

Kip Tokuda Civil Liberties Program

Statutory and/or Budget Language

\$250,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2024 and \$250,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2025 are provided solely for the Kip Tokuda memorial Washington civil liberties public education program. The superintendent of public instruction shall award grants consistent with RCW 28A.300.410.

Purpose

The purpose of this competitive grant program is to support the intent of Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 28A.300.405 in the establishment of a legacy of remembrance as part of the continued recovery from the World War II (WWII) exclusion and detention of individuals of Japanese ancestry. The program, funded in the amount of \$250,000 for fiscal year 2023–24, intends to do one or both of the following:

- Educate the public on the history of WWII exclusion, removal, and detention of persons of Japanese ancestry through development, coordination, and distribution of new educational materials and the development of curriculum materials to complement and augment resources currently available on subject.
- Develop videos, plays, presentations, speaker bureaus, and exhibitions for presenting to schools and other parties.

Description of Services Provided

The following individuals and organizations were selected to receive funding under the Kip Tokuda Memorial Grant program:

- **Densho:** Densho made significant strides in enhancing its educational outreach activities and preservation of the stories of Japanese Americans who experienced the WWII incarceration. They established an educational advisory committee that brings together a diverse range of educators, historians, and community members dedicated to enriching our educational programs. They revised their oral history program, integrated multimedia elements, and continued to add interviews of survivors. These interviews share stories on being children during Japanese incarceration. Finally, they have begun planning a three-day teacher workshop for the fall of 2024 in Seattle, Washington in partnership with the Holocaust Center for Humanity. This approach ensures a comprehensive approach to teaching about historical injustices. This workshop aims to equip educators with the tools and knowledge to effectively teach about the WWII incarceration and its lasting impacts.
- **HistoryLink:** HistoryLink commissioned four writers to write a total of six new articles for HistoryLink.org on Japanese American Washingtonians whose lives were directly



impacted by Japanese American incarceration. These are freely available to online users of their encyclopedia, include illustrative archival photos, and internal links to other articles related to the subject. They used internal auditing data to determine areas to supplement content.

- **Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Washington:** The Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Washington (JCCCW) continued the work of the Omoide VII project with the goal of establishing Japanese incarceration story contacts and connections across Washington state. Members of JCCCW traveled to cities across Washington state to speak at community gatherings, luncheons, and panels fostering connections and gauging community involvement for Omoide VII.
- **Purple Gate Design:** Purple Gate Design created the exhibit “Calling of the Ancestors” that provided an immersive art experience to learn and speak about various aspects of the WWII Japanese American exclusion and detention. The installation focused on the Obon or Bon Odori Buddhist practice that many Seattle citizens are familiar with through the annual Seafair festival. The purpose was for visitors to understand the incarceration from intimate viewpoints within a non-traditional format, through the lens of art created in ceramics, photo murals, works on paper and wood, all with interpretive signage.
- **Washington State Historical Society:** The Washington State Historical Society (WSHS) continued to work on the Oiye Archival Collection, which includes hundreds of letters written by and to the Oiye family, a Japanese American family living in Tacoma since the 1890s. The Oiye Collection also included artifacts, photographs, artwork, and documentation that gave important context to the Oiye’s correspondence. WSHS completed digitization of the Oiye archival material and continued to translate them.
- **Wing Luke Asian Museum:** The Wing Luke Asian Museum began development of their exhibition “Side by Side: Nihonmachi Scenes by Tokita, Nomura, and Fujii” scheduled to open in August 2024 with related curriculum, teacher training, and school tours. This exhibition, originally focused solely on Takuichi Fujii, included works by Kamekichi Tokita and Kenjiro Nomura, prominent Japanese American artists who worked together in Seattle’s Nihonmachi in the 1920s and 1930s, providing unique perspectives on the streets, shops, and activities in the neighborhood and celebrating the cultural vibrancy of the community. Adding a perspective from wartime, the show also includes Fujii’s “Painted Diary” from Fujii’s time in the incarceration camp. The highly engaging paintings by Tokita, Nomura, and Fujii provided a way to draw in students to tangible lessons about the Japanese American lived experience and the impacts of the incarceration.

Criteria for Receiving Services and/or Grants

The criteria used to help select grant recipients from applicants are as follows:

- a. Administrative Capability
- b. Content-Based Expertise
- c. Relevance to Civil Rights Education

- d. Sustainability & Scalability
- e. Variety of Exclusion and Detention Experiences Addressed

Beneficiaries in the 2023-24 School Year

Number of School Districts	323
Number of Schools	41
Number of Students	12,729
Number of Educators	186
Other	Web Users: 51,921 Museums: 3

Are Federal or Other Funds Contingent on State Funding?

No

State Funding History

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
2024	\$250,000	\$226,746
2023	\$250,000	\$230,640
2022	\$250,000	\$237,695
2021	\$250,000	\$249,988
2020	\$250,000	\$244,364

Number of Beneficiaries Per Fiscal Year (e.g. School Districts, Schools, Students, Educators, Other)

Fiscal Year	Number of Beneficiaries
2024	Districts: 323+, Schools: 41+, Students: 12,729+, Educators: 186+, Web Users: 51,921+, Museums: 3,
2023	Districts: 36+, Schools: 105+, Students: 18,876+, Educators: 601+, Web Users: 45,650+, National Parks: 3, Museums: 5, Community Members: 55
2022	Districts: 13+, Schools: 12+, Students: 533+, Educators 33+, Web Users: 502,250+, School Boards: 1, In-person Community Members: 225, National Parks: 6, Universities: 3, Museums: 5
2021	Districts: 118, Schools: 140, Students: 15,876, Educators: 663, Web Users: 57,429+, Organizations: 14

2020	Districts: 295, (other beneficiaries indeterminate)
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Programmatic Changes Since Inception (If Any)

The number of grants has expanded with the increase in funding beginning in 2020, which increased the funding amount from \$125,000 to \$250,000. The 2023–24 funding amount is maintained at \$250,000.

Program Evaluation or Evaluation of Major Findings

Central to establishing a legacy of remembrance as part of a continuing process of recovery is sharing the stories of those impacted by Japanese American incarceration during World War II. Over time, projects funded through the Kip Tokuda Memorial Grant Program have expanded their audience, format, and accessibility. Projects continue to impact both K–12 classrooms and the community at large. Grantees report that many classrooms and cities across Washington State are utilizing their services and products because of this grant opportunity. Grantees focused on archiving and curation continue to report an increase in the number of stories and histories needing to be recorded and curated. Grantees that finish curation and development hope to shift to community engagement and outreach in the 2024–25 school year.

Major Challenges Faced by the Program

While the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) maximized and increased individual grant proposal funding due to available resources, grantees articulated their challenge to use all funds within the timeline allotted. Some partners expressed challenges in finding skilled staff with expertise in their content. One grantee experienced vandalization which delayed their timeline for implementation. Many partners also expressed the challenge of balancing resource allocation to maintain existing work and beginning new projects and/or initiatives. Finally, grantees expressed the challenge of using resources essential to their projects that fall outside of the grant timeline.

Future Opportunities

The 2023–24 Kip Tokuda grantees will continue to strengthen and encourage the network of experts and availability of resources in Washington state to educate on Japanese American incarceration. All grantees were challenged to design projects that are sustainable and expandable, meaning we expect their work to continue to show impact past the grant period. To support the accessibility and longevity of these projects, OSPI hosts a Kip Tokuda page on the Open Educational Resources (OER) Commons where the projects are freely available to the public under an open Creative Commons license. Both returning applicants and new applicants are welcome to apply for grants in future years to fund project expansion and/or new proposals.

Other Relevant Information

Since most grantees' resources have at least one web-based component, the total beneficiaries are indeterminate. Not all grantees can track online access, and those that can are unable to determine how many of the people accessing the materials may come from within Washington state's education community. In addition, beneficiary numbers may not reflect projects that have been completed but are implemented beyond the scope of the grant.

Schools/Districts Receiving Assistance

[Click here to see a list of all OSPI grant recipients in the 2024 Fiscal Year.](#)

Program Contact Information

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