

Appendix D: Update on the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Memorial

Bainbridge Island WWII Nikkei Internment and Exclusion Memorial Committee

Bainbridge Island/North Kitsap Interfaith Council ❖ Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community
P.O. Box 10355 Bainbridge Island Washington 98110 (206) 855-9038

Nidoto Nai Yoni “Let it not happen again” Memorial fact sheets

Organization description

In 1998, the Bainbridge Island World War II Nikkei Internment and Exclusion Memorial Committee (Memorial Committee) was formed as a partnership of the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community (BIJAC) and the Bainbridge Island/North Kitsap Interfaith Council (Interfaith Council). The Memorial Committee functions as a subcommittee under BIJAC’s non-profit 501(c)(3) status. The title *Nidoto Nai Yoni* translates to “Let it not happen again.”

Created in 1952, BIJAC is dedicated to promoting the history, culture and contributions of the Japanese American community. The Interfaith Council represents 19 churches and congregations of different faiths, comprising more than 1,000 members, with the goal of working together to promote goodwill and common ground of the greater community and beyond.

Historical background

On the morning of March 30, 1942, armed soldiers escorted 227 Bainbridge Island men, women and children – two-thirds of them United States citizens – to the Eagledale ferry landing. They boarded a ferry and arrived in Seattle, where they were taken on a three-day train ride, with the window blinds shut and no announcement about where they were going. The destination: Manzanar, a remote internment camp in California’s Mojave Desert. Most spent about one year living there, before being transferred to the Minodoka Relocation Center in Idaho.

They were exiled by Presidential Executive Order 9066 and Civilian Exclusion Order No. 1, because they were *Nikkei* – people of Japanese ancestry. With only six days notice, they were forced to hastily sell, store, or make arrangements for all of their possessions, businesses and property. They were allowed to take only one suitcase and what they could carry or wear. They were the first of more than 120,000 Japanese Americans to be forcibly removed from their homes and experience three years of unconstitutional internment.

Vision and message of the memorial

The site of the memorial will be at the historical location of Taylor Road and the former Eagledale ferry landing. The vision is for a memorial area that is evocative and contemplative with the power to instruct future generations about the injustices of the past and the fragility of assumed rights. Perhaps most importantly, the memorial will commemorate and honor the strength and perseverance of the people involved and celebrates the capacity of human beings to heal, forgive and care for one another.

Project overview

Designed by nationally-recognized architect Johnpaul Jones of the Seattle firm Jones & Jones – designer of several award-winning major projects including the new National Museum of the American Indian in Washington D.C. – the centerpiece of the memorial design is a long walkway towards Eagle Harbor, recreating the walk taken by those islanders who were forced to leave their homes in 1942. Visitors will be literally walking on the same path in “the footsteps of history.”

The design elements include a 272 foot-long “story wall” that will contain the names of all 272 Japanese American residents who lived on the island in 1942. In chronological fashion the wall will tell their

American story. At the end of the story wall near the harbor's edge, a 150 foot pier – one foot for each of the 150 people who returned to Bainbridge Island – will rise from the same spot of the former Eagledale ferry dock, where visitors can experience a literal and symbolic departure from the land and freedom. Future phases include a 5,000 square-foot interpretive/research center, a meeting room, a contemplative seating area, sculptures and other historical designated areas.

Recent accomplishments

The US House of Representatives unanimously passed (419-0) H.R. 161, the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Monument Act of 2007 sponsored by US Reps. Jay Inslee (D-WA) and Mike Simpson (D-Idaho) that would make the memorial site a satellite unit of the Minidoka Internment National Monument, as recommended by the Department of the Interior under Public Law 107-36, the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Memorial Study Act of 2002. Measure awaits action in the US Senate as Section 203 to S.2180, – the Natural Resource Projects and Programs Authorization Act of 2007.

The Bainbridge Island Japanese American Memorial Study Act of 2002, H.R. 3747, was approved unanimously by the U.S. Congress and was signed into law by President Bush on December 19, 2002. During the public comment period of the study, nearly 99% of the 1,300 comments received were in favor of the Bainbridge Island site's historical legacy to become a satellite unit of the National Parks Service.

American Forests has named a 100 year-old Western Red Cedar tree at the site of the former Eagledale Ferry dock to the National Register of Historic Trees as a living witness to the events and lives that have shaped our nation. It is only the second tree on the West Coast to receive the honor.

The memorial has received broad, unanimous support from the Washington State Legislature, Suquamish Tribe, Japanese American Citizens League, American Legion Colin Hyde Post #172, Trust for Public Lands, the Kitsap County Board of Commissioners, Washington State Human Rights Commission, Bainbridge Island City Council, Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Parks District Board, Bainbridge Island School District Board, Bainbridge Island Land Trust, Bainbridge Island Historical Society, Bainbridge Island Rotary Club and many other organizations and numerous individuals.

A Capital Campaign Committee has been formed to raise the final \$3 million needed to complete the project. Chairing the committee is Dr. Frank Kitamoto, president of the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community and sansei Bainbridge islander and former Washington Secretary of State Ralph Munro and long-time Bainbridge Island family member. Additionally, all living former Washington State governors serve on the Advisory Committee members – Dan Evans, Booth Gardner, Mike Lowry, Gary Locke, Al Rossellini and John Spellman.

Historical significance of the project

The historic significance of the memorial site is beyond question. History always recognizes “first places” and the mere mention of them tells the story – such as Kitty Hawk or Plymouth Rock. Not only were the Bainbridge Island Nikkei the first to be forcibly removed, they were also the first group to occupy the Manzanar internment camp in California on April 1, 1942.

About eight months later, the majority of the Bainbridge Islanders transferred to the Minidoka internment camp in Idaho to be with relatives and friends from the Puget Sound area. Being among the last to arrive at Minidoka, they were assigned to live in the last group of barracks. When the war ended, this also meant that they were also among the last to leave.

Thus, the Bainbridge Island Nikkei story literally completes a full circle on the history of the WWII internment of Japanese Americans by being the first to be forcibly removed and among the last to gain freedom and return to their homes.

Interestingly, of the ten major internment camps, only Manzanar and Minidoka have been recognized as national memorials or monuments. With the Bainbridge Island site under consideration by the federal government as a unit of the National Parks Service,

Project costs, construction and funding

The total projected cost for the memorial project is \$5 million

\$1 million for five acres of land in Pritchard Park – \$4 million for project development

\$2.60 million has been raised to date:

\$1 million: Washington State Community, Trade and Economic Development grant for land acquisition

\$1 million: Washington State Community, Trade and Economic Development grants for development

\$163,000: City of Bainbridge Island

\$190,000: Private cash donations

\$100,000: Paul G. Allen Family Foundation grant

\$140,000: Donations of services, materials and labor

Development of the memorial is a joint project of the Bainbridge Island WWII Nikkei Internment and Exclusion Memorial Committee and the City of Bainbridge Island, who is responsible for applying for and approving building permits, advertising and awarding of construction bids, and oversight and implementation of actual construction.

Construction phases (Only Phase 1 and 2 are currently funded)

Phase 1 - \$600,000

New access road; bus and passenger drop-off loop; 24 parking spaces; pathways; wooden boardwalk over wetlands; creation of new wetland; grading of bed for future story wall, a traditional wood-framed 20x20 foot pavilion and entry and exit gates. The pavilion and gates were designed and constructed by the non-profit Timber Framers Guild in September, 2006.

Status: Phase 1 is completed; construction began in April 2006.

Phase 2 - \$500,000 (estimated)

A 272-foot long “Story Wall” of stone and wood containing interpretive and historic materials.

Status: Phase 2 is partially funded. The building permits were approved fall 2006, bids will be advertised and awarded early 2008, and construction projected to begin spring 2008 .

Phase 3 - \$2.75 million (estimated)

A small cluster of buildings including a 4,000 sq. ft. interpretive center, meeting room and restrooms.

Status: Unfunded. Conceptual and final designs of the interpretive center cluster are being developed.

Phase 4 - \$250,000 (estimated)

A 150-foot departure pier at the end of the story wall walk.

Status: Unfunded. Design is being finalized and will eventually be sent to the US Army Corps of Engineers for approval.

Promising funding sources

The site is under consideration by the U.S. Congress to become a satellite unit of the National Parks System, which could provide up to \$400,000 for interpretive materials as well as funding for full-time staffing for site interpretation and maintenance support. The memorial project could also qualify for part of the \$38 million federal fund (HR 1492) to preserve historic confinement sites of Japanese Americans.

Japanese American Memorial Phase III Review and Visioning

Session scheduled for January 26, 11:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M.

Location: Bainbridge Island City Hall-Council Chamber

As most of you know, the memorial is an ongoing work. Phase I (The bulk of the site work, Kiosk and Gates) is complete and Phase II (Wall, and wellhouse) will be going out to bid soon with a goal of building this summer.

The time has come to develop designs for Phase III. Phase III as originally defined includes the visitors center, classroom, restrooms, other support places and terrace.

The design process will start with a schematic (preliminary) design which will have most of the major design elements that will find their way to the final design.

The immediate purpose of the schematic design is to provide promotional materials for fundraising in the form of plans, renderings, models and proposed construction costs.

The first part of the design process is to gather information related to the desired look and function of the project. It will also include information on budget, site, and regulatory limits.

Some information has been gathered in meetings and conversation with members of the Bainbridge Island Japanese-American Community and partner organizations. This input has been summarized in the document titled ***Programmatic input to date***. Also in this packet are conceptual drawings showing first concept building locations with some idea of scale.

On January 26th a visioning session is scheduled to review input received to date and to provide a forum for new information and ideas for Phase III. There will be a follow up meeting in February where we will have some concept sketches developed from January's meeting and will further develop the preliminary design.

While the product of these sessions will not be the final design, the purpose is to move well down the path towards the final design. Community involvement is key and all are encouraged to attend these sessions to provide information, ideas and to be informed.

Thank you,

John Buday

Project Manager, Bainbridge Island Japanese-American Memorial

Japanese American Memorial Phase III

Programmatic input to date

I. Site Use

This relates to the grounds around the buildings

1. Provide an outdoor courtyard for small BIJAC community gatherings, student tour groups gathering prior to visiting the Memorial Wall, staging area for families, etc.
2. The indoor exhibit/gathering space needs to open out onto the outdoor court.
3. The courtyard walking surface needs to be unit pavers surface; city code.
4. Some of the courtyard area needs to be under the protective roof of the visitor center; for outdoor use and/or seasonal use when possible.
5. Protect the existing cedar trees!
6. The entire courtyard needs to be ADA accessible.
7. The courtyard needs to have an unobstructed view of the Memorial Wall.
8. Need outdoor, lockable, tool/maintenance equipment storage with power and water.
9. Need outdoor prep wash/counter area for use during outdoor events.
10. Low fence/gate between parking area and outdoor courtyard similar to Bainbridge Island Library gardens.
11. Need an outdoor drinking fountain, benches, and bike rack.
12. Try to maintain as much parking next to visitor center as possible.

Japanese American Memorial Phase III

Programmatic input to date

II. Visitor Center Space

The main space for the visitor center is the large exhibit/gathering space which has to be flexible for daily exhibit arrangements, and event gatherings of 150 to 175 people with tables and chairs.

- Islandwood holds 150 people.
 - Library space holds 120 people.
1. Suggest that the exhibits be somewhat “moveable” to allow for flexibility of use.
 - a. Limited floor space should not be taken up with “fixed permanent exhibits.”
 - b. Maybe moveable exhibit walls.
 - c. 1 or 2 exhibits might have to be permanent, such as a “Barracks Diorama.”
 2. Need a general storage space that will hold table and chairs for 150 to 175 people; plus some of the moveable exhibits.
 3. A small kitchen area is needed (not a catering type kitchen) but more like a good household kitchen with top residential equipment. Also, need a dishwasher and 2 sinks, and an island for prep. Outdoor access would be good for service. Need a trash/recycling area that would be animal resistant. Also, the kitchen needs access to the outdoor courtyard for service by events.
 4. The entire visitor center needs to be ADA accessible, which means a one story building (2 story requires an elevator).
 5. The main exhibit/gathering space needs to be able (in good weather) to open out onto the outdoor courtyard.
 6. Welcoming Lobby Area:
 - a. Information Desk Area
 - b. Small gift display area—suggested gift items: small bells to tie to Memorial Wall; barbed wire in a glass case; books; adult and kids’ things.
 - c. Lobby size needs to hold 25 to 35 people (tours).
 - d. Need small seating area for 3 or 4 people.

Japanese American Memorial Phase III

Programmatic input to date

II. Visitor Center Space (cont.)

- e. Need direct indoor access to toilets for entire visitor center use—need a baby changing area.
 - f. Need direct access to Internment Memorial team offices (2 private with storage); and NPS offices (2 private with storage).
 - g. Need direct access to archival/storage area; divide archival area into 2 spaces: one archival large enough to handle large items such as the Chihara Chest), and one workroom space. Both spaces need archival quality HVAC climate control.
 - h. Need a small space with 2 or 3 computer stations for visitor use in research.
 - i. Need a outdoor covered porch area just outside the lobby.
7. Need a tech room for server equipment, etc. This tech room space will also serve the main exhibit/gathering space. Need HVAC climate control.
8. Need a mechanical/electrical room.

Japanese American Memorial Phase III

Programmatic input to date

III. Classroom/Meeting Space

1. Size—maximum 50 people.
2. Needs to be close to visitor center, yet accessible from outside with covered porch and covered access to toilets.
3. Needs to be ADA accessible.
4. Needs to open out to outdoor courtyard.
5. Needs two types of storage:
 - a. Small room for tables/chairs, etc.
 - b. Lockable wall cabinets.
 - c. Needs counter area with 2 sinks.
6. Needs audio/visual system.
7. Need to be wireless spaces.
8. Need HVAC/electrical space.
9. Place this building on the site so it does not block the view of the Memorial Wall.

Japanese American Memorial Phase III

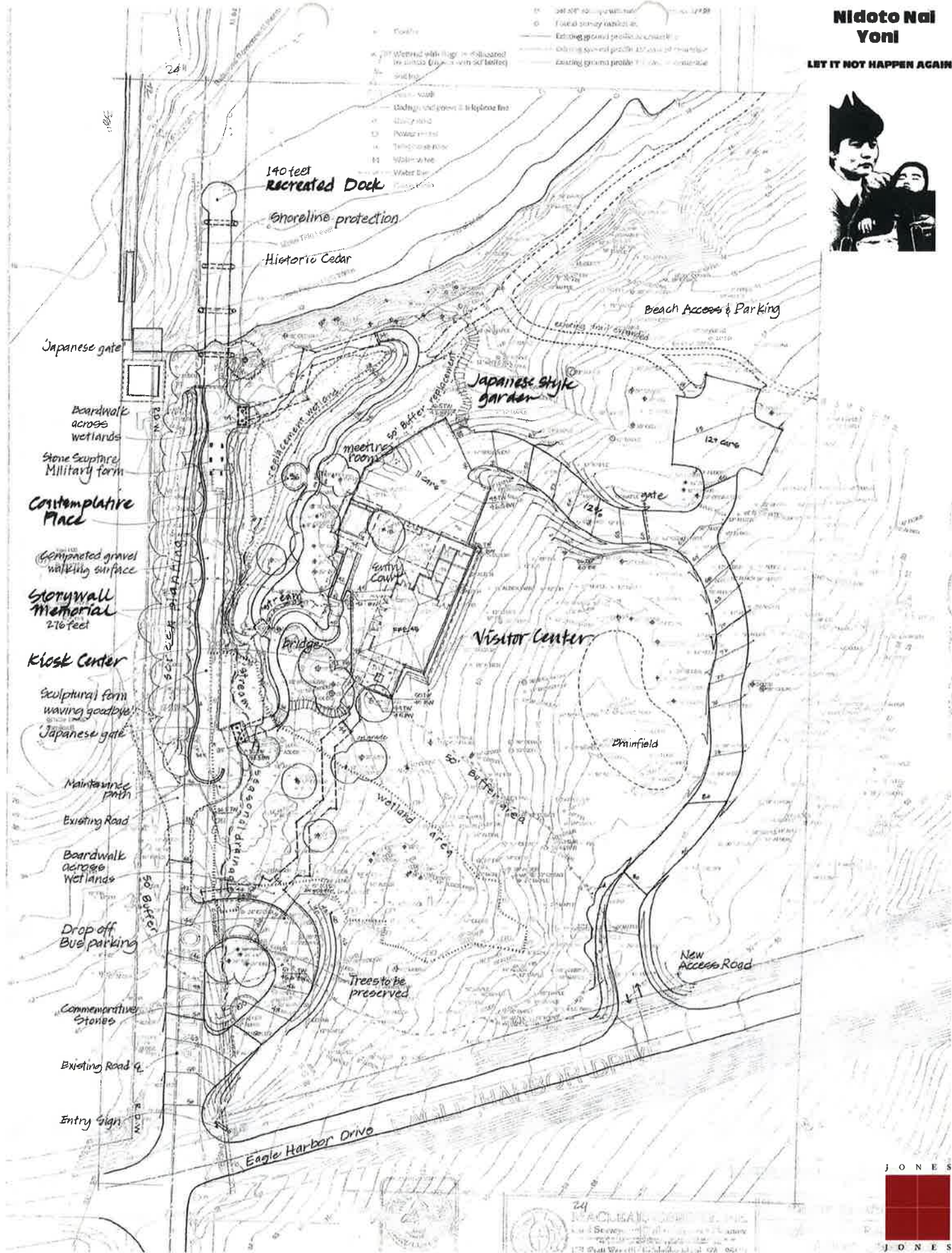
Programmatic input to date

IV. General Items

1. The entire facility (building and site) needs to be easy to maintain.
2. The overall site has only one place available for the sewer drainfield; just off to the west of the new upper road. Charles Pollmar (septic system designer) has already “perc tested” the site and designed a system to handle the visitor center needs.
3. The visitor center project needs to be a green sustainable project.
 - a. Use sustainable materials where possible.
 - b. Use a sustainable HVAC and electrical system
 - c. Use a “Living Roof” system.
 - d. Don’t obscure the view of the Memorial Wall with the visitor center or classroom buildings. Also, the visitor center should not dominate the site, but should blend in with the land and the landscape.
 - e. Look at the project overall as a “land healing” project.

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