

# **SAN BRUNO**

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## Community Foundation

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**SAN BRUNO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
SUPPORTS CONSTRUCTION OF THE TANFORAN MEMORIAL  
WITH \$200,000 STRATEGIC GRANT**

***Memorial Will Honor the 8,000 Americans of Japanese Ancestry Who Were Interned at the Tanforan Assembly Center During World War II***

**San Bruno, California, April 14, 2022** – The Board of Directors of the San Bruno Community Foundation has approved grant funding totaling \$200,000 to the Tanforan Assembly Center Memorial Committee to be used for the construction of the Tanforan Memorial outside the San Bruno BART station. The Board initially approved a \$150,000 grant in 2021 and recently increased the grant amount by \$50,000, to \$200,000.

“This grant is a statement by the San Bruno Community Foundation, which was established because of the unfortunate gas pipeline explosion that led to death, pain, and loss,” said Malissa Netane-Jones, President of the SBCF Board of Directors. “What happened here in San Bruno in 1942 also shares a parallel tragedy and injustice toward Japanese Americans. The San Bruno Community Foundation is about elevating the San Bruno community, and this grant

leaves a legacy with the money we are stewards of on behalf of the residents – past, present, and future – of San Bruno.”

During World War II, the U.S. Army converted what was then the Tanforan Racetrack – which sat on the site of what is now The Shops at Tanforan – into one of 17 detention centers at which Americans of Japanese ancestry were incarcerated while more permanent internment camps in the inland United States were being built. From April 28 to October 13, 1942, the Tanforan Assembly Center held nearly 8,000 Bay Area Japanese Americans, most of whom were U.S. citizens, without a trial or due process of law. The internees were housed in barracks, many of which were converted horse stalls that still smelled of manure.

Construction of a permanent memorial outside the San Bruno BART station began in mid-February, and the Tanforan Assembly Center Memorial Committee held a well-attended groundbreaking ceremony at the memorial site on February 11, 2022. Key features of the Tanforan Memorial will include a bronze statue of two young girls headed off to be interned, a replica horse stall similar to what the internees lived in, and signs listing the names of the nearly 8,000 people interned there. The Tanforan Assembly Center Memorial Committee expects construction to be completed this summer and plans to hold a ribbon-cutting event that will also commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of Tanforan as a wartime detention center.

“The Tanforan Assembly Center Memorial Committee deeply appreciates the San Bruno Community Foundation’s generosity and commitment to the Tanforan Memorial project,” said Doug Yamamoto, TACMC President. “With the Foundation’s support, the Tanforan Memorial will help ensure that the stories of the nearly 8,000 Japanese American internees are remembered and that the injustice they experienced during World War II is never repeated again.”

The Foundation Board increased its grant for the Tanforan Memorial at its April 4, 2022, meeting to ensure that the project is completed this summer, especially because most surviving Tanforan internees are in their eighties and nineties. In approving both the original grant and the grant increase, the Board strongly noted that the Tanforan Assembly Center is an important part of San Bruno and American history that should not be forgotten, especially in light of rising acts of violence and discrimination against Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in recent years.

To fund the grant to the Tanforan Assembly Center Memorial Committee, the Foundation is utilizing a portion of the restitution funds resulting from the City of San Bruno's settlement with Pacific Gas & Electric Company following the 2010 gas pipeline explosion that devastated San Bruno's Crestmoor neighborhood.

The San Bruno Community Foundation is the nonprofit organization created by the City of San Bruno to administer the \$70 million in restitution funds received from PG&E after the devastating 2010 gas pipeline explosion in San Bruno's Crestmoor neighborhood. The Foundation serves the San Bruno community by investing in projects, programs, services, and facilities that have significant and lasting benefits. Through making grants, leveraging partnerships, and taking advantage of other resources, the SBCF assists and enables the community to maximize shared investments and realize their subsequent enhancements and benefits.

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