

# Field Guide

## #6: CONCLUSION OF THE COLLABORATION

It has been a life-changing three years and I would love to continue a relationship with the museum in terms of educational programs.

Diane Ball, New Mexico  
e-mail message  
July 7, 2008

I have to admit that I am a bit (OK, a lot) jealous of those that continue to work with you. I count my time in our project as some of the most rewarding work I have been involved with for a very long time.

Margaret Wilks, Arkansas  
e-mail message  
October 3, 2006

I have Los Angeles as one of my weather settings on my i-phone, so strangely enough, I often know the weather where y'all are...it's my nerdy way of staying connected.

Amanda Linn, Arkansas  
e-mail message  
June 2, 2009

Power of the individual – individual matters. Our histories, past and experiences matter. If we begin from that perspective, then the Japanese American experience becomes more clear.

Cindy Stout, Colorado  
National Institute for Educators  
July 18–21, 2007

Convene debriefing sessions on goals, timeline, and budgets. This will likely require multiple sessions: one session with project staff and the other with project partners and key stakeholders. At each gathering, reflect on the project in its entirety, from planning to conclusion, the lessons learned, experiences gained and resources created. Celebrate a project done well together!

### Sample Documents

- 6-1 Thank You Invitation
- 6-2 Final Convening Agenda
- Begin planning the next project
- Plan to keep in touch, even when everybody moves on to other projects—if the collaboration has been a successful one, the project partners and stakeholders will stay in touch informally after the project concludes, likely leading to future collaborations





JAPANESE AMERICAN  
NATIONAL MUSEUM

369 East First Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Telephone 213.625.0414  
Facsimile 213.625.1770

September 2, 2008

<NAME>  
<ADDRESS>  
<CITY/STATE/ZIP>

Dear <NAME>:

We first convened interested community members in December 2006 to share information about the national conference, "Whose America? Who's American? Diversity, Civil Liberties, and Social Justice," July 2008 seemed so far in the future. Over the next few years, time passed quickly as we had a chance to meet and experience the generosity of spirit of so many Coloradoans. So thanks very much to the time, hard work, expertise, and generosity demonstrated by the Colorado volunteers, we were able to together produce a successful national conference that was attended by almost 1000 people from 32 states, plus Japan, Canada, and New Zealand.

By the end of the conference, we talked about coming back in September for a "Wrap Party" to reminisce and to thank you for all of your help. To that end, we would like to cordially invite you to join us so that we may, in a very modest way, thank you for all of your help:

Wednesday, September 17, 2008  
6:00 p.m.  
Palace Restaurant  
6265 East Evans Avenue, Denver  
(303) 782-0300

RSVPs are required by September 12, 2008, due to space limitations.

Please contact <EMAIL ADDRESS> or <TELEPHONE NUMBER> with the name of each person in your party who will be in attendance.

We have been receiving steady feedback over the past few months from attendees about the impact that the national conference had on them. As you read the following excerpts, please know how much we value the role that all of your played in making these experiences possible:

*While I have remained mostly uniformed, since I also didn't live in LA and make little effort to visit the Museum, I had no real interest in endorsing efforts that had little effect, or so I thought, on me or my family. Last weekend's emotion, information, reflection, and enlightenment was an epiphany. The care and consideration that went into the design of the conference, the quality of many of the presentations, and the professionalism of the staff and*



enduringcommunities



JAPANESE AMERICAN NATIONAL MUSEUM

*volunteers was incredible. I walked into the Hyatt naively, not really expecting much, and left regrettably on Sunday with a newfound respect, appreciation, and admiration. It was a truly humbling and profound experience.*

(DO, California)

*It was encouraging to see representatives of numerous camps, military units, organizations, and academies from all walks of life and from literally around the world, gathered in one place to share their thoughts, goals, and experiences with the others. ... I would argue that perhaps more than anything else, this was the reason for the success of the conference. The title, "Whose America? Who's American? Diversity, Civil Liberties, and Social Justice," suggests the complexity of defining America and Americans, and I believe it is through truly diverse yet unified gatherings like this conference that we can celebrate differences and share in the important task of passing on our heritage to protect the civil liberties of our future.*

(AS, Texas)

*Throughout the history of the United States, people have struggled perpetually with defining who is an "American." ... Perhaps that is what makes Americans unique; people can stand up for themselves and win. The fight for the right to be treated as American gives us common ground. We can change and we can learn as Senator Inouye stated, "the lessons learned must serve as a grave reminder."*

(JR, Colorado)

*I'm deeply touched by the incredible inclusiveness of this program. When I spoke on my panel and later read with Cynthia [Kadohata], I became aware that my books, about a very different cultural experience, were still seen by the audience as relevant to a larger story. ... There's a generosity of spirit here that inspires, enlightens, and empowers. I'm very grateful.*

(UK, New Mexico)

*I often wondered what would happen to our history, our legacy to future generations or more immediate, to our Sanseis and Yonseis? ... But after seeing all the wonderful displays made by students from the Enduring Communities projects, meeting their parents, talking to John Hopper from the Amache Preservation Society, and sitting next to a teacher couple from Phoenix on my way home – he, a Pima Indian, who remembers going into Gila Camp in the 1940's and she, a Mexican-American, soon to retire but both plan to keep working in the EC projects – our legacy will continue because of all the dedicated teachers who inspire and allow their students to explore all of America's history, not just what is written in the standardized textbooks.*

(TT, California)

As you can see, we have together touched the lives of many people. We hope to be able to thank you in person in a few weeks.

Sincerely,  
<ENDURING COMMUNITIES PROJECT LEADERS>

**FINAL CONVENING AGENDA**  
**(Final Draft as of March 24, 2009)**

**Meeting Preamble:**

Partnerships reflect the work that makes the Japanese American National Museum unique. They help us to engage communities in carrying out the National Museum's mission of promoting the understanding and appreciation of America's ethnic and cultural diversity by sharing the Japanese American experience.

**Meeting Goals:**

- Reflect and share feedback on *Enduring Communities: The Japanese American Experience in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, and Utah* and the project partnerships
- Develop a deeper understanding of the National Museum's strategic vision and goals
- Get input on ways in which we might build on these and other past partnerships to create effective next steps

**Tuesday, March 24, 2009**

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (Please meet in the front of the National Museum)	Guided tours for all interested of <i>Common Ground: The Heart of Community and Fighting for Democracy: Who is the "We" in "We, the People?"</i>
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (Pavilion)	Museum Store open (limited hours)
12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. (Democracy Lab)	Lunch, catered on-site
1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Welcome and overview of convening by Project Director
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Report out from the <i>Enduring Communities</i> states (10 minutes/report) and short video of Gila River Monument Clean-Up
3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.	Break

3:15 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.	Sharing of initial partnership evaluation findings by Partnership Evaluator
4:45 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Amplification of National Museum's strategic vision and goals
6:30 p.m.	Dinner, catered on-site

**Wednesday, March 25, 2009**

8:30 a.m. (Democracy Lab)	Coffee service (Continental breakfast provided for out-of-town guests at the Miyako Inn)
9:00 a.m. – 9:05 a.m.	Opening words by President/CEO
9:05 a.m. – 9:20 a.m.	Reflection on first day by Board Member
9:20 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	“Whose America? Who’s American?” - Activity Introduction - Brainstorming of possible regions - Small group work
11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.	Lunch, catered on-site
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. (Pavilion)	Museum Store open (limited hours)
1:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Report-out from each group
2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Closing words by Project Staff

