

HAYWARD HERITAGE PLAZA JAPANESE AMERICAN ART PROJECT TEAM

- **City of Hayward**

- **Mary Thomas.** Mary has worked for the City of Hayward since 2011 in several departments, including Fire, Public Works, and Human Resources. She is currently a Management Analyst in the City Manager's Office. Mary has a BA in social studies from Wesleyan University and a Master's in Public Policy from Mills College. She lives in downtown Hayward and her son attends Burbank Elementary School.
- **Daniel Mao.** Daniel is a California native that has dedicated his life to public service. At 18, he joined the Marines and served six years. During his service, he was assigned to the Department of State to support foreign diplomacy. He is wrapping up a joint master's in public policy and business administration. He now serves as a Public Policy Fellow serving the City of Hayward.

- **Community Members and Advisors**

- **Victor Fujii.** Victor's family settled in Hayward circa 1915 and later owned and operated a cut flower nursery. In 1942, the Fujii's were among the 150 families who boarded buses on Watkins Street bound for the detention center at Tanforan. Following their incarceration in Utah during World War II, they returned to Hayward to restart their business. Victor is a lifelong Hayward resident and past president of the Eden JACL.
- **Robbin Kawabata.** Robbin's family began operating their San Leandro tree nursery in the 1930s. Following their wartime detention and incarceration, they restarted the business in Hayward. Robbin is the current Eden JACL president and an Eden Community Center volunteer. She hosted tours of historic Japanese American communities, co-developed the speaker program for the Hayward Area Historical Society's exhibit, "Loyal Americans," and raised funds to honor local Japanese floriculture families.
- **Agnes Yokota Masuda.** Agnes's family began growing flowers in the East Bay in 1913. Following the incarceration, Agnes' parents owned and operated a cut flower nursery in San Leandro for fifty-five years. Agnes is a board member with the Eden JACL and the Eden Community Center. She helped to develop the Hayward Area Historical Society's exhibit, "Loyal Americans," and raise funds for the San Lorenzo library room honoring Japanese floriculture families.
- **Dr. Juan Pablo Mercado.** Juan Pablo earned his Ph.D. in History from UCLA and his research focuses on the uses and function of public art. Specifically how public art can transmit social memory and serves as an important site of remembering for individuals and communities whose history often times gets distorted, marginalized

or omitted. He currently also serves as the chair of the Public Art Committee at Chabot College.

- **Janet Minami Mitobe.** Janet's family owned a carnation nursery in Hayward before World War II and experienced firsthand the Watkins Street forced removal. They returned after their incarceration to restart and operate their nursery until the 1970s. Janet is Hayward native who owned a downtown florist for thirty years. She was elected "Business Person of the Year," was a Rotarian, and is past president of the Eden JACL and Eden Community Center.
- **Dick Sasaki.** Dick's family ran a laundry business in Washington before the outbreak of World War II. Dick and his family were incarcerated in Northern California for the duration of the war and afterwards moved to the San Francisco Bay Area. Dick is a Hayward High School graduate and Korean War veteran. He has served as an Eden JACL co-president and secretary as well as secretary of the Eden Community Center.
- **Winda I. Shimizu.** Winda is Executive Director of the Hayward Arts Council and Curator. In March 2018 Winda was inducted in the Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame for Culture and Art. She is a commissioner for the Alameda County Arts Commission and Arts Now Leader supporting the HUSD Visual and Performing Arts plan. Winda is passionate about promoting the work of local artists to enrich community life.
- **Fred Shinoda.** Fred's family grew roses on six acres in San Leandro from the 1930s to the 1980s. Fred, his mother, and four siblings were among the more than 600 Japanese Americans who waited on Watkins Street for buses to transport them to the detention center at Tanforan. Fred was eight years old when his family was forcibly removed from their home, detained, and incarcerated behind barbed wire in the Utah desert.