

# San Jose Redevelopment Agency

## neighborhood project fact sheet



Construction:  
2007

Completion:  
Spring 2008

**Project:** Ikoi no Ba

**Description:** The project consists of five Ikoi no ba. Ikoi no Ba are peaceful places to rest, relax, and converse with others. They are places to learn about and reflect on Japantown and Japanese American history and culture. Five themes have been selected for the Ikoi no ba: Heritage, Community, Agriculture, Internment, and Families and Festivals.

**Location:** In the park strip along Fifth between Empire and Taylor Streets:  
Wesley United Methodist Church location - "Community"  
San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin location - "Heritage and Tradition"  
Issei Memorial Building location - "Internment and Civil Liberties"  
Japanese-American Museum location - "Agriculture"  
Lotus Pre School location - "Festivals and Families"

**Benefit:** To preserve the history, values and traditions of the Japanese-American community.  
To provide places to rest and interact socially.

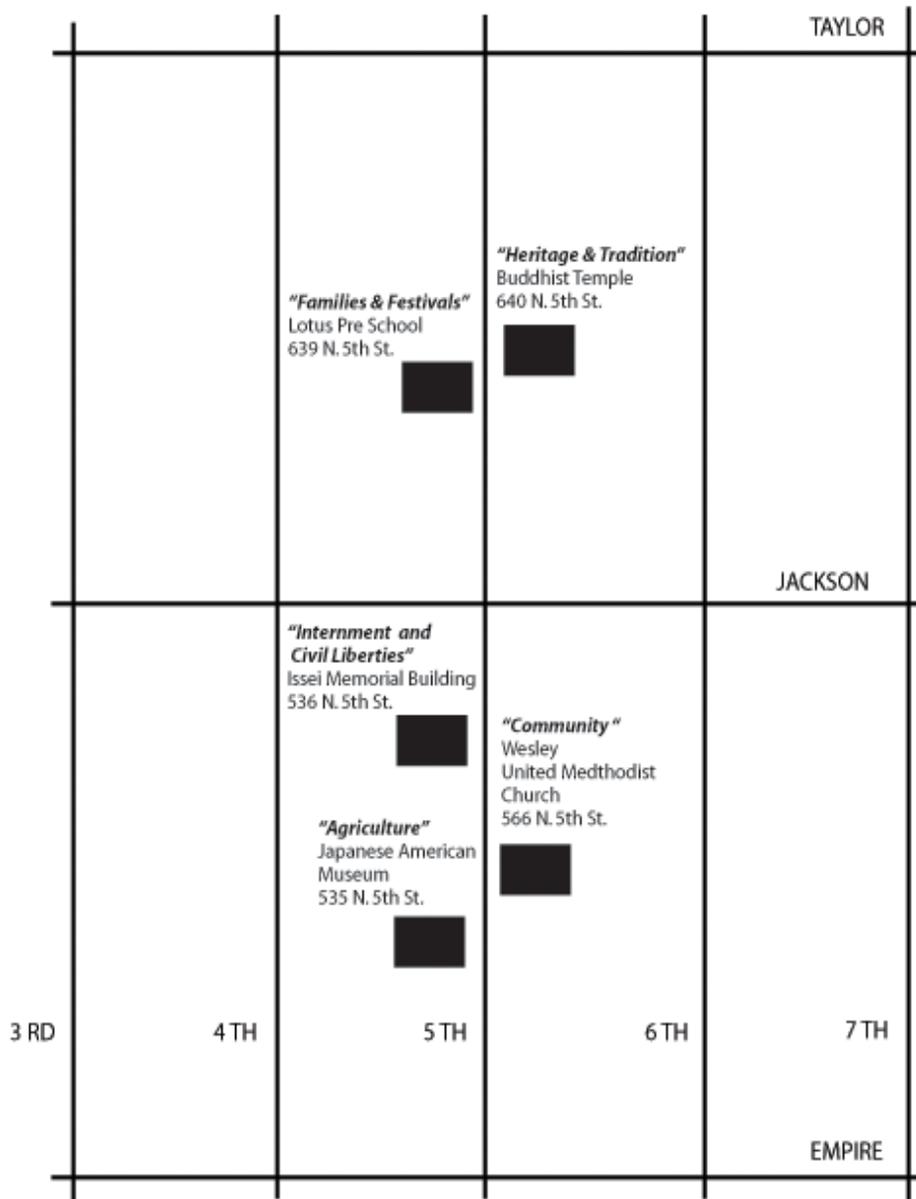
**Features:** Each Ikoi no Ba has a different personality to reflect the narrative that it preserves.

- Community is represented by two benches forming a circular enclosure. Each bench uses a single massive piece of oiled redwood to form a seat.
- Internment is represented by harsh concrete benches having the same character as the benches in the internment camps, large rocks and dry decomposed granite to recall the remote desert surroundings of some of the camps. The Ikoi no Ba also includes a copy of the presidential proclamation which sent more than 100,000 Japanese Americans to the camps.
- Agriculture is represented by the rustic forms of huge logs shaped into benches and representations of the pails used to carry fruit almost 100 years ago.
- The Heritage of the Japanese Americans is represented by massive carved pieces of granite.
- Festivals and families are represented by large colorful play blocks, decorated with inset ceramic tiles designed and made by almost one hundred neighborhood children.

**Total Costs:** \$90,000

**Project Team:** Council District: District 3  
Developer: San Jose Redevelopment Agency  
Artists: Ken Matsumoto and Bret Santo  
Project Team: Jimi Yamaichi, John Ristow, Leon Kimura, Wes Mukoyama, Gail Sueki, Henry Oda, Victoria Taketa, Neil Kozuma

# IKOI NO BA



Drawing not to scale  
May 1, 2008

