



Advisory Council

VIA EMAIL

January 25, 2022

Dear Topaz Museum Board,

We are in receipt of your letter dated January 12, 2022, which was received by some, but not all, advisors to the Wakasa Memorial Committee. We have discussed the letter and are responding collectively.

We are in an advisory role for the Wakasa Memorial Committee and not the Museum board. As per agreement during your discussions with the Committee, all communications regarding the memorial stone and site for James Wakasa should be directed to the Committee to facilitate clear communications. It is important for the Museum board to understand that we have and continue to provide input to the Wakasa Memorial Committee and their communications to you reflect that input.

In the interest of moving forward with clear communications, we will continue to provide input and advice to the Wakasa Memorial Committee to relay the community's interests and critical input. The Committee Advisory Board also reminds the Topaz Museum Board of the previously discussed preconditions regarding substance matters of common concern: 1) the development of a Memorandum Of Agreement (MOA) to productively guide discussions and 2) the recognition of the necessity to utilize a mediator to establish meeting protocols and expedite policy decisions. We believe these to be the most mutually beneficial and immediate actions that should be taken next.

As professional input to your process, we suggest you provide the Wakasa Memorial Committee an organized outline of what you wish to learn from input, e.g., a survey on topics relating to stewardship, present care, and final disposition of the monument. The Wakasa Memorial Committee will relay this to us to facilitate our collective and organized input.

Regarding the 80th anniversary, there is planning underway by the community, the Wakasa Memorial Committee, and the advisors. It is important to remember that ceremonies of remembrance belong to the survivors and descendants of incarceration. They should guide the ceremony, speeches, and memorial programming, and related activities. This is a very important aspect of communities working through generational trauma.

We are pleased to see the new additions on the Topaz Museum Board, as we begin the new year. We look forward to receiving an organized survey of topics for input, via the Wakasa Memorial Committee.

Regards,

The Wakasa Memorial Committee Advisory Council

Tetsuden Kashima, Topaz Survivor, Professor Emeritus, American Ethnic Studies Department and Sociology, University of Washington

Masakto Takahashi, Topaz Survivor, Takahashi Family Foundation

Satsuki Ina, Topaz Descendant; Tule Lake, Crystal City Survivor

Karen Korematsu, Topaz Descendant, Founder and Executive Director, Korematsu Institute

Stacey Camp, Archaeologist, Director of the Campus Archaeology Program, Associate Professor of Anthropology, Michigan State University

Roger Daniels, Charles Phelps Taft Professor Emeritus of History, University of Cincinnati

Art Hansen, Professor Emeritus, History, Asian American Studies, California State University, Fullerton

Donald Teruo Hata, Gila River Survivor, Professor of History, CSU Dominguez Hills

Tom Ikeda, Minidoka Descendant, Densho Founding Executive Director

Japanese American Citizens League, Northern California-Western Nevada-Pacific District

Michelle G. Magalong, University of Maryland Presidential Postdoctoral Fellow in Historic Preservation, President of Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in Historic Preservation

Roger Shimomura, Minidoka Survivor, Distinguished Professor Emeritus

Renee Tajima-Peña, Heart Mountain, Tule Lake, Gila River Descendant, UCLA Professor of Asian American Studies, filmmaker

Karen Umemoto, Manzanar Descendant, UCLA Professor of Asian American Studies and Urban Planning

Mary Urashima, Historian, author: *Historic Wintersburg*

Duncan Ryūken Williams, Buddhist priest and Professor of Religion/American Studies and Ethnicity, University of Southern California

Jay Xu, Director and CEO, Asian Art Museum of San Francisco

CC:

Wakasa Memorial Committee

Mike Reynolds, Regional Director, Interior Regions 6,7,8, National Park Service

Lisa Davidson, Acting Program Manager, National Historic Landmarks Program, National Park Service

Justin Henderson, Heritage Partnerships Program, Intermountain Region, National Park Service

Robert Nieweg, National Trust for 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