Our 2016 annual report cover art was designed by Kent Yoshimura, a Los Angeles-based multimedia artist and entrepreneur.

Little Tokyo has been a focus of Kent’s work, where he has engaged in several public art projects. Notably, Kent designed four large murals for a community effort to reimagine the neighborhood’s neglected Azusa Street alleyway. You can learn more about Kent Yoshimura and see his work at: http://www.kentaronic.com/

Pictured above: Kent Yoshimura and preschool students in front of a mural he designed in Westwood, LA.
One constant for LTSC has been our commitment to serving, protecting and treasuring our community. This focus motivates and guides us each day in our programs and efforts.

The way we define our community has evolved. LTSC began as an organization that primarily assisted monolingual Japanese Americans and Japanese immigrants, residing in the Little Tokyo neighborhood. As times changed, LTSC adapted to face new realities and pressing needs. Today, we serve a vibrant and multiethnic Little Tokyo as well as Nikkei throughout Southern California. Recognizing our place among a network of allies pushing for social justice, we also collaborate to help low-income and ethnic neighborhoods throughout the Southland.

2016 found us growing, stretching and rethinking the way we help our community. After decades of working to bring the multipurpose sports and community center Budokan to Little Tokyo, we are on the brink of achieving that momentous goal. We opened a South Bay office in Gardena to better assist the large Nikkei population in the area. Along with community partners, LTSC celebrated the opening of Durae Senior Apartments in Koreatown, putting affordable housing within reach for many seniors. We also looked to innovate and inspire through projects like +LAB, which draws on the vast potential of art, culture and collaboration to empower communities. Those efforts all build on the excellence of LTSC’s core services.

It is an exciting time for LTSC as we continue to challenge ourselves to make positive change for people and places. Thank you to all our donors, supporters, volunteers, board members and staff. We hope you enjoy our highlights from the past year.

Dean Matsubayashi
Executive Director

Debra Nakatomi
President, Board of Directors
In the late 1990s, LTSC embarked on an ambitious campaign to build a facility in downtown Los Angeles for youth and other age groups to enjoy sports, community events and the opportunity to connect with Little Tokyo and Japanese American culture.

Thanks to strong community support and the generous contributions of many, LTSC eagerly anticipates breaking ground on the project in 2017.

Find out how you can support Budokan and be a part of history at: budokanoflosangeles.com
Strengthening the Nikkei Community
Since before World War II, when people of Japanese descent lived in segregated communities and lacked access to mainstream opportunities, Nikkei families have organized their own community-oriented sports activities. Today, sports continue to help unify an increasingly diverse and dispersed Nikkei community. Offering basketball, martial arts, volleyball and other activities, Budokan will provide a unique gathering place for all generations.

Keeping Little Tokyo Vibrant
Little Tokyo is one of the oldest ethnic neighborhoods in LA, and among its most dynamic destinations. Along with other cornerstone institutions and businesses, Budokan will attract more visitors to explore Little Tokyo.

Providing Recreational and Green Space for Downtown Residents
Budokan will help address a significant need of Angelenos, particularly low-income families and seniors, for recreational and green space in the city’s dense urban core. Indoor and outdoor activities will promote health, social interaction and personal growth for people of all ages and income levels.

For Budokan supporter Tiffany Hashimoto, the project merges two essential facets of her identity: basketball and the Japanese American community. “Basketball was my life growing up,” said Tiffany, 26, who picked up the game at an early age and plays avidly to this day. “I really can’t imagine my life, then and now, without this sport.”

Honing her skills through years of practice, Tiffany competed on her high school basketball team and in the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) club basketball circuit against some of the most talented players in the nation. Like many young athletes, though, she found the value of her efforts transcended sports, “I built confidence as I played basketball with all the boys at recess and realized I could keep up with them.”

Tiffany thinks Budokan will bring many benefits. “Not only will it provide a space for kids to play sports, learn teamwork, build character, and form friendships, but I believe Budokan will positively impact the Little Tokyo community as a whole,” said Tiffany. “It would give those kids and their families the opportunity to discover, or re-discover, the Little Tokyo community and its local businesses.”

Budokan is a gift to the next generation.

– Tiffany Hashimoto
LTSC’s Social Services department promotes healthy communities from the inside out. Offering a wealth of information, direct assistance and advocacy, the department improves the mental and physical wellbeing of people of all ages and backgrounds. Established in 1979, Social Services is the longest running program at Little Tokyo Service Center. The department has been the only multilingual, multi-service agency with a goal of assisting the Nikkei community in Little Tokyo and throughout Southern California.

Nobuaki Fujita first came to LTSC for assistance in Summer 2016, after undergoing surgery for a brain tumor. Upon being released from the hospital, Mr. Fujita lived in a recovery facility and then a budget hotel before he could no longer afford a room. LTSC’s social workers arranged for him to stay in a homeless shelter.

Mr. Fujita, who struggles with anxiety, came to LTSC’s office on a regular basis for Japanese-language counseling and other assistance. LTSC staff helped Mr. Fujita resolve issues with his health insurance and Social Security benefits and arranged transportation so he could get to and from his medical appointments.

When a bank attempted to collect debts from Mr. Fujita, LTSC negotiated a favorable settlement on his behalf. On another occasion, when he lost all his personal identification, LTSC social workers helped him replace each form of identification.

If someone has a crisis or emergency, an organization like this is very important.

– Nobuaki Fujita

"If someone has a crisis or emergency, an organization like this is very important," said Mr. Fujita. "If anybody has anxiety, please come straight here and get help immediately."

Thankfully, Mr. Fujita’s health has improved. With guidance from LTSC, Fujita moved to a single room occupancy facility and is happy to have his own private room. In appreciation for LTSC’s help, Mr. Fujita brought a bag of lemons for the staff to enjoy.

Key Focal Areas
- Seniors
- Caregivers
- Children and families
- Mental health
- Domestic violence

Major Services
- Care management
- Counseling and therapy
- Intake information and referral
- Support groups
- Community education workshops
- Other activities that promote wellness

By the Numbers
- 6,000+ Clients Served
- 6 Languages Spoken
- 12,500+ Counseling & Care Management Hours
- 83 Volunteers
A Time of Transition
Yasuko Sakamoto (left), LTSC’s longtime Director of Social Services, retired in June 2016 after 36 years of service. LTSC’s first social worker, Yasuko later led a social services staff that grew to 20, while providing innovative multilingual services to thousands each year. Margaret Shimada (right), who served previously as LTSC’s director of development, has returned to lead the department.

South Bay Office
LTSC staff and board members celebrated the opening of the organization’s South Bay social service office in February 2016. Located in Gardena, the office expands accessibility for client services and opportunities for outreach in the South Bay, home to the largest concentration of Nikkei in the mainland U.S.

Located in the historic Far East Building, the Social Services department’s Far East Lounge is a multi-purpose gathering space for seniors and others in Little Tokyo and surrounding areas. Free and low-cost activities at Far East Lounge include classes in language, arts and crafts, music and wellness.

By the Numbers

4,701
Attended Activities

20
Classes Offered

85
New Participants

Despite living 60 miles away from the Far East Lounge (FEL), Shoko Helm has been making the trek twice a week for nearly three years. A cheerful spirit who enjoys singing karaoke in her spare time, Shoko described the FEL as “very precious and fun.”

Shoko participates in Mahjong, morning café, and computer, massage and English classes. In addition to the good times she enjoys at FEL, Shoko also cites practical benefits. Once she had a sick family member and received helpful advice from her friends at FEL.

For those reasons, Shoku feels the long drive to FEL is well worth it.

I go to see other Japanese people. We can talk in our own language.
– Shoku Helm
In the shadow of LA’s housing crisis, LTSC’s affordable housing communities make it possible for many lower-income individuals and families to fulfill a basic human need for shelter. Through its Resident Services program, LTSC takes the next step, providing residents with an array of onsite services designed to help them live stable, healthy lives and reach their potential.

### Key Services

- After-school programming
- Mentoring and educational programming
- Workshops to improve social and emotional development
- Tenant meetings and activities
- Financial literacy workshops
- Voter education and civic engagement

### By the Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Residents Living at Casa Heiwa Angelina Apartments</td>
<td>555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enrolled in After-School Programs See Their Grades Improve</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participants in CHAMPS (Casa Heiwa Angelina Mentorship Program)</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Trips (College Visits, BBQ’s, and Long Beach Aquarium)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Enrolled in After-School Programs</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participants in LTSC Youth Group for At-Risk Teens</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Casa Heiwa resident Daisy Villa first sought assistance from LTSC in 2006, when alcohol and abuse made it unsafe for her to continue living with her parents. Daisy was performing as a musician at the time, but not earning enough for suitable housing.

She found affordable housing at LTSC’s Far East Building. Daisy called the opportunity “a safe haven so I wouldn’t drown and end up on the streets.”

Unfortunately, the future held more challenges for Daisy, who struggled through a divorce and the pain of two lost pregnancies. She relied on LTSC’s Resident Services staff for counseling and support through those difficult times. “I never felt alone,” she said. “Someone from LTSC was always there to check in with me.”

Daisy has lived at LTSC’s Casa Heiwa since 2014. The stability of her housing has allowed her to balance care for her two children with her career as a musician. She recently completed a new album.

You can listen to Daisy Villa’s music at: https://soundcloud.com/daisyvilla

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I never felt alone. Someone from LTSC was always there to check in with me.

—Daisy Villa
Kimberly Hernandez and Angelica de Jesus, mothers of Angelina Preschool students, are pleased with the school’s curriculum and the results they see in their children.

“He likes it,” said Kimberly, whose son has been enrolled at Angelina Preschool for the past few months. “My son knows how to express what he does at school. Now he wants to learn more.” Kimberly also explained how Angelina Preschool’s activities have encouraged her son’s interest in art, “He learned how to finger-paint. We have a whole house full of his paintings.”

Angelica, whose two children attended Angelina Preschool over the past three years believes Angelina Preschool put her children on the right track academically. In addition, she said the school helped her kids be more independent.

Angelina Preschool is open Monday through Friday, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., all year round. Kimberly and Angelica value the flexibility the schedule provides and the opportunities it has opened up for their families. “The schedule is good,” said Kimberly. “[My son] is here from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. That’s perfect for my work schedule. I get to drop him off and pick him up.” Angelica’s house cleaning work has inconsistent hours. The flexibility Angelina Preschool provides helped her keep her job.

Finally, the two mothers expressed confidence in Angelina Preschool’s teachers. Said Kimberly, “You feel good leaving your kids with the teachers.” Angelica added, “whenever I have a question, [the teachers] have a solution.”

You feel good leaving your kids with the teachers.

~Kimberly Hernandez
LTSC’s Community Development department uses a comprehensive strategy to strengthen Little Tokyo and other low-income and ethnic neighborhoods in LA County. LTSC is a national leader in building affordable housing, community facilities and commercial spaces. We also integrate community organizing and planning as part of our neighborhood development efforts to ensure that all voices are heard.

### Key Work Areas
- Little Tokyo real estate development
- Collaborating with other community-based organizations on affordable housing projects
- Promoting Little Tokyo community control and self-determination
- Small business assistance

### By the Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Work Areas</th>
<th>By the Numbers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Little Tokyo real estate development</td>
<td><strong>949</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Collaborating with other community-based organizations on affordable housing projects</td>
<td><strong>25</strong> Total Development Projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Promoting Little Tokyo community control and self-determination</td>
<td><strong>16</strong> Community Partners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Small business assistance</td>
<td><strong>237</strong> Million Dollars in Housing Investment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In September 2016, LTSC and the Korean Resource Center celebrated the completion of Durae Senior Apartments after ten years of work. Durae Senior Apartments provide 67 units of affordable housing to low-income seniors on two separate sites in the Koreatown/Wilshire neighborhood.

“For many years, our low-income senior members have been struggling to move into affordable housing after their retirement,” said Korean Resource Center Board President Dae Joong Yoon. “The rent in Koreatown is crazy.”

According to Yoon, the market rate for small studios in Koreatown, which often do not have a kitchen, exceeds the seniors’ Social Security benefit. Many are forced to move in with friends, cut spending on food and other necessities or live on the streets.

LTSC and the Korean Resource Center faced numerous obstacles to make Durae Senior Apartments a reality, but persistence and collaboration paid off. “I think of three words when it comes to LTSC and our joint project. LTSC is a builder, a true partner and an innovator,” said Yoon. “LTSC is a builder, a true partner and an innovator ... [Asian American and Pacific Islander] communities are so fortunate to have a real and true partner like LTSC, who believes in you and moves forward collectively.”
LTSC works to promote small businesses through direct assistance in Little Tokyo and our participation in the Asian Pacific Islander Small Business Program (API SBP). In 2016, LTSC assisted District 8 Media, a boutique publishing company that planned to produce a coffee table book featuring the exciting attractions and neighborhoods of downtown LA.

With assistance from LTSC’s small business counselor, District 8 Media secured one loan and is on track for a second loan. LTSC also referred District 8 Media to another organization, which purchased advertising in their book. Shana Wong Solares of District 8 Media said “LTSC’s small business counselor gave us clear and thoughtful guidance and assistance.”

LTSC’s small business counselor gave us clear and thoughtful guidance and assistance.

– Shana Wong Solares, District 8 Media

There are several noteworthy examples of LTSC’s work in Little Tokyo. One example is the Takachizu exhibition, which features the asset-gathering model and exhibition that has helped the community collect and share the various items, documents and memories people treasure about Little Tokyo.

Takachizu exhibition

In 2016, LTSC launched +LAB, an effort to strategically incorporate arts and culture-based collaboration into key community development work in Little Tokyo. +LAB has generated several exciting and innovative projects. A noteworthy example is the Senior Portraits Project, which increases the visibility of seniors living in Little Tokyo and connects them with LTSC resources.
LTSC provides fiscal sponsorship to several organizations, which advance our mission of making positive change for people and places, through their important work.

**Honor Grove**
Members of LTSC’s Honor Grove have pledged to make an annual donation in support of LTSC’s programs and services.

**Honor Grove Levels:**

- **Bonsai Level:** 26+ Years of Giving
- **Bamboo Level:** 16-20 Years of Giving
- **Pine Level:** 11-15 Years of Giving
- **Cherry Level:** 5-10 Years of Giving

**$100,000 and up**
AllPeople California Community Foundation
California Educational Foundation
Enterprise Community Partners
Estate of Yukiko Hayashi
Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health
Los Angeles Housing Services Authority
November 9 Foundation
Rosebud Foundation
United Community Foundation

**$25,000-$49,999**
Bamboo
Anonymous
Donations

**$5,000-$9,999**
Bonsai
Dorita Nakatomi and Bob Miyamoto
Bamboo

**$1,000-$4,999**
Anonymous
Donations

**$500-$999**
Anonymous

**SUPPORTERS**
A very special thanks to LTSC’s supporters for grants and donations received between January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2016.

**Nikkei Hepline (NHL)**
NHL was the first crisis hotline for the Japanese and Japanese American community. Serving both English and Japanese-speaking community members, NHL provides assistance on topics ranging from immigration to education, traffic accidents, illness, drug abuse, relationship crises and other emergencies.

For more information, visit: nikkeihepline.org

**Japanese Speaking Parents Association of Children with Challenges (JSPACC)**
Since 1994, JSPACC has played a key role as a parent support organization for Japanese-speaking families with special needs children. JSPACC supports the exchange of information regarding available services and programs through regularly scheduled meetings, seminars, e-mails and newsletters. Through related groups, JSPACC has access to a variety of professional speakers, consultants and referral information.

For more information, visit: jspacc.org

**Ryukagusei Hotline (RHL)**
RHL provides information and referrals to thousands of Japanese students living in the U.S. Trained volunteers help with an array of topics including mental health issues, landlord-tenant questions, alcohol and drug concerns, relationship problems, auto accidents and immigration regulations.

For more information, visit: ryukagusei.tssc.org

**AFFILIATED PROGRAMS AND PARTNERS**

Alliance for Community Transit-Los Angeles (ACT-LA)
ACT-LA envisions Los Angeles as a transit-rich city where all people have access to quality jobs, affordable housing, necessary social services, ample transportation options and a voice in decision-making. The goal of a sustainable community is the reduction of toxic air pollution, the promotion of public health and the strengthening of community culture and heritage.

For more information, visit: allianceforcommunitytransit.org

Asian Pacific Islander Small Business Program (API SBP)
Formed in 1999, API SBP is a collaborative of five community organizations: Chintown Service Center, Koreatown Youth & Community Center, LTSC, Search to Involve Pilipino Americans and Thai Community Development Center. The mission of API SBP is to assist the development of small and micro businesses in Los Angeles with a particular focus on the Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Filipino, South Asian, Thai, Vietnamese and Latino.

For more information, visit: api-sbp.org

Asians for Miracle Match Mares (A3M)
Since 1991, A3M has been a recruitment center for Bo The Match, operated by the National Marrow Donor Program. A3M provides culturally and linguistically appropriate outreach, education and marrow donor recruitment in ethnic minority communities including Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Filipino, South Asian, Thai, Vietnamese and Latino.

For more information, visit: a3mhope.org

**LTSC**
LITTLE TOKYO SERVICE CENTER

**2016 Annual Report**
Gifts In Kind

B & T Toy Maker Inc.
BabyBully
Kristin and Jace Baker
Cable Masters
Stefin Chang
James and Anuel Durkin
Leyanys Escobar
James, Debbie and
Amy Chuman
CableMasters
Gifts In-Kind

Jun Watanabe
Marsha and Gary Watanabe
Alden and Teruko Uyemura
Mary Tam
Allen and Uzuko Shiroishi
Ellen and Alan Shimamoto
Linda Yokoyama
Emily and Dan Weaver
Lesser Families
Paul H. Iwahashi
Barbara and Tom Iino
Michael Iino and Family
Kelsey Iino
John and Eva Iino
John and Lily Lew
Frankie Lee
Courtney Lee
L.A. Shares
Pauline and Leni Posner
The Ralph M. Parsons
Jennifer Okutake
Michael, Margie and
Gilbert Nishimura
Jerald and Carol Nasu
Helen Nakano
Erich Nakano and Sandra
Nagatanien USA Inc.
Mike Murase and June
Martin and Leonor Mullis
MUFG Union Bank
Walter and Carolina Mendoza
Norma Ishigo
Irrigation West
Stan and Terri Ikeda
Teruhiko Higashi
Hayashi Medical Corporation
Janet Hasegawa-Chu and
Kirsten Grimm
Ada Kobara Grace
Yosh Fukumoto
Ken and Kiyoko Fukuhara
Allan Fujimoto
Thomas Franklin
Jeff Folick
Julian Ely
Eagle, Globerman and
Richard Dunn Family
Ernest and Kiyo Doizaki
Dustin and Jessica DeMesa
Louis and Beatrice Danoff
Luis and Lisa Cortes
Amy Chuman
Colleen Chikahisa
April Cheng
Katherine Brown
Asian Americans/Pacific
Chris Ashford and Sheryl
Akemi Arakaki
Anonymous
Budokan of
Yoshimura
Hanabusa
Kodama Foundation
Foundation
Busteed
Flynn
Whitman Holt
Kiboh Giving Circle:
Aiko Kawaratani
Glenn Kawafuchi
Kris, Nick, Brent Kishi
-Nori and Tami Nishida
-Mark and Tracy Qari
-Alan and Joyce Kamura
-Alan and Sandra Kaoka
-Mart and Tammi Kishita
-Lee and Lorraine Ong
-Kris, Nick, Brutl Kuhl
-Fuyumasa
Koyasan Buddhist Temple
Jenni Kuda and Tony Omura
Ford and Francis Konnayama
Gene Matsushita
Edwin and Cheri Moonahon
Cyottie Miletiche
Adina Muro-Halt and
Whitman Holt
Fred Masauchi
Walter and Carrie Murata
MUSG Union Bank
Foundation
Noran and Leaver Mullis
Richard and Mosako
Mukami
Mike Murase and June
Hirono
Albert Murakoshi and Hiroko
Higuchi
Paul Nagasawa
Nagai Center USA Inc.
Yoko Naka
Erlich Nakane and Sandra
Yiara
Helio Nakano
Ocho Nakamura and Bob
Miyamoto
Jerrald and Carol Naoua
Gerard and Chiyoko Nishi
Hilbert Nakamur
Alan and Yonnie Nitoh
Jane Nishi
David and Mary Nagashita
Bipul Nigra
Michael, Margo and
Kathrine Odaakia
Jennifer Odaakia
Brad and Lily Ohno
Helio H. Oda and Michael C.
Palmo
The Ralph M. Parsons
Foundation
Donna Park and Allan Yeh
Pauline and Loe Pooner
Chunny and Lyn Pratt
Ratu Shingo
Rotary Club of Downtown
Los Angeles
David Sako
Samet Legacy
Christine Sato
Judy Nakamura and Nicky
Schmeising
Yurka Mary Shikai
Shelby Yoyama Shimamoto
and Scott Shimamoto
Anton Shibara
Sukumar and Benedetta Sides
So-Plus Organization of
Orange County
Robert Sue
Southern California Cajon
For Bar
Southern California Kendal
Foundation
George and Pari Gugnani
Cookie and Elaine Sung
Stephen Suzaki
Scarlet Sy and Eric Olson
Edwin Tahokushi
Edwin and Karen Takada
Cheryl and David Teramong
Denis Kayaba and Jim
Tekanuma
James Testa
Belan Toy and Emily Lee
Tayto Miller North America,
Inc.
Ray and Jasen Wolter
Bill and Ruth Watandabe
David and Michiko Watandabe
Mogul Foundation
Gayle and Craig Wong
Kimberly and Darren Wong
Lawrence and Gerald Wong
Glenn Yamamoto
Katherine Yamamoto
Carol Yamane
Angie and Chen Yang
Donald Yee
Yoran Basketball Association
Brett and Susan Yoshimura
Yonsei Basketball Association
Donald Yee
Kathleen Yamamoto
Kimberly and Damon Wong
Alan Nishi and Stephanie
Mihara
Chicago Chapter Japanese
American Citizens League

In Honor of

2017 Sake & Food Tasting Event