

VII. STANDING COMMITTEES**B. Finance, Audit and Facilities Committee****UW Tacoma Japanese Language School Memorial – Approve Donor Naming Opportunities Plan****RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

It is the recommendation of the administration and the Finance, Audit and Facilities Committee that the Board of Regents approve the attached Japanese Language School Memorial Donor Naming Opportunities Plan dated April 18, 2011.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Japanese Language School Memorial (JLSM), which will be integrated into the development of the Hood Corridor at UW Tacoma, will capture the heritage of the historic Japanese Language School of Tacoma, known as Nihongo Gakko. The JLSM will use a large bronze sculpture, roughly 9 feet in height, landscaping, and plaques set into a retaining wall to tell the story of the Japanese Language School and the Japanese-American community that thrived in Tacoma.

UW Tacoma was forced to demolish the original Japanese Language School (JLS) building in 2004 because it had become a dilapidated public hazard and we are happy to have this opportunity to give the Japanese Language School the community recognition it deserves.

BACKGROUND:

The JLS building was purchased with site acquisition funding in 1990. The building was at the far end of the campus footprint, away from active campus development. In 2004, consultants determined the wooden building had deteriorated to the point where it could not be restored with historic integrity and recommended establishing a memorial, thereby ending efforts to find an investor to restore and lease the building. Kenichi Nakano, a prominent landscape architect in Seattle, donated the original design concept for the Japanese Language School Memorial in 2006. Fundraising for construction funds stalled when the lead volunteer, a prominent member of the regional Japanese-American community, passed away. The project was revived last year when the university devised a plan to integrate the memorial into its next phase of campus construction, resulting in a lower project cost. Mr. Nakano and his partner on the project, prominent Seattle sculptor Gerard Ttsutakawa (creator of the bronze mitt sculpture outside Safeco Field), in collaboration with an advisory group of former JLS students, redesigned the memorial for the new location and lower budget.

VII. STANDING COMMITTEES

B. Finance, Audit and Facilities Committee

UW Tacoma Japanese Language School Memorial – Approve Donor Naming Opportunities Plan (continued p. 2)

The Japanese Language School is an enduring symbol of the power of education to inspire an immigrant community to retain its heritage while embracing the values and culture of its new homeland. Children from throughout the community walked from their public school to the Japanese Language School each day for a few additional hours of instruction in the writing and arts of their native country. Several of the former students who live in Tacoma, now in their 80s and 90s, continue to share with the community their gifts in calligraphy, flower arranging, Sumi and other arts learned at the school. The school, built with funds raised by the leaders of the community, became a central gathering place for meetings and events. It was the cultural and community center of Tacoma's bustling Japan Town. The students also carry with them the memories of lectures by their sensei that called on them to display the highest level of respect and positive behavior in the face of blatant discrimination that was prevalent during that era. No child of the Japanese community was ever disciplined by the law in Tacoma.

The story of the Japanese Language School is inseparable from the experience of internment during World War II. The school was used as a location for the Japanese community to register for transportation to internment camps; former JLS students helped register families for this next stage of their American experience. Many of these same former students are now committed to helping UW Tacoma preserve the heritage of the school.

More Japanese-American men from Tacoma served in Military Intelligence for the U.S. Army than from any other city, in part because of language skills developed at Nihongo Gakko, and in part inspired by the mayor of Tacoma, Harry P. Cane, the only public official to take a public stand against internment.

The Japanese Language School and UW Tacoma share a bond as schools that have played central roles in raising the quality of life and ambitions of their communities. The bustling Japan Town that existed on the Northwestern portion of the campus footprint never returned, a fact also commemorated by the memorial to ensure we never forget lessons from the past.

PREVIOUS ACTIONS:

The JLSM will be integrated into the development of the Hood Corridor at UW Tacoma. The Regents approved the consultant for the Hood Corridor project during their June 2011 meeting. This project will transform a former Burlington

VII. STANDING COMMITTEES

B. Finance, Audit and Facilities Committee

UW Tacoma Japanese Language School Memorial – Approve Donor Naming Opportunities Plan (continued p. 3)

Northern Santa Fe right-of-way into a landscaped linear park that includes rain gardens, features that will clean storm water, and create plazas and gathering areas for the campus, as well as provide access through and across campus. The Hood Corridor project is being developed in collaboration with the City of Tacoma.

The current design for the JLSM was updated for the new location and to accommodate a lower budget to meet fundraising expectations. The original design, done in 2005, had a construction cost of \$2.5 million. The current project, in collaboration with a previous landscape architect for the Hood Corridor, university staff and an advisory group of former JLS students, has been developed through the schematic design phase. The current status includes sketches to be used for fundraising. All costs for design and construction are included in the lower fundraising goal of \$600,000.

PROJECT SCOPE:

The Japanese Language School Memorial will be developed to commemorate the Japanese Language School, its faculty, its students and its historical significance. It will be located along the Hood Corridor which is a linear park along the historic Northern Pacific Railroad terminus that transects the University of Washington Tacoma campus from 17th Street and Pacific Avenue southwest to 21st Street near Jefferson Street, and a central circulation, gathering and civic space at the heart of the UW Tacoma campus. The Hood Corridor will provide for safe and secure pedestrian access to all campus facilities and create a vibrant, interactive space that responds to the campus mission and master plan and respects the unique railroad heritage of this location, while also safely accommodating the through-circulation of cyclists and pedestrians using the Prairie Line Trail.

PROJECT SCHEDULE:

The plan is to complete fundraising for the JLSM in time to integrate the project into the construction timeline for the Hood Corridor project. Forecasted completion dates for the Hood Corridor project:

- Preliminary Design - Complete
- Design – May 2012
- Phase 1 Construction, South Corridor (19th-21st) – Fall 2012
- Phase 2 Construction, North Lot/Milgard Site – Summer 2013
- Phase 3 Construction, North/South Gateways – Summer 2013

VII. STANDING COMMITTEES

B. Finance, Audit and Facilities Committee

UW Tacoma Japanese Language School Memorial – Approve Donor Naming Opportunities Plan (continued p. 4)

- Phase 4 Construction, Plaza/Amphitheater – Spring 2014

PROJECT BUDGET AND FUNDING:

The project will be funded with donor funding of \$600,000, which is the total cost for the project. The project budget includes:

Consultant Services	\$205,000
Construction MACC	346,000
Project Administration/other	<u>49,000</u>
Total	\$600,000

CURRENT PROJECT STATUS:

The JLSM project will be designed with the Hood Corridor design process as a separate but coordinated element of the larger project. Nakano & Associates, designer of the JLSM, will be hired as a sub-consultant to Atelier Dreiseitl, the Hood Corridor primary consultant approved at the June Regents meeting. With completion of schematic design, and feedback from the former student advisory group during a June 8 meeting, the university is moving forward with fundraising for the project.

REVIEW AND APPROVALS:

The Donor Naming Opportunities Plan has been reviewed and approved by the Interim President, the Chancellor, UW Tacoma, and University Advancement.


Attachments

1. Donor Naming Opportunities Plan (April 18, 2011 memo from Patricia Spakes to Greg Sheridan)
2. Japanese Language School Memorial brochure
3. Summary Project Budget



April 18, 2011

To: Greg Sheridan, Associate Vice President, Constituency Programs

From: Patricia Spakes, Chancellor 

RE: Japanese Language School Memorial Project

The University of Washington Tacoma has created a naming opportunity for the Japanese Language School Memorial, an outdoor sculpture and related landscaping, to represent the heritage of Japanese Language School and the thriving Japan Town that existed within the current footprint of UW Tacoma prior to WWII.

If we acquire the entire \$600,000 cost of the memorial from a single donor, we will name the sculpture and landscaping around it for that donor, to be recognized with a plaque placed near the sculpture.

Should the funding be raised from several donors, we propose the following giving levels to be recognized with a plaque placed near the sculpture. The names of those who give at the higher levels would be represented in larger fonts than those giving at lower levels.

\$250,000 and above

\$100,000 to \$249,000

\$50,000 to \$999,999

\$25,000 to \$49,999

\$5,000 to \$24,999

\$100 to \$4,900

Please let me or Joshua Knudson know if you have any questions or concerns.

A gift of \$600,000 would name the Japanese Language School memorial project and provide a fitting legacy for the Japanese community that once existed where the UW campus now enlivens and sustains Tacoma's downtown. With a gift of this magnitude, the university will be able to construct the project and also support its maintenance in perpetuity. This special place will invite its visitors to reflect on the poignant past, but also to become engaged through the university (and through other institutions such as libraries and museums) with Japan's rich and fascinating arts, history, language and culture. ■



ABOVE Former Japanese Language School student Frank Kawasaki, right, shows his handiwork during the Festival of Japanese Culture at UW Tacoma in 2003. The framed calligraphy behind Kawasaki was found on the Language School site in 1993.



RIGHT Artist's rendering of the Hood Corridor Trail where the memorial will be located.



Japanese Language School Memorial

Between 1911 and 1942, a Japanese Language School known as *Nihongo Gakko* served a thriving Japanese community in Tacoma. Near the original Northwest terminus of the transcontinental railroad, the neighborhood above Commencement Bay included hotels, laundries, banks and other businesses. It also included the homes of hundreds of Japanese immigrant families. The children from this community attended public schools, and after school was out each day, came together at *Nihongo Gakko*. Here they learned the language, arts and cultural traditions of Japan, the homeland of their parents and grandparents.

»

W UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON | TACOMA

Office of Advancement
Campus Box 358432
1900 Commerce Street
Tacoma, WA 98402-3100

253-692-4753
tacoma.uw.edu

When Japanese-Americans living on the West Coast were ordered to internment camps after Pearl Harbor, the U.S. government used *Nihongo Gakko*, the heart of the community, as the gathering spot for registration of Tacoma's Japanese-Americans. Most of these spent the duration of the war in camps—with the notable exception of those who served in the U.S. Army (including some recruited to military intelligence because of the language skill they had developed at *Nihongo Gakko*).

None knew then that the site of Tacoma's Japanese Language School would someday lie at the edge of a 46-acre University of Washington campus. None could foresee that the placement of the university in what was once Tacoma's Japan Town would create new opportunities to study and celebrate Japanese history, language, arts and culture. None knew then that it would fall to the University of Washington—with help from its friends and in consultation with former students of the school—to preserve the heritage of *Nihongo Gakko* through sculpture and landscape architecture on a 21st-century urban campus.

For some 40 years the Japanese Language School building stood mostly vacant, eventually coming into the possession of the UW, which found calligraphy charts still hanging on its walls. In 1997, the permanent UW Tacoma campus opened a few blocks down the hill from *Nihongo Gakko*—in readapted historic brick buildings. But the wooden Japanese Language School building had not weathered the passage of time very well, and an architectural consultant determined the building had deteriorated too much to save. On the consultant's recommendation, the University decided not to invest in expensive reconstruction of a building that would ultimately lack historic integrity, but, instead, to put its efforts into preserving the heritage of the school.

To that end, before the building was taken down in 2004, many former JLS students gathered for a special day at UW Tacoma—with tea ceremonies, flower arranging, calligraphy, Iaido, singing and reminiscence. Since then, UW Tacoma has maintained the conversation with *Nihongo Gakko's* former students (now elderly) and some of their descendants. UW Tacoma faculty scholars have videotaped oral histories from former students. Historic photographs of the school and those it served—along with the rescued calligraphy charts—are displayed on campus.

The university has promised to commemorate the history of Tacoma's Japanese community with a permanent memorial, but we can accomplish this in a fitting way only with philanthropic support. **The memorial we propose will tell the story of *Nihongo Gakko* through sculpture and landscape architecture and will generate interest in creating new opportunities at UW Tacoma to study and celebrate Japanese history, language, arts and culture.**

The project has been through several design and placement iterations. At this point the commemorative landscape architecture, to include work by sculptor Gerard Tsutukawa, is being designed by Kenichi Nakano, whose mother was a student at *Nihongo Gakko* (former students have been consulted at every design step). The installation will be sited along a beautiful new pathway being created along what is known as the Hood Corridor—where the famous former rail line traverses the campus. This corridor is being converted into a landscaped bicycle-and-pedestrian pathway which will become part of a larger trail system that already includes

a well-loved segment along Tacoma's waterfront. Placing the memorial here will create high visibility, not just within the campus community, but also among families, couples, athletes, tourists and others who will frequent the trail.

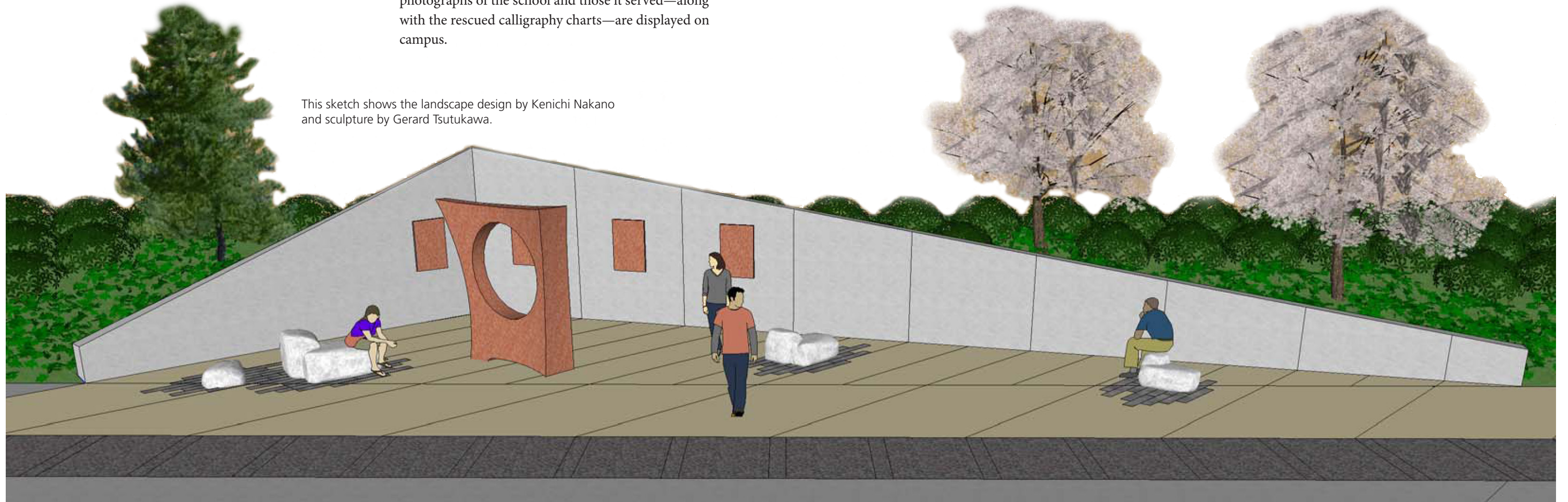
Mr. Nakano is designing the Japanese Language School memorial project to be a place for learning, contemplation and interaction with the Tsutukawa sculpture. Permanent plaques will honor donors and tell the story of the school and its honored principal, Sensei Masato Yamasaki.

Plantings will include traditional Japanese cherry, black pine and possibly iris. It is worth noting that the UW's Yoshino cherry trees, now such a signature of spring in Seattle, are the same variety as those sent from Tokyo to Washington DC around the time *Nihongo Gakko* was built.

A future outdoor amphitheater will be near the memorial and provide a natural space for storytelling and performances related to Japanese history, language and culture.

»

This sketch shows the landscape design by Kenichi Nakano and sculpture by Gerard Tsutukawa.



**UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
CAPITAL PROJECTS OFFICE - SUMMARY PROJECT BUDGET**

PROJECT: UW Tacoma Japanese Language School Memorial

Project Number: 203131

ESTIMATED DATE OF COMPLETION: December 2012

<u>Project Budget</u>	<u>Total Escalated Cost</u>	<u>% of TPC*</u>
Pre-Schematic Design Services	\$ 45,000	7.5%
A/E Basic Design Services	\$ 120,000	20.0%
Extra Services	\$ 34,000	5.7%
Other Services	\$ -	0.0%
Design Services Contingency	\$ 6,000	1.0%
Consultant Services	\$ 205,000	34.2%
Construction Cost	\$ 300,000	50.0%
Other Contracts	\$ -	0.0%
Construction Contingencies	\$ 17,000	2.8%
Sales Tax	\$ 29,000	4.8%
Construction	\$ 346,000	57.7%
Equipment & Furnishings	\$ -	0.0%
Other Costs	\$ 6,000	1.0%
Project Management	\$ 43,000	7.2%
Other	\$ 49,000	8.2%
Total Project Cost (TPC)*	\$ 600,000	100.0%
<u>Included in Above:</u>		
Escalation not applicable	\$ -	0.0%