



LITTLE TOKYO

BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

4th Quarterly Newsletter

A COMMUNITY BENEFIT PROGRAM OF THE LITTLE TOKYO BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Little Tokyo Celebrates L.A. Dodgers Win

Los Angeles Dodgers MVP Shohei Ohtani greets fans during the World Series victory parade in Downtown L.A. Ohtani, along with Japanese pitcher Yoshinobu Yamamoto, have helped bring international attention to Little Tokyo, increased tourism from Japan, and set homerun and base-stealing records enroute to a championship season. Ohtani's bride, Mamiko, and his dog, Dekopin (Decoy) joined him for the grand parade,



Seeking Toys for LAPD Drive

Shogun Santa returns to Japanese Village Plaza for the 10th consecutive year starting Saturday, Dec..14, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Appearances will continue Sunday, Dec. 15, Saturday Dec. 21 and Sunday, Dec. 22. For the first time, he will be joined this year by the Central Station LAPD officers, who are collecting toys for unhoused children. Hours will be the same all four days, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Shogun Santa first debuted in the mid-1970s and was originated by David Hyun, who was the architect who conceived and built the Plaza.



Looking Back on a Productive 2024

Signage Salutes Koraku 50th Year

The City of Los Angeles has recognized Koraku as the oldest continually operating ramen restaurant in the United States. City Councilmember Ysabel Jurado

presided over the unveiling of the marker designating the restaurant's 50-year history significance that began in 1976. It was the new Councilmember's first monument dedication since taking office in mid-December.

Hiroshi Yamauchi assumed ownership of Kouraku in 1986. His mission: Introduce Americans to the style of home-cooking he learned growing up in Tokyo. He lived out his dream for the next 34 years until his passing in 2020.



Council District 14 Voters Elect Ysabel Jurado

Former tenants rights attorney Ysabel Jurado defeated incumbent Kevin de Leon and stepped into her new role as Los Angeles Councilmember, 14th District. Born and raised in Highland Park, Jurado attended Pasadena City College and UCLA, where she completed her bachelor's degree and went on to UCLA School of Law.

Her practice has focused on building pathways to home ownership for communities of color, the preservation of open space, and reparative justice. Her key areas of interest include affordable housing, ending homelessness, supporting small businesses, tackling the climate crisis, and building a more just economy for all.

Nisei Week Royalty Supports Grateful Crane

Members of the Nisei Week court pay a visit to a fundraising dinner for the Grateful Crane Ensemble, a group of performers that makes goodwill trips to Japan. Grateful Crane brings music and joy to audiences throughout Japan, ranging from children to seniors, including victims of natural disasters.





LTBA, PACE Partner for Small Business Outreach

In August, the Little Tokyo Business Association and Little Tokyo Business Improvement District collaborated with PACE (Pacific Asian Consortium in Employment) to organize the first Little Tokyo summit for small businesses, especially legacy businesses. Pictured are business leaders, entrepreneurs, marketing experts, and financial advisors who served as resources for 100 attendees, including top executives from the Biden White House and Small Business Administration.

Hello Kitty Brings Cheer to Unhoused Children



In November, buses brought children from shelters in Downtown Los Angeles as well as other parts of L.A. County. Funds for the buses were donated by the Rotary Club of Little Tokyo and the Arts District Little Tokyo Neighborhood Council. Pictured are Little Tokyo BID officer Michael James (left), muralist Robert Vargas, Rotary president Alan Kumamoto, and LTBA president David Ikegami.



Performance artist and hip hop dancer Kuniharu Yoshida teams with Hello Kitty to entertain children at our fifth annual party for unhoused children in November at the Terasaki Budokan. The event was attended by approximately 350 children and their parents.

Dental School Lifts Community Care

Students and instructors from the USC Ostrow School of Dentistry conducted dental screenings for the unhoused in August at Union Church in Little Tokyo. The event also offered mobile showers, hot grilled teriyaki chicken, bag lunches, shoes and clothing.



Stash It / Don't Flash It

Avoid Car Break-ins Before They Happen

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 seeing you with your valuables and breaking into your trunk. The Little Tokyo BID extends a big thank you to the Arts District L.A. BID for providing "Stash It / Don't Flash It" signs to remind motorists to remove (or at least hide) valuables from their cars.



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.

**Little Tokyo BID Safety Patrol & Helpline
(213) 880-6875**

www.visitlittletokyo.org

**For Graffiti Removal, Bulky Item Pickup and other City services
Dial 3-1-1 or Call (213) 473-3231**



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