



# LITTLE TOKYO

BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

A COMMUNITY BENEFIT PROGRAM OF THE LITTLE TOKYO BUSINESS ASSOCIATION



## Nisei Week Returns for 83rd Year Aug.12-20

The Nisei Week Festival, one of Los Angeles' biggest and most enduring cultural festivals, will be celebrated at various sites throughout Little Tokyo starting with the coronation of the 2023 Nisei Week queen and her court on Saturday, Aug. 12, following by the Grand Parade on Sunday, Aug. 13.

First public event will be the Baby Show on Saturday, July 29, from 9 am.-3 p.m. at Los Angeles Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple. The contest is open to children ages one to six. Check the festival website [www.niseiweek.org](http://www.niseiweek.org) for updates coming soon.

A full schedule of exhibits, entertainment, car show, and cultural demonstrations is being finalized and will continue through Sunday, Aug. 20 with the Closing Ceremony and public ondo dancing.

Ondo dance practices will be held at JACCC's Noguchi Plaza, 244 S.San Pedro St., starting Tuesday, July 25, 7-9 p.m. Whether a member of a dance group or not, anyone can join the parade in the public dance line. Other dates are Thursday, July 27; Tuesday, Aug. 1; and Thursday, Aug. 3. in the "Manekineko" is a hand dance (no props), and "We Are" uses a fan.

## \$5,000 Grants for Restaurants

Given the extraordinary circumstances brought on by the pandemic, a Resilience Fund has been created to help restaurant businesses stay open and keep their crews employed. Grants in the amount of \$5,000 may be used for kitchen equipment, technology upgrades, employee training and retention, and/or unforeseen hardship. To qualify, restaurants must be customers of SoCalGas, PG&E, or SDG&E. The next funding cycle begins in October. [Learn more.](#)



**RESTAURANTS  
CARE.**

# Regional Connector Opens After 11-Year Journey



Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis (in blue ) and Metro CEO Stephanie Wiggins (yellow-green jacket) preside over the Regional Connector's Little Tokyo/Arts District Station opening on June 16 in front of the Japanese American National Museum. It was a celebration befitting a project that began inconspicuously in 2012 and cost \$1.8 billion to build.

The station is the largest and one of three stations that factor into Metro's plan to connect key locations in Downtown L.A.--2nd & Broadway and Grand Avenue. An estimated 17,000 riders are expected to utilize the Regional Connector daily.

Dedication of the new station in honor of the late Norman Y. Mineta, former U.S. Secretary of Transportation began as a suggestion from the Little Tokyo Business Association. Soon, other community organization joined in support of the idea, including the Japanese American National Museum, Pacific Southwest District Japanese American Citizens League, Japanese Chamber of Commerce of So. Calif., Little Tokyo Legacy Foundation, Chinese American Museum, and Little Tokyo Community Council.



Behind the scenes at Metro, a team of specialists takes pride in seeing the project to completion.

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## Entrepreneurs Talk Business Success in Little Tokyo



Glenn Osaki, left, moderates a panel of entrepreneurs during the Japanese American Business Forum sponsored by the Asian Business Association in partnership with the Little Tokyo Business Association. Osaki is joined by Kirk Nishikawa, co-owner of Brewery Beer Company of Glendale; Irene Tsukada a Simonian, owner of Bunkado; and Teiji Kawana, president of JSL Foods, Inc. The panelists, each of whom began their business journey working in their respective family businesses, shared their insights into how they grew their companies.

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## Anime Popularity Grows with Little Akihabara



As testament to the burgeoning popularity of anime in Little Tokyo and throughout the United States, Little Akihabara Holdings LLC was launched in June by co-founders Tetsu Shiota, Nobu Yamamoto, and Shiho Kiyonari. On hand for the celebration were Tomoko Omura, Manufacturers Bank vice president; Shiota; David Ikegami, Little Tokyo Business Association president; Richard Narumi of Uyehara Travel; Kiyonari; Kristin Fukushima, Little Tokyo Community Council managing director; and Yamamoto. Shiota is a owner of Southern California's largest collection of anime-themed retail stores, including Anime Jungle in Little Tokyo.

## Local Organizations Come Together in CARE



**Volunteers from DBNO (Down But Not Out) and Little Tokyo Business Association and staff from Showers of Love took part in LTBA's first Community Care Day at Union Church of Los Angeles in May.**

The Little Tokyo Business Association and LTBA Foundation joined with City Council District 14, L.A. Sanitation, religious institutions, and other charitable organizations to provide showers for the unhoused in neighboring Skid Row on May 13. It was the largest number of individuals to utilize the mobile shower service in a single day since the Showers of Love program began.

We extend special thanks to Pastor Ruben of Union Church of Los Angeles and to DBNO (Down But Not Out) for their expertise. Additional support was provided by Dr. Ira Diamond's Shoes for the Homeless, Japanese American Optimist Club, Higashi Honganji's Lumbini Garden Childcare Center, and Centenary United Methodist Church. Another Community Care Day is planned in August.

In September, LTBA and the LTBA Foundation along with Worthy of Love will co-host the 4th annual Party for Children Experiencing Homelessness. Anyone interested in volunteering for this event or making a tax-deductible donation to the LTBA Foundation

[DONATE](#)



Join the Conversation

## West Santa Ana Branch Transit Project

Don't miss our first in-person community update meeting this Wednesday to discuss the WSAB Project, Slauson/A Line to Union Station Segment Study.

**St. Francis Xavier Church 222 S. Hewitt St., Los Angeles  
Wednesday, July 19  
5:30pm - 7:30pm**

The Metro Board of Directors in 2022 approved the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) for the project from Slauson/A Line (Blue) in unincorporated Florence-Firestone to Pioneer Station in Artesia. The Board also selected Los Angeles Union Station (LAUS) as the northern terminus for the project and directed staff to conduct a separate study to evaluate options for connecting

## **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**  
**(213) 880-6875**

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

**Little Tokyo BID Helpline**  
Phone (213) 880-6875 ~ [board@visitlittletokyo.com](mailto:board@visitlittletokyo.com)

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