

September 8, 2022

Dear Wakasa Memorial Committee,

We are genuinely glad to see that both parties have agreed to Chris Merritt and the Utah State Historical Preservation Office's generous offer to lead a team on the continuing preservation and conservation of the Wakasa Memorial.

In light of this positive shift towards the future, we are extending an invitation to the WMC to collaborate with the TMB in planning the upcoming 80th Commemorative Ceremony to honor and mourn the tragic murder of Mr. James Hatsuaki Wakasa.

We view this as a joint effort with different roles, which will need to be discussed.

One of the things that the Topaz Museum Board can do best is to handle all local logistics, including potential meeting spaces (both at the Museum or elsewhere in Delta) as well as the coordination of people, transportation, and facilities for the ceremony and other public programs held at the site. We have recommendations on how to handle a large crowd and best practices for protecting the historic site in the context of a major public event. Because the town of Delta has limited lodging and dining capacity, we have found that having a component in Salt Lake will help address people's hotel and transportation needs.

In regards to the program, such as who the speakers are and the form of the ceremony, we propose that WMC take the lead on planning this, and welcome you to send a program proposal. This will allow us to assess logistical needs and begin to outline details, including budgets. We will need to work together to coordinate the logistics and program/ceremony so that attendees have a positive experience.

We also ask that you strongly consider input gathered from the greater community through our recent Topaz Community Outreach Project, and to incorporate as much of that feedback as possible into the planning and program itself. This may extend to recommendations of speakers, additional programming both in-person and virtual, etc. Since we just completed

the Outreach last week, we have not been able to gather all of the feedback specific to the ceremony yet (and do not anticipate the full report until October) but can ask that any comments and requests specific to the 80th anniversary event be separated out and expedited to aid early planning.

We hope that you will accept this invitation and that we will continue taking steps towards healing our relationship, which by extension will help repair the community.

Sincerely,

Topaz Museum Board of Directors

cc:

Mike Reynolds, Regional Director, Interior Regions 6, 7, 8, NPS

Lisa P. Davidson, Acting Program Manager, National Historic Landmarks Program,
NPS

Justin Henderson, Heritage Partnerships Program, Intermountain Region, NPS

Robert Nieweg, National Trust for Historic Preservation

Michelle Magalong, Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in Historic Preservation

Jennifer Ortiz, Director, Utah Division of State History

Chris Merritt, Utah State Historic Preservation Office

Carol Kawase, District Governor NCWNP, JACL

David Inoue, Executive Director, JACL

Jani Iwamoto, Utah State Senator, 4th District