2012 has been a monumental year for Little Tokyo Service Center as there has been an unprecedented transition in leadership. With the retirement of LTSC’s founding director, Bill Watanabe, the Board of Directors engaged in a rigorous search for a new leader who would continue Bill’s legacy while preparing for the uncertainties and challenges of the future.

Replacing an iconic figure such as Bill Watanabe was a daunting task, but we were extremely fortunate to find someone within the organization to succeed Bill. With the appointment of Dean Matsubayashi as the second executive director in the organization’s 32-year history, LTSC’s Board of Directors is confident that we have an individual who reflects the values and commitment to community that exemplified Bill’s stewardship of LTSC.

The Board was highly impressed by Dean’s experience, commitment to LTSC, and his vision for the future. We are confident that there has been a successful transition in leadership and that LTSC is prepared to confront the future as we continue “Helping People, Building Community.” As Bill enjoys this next phase of his life he can be assured that the legacy that he has built is in good hands.

Alan Nishio
President, Board of Directors
MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The New Guy

A lot of people tell me I have big shoes to fill as I take the executive director reins from Bill Watanabe—and all of those people are correct! Bill’s 32 years of service to the community is unparalleled. On pages 11-12 we have captured just a few of the highlights of his career and dug up some old photos from “back in the day.”

Fortunately for me, Bill left a strong foundation in place and LTSC’s staff and I will be able to build upon his legacy and move LTSC forward for the next 32 years. LTSC’s staff is the most dedicated group of people I know and to celebrate their commitment we have turned the front cover over to them. I am sure you’ll recognize most of their faces.

So while it feels strange to have my picture on this page of the annual report, I am ready to roll up my sleeves and get my feet wet in these really big shoes, to mix up the idioms.

In the coming year I look forward to meeting all of LTSC’s supporters as we collectively keep reaching for our goal of “Helping People, Building Community.”

Dean Matsubayashi
Executive Director
LTSC’s work is organized into three related areas. In Little Tokyo, we strive for a vibrant and healthy multi-ethnic neighborhood that preserves its rich Japanese American heritage; in the Japanese American and Japanese immigrant community of Southern California, we serve as the main Japanese speaking social service provider; and LTSC helps disadvantaged groups of all ethnicities and backgrounds in the neighborhoods in which we work.

**Little Tokyo**

Little Tokyo is where we started as an organization, and we remain committed to our home neighborhood. We are dedicated to preserving Little Tokyo as a place that recognizes the historical presence and contributions of Nikkei. We also strive to promote Little Tokyo as a vibrant home to low-income residents, workers, small business owners, and others in need from various ethnic backgrounds.

**DISKovery Center**

The Little Tokyo DISKovery Center held 60 classes and workshops in English and Japanese, teaching over 150 students in basic computer literacy, electronic visual art mediums, and documentary filmmaking. The DISKovery Center aims to deliver quality computer education by providing classes in subjects such as word processing and Excel for students looking to further their basic computer skills, as well as classes on Facebook and other forms of social media that help expose students to additional uses of technology.

**COMMUNITY ORGANIZING**

Senior residents living in affordable housing in Little Tokyo continued to advocate for a crosswalk on 3rd Street. They also joined with residents in Boyle Heights to call for increased safety enhancements on the Gold Line Eastside Extension rail line such as safety arms, directional signs, and information in Japanese and Korean.

Working with other Little Tokyo stakeholders, Community Organizing staff lobbied Metro to address community concerns, especially those of local family-owned businesses, and pushed for development of a Little Tokyo community planning process geared towards protecting Little Tokyo from mega-development. Organizers are also working with other neighborhoods in Los Angeles impacted by transit development.

**STORY LAB**

The DISKovery Center recently launched a new program, Story Lab, which uses various forms of digital media to help seniors tell their stories. With the help of a professional artist and a computer, students learn to tell their stories through writing, photography, audio and film. The Story Lab was initiated with a Short Story writing class in which 8 students wrote memoirs and then self-published them through an online publishing website. All Story Lab classes culminate in an Open Share event where students are encouraged to share their stories with the world.
“This is the first time in 26 years I have keys of my own,” Patricia Bagley states proudly. Patricia moved into LTSC’s San Pedro Firm building after living at the Weingart Center on Skid Row for two and a half years. Before that she was homeless and suffering from substance abuse. “During that time, I couldn’t hold my head up or look people in the eye. I had no self esteem,” Patricia explains. Patricia took advantage of all the help and programs the Weingart Center had to offer and got a job and a car and her life back on track, but the housing was only for a limited time. When her time in the program was up she needed permanent housing. Patricia applied to live in the San Pedro Firm Building and was accepted.

Everything was going well until she was laid off from her job. “I had no income, it was the lowest point in my recovery,” Patricia remembers. Patricia turned to LTSC for help. Tom Sogi, Director of Tenant Services, provided her case management services and told her not to get discouraged. Tom provided her with emergency food and most importantly referrals to find emergency rental assistance. Within a month, Patricia found a new job and returned to solid ground. “Losing her job was a real test of her commitment to her sobriety, and she hit it out of the park,” says Tom.

Patricia is a sponsor to four women also in recovery and finds joy in helping others. Since her recovery, Patricia was able to reconnect with her father and son. Her son told her that everyone deserves a second chance but you have to work hard for it. Patricia says she is not going to stop working for her second chance. “I set goals for myself and work on each one, one at a time,” Patricia concludes as she picks up her keys and heads home.

BUDOKAN OF LOS ANGELES
Launch of major capital campaign
The Budokan of Los Angeles officially launched its $22 million capital campaign on August 10, 2011 at the Toyota USA Automobile Museum in Torrance. During the reception, the Aratani Foundation announced its commitment of $1 million towards the campaign.

$5 million grant from State of California
In March 2012 the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation awarded the Budokan project a $5 million grant to build the multi-purpose recreation facility with a rooftop garden.

Community BBQ
In May, the Budokan of Los Angeles rolled out a full court basketball floor on the future site of the project and held basketball clinics, martial arts demonstrations and provided live entertainment. The event promoted awareness about the site location, sports programming, and the future impact on the Little Tokyo area.

LITTLE TOKYO SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAM
The Little Tokyo Small Business Program provides counseling assistance to both those starting a new small business and those currently operating a small business. LTSC’s small business counselor assisted more than 250 individuals and companies this year. Over half of those seeking assistance started a new small business and most remain in operation.

Left to right- Jamie Hagiya, Hayahiko Takase, Bill Watanabe, Alan Kosaka, Scott Ito and Tamlyn Tomita
AFFORDABLE HOUSING
LTSC’s Affordable Housing Collaborative partners with other community-based organizations to build housing that serves the organizations’ neighborhoods. This year the Collaborative completed construction on two projects totaling 103 units of affordable housing: the Epworth Apartments with partners United Methodist Ministries - Los Angeles District and Coalition for Responsible Community Development, and PHD Apartments with partner Koreatown Youth and Community Center. Additionally, LTSC broke ground with its partner Pilipino Workers’ Center on the PWC Family Housing project (45 units), and Menlo Family Housing (60 units) with partner Koreatown Youth and Community Center scheduled to complete construction in late 2012.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
LTSC’s Property Management department maintains and operates quality affordable housing for individuals and families in the Los Angeles area. It currently manages 13 properties with 600 housing units. It also provides management services for historic residential and commercial venues. The Department balances the financial health of the properties with the provision of quality, supportive housing and services, in order to sustain a healthy, enriching community for the residents.

ASSET MANAGEMENT
LTSC’s Asset Management department provides strategic oversight and long-term asset management services, including asset repositioning, Year 15 tax credit disposition, long-term fiscal and physical health of the projects, tracking of reserves, and capital needs assessments. The Department provides oversight to 18 projects with 800 residential units.

DIGITAL HISTORIES
Digital Histories, a digital video training and storytelling program for senior filmmakers, is a partnership between Visual Communications and DISKovery Center. Eleven students produced 14 films about love, friendship, aging, and family histories that were filmed and edited by the seniors themselves. Films were screened at the Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival and 3 were screened at the San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival. www.youtube.com/digitalhistories.

DIGITAL INSTITUTE FOR YOUTH MEDIA
DIY Media provides at-risk youth, including continuation high school students, recently emancipated foster youth and homeless youth ages 16-24 with filmmaking and other digital media skills. Workshops and classes were held on location at Khmer Girls in Action in Long Beach, Central High Continuation School in South Los Angeles and a Summer Institute Intensive at the DISKovery Center. In these workshops, youth gained hands-on experience in storyboarding, camera and editing. Students were also taught concepts, techniques and skills for both narrative and documentary filmmaking to complete group and individual films. View student films at: www.youtube.com/DIYMediaFilms.

DIGITAL INSTITUTE FOR YOUTH PRODUCTIONS
Digital Institute for Youth Productions (DIY Productions) enables motivated youth who have completed our DIY Media training program and the DIY Summer Institute Intensive to further their digital media production skills by assisting with actual film production jobs for paying clients. Four youth had the opportunity to participate as crewmembers on set to gain exposure to the technical, creative and business ends of film production, under the guidance of a filmmaking professional.
Homonyms, Homophones, Synonyms oh my!

Ernestina’s oldest daughter came home from school with homework and she needed help. Ernestina only spoke a little English and could not help her daughter with the homophone, homonym and synonym lesson. She asked her friends to explain it to her, but no one could. That’s when she decided she needed to go back to school. She started taking English classes when she came to Los Angeles, but stopped because of work, getting married and having children. In 2009 she saw a flyer about a childcare and family literacy program in the neighborhood. Ernestina joined LTSC’s Angelina Preschool and Family Literacy Program and says, “I have been studying ever since.” After 6 months in LTSC’s Family Literacy Program, Ernestina began ESL classes at Evans Community Adult School. There she completed her ESL classes and is currently working towards her G.E.D. “My goal is to finish high school and then go to college. I study late into the night. It’s hard, but as a parent I have to do it for my children and for me,” explains Ernestina.

Because Ernestina is so dedicated to her goal of learning English, LTSC has asked her to speak at First 5 LA Commission meetings and LAUSD Board of Education meetings to advocate for continued funding. “I have spoken several times. I am nervous every time, but I do it,” Ernestina says. Her advice for other mothers is to go to school and learn English. “People tell me they can’t go to school because they don’t have time. I tell them I have 3 kids and I do it, you can do it too. Learning English is more helpful than staying home,” Ernestina explains. “Right now I am on summer vacation, and I don’t know what to do with all my free time,” Ernestina laughs.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT
Affordable high-quality child development programs in Little Tokyo and Echo Park supported by the California Department of Education and Head Start
• 75 infants and toddlers served at Grace Iino Child Care Center
• 68 children aged 3-5 years old enrolled at Angelina Preschool
• 80 children received childcare in the homes of 14 licensed Family Child Care providers

FAMILY SERVICES
• 60 families in our Head Start program received health screenings, referrals and case management
• 35 parents attended monthly parent meetings and workshops
• 10 fathers engaged with their children in monthly “Male Involvement” classes
• 24 parents and 29 children participated in First 5 LA funded Family Literacy programming including English literacy classes, parent education classes, interactive literacy activities and early childhood education - parents average 68 hours and children 200 hours per month

YOUTH SERVICES
The After School program at Casa Heiwa provides tutoring and mentoring for resident youth ages 6-18. LTSC also facilitates the Casa Heiwa Angelina Mentoring Program (CHAMPS). CHAMPS has collaborated with UCLA student volunteers for 13 years to provide mentoring, tutoring, college and career preparation, recreational activities and outings for over 60 youth residents.
Broader Nikkei Community

Little Tokyo Service Center is the only social service agency of its kind.

Despite the name of our organization—Little Tokyo Service Center—our services and activities are not only for the Little Tokyo community. From its formation three decades ago, our historical roots and connections extended to the broader Japanese American community throughout the greater Los Angeles area.

Our social workers assist clients from the San Fernando Valley to Gardena and Torrance; from West L.A., Venice and Culver City to Pasadena, San Gabriel Valley and Boyle Heights; and all points in between. These clients are elderly, children, adults and families of various income levels and backgrounds. Many are recent immigrants who speak only Japanese and not-so-recent shin-Issei (those who immigrated in the years after World War II) who are still unfamiliar with how to access services and benefits they are entitled to. Other clients include Japanese Americans with family roots in America for several generations who still prefer culturally-sensitive case management and counseling services for Japanese Americans.

Senior Services

As a society and as a community, we are at a turning point of sorts with the collision of two major trends. Four years ago, America experienced the most precipitous economic crisis since the Great Depression of the 1930s, followed by drastic cuts in funding for human services and education, both at the federal and state levels.

At the same time, America is aging like never before. Starting last year and continuing for the next 18 years, Baby Boomers will turn 65 at a rate of 10,000 seniors per day. Within the Nikkei community, Boomers are retiring, being a caregiver for their loved ones, or becoming frail themselves, and in need of more assistance and information about their years of transition.

Nonprofit organizations such as Little Tokyo Service Center are struggling to figure out how to do more with less, how to continue serving the Japanese American community. We are in the process of researching and planning new service delivery models, senior housing options, community education options, and more effective ways to get information to seniors.
COUNSELING & SPECIAL SERVICES

In the Japanese American community—just like in any other community—there are those of all ages who suffer from depression, or are in need of intensive mental health counseling from time to time. These people must not only overcome the effects of their disease or condition, but must also deal with societal, cultural and family concerns, as well as the social stigma attached to mental illness. LTSC has experienced and culturally-sensitive clinicians to assist clients.

Special services and parenting education workshops are provided for immigrant parents and their children. Supportive services for survivors of domestic violence living in our transitional facility are also available, and counseling is provided to those convicted of battering.

FUTURE PLANS

To keep the Nikkei community strong and its people healthy and well, we cannot do it alone. We plan to continue working together with Keiro Institute of Healthy Aging, Pioneer Center, Little Tokyo Nutrition Program, Gardena JCI and other Japanese American community centers, and many other groups.

We look forward to working with all of you. Please contact the LTSC Social Service Department at (213) 473-3035 or visit www.LTSC.org for more information on our programs and services.
**Asian Pacific Islander Small Business Program**

Formed in 1999, API SBP is a collaborative of 5 community organizations: Chinatown Service Center, Koreatown Youth & Community Center, Little Tokyo Service Center CDC, Search to Involve Pilipino Americans, and Thai Community Development Center. API SBP provides free individual business counseling and business workshops in 6 Asian languages, Spanish and English regarding business plans, loan applications, and other forms of access to capital, basic business preparation, and franchise acquisition. This year API SBP was nationally honored by the U.S. Small Business Administration as the recipient of the 2012 National Women’s Business Center Counselor of the Year Award. Last year, API SBP received the 2011 National Women’s Business Center of Excellence Award. We are thankful for the support of our partners, funders and clients!

**Asians for Miracle Marrow Matches (A3M)**

Since 1991, A3M has conducted almost 8,000 marrow registration drives, provided education to various communities and recruited more than 260,000 members to the Be The Match Registry. Over 380 A3M donors have donated their stem cells or marrow to give a second chance of life to someone in need. Year after year, patients and their families depend on A3M and the Be The Match Registry for marrow donors that could save their lives. We remain committed to doing our best... so hope lives on.

Kaili, a 6-year-old girl, received a transplant when she was 4. She is doing well now and looking forward to her first day of school. This past year Kaili came to A3M where she met her donor, Mai, a total stranger who joined the registry near her home in Houston. Today Kaili and Mai are forever connected, and both families enjoy this amazing bond that occurs with a miracle marrow match.

**Khmer Girls in Action (KGA)**

LTSC is pleased to announce that one of its fiscally sponsored programs has become an independent charitable organization. LTSC served as the fiscal sponsor for Khmer Girls in Action (KGA) for two years ending on June 30, 2012. KGA’s members are Khmer (Cambodian) young women, ages 14-21, living in Long Beach. Their mission is to contribute to the movement for social, economic and political justice by building a strong, progressive, and sustainable community institution led by Southeast Asian women and girls. LTSC is proud of KGA’s accomplishments and wishes the staff and members all the best in their new endeavors.
Kimiko Dager first read about LTSC in a Japanese newspaper while she was pursuing a career as a women’s apparel pattern maker. At that time, LTSC’s office was in the JACCC. She was interested in getting involved in volunteer work, however with her career she had no extra time.

In 2009, after retiring, Kimiko started volunteering at LTSC. She volunteers every Tuesday and helps the Nikkei Tomodachi Program in the morning and then assists in the reception area in the afternoon. Kimiko enjoys volunteering and feels satisfied that she can be helpful in life, especially in the Tomodachi Program, where she provides emotional support, companionship, and helps improve the well-being of socially isolated, low-income seniors living in Los Angeles. “The best part of volunteering is getting to meet people and share experiences,” she says.

Kimiko’s dedication to LTSC inspired her to get well as fast as possible after undergoing breast cancer surgery and brain surgery this past year. Kimiko’s speedy recovery was motivated by her desire to return to LTSC and to continue helping clients and making a difference in their lives.

Kimiko was born and raised in Kofu, Japan, where she met her American husband, Keith Dager, a financial analyst, in 1976. They moved to the United States in 1978, and currently reside in View Park. She is the only person from her family that resides in the U.S., with the rest residing in Japan. In her free time she makes ceramic dolls and plays with her dogs.

Kimiko encourages people to get involved and to volunteer when they are able to. She believes that not only do you give back to the community, but you also get something in return. “By volunteering, your eyes are opened to different aspects of society and you are able to learn and have new experiences,” Kimiko explains.
Congratulations to LTSC’s Founding Executive Director, Bill Watanabe, on his Retirement
Bill Watanabe, Executive Director, Little Tokyo Service Center 1979-2012

“There are not a lot of people out there like Bill Watanabe.”

In 1979 the Board of Directors of the newly-formed Little Tokyo Service Center chose Bill Watanabe to be their Executive Director based on his vision of providing for basic human needs for limited English speaking Japanese seniors in Little Tokyo. Soon that vision grew to developing a multi-purpose agency that could address the unmet needs of the broader Japanese American community, revitalize and preserve Little Tokyo, and collaborate to help other low-income communities in need throughout Los Angeles. By the time Bill celebrated his retirement in June 2012, LTSC had grown to a staff of 140 serving 18,000 clients a year providing services in Los Angeles for all ages including childcare, youth programs, family counseling, parenting classes, affordable housing, business development, community organizing, services for seniors, and computer classes for seniors and youth.

The list of Bill’s accomplishments while Executive Director of LTSC is much too long to enumerate in full, but the highlights include:

Over the last 32 years LTSC became, and remains today, the only regional bilingual and bicultural social service provider in the broader Japanese American community in Southern California. Bill and LTSC have pioneered changes in the way services are provided to frail, isolated and monolingual seniors to allow them to age at home. Bill’s commitment to those who, because of language and cultural barriers, would have nowhere to go for assistance, has defined LTSC’s approach to social services.

Bill’s dedication to preserving Little Tokyo as a place that recognizes the historical presence and contributions of Japanese Americans resulted in LTSC renovating and upgrading three buildings in the Little Tokyo National Historic Landmark district: the San Pedro Firm Building, the Old Union Church Building and the Far East Café Building, which all now provide housing and community facilities.

During Bill’s tenure LTSC completed the first new family-oriented housing project to be built in Little Tokyo in over 70 years. Bill specifically urged that the project be named Casa Heiwa (“house” and “peace” in Spanish and Japanese) because he knew the project would be a multi-cultural microcosm of Los Angeles. Casa Heiwa provides 100 units of affordable housing for both seniors and young families with eight different languages spoken within its walls.

Bill’s vision was to have LTSC share its knowledge with other organizations. In the 1990’s, LTSC began to partner with other neighborhood-based organizations to build affordable housing and develop their capacity to serve their own communities. Under Bill’s direction, LTSC’s Affordable Housing Collaborative completed 19 affordable housing projects, providing 760 units of service-enriched affordable housing throughout Los Angeles’ Asian and Pacific Islander, African American, Latino, and other low-income neighborhoods.

“Bill leaves a legacy of leadership without ego, of respect and kindness to everyone.”

“He was a great boss to have.”
“Leadership comes natural to Bill because his heart is in the right place when trying to help people in need.”

“He will do the work—the very detailed, very difficult, tedious work—to complete what has been started, on behalf of the community.”

“Bill is a role model for younger leaders because he serves as an example of commitment and dedication to a greater good.”

After the 1992 unrest when very few people ventured to come to Little Tokyo after dark or on weekends, Bill began the L.A. Tofu Festival. This 2-day food festival fundraiser that ran for 12 years, serving unique tofu delicacies and entertaining thousands of people with multi-ethnic music, was voted one of the top food festivals in the country by Food Network.

For over a decade, Bill has been working to build a multi-court sports facility for basketball, volleyball, martial arts, and other community uses in Little Tokyo. The Budokan of Los Angeles will attract upwards of 100,000 people annually, improve the local economy, and at the same time promote fitness and health for a new generation of youth. The project is well into its capital campaign.

Bill’s dedication to the community did not end with LTSC. Bill is the founder or co-founder of numerous community initiatives, including the Asian Pacific Community Fund and Asians for Miracle Marrow Matches. Bill has served as President of the Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council and Asian Pacific Health Care Venture. He also served on the Boards of the California Association of Nonprofits, National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy, and Amnesty International USA.

The legacy Bill built is evident throughout the pages of this annual report. Please join us in congratulating Bill on his retirement and thanking him for all he accomplished for the community during his career.
Executive Management

Pictured from left to right: Yasuko Sakamoto, Gayle Yamada, Mike Murase, Takao Suzuki, Dean Matsubayashi, Scarlet Sy, Evelyn Yoshimura, Erich Nakano, and Jennifer Kuida

Dean Matsubayashi
Title: Executive Director
Years with LTSC: 15
Quote: “As I start my new position as Executive Director, I can’t think of another type of work I would rather be doing, nor another group of people I would rather be working with to empower and serve people and build great communities.”

Erich Nakano
Title: Deputy Director
Years with LTSC: 21
Quote: “The strength of LTSC has always been its staff, and it has never ceased to be fulfilling and enjoyable to work alongside such dedicated and extraordinary people.”

Evelyn Yoshimura
Title: Community Organizing Director
Years with LTSC: 29
Quote: “I am so lucky to be able to work with such amazing people—both the LTSC staff, and also others who care about the future of Little Tokyo—as part of my job.”

Gayle Yamada
Title: Director of Development
Years with LTSC: 3 years
Quote: “Development is all about relationships and I’m very honored and privileged to have many opportunities to meet our supporters and to create and sustain meaningful relationships for LTSC.”

Jennifer Kuida
Title: Director of Children & Family Services
Years with LTSC: 7
Quote: “I’m honored to provide high quality childcare, preschool and family literacy services and am rewarded when I see the smiles on the faces of children and parents as they reunite and head home together.”

Mike Murase
Title: Director of Service Programs
Years with LTSC: 6
Quote: “We’re doing serious work that has deep meaning and profound impact on people, but it’s also important to keep things light.”

Scarlet Sy
Title: Director of Finance
Years with LTSC: 8 1/2
Quote: “Even though accounting may not seem that exciting, being able to contribute in a meaningful way to an organization and mission that I believe in, and to be surrounded by others who feel the same passion and commitment to LTSC is very exciting.”

Takao Suzuki
Title: Director of Real Estate Development
Years with LTSC: 12
Quote: “I am fortunate and privileged to work with dedicated people engaged in impactful neighborhood-based community development work that is process-oriented and goal-driven.”

Yasuko Sakamoto
Title: Director of Social Services
Years with LTSC: almost 32
Quote: “I am fortunate to be a part of the LTSC family, that consists of compassionate and dedicated people from diverse cultures and different generations, with varying skill sets and experiences that come together to form a strong mosaic serving the community.”
In July 2012, LTSC welcomed its new executive director Dean Matsubayashi. Dean brings over 16 years of experience in the community development field to his new position. In 1996 Dean joined LTSC as a Project Manager where he managed a community health clinic targeting low-income, uninsured immigrants, the Little Tokyo Business Improvement District, a café employing survivors of domestic violence and the Little Tokyo Community Gymnasium project.

In 1998, Dean moved to New York while his wife attended law school and was an Associate Director of Planning and Development at Asian Americans for Equality where he coordinated the development of low-income housing and community facilities.

In 2000 Dean returned to Los Angeles and rejoined LTSC as a Senior Project Manager. Most recently, from 2006 to 2012, Dean was LTSC’s Director of Community and Economic Development where he oversaw a staff of 26 individuals working in the programs of Real Estate Development, Community Organizing & Planning, Asset & Property Management, and Small Business Assistance.

A native Angeleno, Dean grew up in the Venice/Culver City neighborhood where his father was a Buddhist minister. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Sociology in June 1993, magna cum laude from the University of California at Irvine and his Master Degree in Public Policy with a concentration in Urban Planning and Community Development from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University in 1996.

Prior to attending graduate school Dean worked in Washington D.C. at the Asian Pacific Islander Political Affairs Office of the Democratic National Committee, and at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Dean also served as the Mike Masaoka Fellow for Senator Daniel Inouye of Hawaii.

Dean also serves on the Board of Directors of the Southern California Association for Nonprofit Housing, the Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council, Japanese American Community Services, Coalition for Responsible Community Development and the National Coalition of Asian Pacific American Community Development.

Dean lives with his wife and two young children in Silver Lake.
When Alex H. Fukui made his first donation to LTSC in 1992 right after completing law school, he may not have imagined he would still be supporting LTSC as an Honor Grove member nearly 20 years later. Fortunately for LTSC, Alex still does. And over time, his commitment to making his annual Honor Grove pledge has only deepened after seeing the positive impact those yearly contributions to LTSC have had.

When asked why he supports LTSC as an Honor Grove member, Alex remarks, “I’m proud to support an organization that has such an extraordinary track record of providing so many important services to the Japanese American and other underserved communities. But more than that, Honor Grove is a regular and easy giving opportunity that ensures continuity and sustained support for the vital work that LTSC is doing. Plus, I feel like I’m in good company knowing that there are so many other community-minded contributors who also participate in the Honor Grove campaign.”

The trust relationship that Alex has developed with LTSC over the years is an important factor in his continued support of the agency. “We all know that dramatic changes have been taking place in the Little Tokyo community for many years now. I trust LTSC to be a leader in helping to guide and manage those changes in a responsible manner that respects the diverse ethnic, economic, political, and community interests that are at stake, while preserving the cultural legacy of Little Tokyo and its institutions.”

In addition to his regular support as an Honor Grove member, Alex has volunteered for several LTSC events and programs, including the popular Tofu Festival of bygone years and the recent Sake & Food Tasting fundraisers, as well as collaborating with LTSC through the Japanese American Bar Association (JABA) on the annual Law Day legal clinics.

Born and raised in Northern California, Alex graduated from U.C. Berkeley and then relocated to Southern California to attend the UCLA School of Law. These days, in his free time, you can find Alex volunteering for a variety of minority bar associations, such as JABA and Multicultural Bar Alliance, and organizations that advocate for LGBT equality, as well as working out at the gym and being a loyal San Francisco Giants and 49ers fan!

Sam first came to know LTSC through a former board member. After learning more about LTSC, Sam wanted to get involved. He soon found himself becoming a board member, then President, and remained on the executive board until he decided to retire after 15 years of volunteer service. Asked why he chose to support LTSC, he remarked he believes in its mission and wanted to give back to the community because he felt blessed with his success in life.

Sam and Kuniko are natives of California. Sam made his living as a Vice President of the Bank of Tokyo, then General Manager for Robin Hood Motor Homes and then he built his own business, Trojan Truck Body in Gardena. Kuniko was a teacher, counselor, and administrator for the Los Angeles Unified School District. They raised Sei, an attorney for the Commission on Judicial Performances for the State of California, Maya, an art director in the movie business, and Ty who is with the City of San Diego fire department as a Battalion Chief. They enjoy golfing and have been traveling every year with friends.
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Special thanks to our donors for your support, grants and donations received from July 2011-June 2012

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- Bank of America Charitable Foundation
- California Community Foundation
- The Eisner Foundation
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- Eagle, Globerman and Kodama Foundation
- Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco
- First 5 LA
- Local Initiatives Support Corporation
- MetLife Foundation
- The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation

$25,000 - $49,999
- Anonymous Donor
- California Consumer Protection Foundation
- Dwight Stuart Youth Fund
- Team Collaborative of the California Public Utilities Commission
- Verizon Foundation

$10,000 - $24,999
- The Bandai Foundation
- CalHumanities
- Dale and Edna Walsh (DEW) Foundation
- Grace Iino Community Education Fund
- National CAPACD
- National Trust for Historical Preservation
- Pfaffinger Foundation
- Senior Foundation Charitable Corporation
- Wells Fargo Foundation

$5,000 - $9,999
- Asian Pacific Community Fund
- AT&T
- Cathay Bank Foundation
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