

Steve Nakajo

Executive Director of Japantown Task Force, Inc. nonprofit organization in San Francisco, CA

My name is Steve Nakajo. I am the Executive Director of the Japantown Task Force, Inc. I would like to provide input on the boundaries of historic Japantown in San Francisco. I am also writing as a member of the AAPI and AMEMSA Redistricting Collaborative.

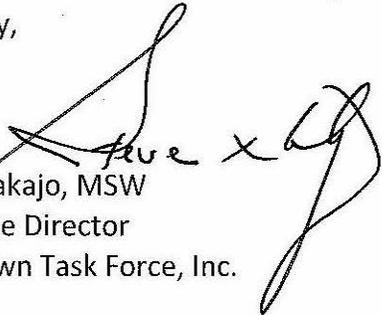
The Japantown Task Force, Inc. (JTF) works to help protect, develop and revitalize Japantown, strengthen the ethnic diversity of the community, and create an atmosphere of safety, beauty, vitality and prosperity. JTF oversees the Japantown Cultural District, one of 8 San Francisco Cultural Districts. The San Francisco Cultural Districts are a formalized collaborative project with the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development (MOHCD) to stabilize historic communities at risk of displacement and gentrification. JTF also engages in community studies and research projects to develop strategies for the cultural and economic preservation of Japantown.

Our community lives and works within the boundaries of SF Japantown, marked by Steiner & Gough streets to the East and West, and California and Ellis streets to the North and South. As one of last 3 remaining Japantown's in the US, it is essential that our community is maintained.

Our community is bound together through the deep connection to many cultural organizations and nonprofits that serve the Japanese and Japanese American community. Japantown not only serves as the cultural capital for people of Japanese ancestry, but also serves as a historical center dating back to its' founding in 1906. Japantown is home to one of the largest concentration of seniors in San Francisco. Japantown needs affordable housing, which is one of the strategies of the Cultural, History, Housing, Economic Sustainability Strategy (CHHESS) report. The CHHESS report is a strategy report based on extensive community input on seven Key Areas of focus that are designed to help stabilize at-risk communities. Strategies for Japantown and tactics for implementing those strategies have been developed through the synthesis and analysis of broad community input and extensive research. We are collaborating with MOHCD on the CHHESS report. Japantown is a community that serves the greater Bay Area including Japanese and Japanese Americans who have historically been displaced. Ensuring this community remains intact is critical to the work that is being done to protect it.

I request that the commission respect this culturally rich and historic district. It is important that our community boundaries remain intact for the preservation of our community, and to prevent any further marginalization or displacement.

Sincerely,


Steve Nakajo, MSW
Executive Director
Japantown Task Force, Inc.



JAPANTOWN TASK FORCE

日本町の経済発展・計画・保存

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING & PRESERVATION OF JAPANTOWN



Map of Japantown Boundaries