



## WE DID IT... AGAIN!!

### Little Tokyo Voted Best B.I.D. for 4th Straight Year

Our community has grown into one of Southern California's most desirable destinations with the number of annual visitors expected to reach 10 million by the end of 2024. This year also marks 21 years since the Business Improvement District (BID), a community benefit program, was established by the Los Angeles City Council. In 2003, there were 225 businesses in Little Tokyo. Today, there are over 400. The Little Tokyo Business Association, which manages the BID wishes to thank the L.A. Downtown News readers for voting us number one among the eight Downtown BIDs.



Mayor Karen Bass and Rumi Fujimoto.

## Mayor Visits Little Tokyo Shop

When the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the New York Yankees to capture the World Series title, Mayor Karen Bass sent condolences to New York Mayor Eric Adams along with his very own Dodger T-shirt. Here she is with Rumi Fujimoto of the [Olympic Shop](#) in Little Tokyo, where she found the perfect shirt just a couple of blocks from City Hall. The Olympic Shop is one of two stores that carry Dodger merchandise. The other shop is Vantage Apparel in Weller Court.

## A Message from the LTBA President

I am proud to report that the Little Tokyo Business Association's commitment to work for the betterment of our community through its events, programs, and partnerships is stronger than ever.

We started 2024 by inviting Japanese and Japanese American soccer coaches to meet female professional soccer player Jun Endo of the Angel City Football Club. Plans for a U.S.-Japan soccer exchange for middle schoolers have emerged as a result.

LTBA worked to support artist Robert Vargas and the Miyako Hotel in their efforts to erect a mural in tribute to L.A. Dodger Shohei Ohtani. The futuristic mural has become Little Tokyo's newest landmark.

In August, we collaborated with PACE (Pacific Asian Consortium in Employment) to organize the



first Little Tokyo summit for small businesses, especially legacy businesses. Our partnership attracted nearly 100 attendees, including local entrepreneurs, marketing experts, and top executives from the White House, Small Business Administration, and financial institutions. Additionally, we have cultivated alliances through the LTBA Foundation's charitable activities.

Our desire to keep Little Tokyo clean, safe, and prepared for a bright future led us to transition from a merchant-based BID to a property-based model. We especially want to thank everyone who stepped up and supported our petition drive. We are excited to be able to share our program details with stakeholders in the weeks to come.

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## USC Ostrow School Brings Dentistry to Unhoused



On Nov. 2, USC Ostrow dental students and staff took part in Community Care Day, a quarterly event hosted by the Little Tokyo Business Association (LTBA) at Union Church. Clothes, toiletries, dental hygiene kits, bag lunches, pastries, coffee, and tea were distributed while members of Bee a Little Better grilled chicken for lunch. Community Care Day is made possible with support from the LTBA Foundation, Centenary United Methodist Church, Bunkado, Shelter Partnerships, Chrysalis, City Council District 14, L.A. Department of Sanitation "Showers of Love," Project Ropa, USC Keck School of Medicine street team, and Shoes for the Homeless. The next Community Care Day will be held on Feb. 1, 2025.

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## East West Players Revive Sondheim's *Pacific Overtures*

East West Players previously produced *Pacific Overtures* in 1979 and again in 1998. The story is set in 1853 as Commodore Matthew C. Perry prepares to open the gates of isolationist Japan. Tasked with meeting Perry's ship are samurai Kayama and America-loving fisherman Manjiro.



Directed by EWP Artistic Director Emeritus Tim Dang, the Stephen Sondheim musical runs now through Dec. 1. Tickets are going fast. Order yours [here](#).

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## Contested Histories Exhibit Continues Until Jan. 5

Explore the collection that sparked national protest, decisive action, and multigenerational conversations within and beyond the Japanese American community. In 2015, thanks to the efforts of community organizations, leaders, and activists, JANM was entrusted with the safekeeping of this important collection consisting of items created during World War II by incarcerated Japanese Americans. Order tickets for this unique exhibition [here](#).



## Noguchi Light Sculptures on Display at JACCC

Now through Dec. 31, the Japanese American Cultural & Community Center will present *Noguchi Akari Light Sculptures*, an exhibition of hand-crafted lamps reflecting artist Isamu Noguchi's timeless vision. The exhibition marks what would have been Isamu Noguchi's 120th birthday, [Learn more](#).



## Geffen Contemporary Hosts Landmark Exhibit

Now through July 6, 2025, the Geffen Contemporary at MOCA, 152 N. Central in Little Tokyo, features *Olafur Eliasson: OPEN*, the Icelandic-Danish artist's first major exhibition in Los Angeles. *OPEN* is part of the landmark Getty initiative PST ART: Art & Science Collide, a series of site-specific installations responding to MOCA Geffen's building and the atmospheric conditions. For tickets, [click here](#).



## Fugetsu-do Introduces "L.A." Mochi

America's premier mochi maker, Fugetsu-do, paid tribute to the 2024 World Series championship Dodgers with a sweet treat bearing the L.A. logo. Fugetsu-do owner Brian Kito was featured recently featured by the *New York Times*. Watch this [video](#) as it takes you behind the scenes inside this iconic Little Tokyo shop.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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

**[www.visitlittletokyo.org](http://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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