

RNR Reibsamen, Nickels & Rex Architects

6290 Sunset Boulevard, Suite 800 • Los Angeles, California 90028 • (213) 468-9900

October 25, 1992

Robert E. Gramman, FAIA
Chair, 1995 Jury of Fellows
The American Institute of Architects
1735 New York Avenue, NW
Washington D.C. 2006-5292

Dear Mr. Gramman:

In his exemplary and long-lasting service to society, Takashi (Tak) Shida has honored and advanced our profession and clearly enriched the Los Angeles community where he was born, has grown, been educated, and matured.

Not only has he willingly and cooperatively accepted the leadership positions given him by his peers, but he has also accepted the many volunteer responsibilities which local political officials asked him to assume. In every instance, his special architectural talents, creatively applied, were the essential elements in attaining the assigned objectives.

Tak helped lead the Asian American Architects / Engineers Association from its infancy to becoming, now, a recognized and respected organization committed to enhancing the profession. The association takes seriously its corporate citizenship that benefits the community, most recently exhibited following the devastating Northridge Earthquake last January.

In saving and restoring architecturally and historically significant buildings, Tak has brought the absolutely essential architectural principles to the discussion table, and tenaciously undertook a personal goal of preserving those structures which bespeak the multi-cultural heritage that makes Los Angeles unique. In his endeavor, he was eminently successful.

Deeply nourished with the richness of his own background, dating back to his World War II internment days, Tak has continually contributed to the steady betterment of the local Japanese American community. Through his sterling efforts with Little Tokyo, a principal social and tourist area; the internationally acclaimed Japanese National Museum, which his active leadership clearly helped create; and the Japanese American Cultural Community Center, Tak has truly made a very great difference. The Museum and the Community Center are landmark accomplishments.

In many important respects, Tak Shida has left a notable stamp on the community. His many successes benefit today's citizens and the countless visitors whose Los Angeles experience is and for many years to come will be, enhanced because of his achievements. Tak is a true credit to our profession and I wholeheartedly recommend his elevation to the College of Fellows.

Sincerely,



Pierce K. Reibsamen, FAIA

Section 1 INTRODUCTION

Part A Nomination and Profile

Nomination

Takashi Shida, AIA

O'Leary Terasawa Partners
AIA Architects
1313 West Eighth Street, Suite 200
Los Angeles, California 90017-4493
Phone: 213-413-3131 Facsimile: 213-484-5225

**Assigned to the Los Angeles Chapter
Became AIA member June 18, 1974**

Category of Nomination


To Make the Profession of Ever-increasing Service to Society.

Sponsor

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Los Angeles, California 90028
Tel: (213) 468-9900
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Nominated by

Los Angeles Chapter



Virginia Tanzmann, FAIA
President

11-7-94

Date

Section 1 INTRODUCTION

Part A *Nomination and Profile* (continued)

Nominee's Education	Institution/Location	Period	Grad Year	Degree
High School	Roosevelt High School Los Angeles, California	Three years	1954	Diploma
University	University of Southern California School of Architecture Los Angeles, California	Five years	1960	Bachelor of Architecture
Other Academic Activities	University of Southern California First Prize Award Scarab Annual Second-Year Design Competition		1957	
	University of Southern California Tau Sigma Delta National Honor Society in Architecture and Allied Arts		1959	
	University of Southern California Scarab Fraternity National Architectural Fraternity		1960	
	University of Southern California Second Prize Award Annual Thesis Design Competition		1960	
	California Preservation Foundation "Demistifying Development Seminar"		1992	
	"Preservation Sessions"		1989	
	"Workshop and Consultation for Commission Members and Staff"		1988	
	University of Southern California "Program of Short Courses in Historic Preservation"		1993	
	Arts Inc. "Arts Leadership Initiative"		1994	

Section 1 INTRODUCTION

Part A *Nomination and Profile* (continued)

Practice

Nominee is licensed to practice architecture in

California	C-3921	1963
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National Council of Architectural Registration Boards	No. 13181	1973
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Nominee is engaged in the profession of architecture as

Managing Partner
O'Leary Terasawa Partners
AIA Architects
Los Angeles, California

Section 1 INTRODUCTION

Part B *Digest of Achievements*

Summary Statement

Takashi Shida, dedicated to elevate the appreciation and understanding of America's cultural and ethnic diversity, has attained major accomplishments as a leader in public and community service.

Digest of Achievements

America has a dream to strived for. The nominee's reality of America was shaped during World War II, when he, his family and 120,000 other Japanese Americans were victims of gross injustices. The reasons were complex, but the factor of racial intolerance is clear. Shida by his community service has endeavored to advance the appreciation of America's multiculturalism.

Historic buildings that record the contributions of the diverse communities that make up Los Angeles have been preserved by Shida's six years on the city's Cultural Heritage Commission.

He helped draft and implement the city's first cultural masterplan and public art ordinance. A vision of the cultural masterplan is that "the arts must reflect the multicultural nature and profile of Los Angeles."

The nominee's creative, seven-year leadership made possible the founding of the Japanese American National Museum, the first museum of its kind, which chronicles the contributions of Japanese Americans to the growth and development of this country.

Through the Asian American Architects/Engineers Association, which he helped found and direct, Shida has advocated and organized the cause of Asian American architects and engineers.

Shida currently serves on the board of the country's oldest, non-profit Asian American theater group whose mission is to elevate East-West cultural understanding.

He also serves on the Public Art Task Force for Little Tokyo, the center for Japanese Americans in the region. Through art, its hundred year old history is being communicated.

Can our forefather's mandate to this country be realized? The nominee with his community service continues in that quest.

Section 2 CATEGORY OF NOMINATION

2.1 *Articles by and about the nominee and his service to society.*

Articles about Nominee's Cultural Heritage Commission Service

Author: Takeshi Nakayama
"Historic Hotel Set For Demolition..."
Rafu Shimpo Newspaper
March 1993

Author: Susan Moffat
"Wilshire Hotel Denied Status As Landmark"
Los Angeles Times
March 1993

Author: Eric Baily
"Chinese Mount Campaign To Save Chinese Shrine"
Los Angeles Times
July 1990

Author: Penelope McMillian
"Their Goal: Saving The Best Of L.A.'s Past"
Los Angeles Times
February 1990

Author: Bob Pool
"Culture Buffs Want To Give Mall Planner The Brushoff"
Los Angeles Times
June 1989

Author: Nancy Carnes
"Architect, Designer Are Named To L.A. Cultural Heritage Panel"
California Jewish Press
September 1987

Author: Cyril Chern
"New Commissioners"
L A Architect (Published by AIA Los Angeles Chapter)
September 1987

Articles about Nominee's Japanese American National Museum Service

Author: Staff Writer
"JANM Sets Sights on Phase II"
Rafu Shimpo Newspaper
April 1993

Author: Mitzi March Mogul
"The Japanese American National Museum"
L A Architect (Published by AIA Los Angeles Chapter)
June 1993

Section 2 CATEGORY OF NOMINATION

2.1 *Articles by and about the nominee and his service to society.* (continued)

Articles about Nominee's Japanese American National Museum Service (continued)

Author: Yoshio Nishimoto
"The Making Of A Museum"
L A Architect (Published by AIA Los Angeles Chapter)
June 1993

Author: Takashi Shida
"Building Update"
Japanese American National Museum Bulletin
Winter 1989

Author: Staff Writer
**"Japanese American National Museum
Welcomes 13 New Board Members"**
Rafu Shimpo Newspaper
May 1989

Author: Staff Writer
"Board Welcomes New Officers and Members"
Japanese American National Museum Bulletin
Winter 1988

Author: Dean Takehara
**"Architects Win Award For Japanese
American National Museum Project"**
Rafu Shimpo Newspaper
October 1987

Author: Naomi Hirahara
**"Japanese American National Museum
May Receive \$750,000"**
Rafu Shimpo Newspaper
September 1985

Author: Staff Writer
**"Fundraising Dinner Set for
Japanese American National Museum"**
Rafu Shimpo Newspaper
August 1985

Author: Staff Writer
**"Japanese American National Museum
Forms Ad Hoc Committee"**
Rafu Shimpo Newspaper
June 1985

Section 2 CATEGORY OF NOMINATION

2.1 *Articles by and about the nominee and his service to society,* (continued)

Profiles about Nominee

Author: Portia Lee, Ph.D.

"Boyle Heights: A Preservationist's View"

Los Angeles City Historical Society Newsletter

November 1990

Author: Staff Writer

"L.A. Firm Thrives on Community Service"

AIA MEMO

October 1990

Author: Tom Kagy

"The Architects"

ASIAM, The Asian American Magazine

August 1988

Author: Staff Writer

"October Member Profile: Takashi 'Tak' Shida"

Asian American Architects/Engineers Newsletter

October 1987

Author: Patrick Anderson

"Asians in Business, Brief Notes"

Asian Week Newspaper

September 1987

Author: Staff Writer

"Classnotes - Takashi Shida"

USC Trojan Family Magazine

November 1987

Author: Staff Writer

"1987 ABA And AAA/E Architects Of The Year"

Asian Week Newspaper

October 1987

Author: Staff Writer

"Architect Of The Year"

Los Angeles Times

September 1986

Author: Staff Writer

"Architect Tak Shida To Be Honored"

Rafu Shimpo Newspaper

September 1986

Section 2 CATEGORY OF NOMINATION

2.1 *Articles by and about the nominee and his service to society.* (continued)

Articles about Projects Designed by Nominee

Author: Staff Writer
"1989 Design Awards"
L A Architect (Published by AIA Los Angeles Chapter)
December 1989

Author: Staff Writer
"AIA/LA Design Awards"
Design L.A. Newspaper
December 1989

Author: Takenobu Igarashi
"Harte Yamashita & Harte"
IDEA Magazine
July 1981

Author: Elizabeth Harbin Hunter
"City Site's Potential Realized"
House and Garden Magazine
Winter 1979

Author: Staff Writer
"Try The Large Economy Size"
Perfect Home Magazine
April 1977

Author: Staff Writer
"Architect and Artist in a Blending of Creativity"
Western Building Design Magazine
January 1976

Author: Staff Writer
"Japanese and Contemporary"
Building Progress Magazine
October 1975 (Cover story)

Author: Staff Writer
"East Meets West in Panorama City's New Bank of Tokyo"
Masonry Industry Magazine
June 1974

Author: Staff Writer
"Bank Blends Sandblasted Concrete, Glass, Drywall"
Interior Building System Magazine
March 1973

Section 2 CATEGORY OF NOMINATION

2.2 Significant awards, honors and recognition accorded the nominee concerning his service to society.

AIA Design Awards	Citation 1993 <i>AIA San Fernando Valley Chapter</i> Master Plan for Los Angeles City Block
	Award of Merit 1989 <i>AIA Los Angeles Chapter</i> Marymount High School Library Los Angeles, California
	Certificate of Distinction 1989 <i>AIA San Fernando Valley Chapter</i> Marymount High School Library
Honors and Recognition AAA/E	Architects of the Year 1987 The Architects Consortium Takashi Shida, Chairman <i>Asian American Architects/Engineers Association</i> "For their dedication and service to the Japanese American National Museum"
	Architect of the Year - Takashi Shida 1986 <i>Asian American Architects/Engineers Association</i> "Under his leadership, the AAA/E gained visibility in the public and private sectors of professional consulting and became established as a recognized professional organization."
Honors and Recognition for Professional and Community Service	Los Angeles Valley College 1993 <i>Certificate of Appreciation</i> "In recognition of outstanding service to the College"
	Japanese American National Museum 1991 <i>Certificate of Appreciation</i> "For outstanding dedication and commitment"
	Asian American Architects/Engineers 1991 <i>Certificate of Appreciation</i> "For your continued support and commitment to AAA/E"

Section 2 CATEGORY OF NOMINATION

2.2 Significant awards, honors and recognition accorded the nominee concerning his service to society. (continued)

Honors and Recognition for Professional and Community Service
(continued)

Japanese American National Museum <i>Certificate of Appreciation</i> "For pioneering vision in building a legacy for the future"	1990
State Senate of California <i>Certificate of Recognition</i> "In honor of your outstanding commitment and efforts for the development and progress of the Japanese American National Museum"	1988
Lieutenant Governor of California <i>Certificate of Commendation</i> "For outstanding service in the public interest"	1987
Japanese American National Museum <i>Certificate of Appreciation</i> "For distinguished service"	1987
County of Los Angeles <i>Certificate of Commendation</i> "For the outstanding contributions you have given to the Japanese American National Museum"	1987
State of California <i>Governor's Commendation</i> Governor George Deukmejian "Your commitment to quality design is deeply appreciated"	1986
County of Los Angeles <i>Certificate of Commendation</i> "Hereby highly commended for your outstanding community service"	1986
City of Los Angeles <i>Certificate of Commendation</i> "For your dedicated efforts and many outstanding contributions to the City of Los Angeles"	1986
Los Angeles International Lions Club <i>Certificate of Appreciation</i> "For your stimulating presentation to our members on the Japanese American National Museum"	1986

Section 2 CATEGORY OF NOMINATION

2.3 *Significant work of the nominee in his service to society; positions held.*

City of Los Angeles	Cultural Heritage Commission	1987-1993
	<i>Declares historic-cultural monuments</i>	
	Vice President	1989-1991
	Arts Advisory Committee	1989-1990
	<i>Developed first cultural masterplan; Established endowment for the arts</i>	
	Public Art Committee	1990-1993
	<i>Implements endowment for the arts</i>	
	Barnsdall Art Park Board of Overseers	1989-1993
	<i>Supervises improvements for park containing Frank Lloyd Wright's Hollyhock House</i>	
	Existing Resources Committee	1989-1993
	Planning and Development Committee	1991-1993
	Cultural Affairs Commission, Civic Design Committee	1992
	<i>Reviewed designs for Westlake Park</i>	
Herald Examiner Building Task Force Committee to save Julia Morgan-designed historic building from demolition	1992-1993	
Mayor's Representative	1991-1992	
<i>To present commendatory certificates</i>		
Hollywood Walk of Fame Mitigation Plan Participant	1992	
Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum Design Workshop Participant	1990	
Report on Cultural Heritage Commission Restructure Participant	1990	

Section 2 CATEGORY OF NOMINATION

2.3 *Significant work of the nominee in his service to society; positions held. (continued)*

Professional Organization	Asian American Architects/Engineers Association (Charter Member) <i>Professional organization dedicated to the empowerment of Asian American architects and engineers</i>	1977-Present
	Volunteer Earthquake Task Force	1994
	Advisor	1985-1988
	Director	1982-1985
	President	1983-1984
	Vice President	1982-1983
	Secretary	1981-1982
Community Organizations	Japanese American National Museum <i>Nationally recognized new museum</i>	1984-Present
	Trustee	1988-1990
	Vice President	1989-1990
	Chairperson, Architects Consortium	1985-1987
	Chairperson, Facilities Committee	1987-1989
	Chairperson, Interiors Task Force	1991-1992
	Barracks Task Force Committee	1992-Present
	Terminal Island Exhibit Committee	1993-1994
	President's Council Committee	1990
	Executive Committee	1985-1989
	Marketing-Design Committee	1989
	Exhibit and Program Committee	1988
	Dinner Committee	1987-1988
	Exhibits Committee	1985
	Lease Committee	1985
	East West Players <i>Nation's oldest Asian American theater company with a mission of bridging cultural understanding</i>	1992-Present
	Director	1992-Present
Facilities Committee	1992-Present	
Arts Inc. Committee	1992-1993	

Section 2 CATEGORY OF NOMINATION

2.3 Significant work of the nominee in his service to society; positions held. (continued)

Community Organizations (continued)

Public Art Task Force of Little Tokyo 1991-Present
Community Development Advisory Committee
Sets public art policy

Japanese American Cultural & Community Center 1985-1986
*Formed to preserve and promote
 Japanese American heritage, and to
 encourage understanding between
 United States and Japan*

Century II Associates Steering Committee 1985-1986
 Annual Dinner Committee 1986
 Gyo Obata Lecture Committee 1986
 Cultural Sweepstakes Committee 1986

Little Tokyo Centennial Committee 1984
Celebrates major historic civic district
 Time Capsule Committee 1984

**Little Tokyo Earthquake Disaster
 Task Force to Obtain Federal Aid** 1971

Jury Member

**Japanese American Internment
 Commemorative Competition** 1994
Reviewed and made awards for original artworks

Public Art for Historical Libraries 1993
Evaluated proposals and made awards

**Little Tokyo Historic District Street
 Improvement Project** 1991
Selected artist for project

AIA/LA Associates Scholarship 1991
Awarded scholarships to architectural students

**AIA/LA AIA Associates
 Mock Design Examination** 1979
Critiques mock exam design solutions

Section 2 CATEGORY OF NOMINATION

2.4 *The nominee's notable work and how it has served society*

Los Angeles City Cultural Heritage Commission

The distinguished career of Takashi Shida represents a longstanding commitment to community service. Particularly, but not solely, noteworthy were his untiring efforts to protect and preserve significant historic buildings as a member of the **Los Angeles City Cultural Heritage Commission**. Shida placed major importance on saving architecturally significant buildings and those that historically reflect the unique, varied and numerous cultures and ethnicities which molded Los Angeles and continue to shape its future. He firmly believed that by preserving ethnically diverse buildings, Americans, coming from or tracing their origins to other countries, could see structures that connect them to their earlier generations.

The five-member Cultural Heritage Commission commenced operations as a direct result of a four-year effort by the local AIA's Preservation of Historic Buildings Committee. The Commission's 1962 preservation ordinance "had no precedent in a major urban complex of comparable size and commercial dynamism," according to city documents. Under the ordinance, the Commission inspects, considers, declares and protects the city's historic cultural monuments.

The nominee began his Commission service following a 1987 mayoral appointment and confirmation by the city council. During his six years as a Commissioner, he was its only architect and he brought to the group's important work a necessary professional expertise and experience.

As the sole architect on the Commission, the nominee's expertise had particularly special meaning because of the role that architecture always plays in Commission deliberations. The Commission designates as historic monuments those buildings which embody distinguished architectural characteristics that are "inherently valuable for a study of period style." The same appellation is accorded those buildings which illustrate the notable work of an architect whose individual genius influenced his "contemporaries and generations to come." The Commission has commemorated such architects as Frank Lloyd Wright, Richard Neutra, R. M. Schindler, Charles Eames and Eero Saarinen.

Section 2 CATEGORY OF NOMINATION

2.4 *The nominee's notable work and how it has served society.* (continued)

Los Angeles City Cultural Heritage Commission (continued)

From its founding up to the end of the nominee's six-year term, the Commission had declared a total of 584 Los Angeles historic monuments. Of these, 258 came during Shida's productive Commission service. His considerable expertise particularly applied when adaptive reuse, addition or alteration plans for a declared monument were presented for Commission approval, as prescribed by law. At the Commission's semi-monthly meetings--the nominee attended 96% during his six Commission years--and the many obligatory trips to sites, he contributed a depth of understanding and wise counsel.

The city's Cultural Heritage Commission has existed for a third of a century. With the second longest term among architect commissioners, Shida served his profession and community with leadership, distinction and achievement. His singular accomplishments made a lasting impression not only for current citizens but also for those of the future who, thanks to the myriad buildings the nominee helped preserve, will have a more enriching appreciation and awareness of the strong architectural and multi-ethnic heritages that have enriched the legacy of Los Angeles.



Asian American Architects/Engineers Association

In 1977, the nominee, along with 10 others, launched the **Asian American Architects/Engineers Association (AAA/E)**. The organization, committed to empowering Asian American architects and engineers through activities directed to personal growth, professional development and effective community service, now boasts of a membership of 250. AAA/E members constantly strive to increase the recognition of architects and engineers among public and governmental agencies and the community at large.

Shida has held every AAA/E leadership office and has played a major role in helping the Association achieve a deserved status as one of the most prominent groups of design professionals in the Los Angeles area. Acknowledging both his skillful leadership at a critical period of AAA/E's formation and his decade of productive activity for the organization, he was named **Asian American Architect of the Year** in 1986.

Section 2 CATEGORY OF NOMINATION

2.4 *The nominee's notable work and how it has served society.* (continued)

Asian American Architects/Engineers Association (continued)

The nominee has been a prime mover in implementing another of AAA/E's prime objectives: assisting the community. He helped initiate a program whereby AAA/E members would offer advisory design services to qualifying nonprofit organizations and to disadvantaged individuals. In 1992, the AAA/E spearheaded efforts of the Asian American design community to gather and disseminate pertinent planning, design and reconstruction-related information. This data helped those that suffered property damage in Los Angeles' disastrous 1992 civil disturbances. Additionally, the AAA/E was one of the first organizations to provide professional volunteer assistance to the city of Los Angeles in evaluating building damage caused by the calamitous 1994 Northridge earthquake.

The nominee's invaluable AAA/E leadership ultimately led to the creation of one of the nation's most unique institutions, the Japanese American National Museum (JANM). Shida first volunteered with the Museum in 1984 and quickly learned the project needed architectural advice. In 1985 he took action. While still a member of the AAA/E board, he organized and was named **chairman of the Architects Consortium** made up exclusively of volunteers from the AAA/E.

Shida and the Consortium members initially sought a way to use Los Angeles' first Buddhist Temple for the Museum. Built in 1925 and attracting a membership of 1,500 by 1934, the Temple became the focus of Buddhist life in the community as well as a social center and movie house. Understandably, the Temple had profound historical and emotional significance for Japanese Americans, some of whom stored their personal belongings there before moving on to internment camps in World War II and, after the war, used the building as temporary housing. The Temple, a city Historic Cultural Monument, is a principal building within a district listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Because of the community's deep concerns about the historical and religious history of the Temple, the Consortium architects had to be extremely sensitive in planning the procedures for converting it to Museum use. They were successful in meeting this formidable challenge. Shida secured support from two city sources which helped pay for a feasibility study. Later, he and others successfully convinced a California legislator to allocate state funds for the project. In 1986, the nominee and colleagues persuaded the city to lease the former Temple to the Museum for 50 years. Shida returned to the honors podium in 1987 to receive, on behalf of the Consortium, another Asian American Architects of the Year award.

Section 2 CATEGORY OF NOMINATION

2.4 *The nominee's notable work and how it has served society.* (continued)

Japanese American National Museum

For a decade, as trustee, vice president and volunteer, the nominee has actively participated in the planning and development of the **Japanese American National Museum**, the only one in the country dedicated to the contributions of Japanese Americans to American history and culture. Opened in 1992, the Museum has achieved extraordinary success in fulfilling its challenging mission: "To communicate the Japanese American experience as an integral part of America's heritage, and to foster appreciation for ethnic and cultural diversity in order to create a legacy for future generations in the United States and around the world." That success has given the Museum a national and international recognition as an exceptional repository acknowledged by scholars and the popular press.

The Museum, meets its objective by the documentation, exhibition and preservation of artifacts depicting Japanese American history and culture, and by making available educational programs and resource materials." It provides cultural workshops, demonstrations and live performances and its activities are bolstered by its National Scholarly Advisory Council which includes persons from the United States, Canada and Japan. The Museum has gathered over 17,000 members and recruited more than 250 active volunteers in just two years." (*Los Angeles City Historical Society Newsletter*, August 1994). By fostering a more thorough understanding of the unique Japanese American heritage, the Museum, therefore, admirably enriches America's commonality.

Two of the 1994 Museum presentations require special mention. A three-month exhibit combined the exquisite work of Chiura Obata, a painter and art professor, with the models, drawings and projects of his architect son, Gyo, head of the HOK firm in St. Louis. Another exhibit, titled "*America's Concentration Camps: Remembering the Japanese American Experience*" will portray the period during World War II when 120,000 Japanese Americans including the nominee were incarcerated in camps surrounded by barbed wire and patrolled by armed sentries. With such a background, the nominee's involvement on the Museum's Barracks Task Force has poignant relevance. The Task Force has identified two Heart Mountain, Wyoming internment camp barracks, which will be dismantled and reassembled in Los Angeles. The exhibit is designed to increase the awareness of the experience so that such an injustice never happens again to any group.

Section 2 CATEGORY OF NOMINATION

2.4 *The nominee's notable work and how it has served society.* (continued)

Japanese American National Museum (continued)

Annually, the Museum attracts thousands of visitors among whom have been the emperor and empress of Japan. It has enlisted a national board of governors which includes Akio Morita, Chairman of the Sony Corporation; Hon. Michael Mansfield, former U.S. Ambassador to Japan and U.S. Senator from Montana; Robert Wycoff, President and Chief Executive Officer, Arco Corporation; U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye, Hawaii; and current U.S. Congressmen Norman Mineta and Robert Matsui from California, and Daniel Akaka from Hawaii.

The nominee served for three years as chairman of the JANM Facilities Committee and thus represented the Museum in guiding the contract architects rendering professional services to the facility. Accordingly, Shida took particular delight in four preservation design awards the Museum received. These came from: 1) the city's Cultural Heritage Commission, the Institution Award, "for exemplary rehabilitation of a city-declared historic or cultural monument"; 2) the Preservation Design Award from the California Preservation Foundation; 3) the Preservation Citation from the Los Angeles Conservancy; and, 4) a 1993 Honor Award from the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

In addition to its extensive corporate, foundation and local government funding, the Museum has also received nine highly competitive grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, and two contributions from the National Endowment for the Arts. It has also been featured as a Case Study in the National Trust for Historic Preservation publication.



Services for Los Angeles City

Recognizing Shida's "special expertise and his commitment to bringing the arts to the city," the Los Angeles mayor, in 1989, appointed him to the **Los Angeles Arts Advisory Committee** that would create the city's first cultural masterplan. When finalized and implemented, the masterplan would enable the city "to move into the 1990s with a comprehensive citywide arts policy serving all sectors of the population," the mayor said.

Section 2 CATEGORY OF NOMINATION

2.4 *The nominee's notable work and how it has served society.* (continued)

Services for Los Angeles City (continued)

Shida's emphasis on the Committee focused on two of his key concerns: recognition and enhancement of Los Angeles' multicultural heritage and the preservation-celebration of the city's historically significant structures and sites. In early 1991, the Cultural Masterplan became a reality. It set a direction for the city's art policies, spending and activities into 1996. Under the masterplan, when permits are granted for any public or private project exceeding \$500,000, the developer is assessed a prorated fee to be used for "public art."

With funding and framework (i.e., the masterplan) firmly in place, there remained only the implementation of the city's art embellishment program. By ordinance, that implementation was entrusted to the **Los Angeles Public Art Committee** to which Shida was one of the first appointees. The Committee functions as an advisory and oversight group to Los Angeles' public arts program. It advises the Cultural Affairs Commission and Department staff on the appropriateness of the proposed artwork for each building site, on the criteria (including gender and ethnic background) for selecting the artist(s), and on how panels that select those artists should be formed. The Committee also reviews and approves all conceptual and final artwork proposals and makes recommendations concerning their acceptability to both the Commission and Department.

In his Public Art Committee activity, Shida was involved in evaluating an extensive variety of projects. He was particularly helpful in assuring an effective working relationship between the architect and the artist who has been commissioned to produce the artwork on the project. The nominee also convinced his Committee colleagues to establish the policy of having the architect on the project join the panel that interviewed the final group of artists being considered for the job. To date, the City has awarded over a million dollars in art commissions for libraries, police stations and the new control tower at Los Angeles International Airport.

The Los Angeles mayor again called on the nominee and appointed him to the **Barnsdall Art Park Board of Overseers**. The premier attraction of the Park, featured as a tour site for the 1994 AIA convention in Los Angeles, is Frank Lloyd Wright's 1920 Hollyhock House, his first building in Southern California. Long a principal Los Angeles historic and cultural site, Barnsdall Park, nonetheless, suffered nearly 25 years of neglect and the inexorable ravages of urban decline. The 26 Barnsdall Overseers were commissioned to coordinate activities at the 11.4-acre Park, promote its programs, and lobby for public and private money to restore the area to its proper dignity.

Section 2 CATEGORY OF NOMINATION

2.4 *The nominee's notable work and how it has served society.* (continued)

Services for Los Angeles City (continued)

Shida and his fellow overseers envision the Park becoming the conceptual, symbolic and uplifting center for a deteriorating neighborhood and a reference point within the larger urban landscape of the city. He and his colleagues on the Planning and Development Committee hope that an art library can be created to showcase Wright's work and that of Wright's contemporaries and followers. The Committee has prepared a strategic plan to guide the future development of the Park.

Over the years, the nominee's extensive and valuable service with the Japanese American community has earned recognition from several sources. Because of this reputation, Shida **represented the mayor of Los Angeles** in presenting certificates of commendation to acknowledge notable Japanese American achievements and events. The nominee was also asked to be the mayor's representative on the Task Force to preserve the Julia Morgan-designed Herald Examiner building which is a historic monument.



Services for the Japanese American Community

The nominee has long been creatively involved in enriching the appeal and status of Little Tokyo in the heart of Los Angeles civic center. An eight-square block area, it is the focal point of Japanese American commercial-cultural-community life in Southern California. One of Little Tokyo's principal attractions is the **Japanese American Cultural and Community Center (JACCC)**. With a yearly patronage averaging 150,000, the \$14-million facility preserves and promotes the Japanese American cultural heritage and encourages greater understanding of Japanese history and customs by United States citizens. The JACCC theater serves as the stage for many of the world's great performers.

Since 1986, Shida has successfully contributed to JACCC events. He helped organize a popular lecture series and the annual cultural sweepstakes which raise funds for the Center. For one fundraising events he and his colleagues were commended: "You have really outdone yourself this year."

Further Little Tokyo involvement occurred in 1991 when Shida accepted an appointment to the Little Tokyo Community Development Advisory Committee's **Public Art Task Force**, which develops and implements the Agency's Little Tokyo public art policy.

Section 2 CATEGORY OF NOMINATION

Services for the Japanese American Community (continued)

2.4 *The nominee's notable work and how it has served society.* (continued)

The Task Force selected an artist to commemorate the history of the Little Tokyo Historic District. (The district is a specific, 1,000-foot, three-street frontage featuring 1800s and early 1900s buildings virtually intact and still functioning commercially.) Her design is a historic timeline embedded in the sidewalk. The decorated sidewalk, over 1,000 feet long, depicts events from the 1890s through 1945. One of the most impressive achievements of the Task Force was the 1992 unveiling of the Toyo Miyatake Camera sculpture. Miyatake opened a Little Tokyo photography studio in 1924, sent to the World War II internment camps where for three years he recorded an incredible and historic photographic chronicle of war relocation camp life.

Also, Shida and his Task Force associates juried a competition to obtain original artwork in any medium to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the internment camps. Six artists were given awards from among 59 proposals that covered visual arts, musical compositions, dance, poetry, plays, films and videos.

In 1994, Shida actively participated in the "Little Tokyo Cultural/Arts Opportunity Inventory," which studied and recommended to the City how to make the neighborhood as culturally complete and rewarding as possible.

In 1992, Shida became a director of the **East West Players** (EWP), the nation's oldest Asian American theater company. Founded in 1965, the company presents the insights of diverse cultures and points of view upon which our complex society is built. No other theater in the country is as bold as the EWP in offering, in dramatic form, the diversity that is America.

Artistically representing the voice of Asian Americans, the EWP acts as cultural bridge between East and West through a performing arts medium and has formed touring groups to present shows throughout the community. New programs to be implemented include a writers' gallery and a musical theater development program. The nominee's special skills will be utilized in EWP's plan to move into a historic church in Little Tokyo which will become the area's newest art center.



Section 2 CATEGORY OF NOMINATION

2.4 *The nominee's notable work and how it has served society.* (continued)

The nominee's significant service to society covers an edifying spectrum. He played a principal role in saving architecturally and historically noteworthy buildings, and those that recall the various cultures and ethnicities that uniquely characterize Los Angeles. His resolute leadership in creating one of the nation's foremost museums, the only one dedicated to preserving and exhibiting Japanese Americans' contributions to our country's rich cultural fabric, increased the recognition of architects, especially those of Asian American heritage. Shida also helped develop Los Angeles' first cultural masterplan and the mechanism to produce more public artworks. Finally, he continues his productive efforts to enhance the social and cultural environment of the Japanese American community.

Section 3 Exhibits

Project Number 1 **Saint Martin of Tours Catholic Church**
Los Angeles, California
Completed in 1989
Photographs 1, 2, 3

Project Number 2 **Marymount High School Library**
Los Angeles, California
Completed in 1988
Photographs 4, 5, 6

Project Number 3 **Yamashita Residence**
Los Angeles, California
Completed in 1975
Photographs 7, 8, 9

Project Number 4 **San Fernando Rey Mission Chapel**
San Fernando, California
Completed in 1975
Photographs 10, 11, 12

Project Number 5 **Saint Louise de Marillac Church**
Covina, California
Completed in 1974
Photographs 13, 14

Object **Los Angeles City Historical Society**
Supporting Newsletter
Article November 1990
Author: Portia Lee, Ph.D.

Section 3 Exhibits (continued)

Descriptive Data

Project Number 1 **St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church**
Interior renovation and addition
Los Angeles, California

Architect of Record O'Leary Terasawa Partners
AIA Architects

Designer Rudolph V. De Chellis, FAIA

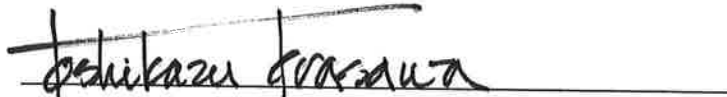
Completion 1989

Synopsis After 40 years, the church building needed major systems and structural repairs. The design challenge was to meet these needs and renovate the interior in accord with Vatican II guidelines. Other than strengthening the church tower, little alteration was done to the exterior. The sanctuary was rearranged to bring the altar closer to the congregation. The pews, seating 517, were repositioned for better viewing.

Recognition Honor Award, AIA/San Fernando Valley Chapter

Declaration of Responsibility I have personal knowledge of the nominee's responsibility for the project listed above. That responsibility included:

Nominee's firm executed design



Toshikazu Terasawa, FAIA, Partner
O'Leary Terasawa Partners
AIA Architects





Section 3 Exhibits (continued)

Descriptive Data

Project Number 2

Marymount High School Library
Los Angeles, California

Architect of Record

O'Leary Terasawa Partners
AIA Architects
Herman Stoller Coliver Architects

Designer

Takashi Shida, AIA

Completion

1988

Synopsis

Located at a historic Catholic girls high school, the library houses 20,000 volumes. The architect's challenge was to fit the building into a tight and sloping site and to make it compatible with existing Spanish Colonial building. The main reading area was designed as a flexible open space with "houses" that create intimate groupings for carrels.

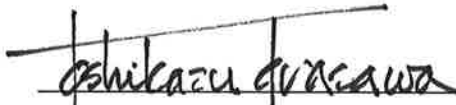
Recognition

Award of Merit, AIA/Los Angeles Chapter
Certificate of Distinction, AIA/San Fernando Valley Chapter

Declaration of Responsibility

I have personal knowledge of the nominee's responsibility for the project listed above. That responsibility included:

Largely responsible for design



Toshikazu Terasawa, FAIA, Partner
O'Leary Terasawa Partners
AIA Architects









Section 3 Exhibits (continued)

Descriptive Data

Project Number 3

Yamashita Residence
Monterey Park, California

Architect of Record

Takashi Shida, AIA

Designer

Takashi Shida, AIA

Completion

1975

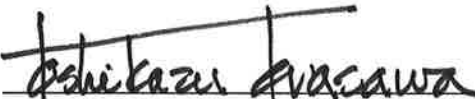
Synopsis

Situated on a city lot, the residence is designed for a family with three children. The plan revolves around the kitchen/family room with the major spaces oriented to the views at the rear. The front of the site has a play area, which is shielded from the street with a high wall. A landscaped berm scales down its height.

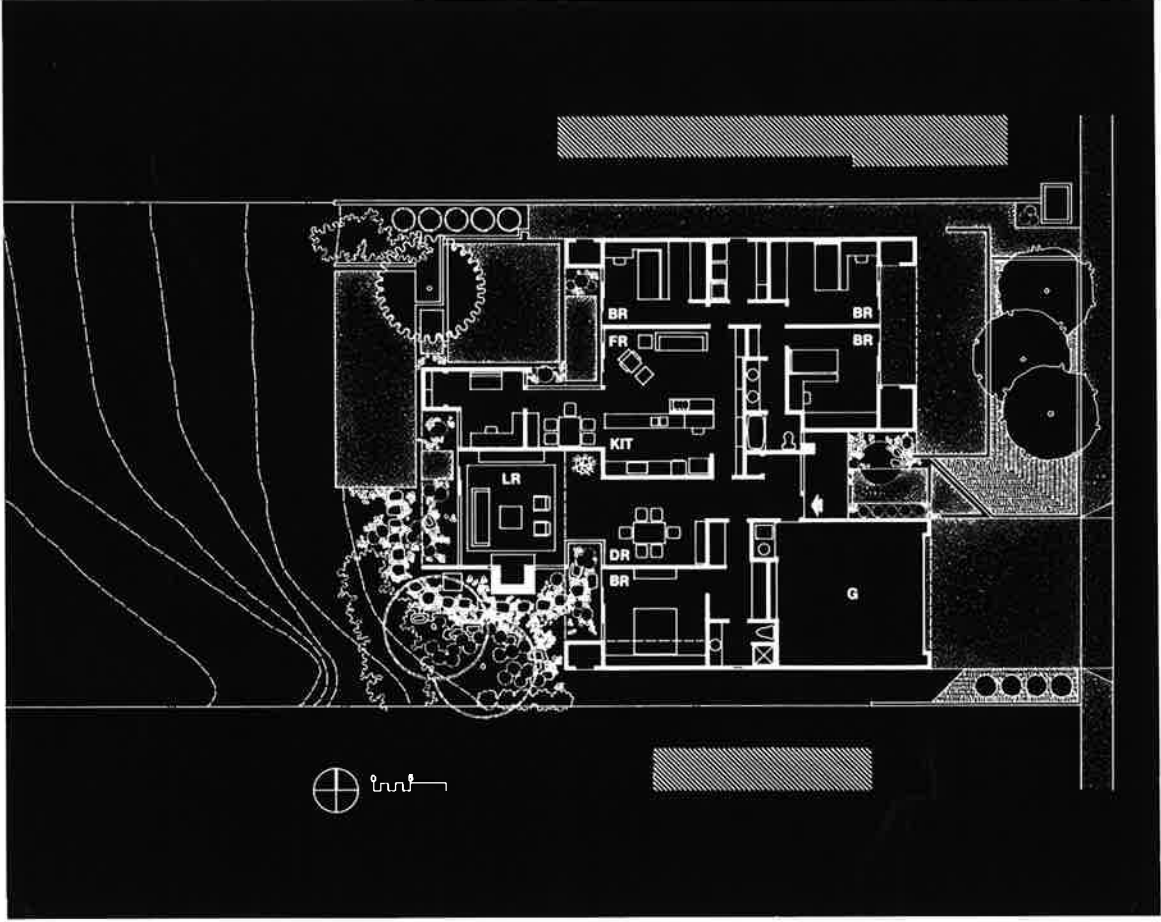
Declaration of Responsibility

I have personal knowledge of the nominee's responsibility for the project listed above. That responsibility included:

Solely responsible for design



Toshikazu Terasawa, FAIA, Partner
O'Leary Terasawa Partners
AIA Architects









Section 3 Exhibits (continued)

Descriptive Data

Project Number 4 **San Fernando Rey Mission
Chapel Replication
San Fernando, California**

**Architect of
Record** **O'Leary Terasawa Partners
AIA Architects**

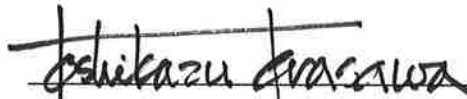
Designer **Takashi Shida, AIA**

Completion **1975**

Synopsis Severely earthquake-damaged, the Mission Chapel was rendered structurally unfit for private or public use. Studies determined that it would be economically unfeasible to restore the building. After careful research into its historical and architectural composition, the fourth Mission Chapel was built on the historic site, replicating the 1812 Chapel.

**Declaration of
Responsibility** I have personal knowledge of the nominee's responsibility for the project listed above. That responsibility included:

Largely responsible for design



Toshikazu Terasawa, FAIA, Partner
O'Leary Terasawa Partners
AIA Architects







Section 3 Exhibits (continued)

Descriptive Data

Project Number 5

**Saint Louise de Marillac Church
Covina, California**

**Architect of
Record**

O'Leary Terasawa Partners
AIA Architects

Designer

Takashi Shida, AIA

Completion

1974

Synopsis

The church seats approximately 800 and accommodates the new liturgy of that time and reflects the informality of lifestyle in the Southern California suburban community. The interior is finished in warm colors and natural materials which heighten the effect of the intimate scale. Special attention was given to acoustics and lighting to create a comfortable atmosphere. The stained glass and wood murals were developed by the artist in harmonious collaboration with the architect.

**Declaration of
Responsibility**

I have personal knowledge of the nominee's responsibility for the project listed above. That responsibility included:

Largely responsible for design



Toshikazu Terasawa, FAIA, Partner
O'Leary Terasawa Partners
AIA Architects





BOYLE HEIGHTS: A PRESERVATIONIST'S VIEW

**Los Angeles City
Historical Society
Newsletter
Founded 1978**

**Joseph Northrup
President**

**Portia Lee
Editor**

**Christie Bourdet
Circulation Manager**

Please send all dues
newsletter items and
correspondence to:

**LACHS
P.O. Box 41406
Los Angeles, CA 90041**

LACHS LIBRARY DEDICATED

A reception given by the Officers and Board of Directors of the Los Angeles City Historical Society on October 24th marked an important event in the annals of the Society. The placement of its reference library in the California Corner of the Southern California Genealogical Society Library.

The Los Angeles City Historical Society Library is a book collection of approximately 350 volume, emphasizing city and county history. Of particular interest is a collection of Los Angeles City Directories ranging from the 1920's to the 1940's.

The Historical, Society's Library Committee Chairman, Ray Wood, will be pleased to receive donations, which may be inscribed with the names, of the donor or designated honoree. Address Raymund F. Wood, P.O. Box 41046, Los Angeles, California 90041.

The Southern California Genealogical Society Library is located at 122 South San Fernando Boulevard in Burbank. Library hours: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 1st and 2nd Sundays; 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Tuesday.

Takashi Shida, Vice-President of Los Angeles' Cultural Heritage Commission and managing partner of the architectural firm of O'Leary Terasawa Partners, is what his teenage Latino neighbors would style a "true homeboy" Born in Los Angeles and raised in Boyle Heights, "Tak" speaks fondly of his home turf. "I like it here," he says, with his broad, friendly smile. "It's a comfortable place with a genuine sense of neighborhood."

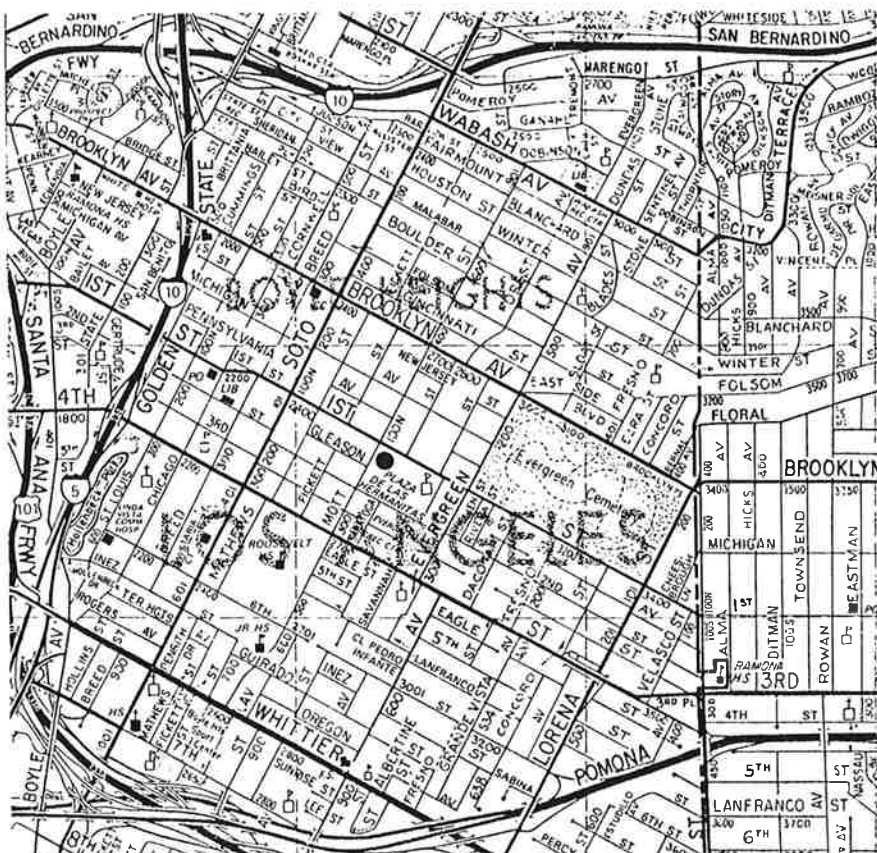
Shida, who remembers fishing as a boy in Hollenbeck Park, considers the green landscape with its wide lake and tree islands one of the community's finest assets. "The way it's been sculpted out of the terrain is wonderful," he said

The physical beauty of the Heights - Paredon Blanco or "white bluff" - the edge of the mesa east of the Los Angeles River the natural ravines and gently rolling terrain attracted early settlers of the Pueblo. After the arrival of the railroads in the 1880's, the mesa developed into one of the the city's first exclusive residential areas. By the 1920's, over 70% of the existing housing stock had been built and commercial and social centers developed.

Boyle Heights had become a composite of city neighborhoods with a variety of housing styles and densities.

The physical environment began to change in the period before the Second World War. Industry expanded into the northern, western and southern edges of the community. Eventually 26% of the land was occupied by industrial uses. In the 50's and 60's, Boyle Heights was negatively impacted by the placement of four major freeways. Route 5, the Golden State Freeway, even intruded on the west boundary of Hollenbeck Park.

The community's first immigrants came from the eastern and mid-western United States, soon to be followed by the Molokan Russians and Jews. Ethnic diversity expanded as Japanese and Mexican families moved in. However, by 1950 one-half of the population was Mexican or Mexican American. In the '40's and '50's. the community's Jewish population dispersed to the westside of Los Angeles. Congregation Talmud Torah, the Breed Street Schul, which Commissioner Shida identifies as cultural Heritage Monument #359, is the only synagogue remaining of



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the more than 30 that once served the area.

The substantial Japanese population in the area was displaced by the military evacuation of 1942 and only a small number returned after the war. The Japanese presence in the area and the role the group played in national and local history remains apparent in two area institutions: the Tenrikyo Church and Cultural Center and Risso Kosei-Kai Bhuddhist Temple.

Boyle Heights' Evergreen Cemetery, which had its first burial in 1876, has become one of the primary burial sites for Californians of Japanese ancestry and for many of the soldiers who fought in Italy with the most-decorated 442nd Division. A memorial just to the north of the entrance gate commemorates American soldiers of Japanese descent who fought in World War II and the Korean War. Shida also pointed out that the Cultural Heritage Commission recently declared a historic Chinese funeral shrine within the cemetery, which has the gravesite of many early Los Angeles pioneers.

Today, population pressures are again bringing growth to the small community. Local residents like Tak Shida are fearful that its low-rise residential character is threatened. The Community Redevelopment Agency has set up the Boyle Heights Revitalization Area, identifying National Register eligible properties and the Mount Pleasant District of 43 contributing properties, as a collection of noteworthy architectural styles. In addition, CRA operates a low interest, home improvement loan program to permit owners to paint, landscape and make needed exterior repairs to the aging housing stock, particularly the area's charming Queen Anne cottages. All changes to properties identified as historic, or falling inside the Mount Pleasant District, must conform to Secretary of Interior Guidelines.

While there have been some successful restorations, architect Shida is not completely sold on the program. "I'm afraid it may have resulted in some insensitive changes," he said, "particularly stuccoing over. What may be equally important is an education campaign that will give local property owners a sense of the value and beauty of the historic resources they have," he commented.



Takashi Shida, AIA, vice president of the Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Commission

For an introduction to the multi-cultural fabric of Boyle Heights, Shida recommends following the pathways laid out in Gebhard and Winter's guidebook, Architecture in Los Angeles: A Compleat Guide. Another excellent way to explore the Heights by foot is to get a copy of Robert John Pierson's "A Walk on the Eastside," printed in Part V of the Los Angeles Times, May 2, 1987. A interesting history by a descendant of the area's early pioneers is Boyle Workman, The City That Grew.

NOMINEES FOR 1991 LACHS BOARD ANNOUNCED

Los Angeles Historical Society Nominating Committee Chairman Patricia Bowie and the members of her committee, David L. Clark, David Cameron and Rob Freeman, are submitting names of Board nominees to the membership for their approval. The election will be held at the annual meeting in December in conjunction with the Christmas dinner at Adam's Rib.

COUNTY HISTORICAL RECORDS GUIDE BEING PREPARED

Los Angeles County has funded the publication of a Guide to County Historical Records with a one-year grant for \$30,000 from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. The Guide will include descriptions of significant historical records located in each County department as well as administrative histories of each department. Gabriele Carey is Supervisory Archivist and Robert Bauman, Deputy Archivist, for the project.

Life member Marcus Russek has been nominated to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Teena Stern. Bernice Kimball, David L. Clark, Patricia Bowie and Irene Tresun have each been nominated for a second 3-year term. Anita Freeman has been asked to run for her first 2-year term.

Section 4 Reference Letters

First-Year References

1. **Hon. Thomas Bradley**
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Was nominee's former mayor
2. **Robert S. Harris, FAIA**
University of Southern California
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Past Dean of School of Architecture, University of Southern California
Professional Colleague
3. **Irene Hirano**
Japanese American National Museum
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Los Angeles, California 90012
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President
Nominee served Museum in various capacities
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5. **Jerrold E. Lomax, FAIA**
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Professional Colleague
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Past Chairman and President
Professional Colleague
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