

# *Kip Tokuda Civil Liberties Program*

## 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.

## Proviso 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 2024–25, 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.

## Services Provided

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

- **Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial Association:** The Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial Association (BIJAEMA) created an eight-part interpretive video series to deepen public understanding of the WWII incarceration of Japanese Americans. Each 3–5 minute video addresses a frequently asked question from memorial tours and features personal stories from Bainbridge Island survivors, archival materials, and historical context. Designed to spark discussion on civil rights and democracy, the videos are widely accessible online and at their new Visitor Center, expanding the Memorial's educational reach.
- **Densho:** Densho has made significant progress in expanding its educational outreach and preserving the stories of Japanese Americans affected by WWII incarceration. Central to these efforts was the continued collaboration with Densho's Educational Advisory Group, whose input led to major revisions of the oral history curriculum. A new, educator-friendly version of the oral history guide was developed specifically for secondary English language arts and social studies teachers, featuring standards-aligned, multimedia-rich resources that promote ethical



storytelling and student-centered learning. The guide equips educators to integrate personal narratives with historical analysis, fostering inquiry, empathy, and civic awareness. Densho also conducted eight new oral history interviews and is preparing several more, with topics ranging from childhood incarceration to the emergence of taiko and Asian American theatre. All interviews are being archived in the Densho Digital Repository, contributing to a collection of over 1,200 narratives. Grounded in Densho's mission and community partnerships, the project empowers teachers and students to engage with Japanese American history in meaningful, interdisciplinary ways that connect past injustices to present-day issues.

- **Friends of Sand Point Magnuson Park:** The project focused on uncovering and sharing the overlooked history of Japanese American farmers in the Sand Point–Pontiac area of Seattle, complementing the narratives of the Sand Point Naval Air Station Historic District. Through extensive archival research, the team explored the community's agricultural contributions, challenges under Alien Land Laws, and the impact of WWII incarceration. This work culminated in a richly illustrated essay that humanizes the community's story, tracing its rise and forced displacement.
- **Gina Ariko Studio:** The artist organized a public exhibition in Seattle titled *Ikebana and the Art of Resilience*, alongside two free community workshops. The exhibition featured original paintings and sculptures inspired by ikebana and floral art created in WWII incarceration camps, accompanied by a written guide with historical context and archival images from the Densho archive. The first workshop focused on watercolor painting of ikebana still lifes, inspired by Haruko and Chiura Obata, while the second taught participants to fold origami flowers for a communal wreath honoring floral traditions in the camps. Together, the exhibition and workshops offered an accessible, reflective way for audiences to engage with the history of Japanese American incarceration through the lens of creativity and cultural resilience.
- **History Link:** History Link undertook a project to deepen public understanding of Japanese American exclusion and incarceration during World War II by publishing three new, freely accessible articles on HistoryLink.org: a biography of author Monica Sone, a profile of the Yakima Valley Japanese American community, and a biography of veteran Shiro Kashino. These richly illustrated and sourced articles brought attention to prewar racism, economic scapegoating, and wartime injustices, while also emphasizing the lasting contributions of Japanese Americans to Washington state history.
- **Immediate Justice Productions LLC:** The project documented and uplifted the story of Kathryn Bannai, lead attorney in the coram nobis case of Hirabayashi v. United States and her pivotal role in the broader legal fight that helped win reparations for Japanese Americans incarcerated during World War II. The in-depth research brings to light Bannai's reflections, legal strategies, and contributions which have historically been diminished due to sexism and racism.
- **Japanese American Storykeeper LLC:** During the grant period, the project exceeded its outreach goals by delivering presentations at nine secondary schools—six of which were

in eastern Washington—surpassing the requirement of six schools, including two in that region. Students across Washington state participated in a 40-minute presentation followed by a 20-minute discussion focused on the exclusion and incarceration of Japanese Americans during WWII.

- **Nikkei Heritage Association of Washington:** In this phase of *Omoide VII*, the project focused on refining and contextualizing stories gathered in Phase 1 to align with broader historical themes of Japanese American incarceration during WWII. A content developer was brought on to enhance historical context, while an educator and writer grouped and edited the stories to meet educational standards. Project leads coordinated additional story development and community outreach to address content gaps. A partnership was established with a local publishing press to support future publication, including creating a shared database to streamline workflow, layout planning, and budgeting. These efforts deepened the narrative, connecting personal stories to larger themes of equity and justice.
- **Okuma Johnston Art:** Digital paintings were created as a custom Hanafuda playing card deck with 12 suits representing months and symbolic imagery paralleling the traditional game, specifically reflecting the history and artifacts of the Minidoka incarceration camp. The project produced 150 decks featuring flora, fauna, and cultural parallels from southern Idaho, facilitating family engagement and storytelling across generations, including use as a connect-4 activity for children and dementia patients, thereby fostering community connection and remembrance of camp experiences.
- **Paul Kikuchi Music:** The organization created a presentation that accompanied a suite of original music about the Japanese American incarceration titled *In Shadows*. The presentation and music were shared at South Seattle College’s 2024 Day of Remembrance event. The inclusion of live music was particularly compelling in conveying the stories of those impacted.
- **Purple Gate Design:** The organization shared talks and sculptural work and provided art workshops about the Japanese American incarceration with the following entities: Wing Luke Museum, Shoreline Community College, Bainbridge Island Museum of Art, City of Redmond Public Arts Bootcamp, Kimball Elementary School, and Satterberg Foundation.
- **Wing Luke Asian Museum:** The Wing Luke Museum in Seattle developed the exhibition *Witness to Wartime: The Painted Diary of Takuichi Fujii*, later expanded as *Side by Side: Nihonmachi Scenes by Tokita, Nomura, and Fujii* (August 2024–April 2025), featuring paintings and artifacts that highlight Japanese American life in Seattle’s Nihonmachi (Japanese term for Japanese neighborhood outside of Japan) during the 1920–30s and the WWII incarceration period. Accompanied by curriculum, a webpage, teacher trainings, and school tours, the project helped students (grades 4+) explore Japanese American history across disciplines. Created in fiscal year 24 and implemented in fiscal year 25, these materials will continue to be used, including in the upcoming *Honoring Our Journey 2.0* exhibition. Photos and a recorded gallery talk ensure the exhibit’s lasting educational impact.

**Yakima Valley Museum and Historical Association:** The museum updated content, added local artifacts, and incorporated new research. The grant also supported the creation of two Traveling Trunks with lesson plans and resources, extending educational outreach beyond the museum. Key artifacts were preserved through improved archival care, and the exhibit now offers deeper local connections and fresh insights for both returning visitors and students. This project enhanced the *Land of Joy and Sorrow* exhibit and expanded educational opportunities about the Japanese American community in the Yakima Valley.

## Criteria for Receiving Services/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 and Scalability
- e. Variety of Exclusion and Detention Experiences Addressed

## Beneficiaries in the 2024-25 School Year

|                             |                    |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Number of School Districts: | 72                 |
| Number of Schools:          | 161                |
| Number of Students:         | 19,786             |
| Number of Educators:        | 676                |
| Other:                      | Web users, museums |

## Are Federal or Other Funds Contingent on State Funding?

No

## State Funding History

| Fiscal Year | Amount Funded | Actual Expenditures |
|-------------|---------------|---------------------|
| 2025        | \$250,000     | \$213,238           |
| 2024        | \$250,000     | \$226,746           |
| 2023        | \$250,000     | \$230,640           |
| 2022        | \$250,000     | \$237,695           |
| 2021        | \$250,000     | \$249,988           |

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

| Fiscal Year | Number of Beneficiaries                                                                                                                                                              |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2025        | Districts: 72+, Schools: 161+, Students: 19,786+, Educators: 676+, Other: 52,120                                                                                                     |
| 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                                                                                |

## 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 2024–25 funding amount was maintained at \$250,000.

This body of work has been discontinued by the legislature. Beginning July 1, 2025 OSPI is no longer implementing this grant program.

## Program(s) Evaluation or 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 2025–26 school year.

## Major Challenges Faced by Program(s)

Grantees indicated that challenges included limited time, resource constraints, communication delays with authors, and the need for cultural sensitivity. There was an observation by one grantee that “there is a dearth of education available about the Japanese American exclusion and detention.” Varying technology skills presented challenges in various parts of the process; this was addressed with one-on-one meetings and follow-ups. Reaching audiences in eastern Washington required extensive travel and tailoring content to diverse audiences. The timeline of the grant process and fund availability often meant that opportunities for direct engagement with students and educators were limited to the end of the year, which meant competing with other demands on schools' time such as state-wide testing.

## Future Opportunities

This body of work has been discontinued by the legislature. Future opportunities will depend on future legislative direction and resource dedicated to the work.

## Other Relevant Information

Since many of the 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 2025 Fiscal Year.](#)

## Program Contact Information

**Name:** Katie Taylor  
**Title:** Director, Secondary Education Content  
**Phone:** 360-706-3763  
**Email:** [katie.taylor@k12.wa.us](mailto:katie.taylor@k12.wa.us)