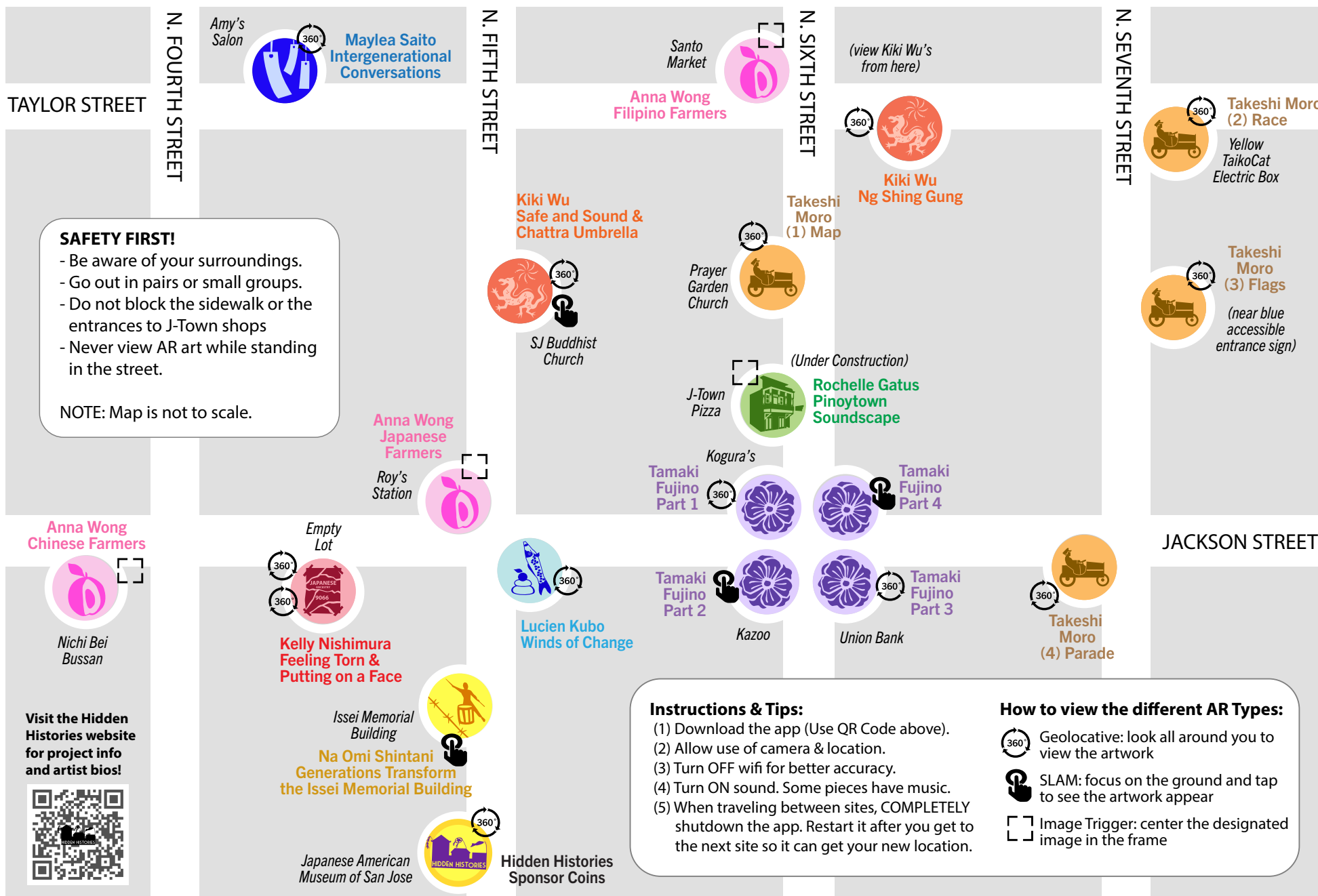
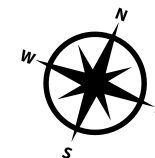




Augmented Reality Art in the Streets of San Jose Japantown

Download AR-vos
from App Store or
Google Play



Instructions & Tips:

- (1) Download the app (Use QR Code above).
- (2) Allow use of camera & location.
- (3) Turn OFF wifi for better accuracy.
- (4) Turn ON sound. Some pieces have music.
- (5) When traveling between sites, COMPLETELY shutdown the app. Restart it after you get to the next site so it can get your new location.

How to view the different AR Types:

- Geolocate:** look all around you to view the artwork
- SLAM:** focus on the ground and tap to see the artwork appear
- Image Trigger:** center the designated image in the frame



Tamaki Fujino

An Alien Species in a New Environment

Through this piece, you will experience how three communities were treated as 'alien species' but supported each other when they arrived in a new environment, almost a hundred years ago.

In order to complete the story, you need to visit all of the four corners of the intersection of Jackson Street and 6th Street. The blue flowers are chrysanthemums, representing the Chinese community. Magenta flowers represent the Japanese community. Yellow flowers are sampaguita, which represent the Filipino Community. Finally, purple flowers (plum blossom) represents the mixture of the three communities.



Rochelle Gatus (Under Construction)

Soundscape in old Pinoytown is an emulation of the bustling, multi-cultural cacophony of languages, commerce, cultural events, and family/social life that took place, especially during the heyday of Pinoytown, nestled between Heinlenville Chinatown on the east and Japantown (or Nihonmachi) on the west. The Ken Ying Low restaurant was a pivotal place, popular with all three communities, and only down the street from the Filipino Community Center, the African American-founded Church of God in Christ, and the historic building that was once the Ideal Laundry and also the Nishioka Brothers Fish Market. As you walk down the street, details of past architecture reveal themselves, triggered by the app's recognition of the building's iconic profiles. Listen to moments made timeless as communities experience life in a mix of Cantonese, Japanese, Ilokano, and English, much as the generations before us did.



Lucien Kubo

Legacy of Sansei Activism and Culture: Winds of Change in Japantown

is located at the corner of 5th and Jackson. You will be surrounded by a flow of Japantown images, symbols, and music from the the 60s, 70s, and 80s. It was a time when the Japanese and Chinese social justice activists sparked the awakening of Asian American cultural consciousness. The formation of the short-lived Asians For Community Action provided the template for new organizations and activities. Blending with traditional celebrations like the Buddhist Church Obon, were the annual Yu-Ai Kai Mochitsuki, NOC's Day of Remembrance candlelight vigil, San Jose Taiko, and many other community events.

Hidden Histories of San Jose Japantown Inaugural Showcase



Takeshi Moro

Reflecting on Heinlenville - This AR installation is at four points around the block bordered by North 6th and 7th, Taylor, and Jackson Streets. You will discover the area of what was Heinlenville (San Jose Chinatown), the center of Chinese-American life in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The community was evicted and buildings demolished after 1931. Heinlenville was forgotten, obliterated by the city corporation yard and now, a large commercial/residential development. The images and sounds at the four AR locations evoke the spirit of a lost community: 1) Map of Heinlenville, 2) Children playing in toy cars, 3) Temple flags of the Ng Shing Gung (temple in Heinlenville), and 4) Da Jui Parade, a summer festival to honor Chinese ancestors.



Kelly Nishimura

Ending the Silence is located in the lot near the heart of Japantown and is comprised of two layers, "Feeling Torn" and "Putting on a Face." The art aims to deconstruct the "model minority" label associated with Japan Americans (JA) and shed light on the authentic emotions they had in response to their incarceration during World War II. History lessons often depict the JA community as cooperating happily with their removal. However, in reality, there was a spectrum of unique attitudes that were hidden or unacknowledged. While this AR art cannot depict every attitude the JA community had, I hope this abstract visualization gives users the chance to reflect and question the history that society wants us to remember.



Maylea Saito

Intergenerational Conversations can be found near the corner of 4th Street and Taylor, where my aunt's shop, Amy's Beauty Salon, has been for over 40 years. You will experience a floating cloud of Tanzaku (colored tags) that surrounds you. The content of the tags are inspired by and contain my aunt Amy Okagaki's watercolor paintings, my own art, and family stories archived and published by my uncle, Robert Saito. The tags also contain questions I've had that have carried me through the past year of working on Hidden Histories and reflecting on my family's experiences growing up in Japantown. Many of these questions I have yet to discover the full realm of answers to, but I hope that they inspire curiosity and dialogue regarding your own personal histories. This installation is very personal, celebrating the creativity that runs in my family, and honoring the roots that all families bring to San Jose Japantown.



Na Omi Judy Shintani

Generations Transform the Issei Memorial Building - The Issei Memorial Building (IMB) has been a landmark in Japantown on 5th Street since 1910. Starting as the Kuwabara

Hospital to serve the Issei (first generation Japanese) and later, passing through different owners, the building has always been the home to organizations that serve the community. The San Jose Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) is the steward of the IMB and maintains the legacy of this living monument. The four images that will surround you in this AR depict various facets from the IMB's history: Kuwabara Hospital, San Jose Taiko, hostel for released incarcerated and J-Town Community TV.



Anna Wong

Agricultural Regrowth - JAMsj founder Jimi Yamaichi often mentioned that if there were no Asian farmers, there would be no San Jose Japantown. He felt that the farmers were essential customers who sustained the merchants of Heinlenville and Japantown. The importance of agriculture to the Asian immigrants and their descendants is the focus of my AR art. You will be visiting three historic spots that were important-grocery store locations in the community. Images and sounds of Asian farmers are surrounded by floating fruit. By focusing on floating seeds, you will bring them into full bloom.



Kiki Wu

Safe and Sound is inspired by San Jose Chinatown's own Da Jui or The Hungry Ghost Festival. You are encouraged to imagine this important festival through immersive paintings of Chinese ritual objects. In this celebration, the departed are honored with the knowledge that their souls are saved. The AR art is currently located in front of the Buddhist Church and will eventually be moved to Heinlenville Park after the huge 6th Street construction is completed. Ng Shing Gung AR art is on Taylor Street near 6th, close to the location or the original Chinese temple in Heinlenville. You will see a colorful version of the Ng Shing Gung (Temple of the Five Gods). During Da Jui, paper mache figures stood in front of the temple as guardian effigies. On the last evening of the festival these figures were burned to satisfy the spirits. This AR will also be installed at the Ng Shing Gung replica in Kelly Park.



Visit the Hidden Histories website for more information about the artists and their artwork.



hiddenhistoriesjatown.org