SUSTAINABLE LITTLE TOKYO
Sustainable Little Tokyo

A coalition between:

+ Japanese American Cultural & Community Center
+ Little Tokyo Community Council
+ Little Tokyo Service Center
Mission

Sustainable Little Tokyo is a community-driven initiative working to ensure a healthy, equitable, and culturally rich Little Tokyo for generations to come.

もったいない

*Mottainai* is a familiar Japanese phrase expressing "What a Waste!" Reduce, Reuse & Recycle—with the added Respect: Respect for the Earth, your community, yourself, and others.
Sustainability as...

- Cultural/Historical
- Economic
- Environmental
A SUSTAINABLE LITTLE TOKYO
サステナブル リトル東京
Sustainable Little Tokyo 2013

GOAL:

“To establish the community’s vision for sustainable transit-oriented development around the Little Tokyo/Arts District Station station that furthers and enhances Little Tokyo’s cultural and historic assets.”

“This document can be read as a planning framework setting forth the community’s values, aspirations, and priorities. It can also be read as a literal development plan tested for economic feasibility with realistic achievable outcomes.”
COMMUNITY CHARRETTE

3 DAY CHARRETTE WITH 200 PARTICIPANTS FROM:

DEVELOPING THE COMMUNITY VISION
A SUSTAINABLE LITTLE TOKYO

- SUSTAINABLE / “MOTTAINAI”
- STRONG COMMUNITY FABRIC
- UNIQUE LITTLE TOKYO IDENTITY
- MOBILITY AND LINKAGES
- COMPLETE, BALANCED, HUMAN SCALE
- ECONOMIC VITALITY AND BUSINESS
FSN Update 2016

Culture / History

- Cultural destination, reflecting Japanese culture
- Integration of GFBNEC and monument

Housing

- Affordable housing for individuals and families

Businesses

- Mixed use: affordable housing & commercial.
- Lower scale at middle, up to 5-6 stories at NW corner
- Shared parking
- Maintain service and vehicle access.

Environment

- Green open space
- Maintain site-lines
- Connectivity throughout the block and into Little Tokyo
Sustainable Little Tokyo 2020

GOAL:

A community-driven initiative to provide a range of immediate improvements and short-terms actions that strengthen and support the cultural, economic, environmental development of the historic neighborhood by 2020.
Process

Meetings / Activities

Door-to-door surveys & street engagements
Sustainable Little Tokyo (SLT2020) is a community-driven initiative to provide a range of immediate improvements and short-terms actions that strengthen and support the cultural, economic, and environmental development of the historic neighborhood by 2020.
PRIORITIES  (from short term to long term)

1. Preserve existing cultural and spiritual institutions, including those without physical locations.


3. Organize a farmers market with culturally relevant produce.

4. Connect Japanese Village Plaza to Weller Court and beyond to Los Angeles St.

5. Make San Pedro St, Central Ave, and Alameda St more reflective of Little Tokyo.

6. Create incubator spaces for community-supporting small businesses.

7. Develop more affordable housing for low-income residents, families, and artists.
2020 Vision and Action Plan

A list of potential projects our community would like to achieve by 2020. For a full list of community ideas, check out www.sustainablelittletokyo.org. Want to help make one of these happen? See the to do list!

Arts and Culture

to strengthen the identity of the neighborhood
- More public art and murals to reflect history and provide more opportunities for local artists.
- More programming connecting Japanese American history to contemporary issues.
- Create more educational programs to preserve and celebrate cultural arts and history, such as cooking and crafts.

Small Business

to maintain unique goods and foods emblematic of Little Tokyo’s identity
- Continue to support existing small businesses.
- No more corporate or chain retail businesses.
- Rent support and mitigation for small businesses.
- Create funds and resources to support renovations and improvements to existing businesses.
- Full grocery store, laundromat, craft supply store, and movie theater.
- Community land trust for temporary leases for commercial space.

Housing

to ensure affordable and secure housing for families and low-income residents
- Develop low-income housing, no more market-rate housing.
- Arts housing and live/work flex areas.
- Joint development of Metro Regional Connector site with housing.
- Educational and social programming for residents.
- More support services for the homeless community.

Open Green Space

to increase high quality public spaces throughout neighborhood
- Create park space with playground and exercise equipment for children and elders.
- More street planters, planted shade, and fruit trees.
- Install pocket parks and small green areas along street.
- Plant vegetable gardens and urban farm spaces in open spaces and rooftops.
- More public restrooms and trash cans.

Connectivity

to foster greater community and ease of travel within and to the area
- Make Central Ave more reflective of Little Tokyo, especially at station site.
- Close portions of First St for festivals.
- Ensure pedestrian safety, bike access, and more off-street parking.
- Culturally connect with other ethnic neighborhoods.
- Connect East of Alameda with programming and pathways.
- Fight the West Santa Ana train line on Alameda.
- More affordable parking.
SLT Re-Vision

GOAL:

- Update and specify our community priorities, principles & values
- Actualize these priorities through an updated vision for what we want built on FSN and Mangrove
- Center stakeholders who are often left out of community planning
- Use a transparent decision-making processes
COMMUNITY VISION DESIGN コミュニティービジョンデザイン
UNIQUE LITTLE TOKYO IDENTITY リトル東京のユニクさ
SLT Re-Vision

**July–November**
- Community engagement
  - September 23: Review @ LT Community Forum
  - January: Release preliminary report
  - January–March: Synthesize data
  - March 24: Review @ LT Community Forum
  - April–June: Design phase, approvals
  - June 23: Review @ LT Community Forum
  - Summer: Release!
Community Engagement

Scheduling for August 2020

For FSN:

1. FSN “East”: GFBNEC x JANM
2. FSN “West”: Union Center for the Arts
3. Small business focus group
4. Resident focus group
Say Hello!

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