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If you have any questions, please contact the Commission Office at (213) 978-1300.

SECONDARY SUBMISSIONS



Planning APC West LA <apcwestla@lacity.org>

Get Ready to #ShakeOut! (10/21/2021)

1 message

Jessica Kellogg <jessica.kellogg@lacity.org>

Fri, Oct 15, 2021 at 12:59 PM

Reply-To: jessica.kellogg@lacity.org

To: jessica.kellogg@lacity.org

Bcc: all-lacity@lacity.org

The City of Los Angeles has registered for the Great California #ShakeOut!

What does this mean to you as a City Employee...

The California Great ShakeOut Day is always the third Thursday of October, and is a great opportunity to practice how to be safer during earthquakes. So on October 21st at 10:21 a.m. the Emergency Management Department encourages everyone, everywhere to practice a **Drop, Cover, and Hold On** earthquake drill for one minute. Learn more about this international event at [ShakeOut.org](https://www.ShakeOut.org)!



<https://youtu.be/4AHhuha7PQc>

In the spirit of preparedness, visit [ReadyLA.org](https://www.ReadyLA.org) for tips on how to keep you and your family safe.



Jessica Kellogg, MPP
Public Information Officer
Emergency Management Department
Phone: (213) 484-4896
Website: ReadyLA.org

ERRATA

Teresa Grimes | Historic Preservation
Teresa.Grimes@icloud.com
323-868-2391

Date: October 12, 2021
For: Los Angeles Office of Historic Resources
Subject: Historic-Cultural Monument Nomination
3401 Central Avenue – Fire Station No. 14

In preparing the presentation for the August 19, 2021 Cultural Heritage Commission meeting, I discovered an error in the Historic-Cultural Monument nomination for the above referenced property. I would like to correct the error and provide new information for the record.

The last sentence in the paragraph below from the Statement of Significance is from Douglas Flamming, *Bound for Freedom: Black Los Angeles in Jim Crow America* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2005), page 77.

All-black fire stations were simultaneous representations of racial segregation and sources of community pride. The first African American member of the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD), Sam Haskins, was hired in 1888. Born into slavery in Virginia, he was assigned to Engine Company No. 4. He died in the line of duty in 1895. George Bright became the second black fireman in Los Angeles when he was hired in 1897. By 1902, he had attained the rank of lieutenant and the department was faced with a dilemma – segregate crews or allow a black man to supervise white men. In 1924, the department decided to assign all of the black firemen in the city to Fire Station No. 30 under Bright's supervision.

Additional research revealed this information to be incorrect. The segregation of the LAFD began in 1902 when Bright became the first black officer, and the other black firefighters were assigned to his command. All of the non-white firefighters, including Bright, were assigned to Chemical Company No. 1 and the white firefighters were re-assigned to other stations. Chemical Company No. 1 was situated across the street (129 Loma Drive) from the present location of Belmont High School. The fire station was constructed in 1892 but is no longer standing. Chemical Company No. 1 became Hose Company No. 4 in 1904.¹

¹ “History of the Black Firemen: The Segregated Years,” *Los Angeles Fire Department Historical Archive*, accessed on August 10, 2021, http://lafire.com/black_ff/black-index.htm

Sandra Uyeno
Toyo Griffith Park Florist
1803 N. Western Ave.
Los Angeles, CA. 90027

August 10, 2021

Barry Milofsky, President
Cultural Heritage Commission
City of Los Angeles
200 N. Spring Street Room 1010
Los Angeles, CA 90012-4801

RE: Case No. CHC-2021-6319 HCM – Kuromi Ito Property

Dear Commissioner Milofsky,

I am writing to you in support for the inclusion of the Kuromi-Ito Residence, located at 1979-1991 N. Alexandria Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90027, in the list of Historic Cultural Monuments for the City of Los Angeles.

My family and I run Toyo Griffith Park Florist. We are decades long friends of The Ito and Kuromi Families, in particular James Ito son of Arthur and Alice Ito. We were close to “Jimmy” because he was the only one in his family who went into the floral industry after Arthur and Alice retired. Also and of course, both families had members that were Japanese immigrants and could relate and support each other whenever needed.

Our families started our businesses around 1951 as flower growers, leasing their properties from the infamous and mainly kind William Mead family. The Mead family particularly helped several Japanese American families most of which started flower businesses within their property. Our families were neighboring flower fields/businesses and were located where the current Los Feliz Estates is. Both of our families had their own retail shops within the farm. Eventually both of our families went into the retail business only. Arthur and Alice opened “Flower View Gardens” and my grand Uncle and Aunt started “Toyo Griffith Park Florist.” Through the years we were great friends and when we had to move our business in a flash I went to Jimmy with an offer for lease. Jimmy being as kind as he was let my family business lease what was a part of the original “Flower View Garden” property. So once again our family businesses became neighbors.

Jimmy loved his family home and what it meant to him because his family worked so hard to even be able to purchase a home. One of the properties was his grandmother’s house and the neighboring house was his aunt’s house. His aunt’s house had major foundation issues so he

had to tear it down. He would not have been able to afford the repairs, but instead turned the property into his dream garden which included his favorite perennials, fruit trees, citrus trees, vegetable garden area and pond. After Jimmy retired from the flower business, he started his real dream career, landscaping. His business was named "Garden Arts." He wanted to live in that home forever and did so.

The Kuromi-Ito home is set within Survey LA's identified historic Los Feliz Square District and is identified with lives of the historic personages, such as Kiyo Kuromi and her family, relevant on a national, state and local community level. The significant contributions of the Kuromi-Ito family were significant on a broad cultural, economic and within the the social history of our nation, state and local community of Hollywood/Los Feliz. Please nominate the Kuromi-Ito residence as the next Japanese American Historic Cultural Monument in the City of Los Angeles.

The Ito and Kuromi families have been a huge part of L.A. Japanese and Hollywood history and participated in so much of the development of Hollywood and Los Feliz. They contributed work to some of the biggest floral industry companies including FTD. They participated in taking FTD international, Japan. They had their successful business in Hollywood and their home in Los Feliz for over 60 years.

It would be a shame to have that home be demolished for development purposes.

Sincerely,

Sandra Uyeno and Family



October 18, 2021

Cultural Heritage Commission
Department of Planning
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: AGENDA ITEM 9: KUROMI-ITO PROPERTY
CHC-2021-6319-HCM CEQA: ENV-2021-6320-CE

Dear Commissioners,

This letter is to support the declaration of the above-referenced property as a cultural monument in the City of Los Angeles which comes before you on October 21st.

The story of the Kuromi-Ito family epitomizes the plight of thousands of Japanese-Americans who were interred, removed from their homes and lost their businesses in the aftermath of the Japanese bombing and subsequent declaration of war with Japan. The story is well-documented in this application and it is an amazing story of overcoming insurmountable obstacles and the resilience of the human spirit.

I'm honored to say that through involvement with the community of Hollywood, I knew Arthur Ito. He was a gracious and outstanding contributing member of Los Feliz and the Hollywood business community.

Years ago, while caring for my neighbor, Jane Gage, she shared this story. She and Ray, her husband, happened to be visiting friends and vacationing in Hawaii on December 7, 1941. They were stranded there for months until they could return to the US. Ray enlisted in the Navy and one thing led to another and Ray was assigned to Illinois to study Japanese. One day, Jane told me, she was surprised and delighted to bump into her friend from Los Feliz, Aiko "Alice" Kuromi Ito, who, like Jane, had accompanied her husband. As the quicks and turns of life go, Ray Gage happened to serve as an interpreter at the surrender of the Japanese at war's end. Jane and Ray Gage have both passed away leaving no children to share this extraordinary story.

Soon, the building that was Flower View Gardens Florist will succumb to development, Flower View Gardens Farm exists only in old photographs, the one remaining structure that encapsulates the story of an unprecedented occurrence in our city's history and is an important legacy not only to a family whose loss and suffering did not diminish their American dream is their former home on Alexandria Street.

The house is not nearly as grand as the story nor the fortitude, sacrifice and dedication it took to acquire it. Yet, it is important to the cultural fiber of the community of Los Feliz, essential to the history of Los Angeles' Japanese-American community and deserves to be preserved.

Sincerely,

Nyla Arslanian

Hone address:
2489 N. Edgemont Street
Los Angeles, CA 90027

Nyla Arslanian
Editor

5419 Hollywood Boulevard • Suite C-717 • Hollywood, California 90027 • (323)465-0533

W W W . D I S C O V E R H O L L Y W O O D . C O M

DAY OF HEARING SUBMISSIONS

October 20, 2021

City of Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Commission
200 North Spring Street, Room 272
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Support for Historic Cultural Monument Nomination of the Kuromi-Ito Residence, CHC-2021-6319-HCM

Dear Cultural Heritage Commissioners:

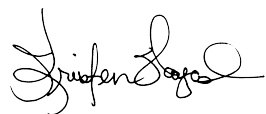
I am writing on behalf of the Japanese American National Museum in support of a historic cultural monument designation for the Kuromi-Ito Property at 1991 N. Alexandria Ave.

This property, which Kiyo Kuromi purchased in 1960, is notable since her identities as a Japanese immigrant, woman, and widow caused land ownership to seem beyond reach. An HCM designation for the Kuromi-Ito property will bring attention to the long history of how *dejure* and *defacto* discrimination around property ownership affected Japanese immigrants into the post-WWII period, decades after they arrived in this country. Kuromi's ability to navigate these obstacles on her own underscored her independent spirit and entrepreneurial might as she successfully operated Flower View Gardens, a nursery in Los Feliz. Kuromi and her friend, Yuki Sakai, who operated nearby Tokio Florist (HCM #1198), were similar in that respect.

The Kuromi-Ito property anchors the stories and experiences of seemingly ordinary Angelenos who contributed to the growth and development of the city. Given that much of the scholarship on Japanese American communities has focused on neighborhoods in and around Little Tokyo, illuminating the history of the Los Feliz area is significant. Moreover, this property is notable since it expands the narrative of the Japanese American experience by revealing what it took for former incarcerated to rebuild their lives and their livelihoods in the early postwar period. In the years following the wartime incarceration, Japanese immigrants and their descendants returned to face the same discrimination and obstacles that previously limited their social mobility.

While a designation will help to tell the experience of Japanese Angelenos, it will also underscore the achievements of women in Los Angeles—two categories that are underrepresented within the existing list of HCMs designated across the city. I hope you share my appreciation for the significance of this property in conveying the larger history of our city and region, and that you will support the proposed HCM designation.

Respectfully yours,



Kristen Hayashi, Ph.D.
Director of Collections Management & Access and Curator
Japanese American National Museum



Planning CHC <chc@lacity.org>

Letter of Support: CHC-2021-6319-HCM (Attached & Copied Below)

1 message

lynne jewell <lynnetjewell@gmail.com>

Wed, Oct 20, 2021 at 3:02 PM

To: CHC@lacity.org, mashael.majid@lacity.org, Helene Rotolo <helene.rotolo@lacity.org>, "amy.gustincic" <amy.gustincic@lfia.org>

Barry Milofsky, President

Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Commission

c/o Melissa Jones

[221 No. Figueroa St. \(Suite 1350\)](#)[Los Angeles, CA 90011](#)

CHC-2021-6319-HCM

Support for Kuromi-Ito Residence

Dear Commissioners:

As a long-time resident of Los Feliz and someone who writes about the history of the community, I strongly feel it is important to preserve, not erase, the rich legacy of the Japanese-American cultural heritage in Los Feliz.

The beautiful sweet peas fields cultivated by the Kiyo Kuromi family north of Los Feliz Boulevard are long gone. But the hard-earned income generated by Kiyo and her family from their thriving floral business (on leased land) enabled her to purchase the house at [1991 N. Alexandria Avenue](#). And, incredibly, this was accomplished not long after the repeal of the Alien Land Law in the mid-'50s.

The Kuromi-Ito Residence, built in 1923, is Spanish Colonial Revival style structure and has been identified by SurveyLA as one of the "contributors" in the historic Los Feliz Square.

For purposes of its patronage and representation of its cultural Japanese-American history, I support a Historic Cultural Monument designation for the Kuromi-Ito Residence.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lynne T. Jewell

3148 Waverly Drive

Los Angeles, CA 90027

Cc: Mashael.majid@lacity.org

Helene.Rotolo@lacity.org
amy.gustincic@lfia.org



LTJ letter to hcm commission.docx
15K

Barry Milofsky, President
Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Commission
c/o Melissa Jones
221 No. Figueroa St. Suite 1350
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Agenda Item #9
CHC-2021-6319-HCM
Kuromi-Ito Residence - Support

Dear Commissioners:

The Kuromi-Ito family has been an integral part of the Los Feliz community for decades. Their fields of flowers on Los Feliz Boulevard were legendary. They lost everything during the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II, but that did not deter them from starting over. They were prohibited from owning property by the Alien Land Laws, but that did not deter them from purchasing the house at 1991 Alexandria as soon as the law was repealed. From that house they developed a thriving florist shop that continued to serve the Los Feliz community until a few years ago. Arthur rose to be the national head of FTD florists, the first Japanese American to hold that position.

The resilience the Kuromi-Ito family displayed in spite of all the discrimination they faced is a testament to their strength of character and their commitment to their community. They represent the very best of the contributions that Japanese Americans have made to the fabric of the City of Los Angeles.

I urge you to support the Historic-Cultural Monument nomination of the Kuromi-Ito residence to honor the contributions of these Japanese Americans to Los Angeles.

Sincerely,
Marian Dodge
2648 N. Commonwealth Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90027

Cc: Mashael.majid@lacity.org
Helene.Rotolo@lacity.org



October 20, 2021

Cultural Heritage Commission
Department of City Planning
City of Los Angeles
200 N. Spring Street, Room 272
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: CHC-2021-6319-HCM

Dear Cultural Heritage Commissioners:

On behalf of the Little Tokyo Historical Society I am writing in support of a City of Los Angeles Cultural-Historic Monument (HCM) designation for the Kuromi-Ito Residence Property (Los Feliz Flower View Gardens Family, 1991 No. Alexandria Avenue).

The application represents of one of the earliest Japanese families who settled in Los Angeles at the beginning of the 20th century and whose family owned and operated the iconic “Flower View Gardens,” retail flower business in Los Feliz, established in 1917. The history of the Kuromi-Ito family is integral to the themes of Los Angeles’ Japanese and Japanese American cultural, social and economic past on a local, state and national level. Kiyo Kuromi, the family matriarch and entrepreneur, the entire Kuromi-Ito family, and the nominated site contributed to the early development of the Los Feliz/Hollywood area. Moreover, as one of the oldest horticultural families, it is important to preserve and protect the site of the Kuromi-Ito family, alongside other important early Japanese American sites in Los Angeles. For these reasons, the Kuromi-Ito Residence exemplifies the broad cultural, economic, and social history of the Los Angeles region and the early history of Los Feliz/Hollywood.

We hope that you also share our appreciation of the Kuromi-Ito Residence Property in conveying the larger history of our city and region, and that you will support the proposed HCM designation for the property.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Michael G. Okamura', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Michael G. Okamura
President



Planning CHC <chc@lacity.org>

Support the Chinatown branch of the Bank of America Historic-Cultural Monument

1 message

Dorothy Fue Wong <dorothyfuewong@me.com>

Wed, Oct 20, 2021 at 5:26 PM

To: chc@lacity.org

Cc: Rosalind Sagara <rsagara@laconservancy.org>, Gerald Gubatan <Gerald.Gubatan@lacity.org>

To: The Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Commission

From: Dorothy Fue Wong, PhD

Subject: Chinatown Bank of America HCM

I strongly recommend Historic-Cultural Monument status for the Chinatown branch of the Bank of America. This nomination has the full support of the Los Angeles Conservancy and many of us who are familiar with the history of Los Angeles Chinatown.

Preparers Jenna Snow and Andrea Thabet have completed an outstanding application. Their description of this building is highly professional in its details and accuracy. The study of the Chinese American architect associated with this iconic building is an important contribution to this description.

I also commend Jenna Snow and Andrea Thabet on their in-depth research related to the history of the current Chinatown and also the prior presence of the early Chinese Americans in Los Angeles. This comprehensive application can serve to educate the Los Angeles Chinatown community and other interested individuals.

This nomination has the potential to be a National Register site, and it supports the national commitment in advancing social justice.

Sent from my iPad



Planning CHC <chc@lacity.org>

In support of Bank of America Chinatown Branch site to HCM

1 message

MAK <munsonak@aol.com>

Thu, Oct 21, 2021 at 9:50 AM

Reply-To: MAK <munsonak@aol.com>

To: "chc@lacity.org" <chc@lacity.org>

Support for item October 21, 2022, Item 10 case CHC-2021-5125 HCM

My name is Munson Kwok, Ph.D. I am on board of directors of Chinese American Citizens Alliance, oldest APA civil rights organization in America, Los Angeles chapter, previously president and also National President of the Alliance itself. I am also on board (founding treasurer) of Asians and Pacific Islanders in Historic Preservation.

I urge the Cultural Heritage Commission to continue the process of nominating and designating the site and property currently housing Chinatown Branch of Bank of America.

For too long, marginalized, often ignored communities, including Los Angeles Chinatown, have not been recognized in their contributions and participation in the American narrative. Their milestones, events, and sites marking their "Places That Matter" have been overlooked. It is a matter to us of social justice and American equity for all its peoples that this nomination be seriously considered and enacted positively in the end.

From the criteria's standpoint, this particular property qualifies to join the HCM list in every way, as indicated. The design is unique, by two pioneering architects of our community who served L.A. and its culture during the emergent time after WWII. Their specialty and renown in the mid-Century style of new homes that they designed in Southern California. Rarely did they engage in creation of commercial retail property. Often, they designed institutional properties or large commercial buildings. This is partly their passion to do something for their "hometown" community. Mr. Leong came out of a now recognized School of APA artists who congregated in Old Chinatown in the 1930s. They all went on to notable careers in cinema, media, fine arts, and for some, as with Mr. Leong, architecture. The work of this largely hitherto unknown group, most noted by Tyrus Wong, was seminal to the California fine arts and crafts shaping our society today.

The Bank of America building has that Leong signature, basically a one-story box building topped by a culturally sensitive roofline embellished by the expressions of culture and coloration of Chinese civilization in a successful fusion. There are only a very few more examples of this kind of cultural fusion representing Los Angeles or indeed California. In scale and location, this site and property in its contiguous juxtaposition to the Central Plaza block, stands as an extension of the National Historic District eligible Los Angeles Chinatown, and therefore is an important element to be preserved.#