



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

**To:** Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee  
**Date:** June 6, 2018

**From:** Jane Fernyhough  
 Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services  
**File:** 11-7000-09-20-238/Vol 01

**Re:** **Nikkei Memorial Public Art Project Concept**

### Staff Recommendation

That the concept proposal and installation of the Nikkei Memorial Public Art Project by Hapa Collaborative, as presented in the staff report titled, "Nikkei Memorial Public Art Project Concept," dated June 6, 2018, from the Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services, be endorsed.

Jane Fernyhough  
 Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services  
 (604-276-4288)

Att. 2

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Parks Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE	INITIALS: 	APPROVED BY CAO 

## Staff Report

### Origin

On July 24, 2017, Council endorsed the terms of reference and funding sources for issuance of an artist call for the Nikkei Memorial Public Art Project, as described in the staff report titled, "Nikkei Memorial Public Art Project Terms of Reference," for establishing a memorial to commemorate the internment of Richmond residents of Japanese descent in the city.

The memorial was initiated by the Steveston Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre (SJCCC) Nikkei Memorial Committee, which identified themes for a suitable memorial to the Nikkei pioneers.

These include:

- commemoration of the resilience, perseverance and community building of the first, second and third generations of Nikkei;
- a memorial to these Nikkei pioneers in surmounting the injustice and racism they suffered during WWII; and
- the return after internment to Steveston to become contributing members of society.

The SJCCC Nikkei Memorial Committee is open to a variety of artistic expressions that can address the themes, as identified above, in an artwork that is durable, memorable and educational.

Following the Council approval of the Terms of Reference on July 24, 2017, City staff worked with the SJCCC Nikkei Memorial Committee to initiate an artist selection process. The recommended artist was then retained to lead a community engagement process with community stakeholders and to develop a concept proposal based on the interviews and discussions with members of the Nikkei community.

This report brings forward the public art concept for the Nikkei Memorial Public Art Project by Hapa Collaborative to Council for approval to proceed with detailed design, fabrication and installation. The SJCCC Nikkei Memorial Committee has reviewed the concept proposal and recommends endorsement.

This report supports Council's 2014-2018 Term Goal #2 A Vibrant, Active and Connected City:

*Continue the development and implementation of an excellent and accessible system of programs, services, and public spaces that reflect Richmond's demographics, rich heritage, diverse needs, and unique opportunities, and that facilitate active, caring, and connected communities.*

*2.1. Strong neighbourhoods.*

*2.3. Outstanding places, programs and services that support active living, wellness and a sense of belonging.*

*2.4. Vibrant arts, culture and heritage opportunities.*

## **Analysis**

### Public Art Selection Process

On September 22, 2017, an Artist Call for the Nikkei Memorial Public Art Project was issued to select and contract an artist, or artist team, with a deadline of October 24, 2017. Professional artists and artist teams residing in Canada were eligible. The Call was widely promoted, and in particular to the Nikkei community, through nationwide advertisements in the *The Bulletin: A Journal of Japanese Canadian Community, History & Culture*, through national online artist resource Akimbo, and on the City's Public Art Program web site.

During the first stage of the selection process, there were 29 submissions by artists from across Canada, representing a high standard of creative practices. On November 20, 2017, following the Public Art Program's administrative procedures for artist selection for public art projects, a selection panel comprised of Richmond residents and arts professionals with in-depth knowledge of the Nikkei internment history reviewed the submissions.

Members of the selection panel included:

- Brenda Yttri, President, Steveston Community Society;
- Bud Sakamoto, architect, artist, historian;
- Joyce Kamikura, artist;
- Kelvin Higo, Steveston Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre; and
- Sherri Kajiwara, Director, Curator, Nikkei National Museum.

City staff from Parks, the Public Art Program and Museum and Heritage Services attended the selection panel meeting to provide project background and to address technical questions.

In reviewing the submissions, the selection panel considered how the artists' letters of interest responded to the themes identified in the artist call and the potential to create a compelling work of art as evidenced in the samples of past projects provided by the applicants.

These criteria included the artist's:

- qualifications as demonstrated by creativity, quality and skill of previous work;
- potential for making an engaging artwork of remembrance, suitable for a diversity of audiences;
- understanding of the relevance of the site and its histories; and
- capacity to work with other design professionals and the community.

Following discussion and deliberation, the panel shortlisted five artists and artist teams to prepare a presentation about their practice and attend an interview with the selection panel.

The five artists and artist teams were:

- Dean and Christina Lauzé, Mission, BC;
- Hapa Collaborative, Vancouver, BC;
- Norm Williams, Abbotsford, BC;
- Nathan Scott, Saanichton, BC; and.
- PFS Studio and Cindy Mochizuki, Vancouver, BC.

On November 27, 2017, the selection panel met to interview the five shortlisted artist teams. Following considered deliberation and discussion, the panel recommended the artist team Hapa Collaborative for the commission. The panel praised the team for its knowledge of the Nikkei story and personal connection with the experience of internment and return.

### Recommended Artist

The artist team Hapa Collaborative, led by principal Joseph Fry with Hanako Amaya and Pengfei Du, has extensive public art and landscape design experience. In 2012, Hapa Collaborative teamed with artist Al McWilliams and architects Joost Bakker and Bruce Haden on the Royal Canadian Navy Monument in Ottawa. Hapa Collaborative, a landscape architecture firm with experience working in Richmond, has created a wide variety of meaningful and innovative projects. Their stated goal is “to evoke the poetry of the place and in doing so reveal something delightful but perhaps previously unseen.”

### Community Engagement

The preliminary phase of the project implementation required that the recommended artist engage with the SJCCC Nikkei Memorial Committee and the Steveston Japanese Canadian community to develop a concept proposal that addresses their aspirations for this significant project.

The artists were contracted for an initial scope of work, including research and site assessment, public engagement and concept design.

Following an assessment of the sites available near the Steveston Tram Building, the team conducted a public engagement phase. Hapa Collaborative met with stakeholder groups and individuals, to hear about their experiences before, during and after the internment period and to understand their aspirations for the memorial project. In addition to the interviews, the team held innovative workshops where participants were asked to answer a series of six questions about their experiences that informed the development of the concept proposal. The responses to the six questions were combined into six-sided lanterns and were displayed in the lobby of the Steveston Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre.

A summary of the community engagement is presented in Attachment 1.

### Recommended Public Art Concept Proposal

On March 9, 2018, the design team for Hapa Collaborative presented the findings from the community engagement and the preliminary concept proposal to the SJCCC Nikkei Memorial Committee and City staff. Hapa Collaborative presented a series of key design themes and a landscape plan to use the open space to the west of the Tram Building and east of No. 1 Road. The proposed location in the open space between the Tram Building and No. 1 Road was supported. The concept proposal included a plum tree, paving patterns based on the hand-made origami mats created by seniors at the SJCCC and carved stones, each with a symbolic meaning. Following discussion, the Committee requested that Hapa refine their design and focus on four main themes to develop the concept for a second presentation.

The four themes considered for further development were:

- displacement/return of the Japanese Canadian community;
- a realistic/representational sculpture with a strong symbolic and emotionally resonant theme (including resilience);
- inclusion of the return of the Nikkei and their contribution to community building; and
- education.

On May 10, 2018, Hapa Collaborative presented the Detailed Concept Proposal to the SJCCC Nikkei Memorial Committee and City staff. Using the feedback from the Committee members, Hapa Collaborative developed a concept design which addresses the displacement and return of Japanese Canadians, pays tribute to Issei and Nisei generations and provides a metaphor for resilience. These themes are expressed in topographies, pathways, plantings and landscape elements including plantings, paving patterns, stone monuments and lanterns.

Attachment 2 provides detailed information about the proposal.

The artist describes the artwork as follows:

“The Nikkei Memorial artwork is a project that addresses global issues of xenophobia through personal stories and shows human resilience supported by a tightly-knit community.”

A technical review and coordination phase with the City design team will be included with the Design Development phase of the artwork. The final location and relationship to existing trees will be determined at the technical review and co-ordination phase. The artist team, City staff and the SJCCC Nikkei Memorial Committee will continue to meet to review construction coordination and implementation budgets.

On March 13, 2018, staff provided an update on the selection process and the preliminary concept proposal to the Public Art Advisory Committee (RPAAC). It was noted that the Hapa Collaborative design process engaged a variety of different groups in Richmond on their connections to the Japanese internment.

On June 12, 2018, the Public Art Advisory Committee reviewed the community engagement summary and the detailed concept proposal. They endorsed the *Nikkei Memorial* project by Hapa Collaborative as presented. It was noted that the large scale of this memorial will have a positive impact on the open space and also noted the importance of place-making. Recommendations raised by the Committee concerning the educational program and opportunities for seating will be addressed by the artist during design development.

### Financial Analysis

The project is fully-funded and the endorsement of the report will not have any financial implications.

The total budget for the Nikkei Memorial is \$350,000. For this project, \$30,000 is funded by the Public Art Program from existing funds in the approved 2017 Public Art Capital Project, and \$300,000 from the Council Provision. An estimated \$20,000 will be raised through donations by the Steveston Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre Nikkei Memorial Committee. The Five-Year Financial Plan (2017-2021) has been amended to include the \$320,000 additional expenditure funded by the Council Provision for \$300,000 and contributions from the Nikkei Memorial Committee for \$20,000. The ongoing maintenance for this memorial would be the responsibility of the Public Art Program, from existing funds set aside for maintenance.

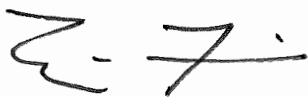
### **Financial Impact**

None

### **Conclusion**

The Nikkei Memorial public artwork provides an opportunity to create a meaningful public memorial to acknowledge the Japanese Canadian departure from Steveston and the period of internment. A major memorial located adjacent to the Steveston Tram Building in Steveston Park, the departure and return point for many interned Nikkei, will be a lasting legacy to the spirit and resilience of the Nikkei pioneers.

Staff recommend that Council endorse the proposed artwork concept and installation of the Nikkei Memorial public artwork, by the artist team Hapa Collaborative.



Eric Fiss  
Public Art Planner  
(604-247-4612)

- Att. 1: Nikkei Memorial Community Engagement
- 2: Nikkei Memorial Concept

## Nikkei Memorial Community Engagement

### Group engagement

Hapa Collaborative conducted two group public engagement events on January 17 and 19, 2018 with a total of 17 stakeholders. Engagement events involved project introduction, discussion and a questionnaire to the stakeholders.

Representatives of the following stakeholder groups attended public engagement events:

- Steveston Community Society
- Steveston Buddhist Temple
- Steveston Judo Club
- Steveston Japanese Language School
- Tatsumi Dance Troupe
- Steveston Historical Society

### *Questionnaire Cards*





### Individual engagement

Individual interviews followed the group engagement to understand more personal stories. Hapa Collaborative conducted individual interviews with five people selected by the Nikkei Memorial Committee and Hapa Collaborative either by meeting in person or by phone.

The following community members were each individually interviewed:

- Mr. Toshio Murao – Elder in Steveston Nikkei community who spent time in a POW camp during WW2.
- Mr. Glen Kishi – Long-time resident of Steveston, whose father owned Kishi boatworks for many years.
- Mr. Dave Hamaguchi – Member of family that owned a grocery store in Steveston pre-war.
- Mr. Hap Hirata – President of Steveston Judo Club and long-time resident of Steveston, whose father was a fisherman and mother was a cannery worker.
- Ms. Irene Shiho – Wife of a Steveston grocery store owner.





Seniors lunch event

Hapa Collaborative was invited to join a Seniors lunch event on January 27, 2018, to introduce the project to an estimated 80 Steveston elders. Hapa Collaborative also distributed a questionnaire for further responses.



Completed Questionnaires

Over 80 years old

What do you worry about?  
**MY CHILDREN TO REMEMBER  
 THEIR HERITAGE**

What do you wish for?  
**NO THING**

What do you wish for?  
*Peace in the world*

What do you wish for?  
 I WISH MY FAMILY IS ALL  
 well

What do you wish for?  
*a good life for my children &  
 grand children & great*

写し  
ありません  
何を  
お望み  
ですか

何を  
お望み  
ですか

家族の健康を  
幸せも望みます。

私には今の所の健康が  
お祈りしてもいい  
が何れは心も  
くもる事も心も願  
います。

Under 80 years old

What do you wish for?  
*The younger generation to gain an  
 appreciation of the hardships endured  
 by those growing up during the war.*

What do you remember?  
**HOW HARD OUR PARENTS WORK TO  
 ACHIEVE THEIR GOALS.**

I worry that the courage to come back and the sacrifices shown  
 by those that came back is misappreciated or forgotten by the  
 new waves to America. **What do you worry about?**  
 The story and honors of those who returned and helped to  
 rebuild this great nation must be kept alive.

What do you wish for?  
*My son is healthy & fortunate  
 to have a good job & a  
 good wife & children.*

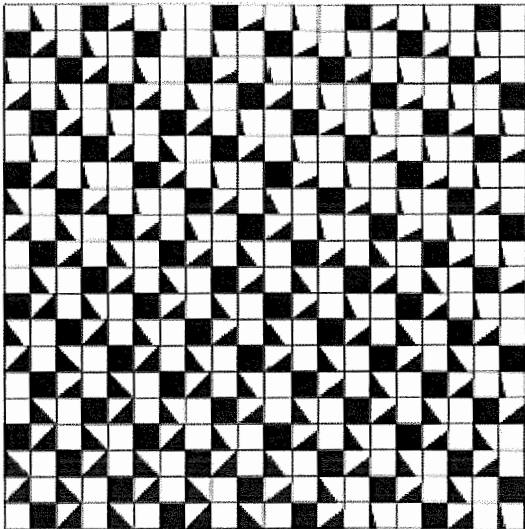
What have you forgotten?  
**Being Japanese I often forget the hardships my father  
 & grandfathers generation dealt with. Plus all the hard work my  
 parents have done for me & my siblings**

What have you forgotten?  
**HOW OUR PARENTS WORKED SO HARD  
 TO RE-ESTABLISH THEMSELVES IN  
 AMERICA**

日本社会の方が  
 一から  
 強えて  
 いく  
 こと  
 だ  
 と思います。

**Nikkei Memorial Concept**

**Hapa Collaborative**



**NIKKEI MEMORIAL PUBLIC ART PROJECT**  
**May 10th , 2018**



## **KEY DESIGN ELEMENTS**

Through the public engagement processes, Hapa Collaborative received the following suggestions for themes for the Nikkei Memorial:

- metaphor for resilience
- tribute to Issei and Nisei generations
- an honorific to women
- displacement/return of the Japanese Canadians
- an emotional and contemplative space
- realistic/representational sculpture with a strong symbolic and emotionally resonant theme
- a complementary space
- robust and easy maintenance
- inclusion of the return of the Nikkei and their contribution to community building.
- educational

In consideration of the feedback, Hapa Collaborative developed and presented the following four design elements as the key components for the Nikkei Memorial:

**PLANTING**

**PAVING**

**STONES**

**LANTERN**



# OVERALL PLAN



Preliminary site plan.

## KEY DESIGN ELEMENTS: PLANTING

Over 80% of the Steveston Japanese Canadian residents are originally from Wakayama, where more than 60% of the plums in Japan are produced.

Umeboshi, pickled plums, are commonly made in the Japanese Canadian community in Steveston and were even made at the internment sites. Hapa Collaborative chose the plum tree to represent Japanese Canadians' cultural identity and their origins.

A plum tree is proposed to represent this strong cultural connection.



Plum flower and Umeboshi (Plum pickles).



## KEY DESIGN ELEMENTS: PAVING



### ISHIDATAMI AMI 石畳編み

*'Telling the Story of the Nikkei encompasses global themes of injustice, racism, displacement, and ultimately human capacities for resilience and forgiveness.'*

- Morita Simpson, Telling the Stories of Nikkel - New Denver



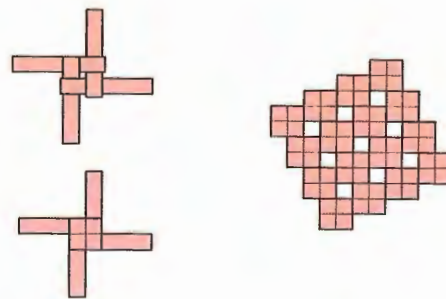
Origami weaving at Seniors Centre.

During the internment, Japanese Canadian mothers made placemats, baskets and coasters by using fruit and salmon packaging labels. Hapa Collaborative felt that the act of crafting the placemat, something which only people who practice the traditional aspects of Japanese culture would use, shows quiet defiance to the situation they were forced into and also shows how this tightly-knit community overcame the difficult time. This origami weaving is still continued by the Steveston Origami Club at the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre.

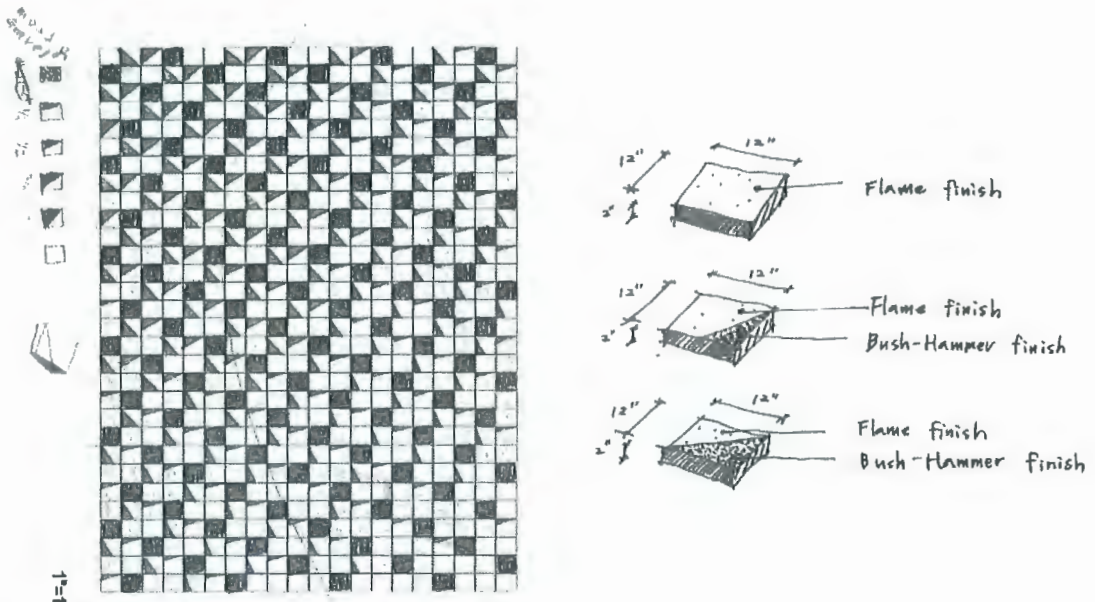
Hapa Collaborative developed paving patterns based on this to honour women, and the resiliency of the community.



Placemat weaving pattern.



Hapa Collaborative studied how the placemat was made and its repeating patterns. It consists of four squares and a single square gap between them.



Weaving pattern translated into stone paving pattern.

Based on the origami weaving study, paving patterns were developed. The four squares became stones with triangle shapes created by different finishes. The single gap can be a different colour stone or a simply a gap with gravel.



Example of ground cover and pavers.

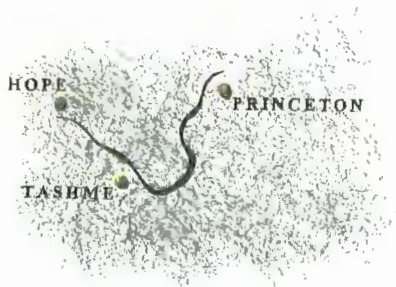
The stone paving patterns could be softer with ground covers where the plum tree is located, suggesting that people slow down and contemplate.







Simplified location map applied to the stone.



Dome shaped bronze buttons and engraved location names.



Under the plum tree, the residual stone pieces that came from shaping the large stone monuments are laid flat. The circular smooth concave shape collects rainwater and becomes a reflecting mirror for contemplation and self reflection.

Hapa Collaborative suggests that quotes or poems could be placed on the stones. The following are examples of quotes, poems and responses from the public engagement events.

### Quotes

*And I remember how carefully my parents were  
Not to bruise us with bitterness*

*Jay Kogawa, My internment experience*

*Let our experience be a warning*

*Ken Adachi, The enemy that never was*

*It Could Happen Again - You ask , if it could happen again? I'd like to say no but I don't believe it. I don't think human nature changes that much. There is still hysteria, still racial prejudice, still economic pressure, and I would say that today we have more selfishness than we've ever had in our past history, individual as well as collective selfishness. I'm okay, to hell with you- that sort of thing. You find it , whether you go into the trade union movement or big business or any pocket in a city or in the country, it is there. And I think it is worse than it ever has been. So I am afraid that it all could happen again.*

*Frank Morisuga, Years of Sorrow, years of shame*

*The goal of Japanese Canadians lies in the future. He works hard for future peace or security, he sacrifices his present for that so he accepts having a hard life now. But Westerner places all importance on his present life. Maybe he thinks about the future, but he puts more emphasis on the present*

*Rintaro Hayashi*

*History of Japanese Ancestry in Steveston:  
From despair into discrimination, to deportation and dispossession and then returning to build a better community*

*Don Mukai*

*LIVED HERE  
DISPLACED  
DISPOSSESSED  
BUT RETURNED  
AND HELPED BUILD THIS COMMUNITY*

*Canadians of Japanese Descent  
1942-1949*

### Sample quotes

### Poems During War - Post War

*Against such a thing as tears  
Resolved,  
When leaving of home.  
Yet at that departure whistle,  
My eyes fill.*

*Takeo Ujo Nakano*

*I thought I would only be temporary  
In this Mountain country  
Accumulate another year  
As snow deepens*

*Unknown, Stone Voices*

*Icicles  
Bar the north-side window-  
My house a cage*

*Chie Kamegaya, Seasons in New Denver*

*Prejudice and  
Discrimination endured.  
That was long ago,  
Looking back upon the past  
Enjoy the present*

*Seizen Shiga, Maple-Poetry by Japanese Canadians*

*"Our dark cloud of a half century dissipated  
The fairest day  
in Japanese-Canadian history  
Dawns  
Our joy is unsurpassable*

*Ujo Nakano*

*Springtime sleep  
Peaceful now, my ashes  
Will be cared for*

*Chie Kamegaya, Seasons in New Denver*

### Sample poems

## Parents - Children

私には今何の望みもありませんが  
子供達、家族が何時迄も  
仲良く元気に暮らしてくれる事を  
心より願っています

私達の両親が  
どれだけ一生懸命で  
ステイブ・ストーンを再建してくれたか  
もう忘れてしまいました

*I have forgotten  
how our parents worked so hard  
to reestablish themselves in Sleveton*

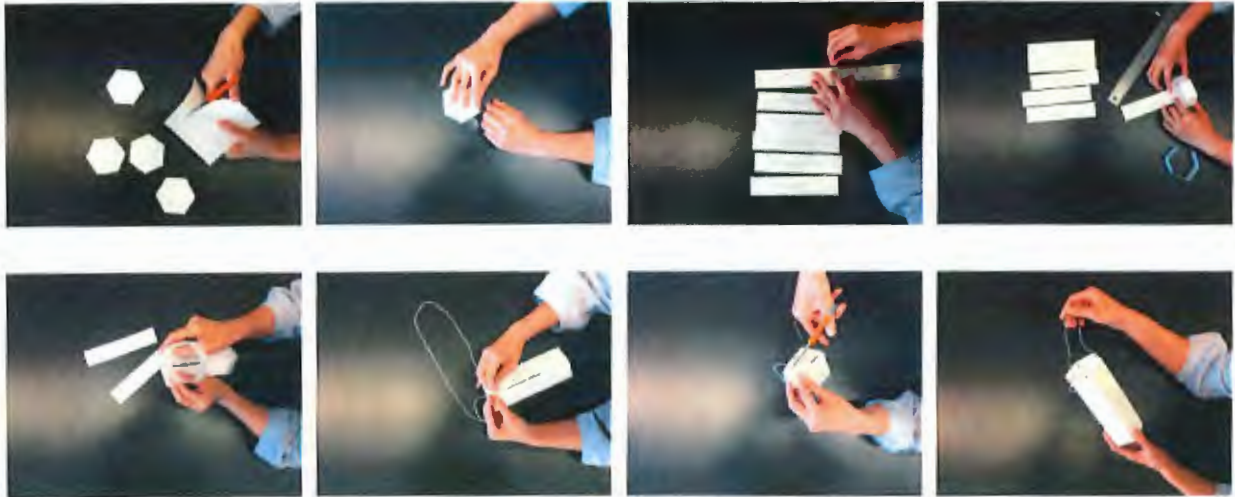
*I don't have wishes for myself  
but only wish that my children and family  
get along and remain in good health*

Responses to the question cards from the engagement events.

One sample was taken from the group of people over 80 years old (Issei and Nisei generations who experienced the displacement) and the other from the group of people under 80 years old (children and grandchildren of the Issei and Nisei generations).



## KEY DESIGN ELEMENTS: LANTERNS



Lanterns were made from the replies to the question cards.

Visual or audible signs to attract the public to the memorial site was requested by the Nikkei Memorial Committee. The lanterns created from the questionnaire cards have LED lights inside and could hang from the surrounding trees on the site's opening day or for a special commemoration day. The craft making could be a part of a school program or public involvement event for educational purposes.



Demonstration of the lantern installation at the presentation to the SJCC Nikkei Memorial Committee.



Lanterns with LED tea lights to be placed in the trees and overhead during an annual event to commemorate the internment and return.



Lanterns hanging from trees during daytime.