**From:** Gerald Kawamoto <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 27, 2019 12:30 PM  
**To:** Maher, Abigail (REC)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Issei Commemorative Sign Support Letter  
**Attachments:** Issei Garden Signage Support Letter-GK Signed.pdf

WARNING This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

To Ms. Abigail Maher,

Please find a letter of support for the JCCCNC sponsored Issei Commemorative Garden at Cottage Row Mini-Park signage that is proposed to be installed at the park.

Thanks,  
Gerald Kawamoto

To the San Francisco Recreation & Parks Department

Subject: **Support for Issei Garden Signage**

Dear Honorable Commissioners,

I Gerald Kawamoto would like to add my support for the proposed dedication signage at the newly constructed Issei Commemorative Garden located at the Cottage Row Mini-Park.

On October 19, 2017, the Recreation & Parks Commission unanimously approved the Issei Garden Project Proposal, which included historical background information on the Issei generation, Japantown and Cottage Row.

The Issei Garden honors the first generation of Japanese to America who began immigrating to the United States in the late 1800s and the historic Japantown they established in the Western Addition following the 1906 earthquake.

The Cottage Row Mini-Park is part of the only nationally recognized historic district in the Japantown neighborhood and the signage plays an essential role in educating the public about the Issei and their history to the area.

**The goals of the Issei Commemorative Garden (as approved 10/19/17)**

- to create a Japanese garden to recognize the Issei generation that established Japantown in the Western Addition in 1906.
- to instill a sense of Japanese cultural heritage in the park that will connect the neighborhood to the history and spirit of the Japantown community.
- to create a Japanese streetscape garden that will become an educational and cultural destination point in Japantown.

The signage will enrich the experience of park-goers by educating them about the cultural and historical significance of the Issei generation and their connection to Cottage Row.

I strongly urge the Commission to approve the Issei Garden signage and its content as is, without any changes or modifications.

Name (print): Gerald Kawamoto

Signature: *Gerald Kawamoto* Date: 09/27/19

Address: [REDACTED] City: [REDACTED] Zip: [REDACTED]

Affiliation/Title (if applicable):  
\_\_\_\_\_

## **Maher, Abigail (REC)**

---

**From:** Gary Kitahata <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 29, 2019 8:40 PM  
**To:** Maher, Abigail (REC)  
**Cc:** Paul Osaki  
**Subject:** Support for 10/3/19 Operations Committee Agenda Item 6: Cottage Row-Plaque Placement

San Francisco Recreation & Park Commission  
Operations Committee: Kat Anderson, Gloria Bonilla, Mark Buell,

Commissioners:

I am in full support of approval of item 6, to approve the placement and wording of a plaque for the Issei Garden in the Cottage Row Mini-Park.

I am particularly supportive of the wording on the plaque, as shown in the final draft dated 8/22/19. The signage is important as an educational tool to let people know about the Issei generation and the impact of Japantown and Japanese immigration to America. The opposition to this signage is an example of why this education is needed now more than ever.

Part of the opposition is with regard to the reference to WWII when 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry, most of whom were American citizens, were "unjustly incarcerated into America's concentration camps from 1942 until 1946" (proposed wording for plaque). That number included my parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and some older cousins who were born in the camps. The opposition says that most people associate concentration camps with the Holocaust and so the term cannot be used here because "whatever hardship the JA community endured, it is not comparable to the fate of the Jews" (Marvin Lambert letter to Commission). I used to feel wary about using the term "concentration camps" to refer to the WWI relocation centers because of this type of reasoning, but times have changed and now I feel it is appropriate to call them "America's concentration camps". The term "concentration camp" predates the Nazis and was first used during the Boer War (1899-1902) when the British detained Boer civilians in concentration camps. The term has commonly been used to refer to internment centers for political prisoners and members of national or minority groups who are confined by executive decree or military order, without benefit of either indictment or fair trial. The Nazis took concentration camps to a different level, creating death camps to exterminate millions. But concentrations camps exist to this day, even in America in the form of detainment centers for those crossing the southern border (but not, for some reason, the northern border). I think it is important we reclaim the term "America's concentration camps", not in any way to make comparisons to the Nazi death camps, but to say that American concentration camps have long existed in this country, for Native Americans and for immigrants of color who didn't look like the Founding Fathers.

I therefore strongly recommend that this committee approve the placement and wording of the plaque for the Issei Garden, as is. I am tired of history being whitewashed. I hope you are too.

Gary Kitahata

---

Gary Kitahata

[REDACTED]  
mobile/texts

e-mail: [REDACTED]

## **Maher, Abigail (REC)**

---

**From:** Steve Ishii <[sishii@kimochi-inc.org](mailto:sishii@kimochi-inc.org)>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 30, 2019 9:50 AM  
**To:** Maher, Abigail (REC)  
**Subject:** Issei Garden - support letter  
**Attachments:** Issei Garden Support Letter-Kimochi.pdf

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Hello Abigail,

Attached please find Kimochi, Inc.'s support letter for the Issei Garden.  
Thank you.

Steve Ishii  
Executive Director  
Kimochi, Inc.  
1715 Buchanan Street  
San Francisco, CA. 94115  
Tel: (415) 931-2294  
Fax: (415) 931-2299  
[sishii@kimochi-inc.org](mailto:sishii@kimochi-inc.org)  
[www.kimochi-inc.org](http://www.kimochi-inc.org)

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# KIMOCHI

CONTINUING THE JAPANESE TRADITION  
OF CARE AND SUPPORT FOR SENIORS

September 27, 2019

To: The San Francisco Recreation & Parks Department

Subject: **Support for Issei Garden Signage**

Dear Honorable Commissioners,

On behalf of Kimochi, Inc., I would like to add my support for the proposed dedication signage at the newly constructed Issei Commemorative Garden located at the Cottage Row Mini-Park.

On October 19, 2017, the Recreation & Parks Commission unanimously approved the Issei Garden Project Proposal, which included historical background information on the Issei generation, Japantown and Cottage Row.

The Issei Garden honors the first generation of Japanese to America who began immigrating to the United States in the late 1800s and the historic Japantown they established in the Western Addition following the 1906 earthquake.

The Cottage Row Mini-Park is part of the only nationally recognized historic district in the Japantown neighborhood and the signage plays an essential role in educating the public about the Issei and their history to the area.

## The goals of the Issei Commemorative Garden (as approved 10/19/17)

- to create a Japanese garden to recognize the Issei generation that established Japantown in the Western Addition in 1906.
- to instill a sense of Japanese cultural heritage in the park that will connect the neighborhood to the history and spirit of the Japantown community.
- to create a Japanese streetscape garden that will become an educational and cultural destination point in Japantown.

The signage will enrich the experience of park-goers by educating them about the cultural and historical significance of the Issei generation and their connection to Cottage Row.

I strongly urge the Commission to approve the Issei Garden signage and its content as is, without any changes or modifications.

Sincerely,



Steve Ishii  
Executive Director

Kimochi, Inc.  
1715 Buchanan Street  
San Francisco, CA 94115  
Fax (415) 931-2299  
www.Kimochi-Inc.org

•Administration  
(415) 931-2294

•Social Services  
(415) 931-2275

•Volunteer Services  
(415) 931-2294

•Club Nikkei  
(415) 931-2294

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Kimochi Home  
1531 Sutter Street  
San Francisco, CA 94109  
(415) 922-9972  
Fax (415) 922-6821

•Adult Social Day Care

•Residential Care

•Respite Care

---

Kimochi Senior Center  
1840 Sutter Street  
Issei Memorial Hall  
San Francisco, CA 94115  
(415) 931-2287  
Fax (415) 931-2299

•Nutrition

•Home Delivered Meals

•Senior Center Activities

•Transportation

---

Kimochi Lounge  
1581 Webster Street #202  
San Francisco, CA 94115  
(415) 563-5626  
Fax (415) 931-2299

•Information and Referral

## **Maher, Abigail (REC)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 30, 2019 10:22 AM  
**To:** Maher, Abigail (REC)  
**Cc:** posaki@jccnc.org  
**Subject:** Issei Garden Support Letter  
**Attachments:** Issei Garden Support Letter.pdf



This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Ms. Maher.

Attached is my letter of support.

To the San Francisco Recreation & Parks Department

Subject: **Support for Issei Garden Signage**

Dear Honorable Commissioners,

I JENNIFER HAMAMOTO would like to add my support for the proposed dedication signage at the newly constructed Issei Commemorative Garden located at the Cottage Row Mini-Park.

On October 19, 2017, the Recreation & Parks Commission unanimously approved the Issei Garden Project Proposal, which included historical background information on the Issei generation, Japantown and Cottage Row.

The Issei Garden honors the first generation of Japanese to America who began immigrating to the United States in the late 1800s and the historic Japantown they established in the Western Addition following the 1906 earthquake.

The Cottage Row Mini-Park is part of the only nationally recognized historic district in the Japantown neighborhood and the signage plays an essential role in educating the public about the Issei and their history to the area.

**The goals of the Issei Commemorative Garden (as approved 10/19/17)**

- to create a Japanese garden to recognize the Issei generation that established Japantown in the Western Addition in 1906.
- to instill a sense of Japanese cultural heritage in the park that will connect the neighborhood to the history and spirit of the Japantown community.
- to create a Japanese streetscape garden that will become an educational and cultural destination point in Japantown.

The signage will enrich the experience of park-goers by educating them about the cultural and historical significance of the Issei generation and their connection to Cottage Row.

I strongly urge the Commission to approve the Issei Garden signage and its content as is, without any changes or modifications.

Name (print): JENNIFER HAMAMOTO  
Signature: [Handwritten Signature] Date: 9/30/19  
Address: [Redacted] City: [Redacted] Zip: [Redacted]

Affiliation/Title (if applicable):  
\_\_\_\_\_

## **Maher, Abigail (REC)**

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**From:** Lauren Nosaka <Inosaka@japantowntaskforce.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 30, 2019 11:45 AM  
**To:** Maher, Abigail (REC); Commission, Recpark (REC)  
**Cc:** Steve Nakajo; Sandy Mori  
**Subject:** Support for Issei Garden Signage  
**Attachments:** JTF Support for Issei Garden Signage.pdf

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Abigail Maher & San Francisco Recreation & Parks Department,

Please see attached Support for Issei Garden Signage Letter. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Lauren

--  
Lauren Nosaka  
野坂 ローレン  
Administrative Manager  
Japantown Task Force, Inc.  
1765 Sutter Street, 3rd Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94115  
[www.japantowntaskforce.org](http://www.japantowntaskforce.org)  
415.346.1239 (Office)

[Inosaka@japantowntaskforce.org](mailto:Inosaka@japantowntaskforce.org)

To the San Francisco Recreation & Parks Department

Subject: **Support for Issei Garden Signage**

Dear Honorable Commissioners,

I Steve Nakajo would like to add my support for the proposed dedication signage at the newly constructed Issei Commemorative Garden located at the Cottage Row Mini-Park.

On October 19, 2017, the Recreation & Parks Commission unanimously approved the Issei Garden Project Proposal, which included historical background information on the Issei generation, Japantown and Cottage Row.

The Issei Garden honors the first generation of Japanese to America who began immigrating to the United States in the late 1800s and the historic Japantown they established in the Western Addition following the 1906 earthquake.

The Cottage Row Mini-Park is part of the only nationally recognized historic district in the Japantown neighborhood and the signage plays an essential role in educating the public about the Issei and their history to the area.

**The goals of the Issei Commemorative Garden (as approved 10/19/17)**

- to create a Japanese garden to recognize the Issei generation that established Japantown in the Western Addition in 1906.
- to instill a sense of Japanese cultural heritage in the park that will connect the neighborhood to the history and spirit of the Japantown community.
- to create a Japanese streetscape garden that will become an educational and cultural destination point in Japantown.

The signage will enrich the experience of park-goers by educating them about the cultural and historical significance of the Issei generation and their connection to Cottage Row.

I strongly urge the Commission to approve the Issei Garden signage and its content as is, without any changes or modifications.

Name (print): Steve Nakajo

Signature: [Handwritten Signature] Date: 9/30/19

Address: [Redacted] City: [Redacted] Zip: [Redacted]

Affiliation/Title (if applicable):

Japantown Task Force, Inc. Executive Director

## **Maher, Abigail (REC)**

---

**From:** Staben, [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 30, 2019 12:28 PM  
**To:** Maher, Abigail (REC)  
**Cc:** 'Paul Osaki'  
**Subject:** Support for signage for new garden in Cottage Row.  
**Attachments:** Supporting Signage for Cottage Row Mini Park 2019.pdf

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Hello Ms. Maher – attached is my endorsement for the signage proposed by our community for the Cottage Row new garden. This the final step of a long process that had the community strong support three years if not for one man and his wife.\*\* Please endorse the proposed language and location of the signage. This will be an important landmark for the whole neighborhood and community as a collective whole.

(\*\*Personally, I have lived on Cottage Row for over 12 years. I once use to also care for the park before DPR reinvesting their time with the necessary park staff to care for the Park. However, Mr. Lambert/Ms. King as well as their friend Ms. Sherlock continuously have harassed your DPR staff, supervisors and fellow neighbors, including this successful project. In short, these three individuals have caused more work for you, the Japanese Community Association and the neighborhood – while they allow their dog to urinate in the area or in other planted areas, allow their dog to be unleashed (in an area that says to keep leashes on) while people are in the park as they throw a ball for their dog directly at people who are trying to enjoy the park or pre-kindergarteners who can't play in the area. They have also began using social media by creating their own historical perspective of the neighborhood and/or provide walking tours – telling folks about their version of our park's history and neighborhood. Such individuals should not be encouraged nor be so disruptive to you, your staff, the community and the neighborhood – but they are and will continue to do so as long as you provide them a platform to do so. Let's not!!)

Please endorse this signage and let's all be proud of our history and stories that need to be shared for the greater good!!

Thank you  
Jeff Staben

[REDACTED]

To the San Francisco Recreation & Parks Department

Subject: **Support for Issei Garden Signage**

Dear Honorable Commissioners,

I Jeff Staben would like to add my support for the proposed dedication signage at the newly constructed Issei Commemorative Garden located at the Cottage Row Mini-Park.

On October 19, 2017, the Recreation & Parks Commission unanimously approved the Issei Garden Project Proposal, which included historical background information on the Issei generation, Japantown and Cottage Row.

The Issei Garden honors the first generation of Japanese to America who began immigrating to the United States in the late 1800s and the historic Japantown they established in the Western Addition following the 1906 earthquake.

The Cottage Row Mini-Park is part of the only nationally recognized historic district in the Japantown neighborhood and the signage plays an essential role in educating the public about the Issei and their history to the area.

**The goals of the Issei Commemorative Garden (as approved 10/19/17)**

- to create a Japanese garden to recognize the Issei generation that established Japantown in the Western Addition in 1906.
- to instill a sense of Japanese cultural heritage in the park that will connect the neighborhood to the history and spirit of the Japantown community.
- to create a Japanese streetscape garden that will become an educational and cultural destination point in Japantown.

The signage will enrich the experience of park-goers by educating them about the cultural and historical significance of the Issei generation and their connection to Cottage Row.

I strongly urge the Commission to approve the Issei Garden signage and its content as is, without any changes or modifications.

Name (print): Jeff Staben

Signature: [Signature] Date: 9/30/19

Address: [Redacted] City: [Redacted] Zip: [Redacted]

Affiliation/Title (if applicable):  
\_\_\_\_\_

## **Maher, Abigail (REC)**

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**From:** Cathy Inamasu <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 30, 2019 2:08 PM  
**To:** Maher, Abigail (REC)  
**Cc:** Paul Osaki  
**Subject:** Support Letter for Issei Garden signage  
**Attachments:** Support for Issei Garden Signage.NLF.pdf

 This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Ms. Maher,

Please find our attached support letter in regard to the Recreation and Parks Commission Operations Committee meeting on October 3rd to approve the garden signage.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,  
Cathy Inamasu



**Nihonmachi**  
**LITTLE FRIENDS™**  
Japanese Bilingual & Multicultural Childcare

To the San Francisco Recreation & Parks Department

**Subject: Support for Issei Garden Signage**

Dear Honorable Commissioners,

I would like to add my support for the proposed dedication signage at the newly constructed Issei Commemorative Garden located at the Cottage Row Mini-Park.

On October 19, 2017, the Recreation & Parks Commission unanimously approved the Issei Garden Project Proposal, which included historical background information on the Issei generation, Japantown and Cottage Row.

The Issei Garden honors the first generation of Japanese to America who began immigrating to the United States in the late 1800s and the historic Japantown they established in the Western Addition following the 1906 earthquake.

The Cottage Row Mini-Park is part of the only nationally recognized historic district in the Japantown neighborhood and the signage plays an essential role in educating the public about the Issei and their history to the area.

The goals of the Issei Commemorative Garden (as approved 10/19/17)

- to create a Japanese garden to recognize the Issei generation that established Japantown in the Western Addition in 1906.
- to instill a sense of Japanese cultural heritage in the park that will connect the neighborhood to the history and spirit of the Japantown community.
- to create a Japanese streetscape garden that will become an educational and cultural destination point in Japantown.

The signage will enrich the experience of park-goers by educating them about the cultural and historical significance of the Issei generation and their connection to Cottage Row.

I strongly urge the Commission to approve the Issei Garden signage and its content as is, without any changes or modifications.

Sincerely,

Cathy Inamasu  
Executive Director

To the San Francisco Recreation & Parks Department

Subject: **Support for Issei Garden Signage**

Dear Honorable Commissioners,

I Matt Okada would like to add my support for the proposed dedication signage at the newly constructed Issei Commemorative Garden located at the Cottage Row Mini-Park.

On October 19, 2017, the Recreation & Parks Commission unanimously approved the Issei Garden Project Proposal, which included historical background information on the Issei generation, Japantown and Cottage Row.

The Issei Garden honors the first generation of Japanese to America who began immigrating to the United States in the late 1800s and the historic Japantown they established in the Western Addition following the 1906 earthquake.

The Cottage Row Mini-Park is part of the only nationally recognized historic district in the Japantown neighborhood and the signage plays an essential role in educating the public about the Issei and their history to the area.

**The goals of the Issei Commemorative Garden (as approved 10/19/17)**

- to create a Japanese garden to recognize the Issei generation that established Japantown in the Western Addition in 1906.
- to instill a sense of Japanese cultural heritage in the park that will connect the neighborhood to the history and spirit of the Japantown community.
- to create a Japanese streetscape garden that will become an educational and cultural destination point in Japantown.

The signage will enrich the experience of park-goers by educating them about the cultural and historical significance of the Issei generation and their connection to Cottage Row.

I strongly urge the Commission to approve the Issei Garden signage and its content as is, without any changes or modifications.

Name (print): Matt Okada

Signature: Matt Okada Date: 9/30/19

Address: [REDACTED] City: [REDACTED] Zip: [REDACTED]

Affiliation/Title (if applicable):  
\_\_\_\_\_

To the San Francisco Recreation & Parks Department

Subject: **Support for Issei Garden Signage**

Dear Honorable Commissioners,

I STEPHEN KATAYAMA would like to add my support for the proposed dedication signage at the newly constructed Issei Commemorative Garden located at the Cottage Row Mini-Park.

On October 19, 2017, the Recreation & Parks Commission unanimously approved the Issei Garden Project Proposal, which included historical background information on the Issei generation, Japantown and Cottage Row.

The Issei Garden honors the first generation of Japanese to America who began immigrating to the United States in the late 1800s and the historic Japantown they established in the Western Addition following the 1906 earthquake.

The Cottage Row Mini-Park is part of the only nationally recognized historic district in the Japantown neighborhood and the signage plays an essential role in educating the public about the Issei and their history to the area.

**The goals of the Issei Commemorative Garden (as approved 10/19/17)**

- to create a Japanese garden to recognize the Issei generation that established Japantown in the Western Addition in 1906.
- to instill a sense of Japanese cultural heritage in the park that will connect the neighborhood to the history and spirit of the Japantown community.
- to create a Japanese streetscape garden that will become an educational and cultural destination point in Japantown.

The signage will enrich the experience of park-goers by educating them about the cultural and historical significance of the Issei generation and their connection to Cottage Row.

I strongly urge the Commission to approve the Issei Garden signage and its content as is, without any changes or modifications.

Name (print): STEPHEN KATAYAMA

Signature: [Handwritten Signature] Date: 9/30/2019

Address: [Redacted] City: [Redacted] Zip: [Redacted]

Affiliation/Title (if applicable):

SAN FRANCISCO - OSAKA SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION  
BOARD MEMBER

**Maher, Abigail (REC)**

---

**From:** Sherilyn Chew [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 2, 2019 3:37 AM  
**To:** Commission, Recpark (REC); Maher, Abigail (REC)  
**Subject:** Issei Garden Signage Support Letter  
**Attachments:** Issei Garden Signage Support Letter - signed.pdf

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Recreation and Parks Commissioners,

I am writing to add my support of the proposed signage for the Issei Garden.

On October 19, 2017, the Recreation & Parks Commission unanimously approved the Issei Garden Project, which included a plan for educational signage for the garden.

The proposed signage is an integral part of the garden project and will enrich the experience of park-goers by educating them about the cultural and historic significance of the Issei generation.

I urge the Commission to approve the Issei Garden signage.

Please find attached a signed letter of support.

Respectfully,

Sherilyn Chew

To the San Francisco Recreation & Parks Department

Subject: **Support for Issei Garden Signage**

Dear Honorable Commissioners,

I Sherilyn Chew would like to add my support for the proposed dedication signage at the newly constructed Issei Commemorative Garden located at the Cottage Row Mini-Park.

On October 19, 2017, the Recreation & Parks Commission unanimously approved the Issei Garden Project Proposal, which included historical background information on the Issei generation, Japantown and Cottage Row.

The Issei Garden honors the first generation of Japanese to America who began immigrating to the United States in the late 1800s and the historic Japantown they established in the Western Addition following the 1906 earthquake.

The Cottage Row Mini-Park is part of the only nationally recognized historic district in the Japantown neighborhood and the signage plays an essential role in educating the public about the Issei and their history to the area.

**The goals of the Issei Commemorative Garden (as approved 10/19/17)**

- to create a Japanese garden to recognize the Issei generation that established Japantown in the Western Addition in 1906.
- to instill a sense of Japanese cultural heritage in the park that will connect the neighborhood to the history and spirit of the Japantown community.
- to create a Japanese streetscape garden that will become an educational and cultural destination point in Japantown.

The signage will enrich the experience of park-goers by educating them about the cultural and historical significance of the Issei generation and their connection to Cottage Row.

I strongly urge the Commission to approve the Issei Garden signage and its content as is, without any changes or modifications.

Name (print): Sherilyn Chew

Signature:  Date: 10/2/19

Address:  City:  Zip: 

Affiliation/Title (if applicable):

Community Member

## **Maher, Abigail (REC)**

---

**From:** ryan kimura <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 2, 2019 5:47 AM  
**To:** Maher, Abigail (REC)  
**Subject:** letter of support- Issei garden  
**Attachments:** 861E0DA2-5492-4F81-B0DF-3EC0E38B8DC2.pdf

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Hello Abigail,

Please see my attached letter of support for the Issei Garden.

Thanks  
Ryan

Sent from my iPhone

To the San Francisco Recreation & Parks Department

Subject: **Support for Issei Garden Signage**

Dear Honorable Commissioners,

I Ryan Kimura would like to add my support for the proposed dedication signage at the newly constructed Issei Commemorative Garden located at the Cottage Row Mini-Park.

On October 19, 2017, the Recreation & Parks Commission unanimously approved the Issei Garden Project Proposal, which included historical background information on the Issei generation, Japantown and Cottage Row.

The Issei Garden honors the first generation of Japanese to America who began immigrating to the United States in the late 1800s and the historic Japantown they established in the Western Addition following the 1906 earthquake.

The Cottage Row Mini-Park is part of the only nationally recognized historic district in the Japantown neighborhood and the signage plays an essential role in educating the public about the Issei and their history to the area.

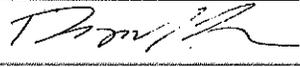
**The goals of the Issei Commemorative Garden (as approved 10/19/17)**

- to create a Japanese garden to recognize the Issei generation that established Japantown in the Western Addition in 1906.
- to instill a sense of Japanese cultural heritage in the park that will connect the neighborhood to the history and spirit of the Japantown community.
- to create a Japanese streetscape garden that will become an educational and cultural destination point in Japantown.

The signage will enrich the experience of park-goers by educating them about the cultural and historical significance of the Issei generation and their connection to Cottage Row.

I strongly urge the Commission to approve the Issei Garden signage and its content as is, without any changes or modifications.

Name (print): Ryan Kimura

Signature:  Date: 10/1/19

Address:  City:  Zip: 

Affiliation/Title (if applicable):

Business Owner, Pika Pika

## **Maher, Abigail (REC)**

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**From:** Robert Sakai [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 2, 2019 8:39 AM  
**To:** Commission, Recpark (REC); Maher, Abigail (REC)  
**Subject:** Issei Garden

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Recreation and Park Commissioners

I am a lifelong member of Japantown in San Francisco. I was born on the 2000 block of Bush Street in 1950, and have spent my life in Japantown. Currently I am a property owner in Japantown. My father and mother also spent their entire adult lives in the San Francisco Japantown. My youngest son is also a resident of San Francisco.

I am writing to add my support of the proposed signage for the Issei Garden.

On October 19, 2017, the Recreation and Parks Commission unanimously approved the Issei Garden Project, which included a plan for educational signage for the garden.

The proposed signage is an integral part of the garden project and will enrich the experience of park-goers by educating them about the cultural and historic significance of the Issei generation.

I urge the Commission to approve the Issei Garden Signage.

Respectfully yours,

Robert Kiichi Sakai  
K. Sakai Company  
and  
1680 Post LLC  
Managing Partner

**Maher, Abigail (REC)**

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**From:** David Fukuda [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 2, 2019 8:45 AM  
**To:** Commission, Recpark (REC); Maher, Abigail (REC)  
**Subject:** Issei Garden Project Signage

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Recreation and Parks Commissioners,

I am writing to add my support of the proposed signage for the Issei Garden.

On October 19, 2017, the Recreation & Parks Commission unanimously approved the Issei Garden Project, which included a plan for educational signage for the garden.

The proposed signage is an integral part of the garden project and will enrich the experience of park-goers by educating them about the cultural and historic significance of the Issei generation. My grandparents immigrated from Japan and raised their family in Japantown. The Issei Garden is an important part of San Francisco's Japanese American Community and to the Issei legacy, thus deserves proper signage.

I urge the Commission to approve the Issei Garden signage.

Sincerely,

David Fukuda

**Maher, Abigail (REC)**

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**From:** Donna Ong-Kimura [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 2, 2019 10:13 AM  
**To:** Maher, Abigail (REC)  
**Subject:** Issei Garden Project

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Recreation and Parks Commissioners,

I am writing to add my support of the proposed signage for the Issei Garden.

On October 19, 2017, the Recreation & Parks Commission unanimously approved the Issei Garden Project, which included a plan for educational signage for the garden.

The proposed signage is an integral part of the garden project and will enrich the experience of park-goers by educating them about the cultural and historic significance of the Issei generation.

I urge the Commission to approve the Issei Garden signage.

Respectfully,  
Donna Ong-Kimura

Ong and Kimura, Inc.  
[REDACTED]

## **Maher, Abigail (REC)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 2, 2019 2:28 PM  
**To:** Maher, Abigail (REC)  
**Cc:** POsaki@jcccnc.org; sanfrancisco@konkofaith.org  
**Subject:** Support Letter for Issei Garden Signage  
**Attachments:** IsseiGardenSupport\_KonkoChurch.pdf

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Abigail Maher:

Please find attached a letter of support for the Issei Garden signage from the Konko Church of San Francisco to the San Francisco Recreation & Parks Department.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Joanne Tolosa

TEL: (415) 931-0453

EMAIL: sanfrancisco@konkofaith.org

## KONKO CHURCH OF SAN FRANCISCO

金光教サンフランシスコ教会

1909 BUSH STREET

SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94115-3204

October 1, 2019

To the San Francisco Recreation & Parks Department

Subject: Support for Issei Garden Signage

Dear Honorable Commissioners,

Konko Church of San Francisco would like to add our support for the proposed dedication signage at the newly constructed Issei Commemorative Garden located at the Cottage Row Mini-Park.

On October 19, 2017, the Recreation & Parks Commission unanimously approved the Issei Garden Project Proposal, which included historical background information on the Issei generation, Japantown and Cottage Row.

The Issei Garden honors the first generation of Japanese to America who began immigrating to the United States in the late 1800s and the historic Japantown they established in the Western Addition following the 1906 earthquake.

The Cottage Row Mini-Park is part of the only nationally recognized historic district in the Japantown neighborhood and the signage plays an essential role in educating the public about the Issei and their history to the area.

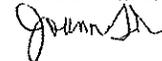
The goals of the Issei Commemorative Garden (as approved 10/19/17) - to create a Japanese garden to recognize the Issei generation that established Japantown in the Western Addition in 1906. to instill a sense of Japanese cultural heritage in the park that will connect the neighborhood to the history and spirit of the Japantown community. to create a Japanese streetscape garden that will become an educational and cultural destination point in Japantown.

The signage will enrich the experience of park-goers by educating them about the cultural and historical significance of the Issei generation and their connection to Cottage Row.

We strongly urge the Commission to approve the Issei Garden signage and its content.

Sincerely,

Konko Church of San Francisco Board of Directors



Rev. Joanne Tolosa, Head Minister

1909 Bush Street, San Francisco, CA 94115-3204

**Maher, Abigail (REC)**

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**From:** Lori [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 2, 2019 4:56 PM  
**To:** Maher, Abigail (REC)  
**Subject:** Letter of Support for Issei Garden Commemorative Plaque  
**Attachments:** Rec and Park\_Letter of Support\_Issei Garden Plaque.pdf

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Abigail,

I am not sure if i will make it to the meeting tomorrow. Please find attached my letter of support for the Issei Garden Commemorative Plaque.

Please forward to members of the Rec and Park Commission - Operations Committee.

The garden is beautiful! I appreciate your work to get it done.

Thank you,  
Lori Matoba

[REDACTED]  
(work in Japantown and relative of Benkyodo Co.)

SUPPORT LETTER FOR ISSEI GARDEN COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE  
Attn: Abigail Maher ([abigail.maher@sfgov.org](mailto:abigail.maher@sfgov.org))

October 2, 2019

Recreation and Parks Department

Re: Issei Garden Commemorative Dedication Plaque

Dear Members of the Recreation and Parks Department Commission:

My family and extended family have lived and worked in Japantown for over 113 years. As a descendent of Suyeichi and Owai Okamura, Issei (first generation immigrants from Japan), I am compelled to voice my support for the proposed Issei Garden and the permanent commemorative dedication plaque. It will provide a learning moment and reminder for all (residents, visitors and younger generations of Japanese Americans) of the many hardships the Issei generation endured. It will honor the strength and perseverance the Issei had to establish Japantown in its current location in 1906, and encourage people to take time to learn more about the rich history of Japantown.

Not having known my Issei great-grandparents, I learned from my parents, and other relatives of their struggles. I did, however, grow up in Japantown and more specifically on the block of Steiner between Bush and Sutter. As a child, I lived above my grandparents and spent most of my time with my grandmother, whose family owns Benkyodo Co. on Buchanan and Sutter, which was originally on the south side of Geary Street before Redevelopment. We would visit many of her Issei and Nisei friends, who lived and worked on Fillmore from Post to California (maybe further), and along Bush from Pierce to past the church we went to on Octavia. Japanese did not live in every house or own every business but this was our community and an area I considered Japantown. Sadly, due to the mass incarceration of Japanese and Japanese Americans during World War II (WWII) and the mass removal of residents and businesses during Redevelopment, it has shrunk and has changed immensely.

I feel fortunate to continue to live in the house that my great grandparents and grandparents lived in while working at Benkyodo, but am saddened to hear that there is opposition in the neighborhood to share the rich history of the Japanese experience through this plaque. To me, the beautiful rock garden and plaque honors the determination and resilience of the Issei and our Japantown community. It will also be a permanent recognition for future generations of Japanese Americans as well as to visitors, residents and other who celebrate our City's great diversity,

In closing, I urge you to proceed with the plaque and its current wording to tell the story of my great grandparents who chose to make San Francisco and Japantown their home.

Sincerely,

Lori Matoba  


October 3, 2019

SF Recreation and Park Commissioners  
San Francisco, CA

Re: Cottage Row Plaque

Dear Commissioners:

It is my understanding that the Cottage Row Plaque is on your Agenda for discussion and approval today.

Throughout the month of September, I was very fortunate to observe the creation of the Issei Commemorative Garden on daily basis which was artistically created by Mr. Shigeru Namba, a world renown Japanese landscaper. While spending time at the garden, neighbors and visitors alike stopped to admire Mr. Namba's work and provided positive and supportive comments about the importance of recognizing the Japanese American community in a venue of historical and relevant significance. The temporary plaque that currently exists at the garden has also received great acceptance and support.

I respectfully request your strong support of voting to approve the language that is proposed for the plaque that will be placed within the Issei Commemorative Garden. The language of the plaque does not contain "facts" that are distorted. There is clear and objective data to support each of its findings that can be presented to you in great detail should you require additional information.

Since the year 1999, I have been actively engaged in a state level grant program to support programs about the Japanese American experience during World War II and believe that I have both the experience and education to support the findings stated in the proposed plaque. I also have experience reviewing documents of historic significance through my preservation work with the City and County of San Francisco.

Further I am also a long-time resident of San Francisco Japantown, and am the grandchild of a Issei gardener who lost his home while incarcerated at the Topaz Concentration Camp and could not find any other employment

other than being a gardener because of the great prejudice that existed against Japanese Americans when he returned back to Northern California.

Your serious and positive attention to this matter is greatly appreciated by many Japanese American and other individuals who believe that it is important to promote and support the stories of underrepresented communities in public places.

Sincerely,

Diane Matsuda



## **Maher, Abigail (REC)**

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**From:** Chris Hirano [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 3, 2019 12:54 PM  
**To:** Commission, Recpark (REC); Maher, Abigail (REC)  
**Subject:** Japantown Issei Garden Project

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Recreation and Parks Commissioners,

As a third generation product of Japantown, I am writing to add my support of the proposed signage for the Issei Garden Project.

On October 19, 2017, the Recreation & Parks Commission unanimously approved the Issei Garden Project, which included a plan for educational signage for the garden.

The proposed signage is an integral part of the garden project and will enrich the experience of park-goers by educating them about the cultural and historic significance of the Issei generation.

Further, the opportunity for the community to define our own Issei's experience in Japantown is a moral imperative. This is not an attempt to revise local history, but rather providing a historic self-narrative handed down through generations that previously has not been documented in this way.

I urge the Commission to approve the Issei Garden signage.

Respectfully,

Chris Hirano  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Hillary Nakano](#)  
**To:** [Commission, Recpark \(REC\)](#); [Maher, Abigail \(REC\)](#)  
**Subject:** In Support of Issei Garden Project  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 8, 2019 5:30:03 PM

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This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Recreation and Parks Commissioners,

I am writing to add my support of the proposed signage for the Issei Garden.

On October 19, 2017, the Recreation & Parks Commission unanimously approved the Issei Garden Project, which included a plan for educational signage for the garden.

The proposed signage is an integral part of the garden project and will enrich the experience of park-goers by educating them about the cultural and historic significance of the Issei generation.

I urge the Commission to approve the Issei Garden signage.

Respectfully,  
Hillary Nakano, Esq.  
Japanese-American Community Member

--

Hillary Nakano, Esq.

Cell: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]