



## WINDOWS OF LITTLE TOKYO 2019: CALL FOR PROPOSALS

**Accepting Applications: May 1–June 30, 2019**

**Application Deadline: June 30, 2019 by 11:59 PM PST**

**Apply Online Here: <https://forms.gle/3S2r2EooUMuywLL57>**

Or email your application to [soshima@jaccc.org](mailto:soshima@jaccc.org).

Japanese American Cultural & Community Center (JACCC) and Sustainable Little Tokyo (SLT) invite artists with strong connections to Little Tokyo to submit proposals for Windows of Little Tokyo—an outdoor exhibition of 10 new, site-specific artworks on windows across our historic, 135-year-old Japanese American neighborhood. We seek artistic visions for the future of First Street North—a block critical to the past, present, and future of Little Tokyo (see Overview for more information).

We envision that Windows of Little Tokyo artworks will advance Sustainable Little Tokyo's goal of sustaining the historic and cultural roots of this resilient 135-year old neighborhood, and further the community campaign for First Street North. Learn more and see artworks from Windows of Little Tokyo 2018 here:

[www.sustainablelittletokyo.org/windows](http://www.sustainablelittletokyo.org/windows).

### OVERVIEW

Founded in 1971, **Japanese American Cultural & Community Center (JACCC)** is one of the largest ethnic arts and cultural centers of its kind in the United States. A hub for Japanese and Japanese American arts and culture and a community gathering place for the diverse voices it inspires – Japanese American Cultural & Community Center connects traditional and contemporary; community participants and creative professionals; Southern California and the world beyond. [jaccc.org](http://jaccc.org)

**Sustainable Little Tokyo (SLT)** is a community-driven initiative working to ensure a healthy, equitable, and culturally rich Little Tokyo for generations to come. SLT began in 2013 as a multi-day community vision effort and has evolved into a holistic, neighborhood-wide campaign to promote the environmental, economic, and cultural sustainability of Little Tokyo. A coalition between JACCC, Little Tokyo Community Council (LTCC), and Little Tokyo Service Center (LTSC). [sustainablelittletokyo.org](http://sustainablelittletokyo.org)

**First Street North (FSN)** is a block critical to the past, present, and future of the Little Tokyo neighborhood. Located behind Far Bar, Suehiro, Fugetsu-Do, FSN is one of the last three remaining pieces of public land that can be controlled by the community—but it could be sold to the highest bidder if the city does not hear our voice. FSN is home to some of our most important cultural institutions, legacy businesses, and historic sites, but many are at risk due to rising rents and gentrification. Our community envisions FSN as an anchor for our historic community through the development of affordable housing, affordable commercial space, community/cultural space, and open/green space. SLT's **#MyFSN campaign** seeks to control the development of the FSN block—for and by the community—and stop the displacement and erasure of our historic neighborhood. For more information, see Kenji Liu, "Fate of Little Tokyo's First Street North to Be Determined This Year," Rafu Shimpō, <http://www.rafu.com/2019/03/fate-of-little-tokyos-first-street-north-to-be-determined-this-year/>, or visit: [sustainablelittletokyo.org/fsn](http://sustainablelittletokyo.org/fsn).



## PROJECT INFORMATION

Accepting Applications: May 1–June 30, 2019

Application Deadline: June 30, 2019 by 11:59 PM PST

**Apply Online Here:** <https://forms.gle/3S2r2EooUMuywLL57>

Or email your application to [soshima@jaccc.org](mailto:soshima@jaccc.org).

### Exhibition:

Windows of Little Tokyo will be on view from October 26, 2019 through April 25, 2020 on the windows of partnering small businesses and institutions (duration may change based on partnering site), with three receptions: Opening, Halfway, and Closing.

### Selection Process:

Proposals will be reviewed by a selection committee of Little Tokyo community stakeholders. Ten (10) artists/art groups will be selected and given location options for windows at partnering businesses and institutions based on the proposal.

### Proposal Requirements:

Proposals for window artworks must engage with Little Tokyo, the theme of the future for First Street North, and once selected, the location/partnering site. In addition, the artwork should depict one or more of the following elements:

- Little Tokyo's Japanese/Japanese American community, culture, and/or art
- Little Tokyo's historically multi-ethnic, multi-generational neighborhood

Artists also have the option, if desired, of proposing a durational performance that responds to your window artwork, either by you or collaborating artist(s), to be performed during one or more of the three receptions.

While we encourage all forms of artistic expression, we recommend culturally-sensitive representations. We recommend avoiding stereotypical imagery when possible. Please note the historical context and resources provided below.

### Artist Fee:

Selected artists will receive a \$500 commission fee upon completion of all Milestones (see Schedule below). Selected artists are not responsible for printing and installation. Selected performances will receive a \$200 commission for the durational performance, towards the selected artist or collaborating artist(s).



# SUSTAINABLE LITTLE TOKYO

## Schedule (subject to change)

August 12	Selected artists informed
September 9	Deadline for Milestone 1: draft for review
September 16	Selection committee shares feedback
September 30	Deadline for Milestone 2: final artwork
October 14	Installation
October 26	Opening Reception
January 24	Halfway Reception
April 25	Closing Reception
April 27	De-installation



# SUSTAINABLE LITTLE TOKYO

## APPLICATION

Accepting Applications: May 1–June 30, 2019

Application Deadline: June 30, 2019 by 11:59 PM PST to [soshima@jaccc.org](mailto:soshima@jaccc.org)

**Apply Online Here:** <https://forms.gle/3S2r2EooUMuywLL57>

Or email your application to [soshima@jaccc.org](mailto:soshima@jaccc.org).

## Required Application Materials

1. **Artist Information (DOC or PDF)**
2. **Work Samples, 5–10 images (JPGs, PDFs, DOC)**
3. **Artist Statements (DOC or PDF)**
4. **Proposal Draft (JPG or PDF).**

### 1. Artist Information (DOC or PDF)

- Name
- Mailing address
- Email address
- Phone number
- Website (optional)

### 2. Work Samples

Please submit 5–10 work samples or examples of your artwork. (JPGs or PDFs)

### 3. Artist Statements (DOC or PDF)

1. Title of Submission (can be working title)
2. Proposal Description: What is your vision and intent? How does your proposed artwork represent the future of First Street North? (500 words/2500 characters max)
3. Artist Statement: Please describe your artwork or art practice, including how long you have been making art, what medium you work in, and how you learned to make artwork (school, mentorship, self-taught, etc.). (200 words/1000 characters max)
4. Little Tokyo Statement: Please describe your connection to Little Tokyo. (100 words/500 characters max)
5. Public Art Experience: Do you have experience with public art or artmaking within a community process? (100 words/500 characters max)
6. Proposal for Performance: For artists additionally proposing a durational performance, please include a Proposal Description (500 words/2500 characters max), and Artist Statement (200 words/1000 characters max) for any collaborating artist(s).

### 4. Proposal Draft

Please include a two-dimensional draft for your proposal, such as sketches, drawings, images, or renderings. We accept both digital and digitized analog/hand-drawn proposal as PDFs, JPGs, or in a Word DOC.

**Application Deadline: June 30, 2019 by 11:59 PM PST to [soshima@jaccc.org](mailto:soshima@jaccc.org)**



## LITTLE TOKYO HISTORY

Little Tokyo is a 135-year old Japanese American community and the second oldest neighborhood in Los Angeles. It is one of three remaining historic, recognized Japantowns left in the nation, and one of fourteen of the inaugural CA Cultural Districts. Little Tokyo formed because of racial covenants and redlining, and was one of the few places in Los Angeles where Japanese Americans could live and own property and businesses. Yet the neighborhood grew to become the home to Southern California Japanese and Japanese American community, culture, businesses, food, and spiritual institutions.

At 150 acres, Little Tokyo is one-quarter the size it was historically. Three waves of redevelopment and displacement have reshaped the community: the forced incarceration of people of Japanese descent during WWII from 1942-46; the Civic Center expansion and loss of an entire block through eminent domain from 1952-53; and mass evictions and redevelopment by the Community Redevelopment Agency and Japanese investors in the 1970-80s. While Little Tokyo has been shaped by various outside forces, it also has a long history of community organizing for self-determination: labor and housing rights organizing, the Redress Movement for WWII reparations, the creation of Little Tokyo Service Center for culturally-specific social services and low-income housing, and more.

Little Tokyo has historically been and continues to be the center for Japanese American culture, art, history, food, and spiritual institutions in Southern California, as well as a hub for the greater Asian Pacific Islander communities. We also acknowledge and celebrate our history as a multi-ethnic, multi-generational neighborhood, with strong ties to Latino/Chicano and African American communities. As the community faces cultural, economic, and environmental changes with the Metro Regional Connector, the Metro West Santa Ana Branch, and the new Civic Center expansion, Little Tokyo is continuing decades of community work to sustain its history and culture as a home for the Japanese American community.

For more information, see:

- Little Tokyo Historical Society, *Los Angeles' Little Tokyo* (South Carolina: Arcadia Publisher, 2010)
- Kelly Simpson, "Three Waves of Little Tokyo Redevelopment," *KCET Departures*, July 31, 2012, <https://www.kcet.org/shows/departures/three-waves-of-little-tokyo-redevelopment>.

For more information on First Street North, see:

- Kenji Liu, "Fate of Little Tokyo's First Street North to Be Determined This Year," *Rafu Shimpo*, March 4, 2019, [www.rafu.com/2019/03/fate-of-little-tokyos-first-street-north-to-be-determined-this-year/](http://www.rafu.com/2019/03/fate-of-little-tokyos-first-street-north-to-be-determined-this-year/).
- [www.sustainablelittletokyo.org/fsn](http://www.sustainablelittletokyo.org/fsn)



## RESOURCES

### Community and Culture

Los Angeles Buddhist Temple Federation  
revpeterhata@gmail.com

The Los Angeles Buddhist Temple Federation is comprised of eight temples with the common goal of sharing the timeless teachings of the Buddha. The mission has its roots in the history of the Japanese American community of Southern California. At the beginning of the 20th century, large numbers of Japanese immigrants began to settle in the Los Angeles area and Buddhist temples were built to serve the spiritual needs of the community. The first Buddhist temple was founded in 1904 in present-day Little Tokyo, and many others followed. Though the temples were often of various denominations, they joined together every year to hold joint Hanamatsuri services (the "flower festival" which celebrates the Buddha's birthday on April 8) and Bodhi Day services ("enlightenment" day which celebrates the Buddha's awakening on December 8). This twice-a-year cooperative effort was the foundation for the present Los Angeles Buddhist Temple Federation. In 1966, the Los Angeles Buddhist Temple Federation was incorporated as a non-profit religious organization under the laws of the State of California.

Japanese American Cultural & Community Center  
www.jaccc.org | info@jaccc.org | (213) 628-2725

Founded in 1971, Japanese American Cultural & Community Center is one of the largest ethnic arts and cultural centers of its kind in the United States. A hub for Japanese and Japanese American arts and culture and a community gathering place for the diverse voices it inspires – Japanese American Cultural & Community Center connects traditional and contemporary; community participants and creative professionals; Southern California and the world beyond.

Little Tokyo Community Council  
www.littletokyola.org | info@littletokyola.org | (213) 293-5822

The Little Tokyo Community Council is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) with membership representing the business, residential, organizational, and religious stakeholders in Little Tokyo as well as other vested interests. LTCC advocates on behalf of the Little Tokyo community, and provides an inclusive space for a broad range of stakeholders where key community issues can be discussed and the community can speak forcefully with one voice to affect positive change for Little Tokyo.

Little Tokyo Service Center  
<http://www.ltsc.org> | [communications@ltsc.org](mailto:communications@ltsc.org) | (213) 473-3030

LTSC CDC collaborates with other nonprofit, community-based organizations to help them build multifamily affordable housing projects that serve their communities, and increase the capacity of the organizations to engage in broad neighborhood-based community building work including affordable housing.



## Sustainable Little Tokyo

[www.sustainablelittletokyo.org](http://www.sustainablelittletokyo.org) | [sustainable@littletokyo.org](mailto:sustainable@littletokyo.org) | 213-268-2727 ext.107

Sustainable Little Tokyo is a community initiative that envisions a healthy, prosperous Little Tokyo that maintains its historic and cultural roots for future generations. Its mission is to develop a dynamic community-driven future for Little Tokyo through green initiatives, small business development, and cultural and arts programming that perpetuates its historic character for generations to come.

## Visual Communications

[www.vconline.org](http://www.vconline.org) | [info@vconline.org](mailto:info@vconline.org) | 213-680-4462

Visual Communications' mission is to develop and support the voices of Asian American and Pacific Islander filmmakers and media artists who empower communities and challenge perspectives. Visual Communications (VC) is the first non-profit organization in the nation dedicated to the honest and accurate portrayals of the Asian Pacific American peoples, communities, and heritage through the media arts. VC was created with the understanding that media and the arts are important vehicles to organize and empower communities, build connections between peoples and generations through the development of AAPI film, video, and media. The organization has created award-winning productions, nurtured and given voice to our youth and seniors, promoted new artistic talent, presented new cinema, and preserved our visual history.

## Small Business and Property

### Little Tokyo Business Association

<http://www.visitlittletokyo.com/> | (213) 880-6875

Founded in 1959, the Little Tokyo Business Association (LTBA) is a 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization dedicated to the growth and development of Little Tokyo as a vibrant, diverse and multi-faceted district of Downtown Los Angeles

(Also Little Tokyo Service Center)

## History

### Little Tokyo Historical Society

<http://www.littletokyohs.org/> | [littletokyohs@gmail.com](mailto:littletokyohs@gmail.com) |

The Little Tokyo Historical Society (LTHS) focuses on researching and discovering the historical resources, stories, and connections of sites, buildings, and events related to Little Tokyo as an ethnic heritage neighborhood. LTHS is committed to documenting and verifying history of locales, sites, and buildings, as well as preserving and sharing the history and personal stories of Little Tokyo and its residents.

### Japanese American National Museum

<http://www.janm.org> | [info@janm.org](mailto:info@janm.org) | (213) 625.0414

The Japanese American National Museum is the largest museum in the United States dedicated to sharing the experience of Americans of Japanese ancestry. The mission of the Japanese American National Museum is to promote understanding and appreciation of America's ethnic and cultural diversity by sharing the Japanese American experience.



# SUSTAINABLE LITTLE TOKYO

Go For Broke National Education Center

<http://www.goforbroke.org/> | [info@goforbroke.org](mailto:info@goforbroke.org) | (310) 328-0907

Go For Broke's mission is to educate and inspire character and equality through the virtue and valor of our World War II American veterans of Japanese ancestry. Founded in 1989, GFB built the Go For Broke Monument in 1999 and the National Education Center in 2016—both located in Little Tokyo. GFB has trained over 3,000 teachers, collected more than 1,180 oral history interviews, and opened a one-of-a-kind history exhibition. And much more.