



LITTLE TOKYO

BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

A program of the Little Tokyo Business Association

Anime Expo Lite Pledges to Fight Anti-Asian Hate

Anime fans began descending on Little Tokyo this week as part of *Discover Little Tokyo*, a promotional campaign presented jointly by Anime Expo Lite and Little Tokyo merchants.

Anime Expo Lite is the digital version of Anime Expo (AX), America's largest celebration of Japanese pop culture in North America. Held annually at the Los Angeles Convention Center since 2008, AX was postponed in 2020 and again this year due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Registration is required. Fans interested in all things anime are invited to check out the deals offered at these participation Little Tokyo businesses:

- [Anime Jungle](#) (\$30 minimum purchase required)
- [Bunka do](#)
- [Café Dulce](#)
- [Chinchikurin](#)
- [Kinokuniya Bookstore](#)
- [Kouraku Restaurant](#)
- [Mr. Ramen](#)
- [Midori Matcha](#)
- [Orochon Ramen](#)
- [Pop Killer / Pop Little Tokyo](#)
- [Takoyaki Tanota](#)
- [Tsurumaru Udon](#) (main menu only)



Films, Speakers, Concert & More

Register [here](#) for Anime Expo Lite online events on July 3-4. Registration fee of \$5 benefits *Hate is a Virus*. Watch the opening ceremony on Saturday, July 3, 12 noon. A [full schedule](#) of events is available on the Anime Expo Lite website: <https://lite.anime-expo.org/>.



Delicious Little Tokyo Announces Appetizing Event Schedule

Go Little Tokyo, a collaboration of the Little Tokyo Community Council (LTCC), Metro, and CARS L.A., presents the sixth annual *Delicious Little Tokyo*, a full array of Little Tokyo's delightful dining opportunities, July 10-25. Three distinct HOPs are comprised of multi-venue tasting adventures, walking tours of Little Tokyo, and a special gift from LTCC. Here are the highlights:

Saturday, July 17, 2-5 p.m.

TASTY TIME HOP - featuring Fugetsu-do, Far Bar, Mitsuru Cafe, Mitsuru Sushi & Grill, Cafe Dulce, Teamaster Matcha Cafe, and Rafu Bussan. (Cost: \$62 early bird by July 9, \$69 - after July 10)

MINI MATSURI HOP - featuring Azay, Aloha Cafe, Kouraku, TaNoTa Takoyaki, T.O.T. (Teishokuya of Tokyo), Cafe Dulce, and Utsuwa-no-Yakata. (Cost: \$62 early bird by July 9, \$69 - after July 10)

Saturday, July 24, 12 noon-4 p.m.

POP (Picnic on the Plaza) - a free event for the entire family at the Japanese American Cultural & Community Center. Food demonstrations by Fugetsu-do and Azay Restaurant. DJ Andrew and emcee Tamlyn Tomita. Order takeout in Little Tokyo and walk over to JACCC plaza, 244 S. San Pedro St. RSVP requested.

Get Ready for Virtual Nisei Week - August 14-22



As the United States began to emerge from the Great Depression, Little Tokyo's founders sought a way to stimulate business while also acknowledging the coming of age of the younger Japanese American generation, the *Nisei*.

The photo at the left is a rare image from the 1934 Nisei Week Festival grand parade. Over the years, the festival has grown into

one of Southern California's most anticipated annual celebrations with a kaleidoscope of folk dancers, cultural exhibits, awards ceremonies, a baby show, grand parade, gyoza-eating competition, and coronation of the festival queen.

Planning is underway for this year's festival, which will embrace a combination of live and online events from Aug. 14-22 throughout Little Tokyo. Learn more by visiting the website <https://niseiweek.org/>



LTSC Adds a New Twist to Fundraising

On Saturday, July 17, from 7 p.m., the Little Tokyo Service Center (LTSC) will present its unique approach to fundraising in the era of COVID-19. *Sake on the Couch* invites everyone to experience a

digital Little Tokyo, Terasaki Budokan and a Japanese garden among other immersive explorations. Attendees will be invited to choose an avatar, watch talented entertainers, and interact with other attendees during this virtual event.

During *Sake on the Couch*, LTSC will honor Los Angeles City Councilmember Kevin DeLeon, Stop Hate L.A. (represented by Manjusha Kulkarni), and Kansha Fund (represented by Chris Inouye).

[Click here](#) for details about the available sake and bento packages and the program.



HONDA PLAZA



KULA SUSHI

City Council Votes to Extend Outdoor Dining

On May 12, the Los Angeles City Council voted to extend the city's outdoor dining program for at least one year, allowing restaurants to expand *al fresco* seating to adjacent sidewalks, streets, and parking lots. The move coincides with the reopening of in-house dining through the city.

The move towards expanding outdoor spaces was a welcome one after restaurants were forced to utilize takeout and delivery-only during the initial COVID-19 shelter-in-place. To determine which *al fresco* option is best for your business or group, the City has issued instructions on how to apply. The L.A. Al Fresco manual is available in [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Japanese](#), and [Korean](#).

Little Tokyo BID Safety Patrol

(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

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