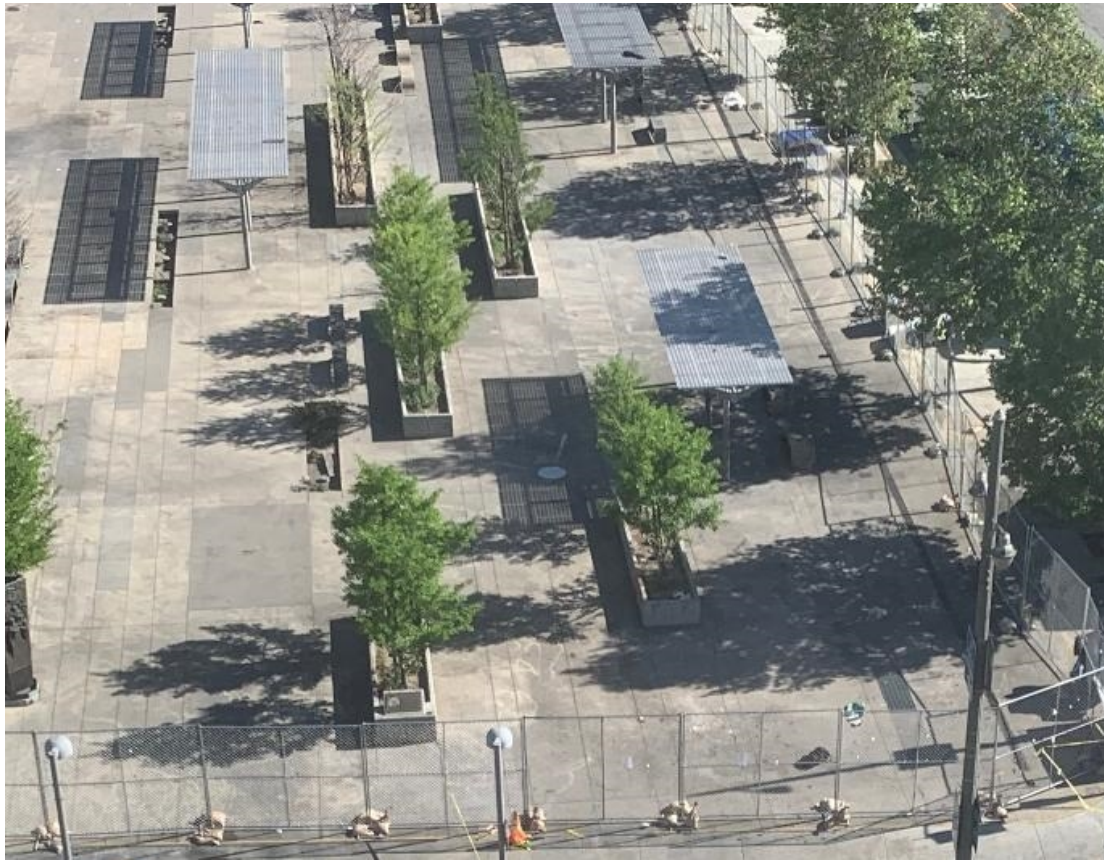




LITTLE TOKYO

BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

a program of the Little Tokyo Business Association



Renovations Set to Start at Toriumi Plaza

Until recently, not many people knew that the park above the 300-car Aiso Parking Garage had a name. It was christened "Toriumi Plaza" in 2012 by then Councilmember Jan Perry in memory of community advocate Rev. Howard Toriumi. But, just two and a half weeks ago, it became an L.A. inflection point as City agencies and activists clashed on over the decision to renovate the plaza and relocate the people encamped there, reminding all that there are no easy answers to the homeless crisis.

Beginning in spring 2021, Councilmember Kevin de Leon and his staff launched efforts to identify resources for permanent, transitional, and interim housing and were able to place 82 of the men and women in the encampment as well as arrange referrals for mental health, substance abuse, COVID-related conditions, and survival resources.

L.A. Department of Transportation, which manages the City-owned property, will be conducting deferred maintenance and repair work--electrical, landscaping, permanent fencing and other ancillary work. Future plans include activating the plaza for the benefit of the Little Tokyo community, especially for seniors and families.

Change is Coming to Downtown Skyline

Beginning in the 1910s, Japanese Americans began to settle in the area that became known as Little Tokyo. By 1930, the majority of the 35,000 Japanese Americans in Los Angeles lived and worked within a three-mile radius of First and San Pedro Sts. Even though the boundaries of Little Tokyo had shrunk after World War II, many Japanese returned to living and working in Downtown L.A. where they established the flower market, produce market, Southern California Gardeners Federation, churches, temples, and other strongholds that shaped the Issei/Nisei cultural core.

The housing and mixed-use developments described below are four examples of projects that are in various stages of development and will be built in or near Little Tokyo.



FIRST STREET NORTH

(formerly Go For Broke)

Judge John Aiso St./Temple St./Central Ave.

The Little Tokyo Service Center has partnered with the Go For Broke National Education Center to build *First Street North*, a six-story, 248-unit apartment complex consisting of affordable as well as permanent supportive housing. Development site encompasses the L.A. Department of Transportation (LADOT) Lot 3 (Tinker Toy parking structure) and part of Lot 7 adjacent to Union Center for the Arts, Geffen Contemporary at MOCA, and Japanese American National Museum.

Up to 50 per cent of the units may be set aside for veterans who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. The FSN project will include onsite mental health, substance abuse, and other wrap-around

services. The complex will also include approximately 40,000 square feet of ground-floor commercial space, new office space, and a GFB exhibition hall. Parking will be provided for the commercial units but not for the residents since Little Tokyo has been deemed a transit-oriented community and is, therefore, exempt from city parking requirements.

Active uses at street level would flank a new landscaped plaza and a pedestrian paseo re-creating the footprint of Jackson St., which was vacated in the 1950s to make way for Parker Center and the City's Civic Center expansion.



4TH & CROCKER

(formerly UMEYA COMPANY)

Little Tokyo Service Center has purchased the Umeya Rice Cake Company located at 414 S. Crocker St. with plans to build 175 units of affordable housing, setting aside up to 50 per cent of the units for permanent supporting housing for individuals who are currently homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

Umeya, which ceased operations at the end of 2017, was known for producing traditional *senbei* and *arare*, crunchy snacks popular with Japanese American consumers. LTSC acquired the property in May 2019. Plans call for the construction of a multi-story structure with 13,000 square feet of ground floor space for community programs, commercial space, and support services.



CP EMPLOYERS, Inc. - 520 MATEO ST. (formerly Carmel Partners)

San Francisco-based CP Employers, Inc., formerly known as Carmel Partners, has resumed site preparation for a one million square foot, 35-story building that would become the Arts District's tallest and first high-rise building. It will include 475 apartments ranging from studios to two-bedroom units.

Affordable, loft-style units are planned for the ground floor intended to serve as live/work spaces for local artists. Also planned are 105,000 square feet of office space, 20,000 square feet of shops and restaurants, and space for 650 cars.

Developers were allowed to resume the project after agreeing to make a payment in a non-prosecution agreement (NPA). Meanwhile, the investigation into an alleged pay-to-play scheme involving former City Councilmember Jose Huizar continues.



FOURTH & CENTRAL

(aka COLD STORAGE)

Denver-based developer Continuum Partners and Los Angeles Cold Storage Co. are collaborating on a \$2 billion, 7.6-acre development at 4th St. and Central Ave. that will consist of 10 buildings, ranging from 2 stories to a 42-story building, 1,521 housing units (including affordable housing), 93,000 square feet of retail/restaurant use, 401,000 square feet of creative office space, retail stores, and a 68-room hotel. The environmental review period has begun for the plan to redevelop the Cold Storage property located in the Downtown Industrial district, which includes a large section of Skid Row.

The project, dubbed Fourth & Central, calls for 1,521 residential units, 401,000 square feet of creative office space, 93,000 square feet of retail/restaurant use, and a 68-room hotel.

L.A. Cold Storage has been in business since 1895. Company president Larry Rauch has operated the site for nearly 50 years.

Stop Car Break-ins Before They Happen

Smash-and-grab thieves typically are casual opportunists. They see something they like, and then break in and take it. To avoid being a victim, make sure your valuables are out of sight when you park your car. Never leave these things lying out on your seats, dashboard or floor:

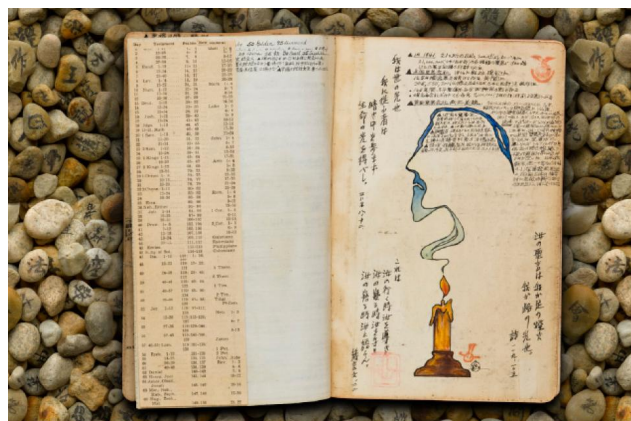
- Phone
- Purse or wallet
- Laptop (or its bag)
- A briefcase or backpack
- Shopping bags
- Small electronics
- CDs if you still use them
- Cash – yes, even loose change/coins

If you must leave valuables in your vehicle, put them in the trunk **BEFORE** you arrive at your destination. This will avoid the possibility of someone breaking into your trunk.

Sutra and the Bible at JANM Thru Nov. 27

The Japanese American National Museum's newest exhibition, *Sutra and Bible: Faith and the Japanese American World War II Incarceration*, will continue through Nov. 27. It explores the role played by religion in consoling those who were unjustly incarcerated during World War II.

Artifacts unearthed from the concentration camps in Heart Mountain, Wyoming and Poston, Arizona help tell the stories from the past. Prayer books, religious scrolls, statues of Buddha, crucifixes, and handcrafted altars are included in the exhibit co-curated by Duncan Ryuken Williams and Emily Anderson.



The exhibition is co-presented by JANM and the [USC Shinso Ito Center for Japanese Religions and Culture](#) with support from the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program and the Okada Family Foundation.



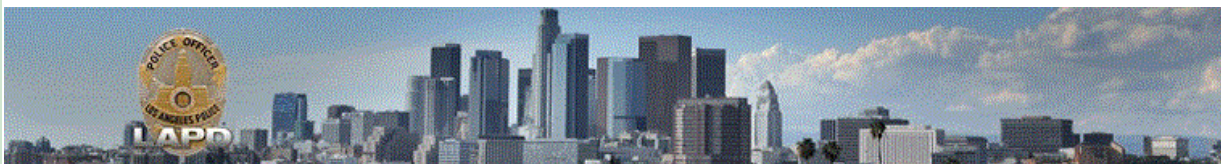
Whittier Mayor Fernando Dutra (left), Metro CEO Stephanie Wiggins, of Whittier, Board president and County Supervisor Hilda Solia, Supervisor Janice Hahn, and Mayor Eric Garcetti. They were joined by David Ikegami, Little Tokyo Business Association president.

Metro Board Vows to Reach Union Station

The Biden Administration has announced a pre-award authorization to the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro), paving the way for the West Santa Ana Branch (WSAB) Transit Corridor Project to begin to incur development costs.

The project could include a station in Little Tokyo.

The West Santa Ana Branch Transit Corridor project is proposed as a 19.3-mile (31.1 km) light rail transit line that would connect downtown Los Angeles to [Artesia](#). Along the route, it would also serve the communities of Vernon, Huntington Park, Bell, Cudahy, South Gate, Downey, Paramount, Bellflower, and Cerritos in the southeast area of the county.



How to File a Police Report

We all hope nothing bad ever happens, but if you are the victim of a crime, we encourage you to file a police report. [Click here](#) to learn how to report a crime online. You can report such crimes as hit-and-run, identity theft, harassing phone calls, theft from vehicle, vandalism, and illegal drug activity. For non-emergencies that require a police response, dial (877) 275-5273. In case of an emergency, dial 9-1-1.

(213) 326-0636

For Graffiti Removal, Bulky Item Pickup and other City services
[click here](#) to make a report online. Dial 3-1-1 or Call (213) 473-3231

Little Tokyo BID Helpline

Phone (213) 880-6875

email: board@visitlittletokyo.com