

## Goal

The Remembrance Gallery was created to honor the lives that were forever transformed through mass incarceration at the Puyallup Fairgrounds. Unjust imprisonment at the site was a result of wartime hysteria, prejudice, xenophobia, and greed. The Gallery raises awareness of civil rights violations and emphasizes how this chapter in American history is still relevant today, as the denial of civil and human rights based on heritage remains ongoing.

## Contact Information

To schedule a tour, school visit, or for general inquiries, please visit the Puyallup Valley JACL website ([www.PuyallupValleyJACL.org](http://www.PuyallupValleyJACL.org)) or contact:

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## Location

Washington State Fair  
(under the Grandstand)  
110 9th Ave SW  
Puyallup, WA 98371



## Japanese American Citizens League

The Remembrance Gallery is a project of the Puyallup Valley Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL). The JACL is a national organization whose ongoing mission is to secure and maintain the civil rights of Japanese Americans and all others who are victimized by injustice and bigotry. The leaders and members of the JACL also work to promote cultural, educational, and social values and preserve the heritage and legacy of the Japanese American community.

### Image Credits

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**Inside:** (left) Courtesy of Library of Congress; (center) Photo by Howard Clifford, Courtesy of UW Libraries Special Collections; (right) Photo by Dorothea Lange, Courtesy of National Archives.







## Introduction

The Remembrance Gallery brings awareness to the history of the “Puyallup Assembly Center” (PAC), as the largest temporary American concentration camp in Washington State.

With spaces for reflection, immersion, and interaction, the Gallery highlights the experiences of the Japanese and Japanese Americans incarcerated on this site during World War II. It also reinforces social justice by educating visitors on historical and contemporary examples of civil and human rights violations.

## Overview of Gallery Sections

The Remembrance Gallery has three distinct sections. Featuring inclusive and comprehensive information, personal stories, and examples of everyday camp life, each section is designed to provide a variety of media to better understand this wartime experience.

## Background

Between April and September 1942, the Washington State Fairgrounds (at the time called the Puyallup Fairgrounds) served as one of seventeen makeshift concentration camps set up by the United States Army as a result of Executive Order 9066.

At the “Puyallup Assembly Center” (PAC), over 7,500 Japanese and Japanese Americans from Alaska, Seattle, and rural towns of Pierce County were imprisoned before being moved inland to one of ten permanent concentration camps.

### Monument

The heart of the gallery is a memorial wall that lists the names of over 7,500 people imprisoned on these fairgrounds. Their names are in alphabetical order along with their government-assigned family number.

### Confinement

Visitors can step inside a full-size 8'x10' historic recreation of the horse stalls used as makeshift housing for many PAC incarcerated. It is an immersive, multi-sensory experience of the living conditions where up to four men, women, and children lived in a single stall within the dark, dirty stables under the grandstand.

In total, over 125,000 people of Japanese ancestry living along the West Coast were imprisoned. More than two-thirds were American-born citizens. The rest were Issei, first generation immigrants, unable by law to become citizens.

### Throughline

Interactive touch-screen displays illuminate and humanize the stories of survivors. Through interviews and comprehensive content, visitors can learn about a range of topics, including: discrimination and racist laws, Nisei veterans, civil disobedience, acts of kindness, and the influence of camp life on artists and authors. Current events are also covered, highlighting how communities are still denied safety, civil liberties, and human rights today due to prejudice and bigotry. A Map Station traces the paths of Washington Nikkei as they were forcibly removed from their homes to concentration camps, using movement and distance to emphasize the impact on individuals and communities.