

**Diane Miyeko Matsuda
San Francisco, CA 94115**

Preservation of Community History and Culture as a Life Work

I am a fortunate participant of real life practices involving the preservation of communities, particularly underrepresented and underappreciated pockets of community that have long existed but yet to be fully recognized. My experiences range from protecting both tangible and intangible assets; conducting oral histories; digitizing collections, and learning the art of storytelling to share cultural traditions, customs and practices passed down by elders. I also have supported landmark designations of properties where individuals and events have been emphasized rather than just focusing on the historic integrity of the property and served as one of the leading advocates for creating a Legacy Business Registry to appreciate and honor our small business community in each and every district of the City and County of San Francisco.

As a native San Franciscan and resident of Japantown, I have a clear investment in making sure that the more than a century plus of Japanese Americans history is known not only by its direct descendants, but a proud and challenged narrative recognized, appreciated and acknowledged by everyone.

I do not possess a professional degree in archival or architectural studies. However, as a seasoned and vested member of the local preservation community, I have learned protocols and practices from highly respected historic and cultural preservation professionals to gain a significant and deep appreciation and skill for identifying and documenting events, traditions and buildings that tell the story of community. I also believe that my professional skills as a legal services attorney and role as President of the SF Historic Preservation Commission gives me a strong foundation to clearly identify and advocate for the needs and interests of voices who are not included in vital decision making policies and practices, including the formal documentation of landmark designation reports and historic context statements, and I continue to create and plan avenues to recognize untold aspects of our history.

Most Recent Career Experience

2019-Present **Coordinator-Japanese American History Archives (JAHA)**
[15-20 hours/week]
Create a plan to re-open a one of a kind community archive focusing on the Japanese American community of San Francisco prior to World War II. Duties include working with bilingual archivists and historians to identify priority items for scanning, translating and digitizing for public distribution; plan and organize public workshops, and convene community forums to further highlight and emphasize contents of the archive. Over the past 2.5 years, the archive has been undergoing mold remediation that I am also responsible for coordinating.

2018-Present **Director of Special Projects**
Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California
(Center)-San Francisco
[10-15 hours/week]
Alongside the coordination of the Japanese American History Archive (JAHA), duties include creating, planning and implementing projects relating to strengthening the relations between Japanese Americans and the Japan. Additionally, I serve as a community advocate for the

preservation of legacy businesses, historic structures and intangible community festivals and traditions in SF Japantown.

2018-present

Staff Attorney

Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach (APILO)-San Francisco
[10-15 hours/week]

Current staff load includes clients who are owners of small business, monolingual seniors in need of estate planning and convening community meetings on topics such as public benefits, immigration and public and affordable housing opportunities.

2008-2016

Executive Director

John Burton Foundation-San Francisco

Directed and administered a statewide, nonprofit organization whose mission is to improve the lives of foster, former foster and homeless youth.

2004-2008

Executive Officer

California Cultural and Historical Endowment-Sacramento

Appointed by a bipartisan Board to plan, implement and administer a new \$128 million competitive grant program to preserve and honor the State's invaluable cultural and historic sites with special emphasis and consideration highlighting stories and histories of underrepresented communities and under recognized venues.

1999-2004

Program Director

California Civil Liberties Public Education Program-Sacramento

Implemented and administered the first state funded competitive grant program supporting projects that educate and inform individuals about the Japanese American incarceration experience during World War II, and its linkages and parallels to other communities and experiences. This program offered grants to individuals as young as 15 and as experienced as 90 in all fields of art, history and education.

Community and Civic Experience

2009-Present

President

Historic Preservation Commission-San Francisco

Serve as the public at large member to emphasize and support the preservation and public recognition of little known and under recognized communities. Elected President in 2019 to lead the Commission to make racial and society equity a priority.

Highlights include the passage of 10 landmark designation properties focusing in on the priority of racial and social equity; the passage of Historic Context Statements documenting and illustrating the deep and vital history of the Pan-Latino Community; African American Community; LGBTQ Community; Chinese American Community and the Japanese American Community.

Work closely with the Office of Small Business to promote and encourage the increase of small businesses to the Small Business Legacy to prevent displacement and provide financial support to both tenants and landlords.

2022-Present	Advisory Committee Member eLaboratories-University of Virginia Member of an online community forum for a diverse community of practitioners to learn and share ways to make source materials accessible and discoverable. Required to plan, research and discuss one seminar of mutual interest to the community a year.
2010-Present	Board Member SF Japantown Foundation-San Francisco Community Foundation that provides grants for capital and programmatic services to nonprofit organizations who support Japanese culture and history in SF Japantown.
2022-Present	Board Member Kinmon Gakuen-San Francisco Board Member for a Japanese Language School established in 1911
2004-Present	Advisory Committee Member CA Civil Liberties Public Education Program-Sacramento

Education

Juris Doctorate	UC College of the Law (Active Member of the State Bar)
Bachelor of Arts	University of San Francisco Majors: Sociology and Government
Study Abroad	Sophia University-Tokyo Japan