**PANELIST LINKS – SECRETARY SPEAKER SERIES**

**Preserving Heritage:**

**Unveiling the Narrative of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in California**

May 29, 2024

**Secretary Speaker Series:** <https://resources.ca.gov/About-Us/Secretary-Speaker-Series>

**Secretary Wade Crowfoot:** <https://resources.ca.gov/About-Us/Who-We-Are/Secretary-for-Natural-Resources>

**Celebrate AAPI Heritage Month with us:** [**https://resources.ca.gov/aapiheritagemonth**](https://resources.ca.gov/aapiheritagemonth)

**Celebrate Pride with Us!** [**https://resources.ca.gov/pride**](https://resources.ca.gov/pride)

**California State Parks Office of Historic Preservation**: <https://ohp.parks.ca.gov/>

About the Office of Historic Preservation: <https://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=27961>

**California State Parks:** <https://www.parks.ca.gov/>

**Julianne Polanco, State Historic Preservation Officer, Office of Historic Preservation, California State Parks**

**Historic Contexts Library**: <https://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=24544>

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in California 1850-1995:<https://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=30573>

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in California, 1850-1995***Multiple Property Submission (MPS):*** <https://ohp.parks.ca.gov/pages/1054/files/CA_Multiple%20Counties_AAPI%20in%20CA%20MPS_Amended%20MPDF.pdf>

**Dr. Kristen Hayashi, Director of Collections Management & Access and Curator** Japanese American National Museum (JANM) - <https://www.janm.org/>

More about Dr. Hayashi: <https://www.janm.org/press/release/japanese-american-national-museum-collections-manager-selected-smithsonian-visiting>

JANM's Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/jamuseum/?hl=en> @jamuseum

Little Tokyo Historical Society <https://www.littletokyohs.org/>

LTHS' Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/littletokyo_historical_society/?hl=en> @littletokyo\_historical\_society

Asian Pacific Islanders in Historic Preservation: <https://apiahip.org/>

APIAHiP Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/apiahip/> @apiahip

Climates of Inequity: <https://www.janm.org/events/2023-09-30/climates-inequality-symposium>

**Dr. Dorothy Fujita-Rony, Associate Professor, Asian American Studies, UC Irvine**

More about Dr. Fujita-Rony: <https://www.faculty.uci.edu/profile/?facultyId=4874>

UC Irvine: <https://uci.edu/>

Asian American Studies UC Irvine School of Humanities: <https://www.humanities.uci.edu/aas>

Author Dr. Fujita- Rony, *American Workers, Colonial Power*: <https://www.ucpress.edu/book/9780520230958/american-workers-colonial-power>

**Laurie Watanuki, Former San Mateo Public Works Commissioner and Co-Founder Central Neighborhood Association (San Mateo)**

More about Laurie: <https://www.cnasanmateo.com/our-board>

San Mateo Heritage Alliance: <https://www.smheritage.org/who-we-are>

Central Neighborhood Association (San Mateo): <https://www.cnasanmateo.com/>

San Mateo home honors the history of Japanese American family – San Mateo Daily Journal:

<https://www.smdailyjournal.com/news/local/san-mateo-home-honors-the-history-of-japanese-american-family/article_94da9b74-14c1-11ef-87bd-ab4c45df95fc.html>

**Panelist Bios:**

**Julianne Polanco**

California’s State Historic Preservation Officer since 2015, Julianne Polanco was also member and Chair of the State Historical Resources Commission for a decade. She served the several California Governors in the areas of environmental protection, waste management, recycling, mines and geology, and land conservation.

The Office of Historic Preservation implements several State and Federal regulatory programs that ensure historic properties are considered in a myriad of development actions. It manages processes that designate properties to the California Register of Historic Resources and National Register of Historic Places, to name a few. The federal Historic Tax Credit process is a key program that OHP oversees. Engagement with Tribal and local governments as well as communities throughout California is a key role of the office. The SHPO also serves as the executive director of the State Historical Resource Commission, a nine-body entity appointed by the Governor to advise on historic preservation matters.

Juli has worked in the development sector, as an acting preservation officer for the Presidio Trust and for several non-profits including the World Monuments Fund. One of her most formative roles was as staff to Congressman Robert T. Matsui in the areas of labor, health care, the military, veterans’ affairs and the environment. She is also experienced in the retail stock brokerage arena.

She is especially focused on the intersection of cultural heritage and climate action, helping to create pathways for indigenous and adjacent communities to raise their voices to create inclusive, just, low carbon stewardship frameworks. She is a founding member and Immediate Past Co-Chair of the Climate Heritage Network and a Senior Advisor to the National Geographic Preserving Legacies project.

Juli holds degrees from the University of California Santa Barbara (Bachelor of Science, Political Science/International Relations) and Columbia University (Master of Science, Historic Preservation).

**Dr. Kristen Hayashi**

Kristen Hayashi, Ph.D. is director of collections management & access and a curator at the Japanese American National Museum https://www.janm.org/, where she oversees the permanent collection and curates content through exhibitions and public programs. Previously, she worked at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County in various capacities within research and collections, including as part of the curatorial team for the Becoming Los Angeles exhibition. In addition to her work in museums, she is also involved in historic preservation work and has authored several historic cultural monument nominations for buildings in Los Angeles. She currently serves on the board of directors for the Little Tokyo Historical Society and Asian Pacific Islanders in Historic Preservation (APIAHiP). Hayashi earned a Ph.D. in History from the University of California, Riverside. Her dissertation research examined the return and resettlement of Japanese Americans to Los Angeles in the early post-WWII period.

**Dr. Dorothy Fujita-Rony**

Dorothy Fujita-Rony is a Professor in the Department of Asian American Studies at University of California, Irvine UC Irvine - Faculty Profile System. She is the author of American Workers, Colonial Power: Philippine Seattle and the Transpacific West, 1919-1941 (University of California Press, 2003) and The Memorykeepers: Gendered Knowledges, Empires, and Indonesian American History (Brill Publishers, 2021). Fujita-Rony has worked with different public history organizations since the late 1980s, including the Museum of Chinese in the Americas, the Filipino American National Historical Society, and the Southeast Asian Archive at University of California, Irvine (UCI). She earned her undergraduate and graduate degrees from the Department of American Studies, Yale University.

**Laurie Watanuki**

Born and raised in San Mateo, California, Laura (Laurie) Watanuki was Director and Co-Founder of the Central Neighborhood Association www.cnasanmateo.com and continues her service to that organization as a board member. She is also a board member of the San Mateo Heritage Alliance www.smheritage.com. She served on the City of San Mateo Public Works Commission and completed both the San Mateo City Services Academy and the San Mateo Chamber of Commerce Leadership Program. A marketing and systems engineer for IBM (Office Systems) for twelve years, Watanuki has also been a real estate property manager for more than thirty years. Her education includes a BA in Social Science from Michigan State University and a year at Ura-Senke—one of the main schools of the Japanese tea ceremony—in Kyoto, Japan. Interests include hiking, skiing, traveling, and exploring restaurants.