

Project Proposal: Terminal Island Japanese Community

In the first half of the 20th century, Terminal Island in the Port of LA was home to a thriving Japanese American community. Japanese fishermen flocked here and were instrumental in the Port of LA's booming canned-tuna industry. Terminal Island was home to nearly 3,000 residents and included dozens of Japanese-owned stores and restaurants, a pool hall, several Buddhist temples, a school and a Shinto shrine. Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, the town was razed and its inhabitants sent to internment camps. The few remaining structures on Tuna Street, the community's main commercial artery, currently do not enjoy historic protection and far too few people are aware of their story.

A grant would go towards the painting of a mural on the former Nakamura Company grocery store at 712 Tuna Street, to be designed in collaboration with Derek Nakamura, the proprietor's grandson, as well as the development of a small museum or guided tour.

Estimated Cost: \$150,000?

Estimated Time to Complete Project: 1-2 years?