

2018 Anne Siebert Memorial Scholarship Recipient

Kristen Hayashi - Brief Bio

Kristen is currently working on her dissertation “Finding Home Again: Japanese American Resettlement in Los Angeles, 1945-1965” at the University of California, Riverside. She is anticipating completing her dissertation and receiving her Ph.D. in History and Public History in the Spring of 2019.

Ms. Hayashi already has an impressive resume beginning with a successful request to designate The Japanese Hospital in Boyle Heights as an historic cultural monument. The building owner opposed this fearing it would limit future building plans and decrease the market value. Despite that opposition Kristen was successful. The nomination passed, and the Japanese Hospital became City of Los Angeles’ Historic Cultural Monument #1131.

For over a decade Kristen has worked in research and collections at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County and for the last year at the Japanese American National Museum overseeing the permanent collection.

She has already had requests to help individuals and groups interested in designating historic buildings since the designation of the Japanese Hospital. She believes that her collective experiences will give her the practical foundation to not only save significant buildings and sites, but to lead efforts to re-examine the existing field of historic preservation.

Kristen is admired by her professors and has mentored and been a role model to many undergraduates.

In her own words, “Just as Anne Siebert’s legacy is a testament to the ways in which local preservation advocates can have a profound impact, I am committed to a future career in historic preservation with the intention of strengthening and diversifying the field, its practices and the historical assets that are deemed integral to our shared cultural heritage.”