Descriptive Summary

Creator: Willie Funakoshi Photographic Collection, circa 1960s-1980s
Title: Willie Funakoshi Photographic Collection
Dates: circa 1960s-1980s
Language: Materials are written in English.
Accession No: 2014-01
Extent: 4 binders; digital files.
Repository: Visual Communications Archives and Media Resource Library::Visual Communications

Biographical Note
Willie Funakoshi was an active community member in the Little Tokyo neighborhood in Downtown Los Angeles. He and nine other “Nisei Pioneers” returned to Los Angeles after World War II in order to reestablish Little Tokyo’s Japanese American community when many Japanese Americans never returned post World War II. Each of the “Pioneers” were involved in different fields, and worked together to help Japanese American community members and families. Funakoshi was an insurance broker, primarily insuring homes and automobiles for the Japanese American community. With photography as a hobby, Funakoshi documented community activities in Little Tokyo. He was involved with Nisei Week from its inception in 1934 well into the 1980s. He also started the LA Japanese Optimists club and was a Rotarian. Funakoshi was active in his community until his death in 1986.

Scope and Contents
The Willie Funakoshi Photographic Collection, circa 1960s-1980s, consists of 4 albums of photographs, negatives, and other photographic materials of the Nisei Week Queen and court activities and events. Nisei Week is an annual festival held in Little Tokyo that was first organized by Nisei, or second-generation Japanese Americans, to celebrate their Japanese cultural heritage, and remains an active part of the Japanese American community.

Organization and Arrangement
The holdings are organized into 4 boxes, which each hold photos of Nisei Week Queen and court activities between 1959-1984. The boxes are organized into different years of the Nisei Week court activities.

Alternate Format Available
All materials have been digitized for greater accessibility.

Access Restrictions
This collection is open for research use. Advance notice required for access. Contact repository for appointment.

Use Restrictions
Permission to publish, quote, or reproduce must be secured from the repository and the copyright holder.

Subjects (Persons)
Funakoshi, Willie
Matsunaga, Carol
Higurashi, Faith
Isawa, Tracy
Kunitsugu, Carol
Kurashige, Loris
Nakagawa, Jeanne
Tani, Pennu Akemi
Tomita, Tamlyn
Toshiyuki, Sandra
Yamamoto, Lisa

Subjects (Organizations)
Nisei Week
Nisei Week Queen

Subjects
Beauty contestants
Community Organization
Preferred Citation

Processing Information
This collection was processed and digitized by Robin Chang and Helen Kim in 2014. Finding aid written and encoded by Robin Chang in August 2014.

Inventory

Nisei Week Photos

box Box 1/4
Unidentified photographs
1960 - Q: Pennu Akemi Tani
1962-1963
1972 - Q: Carol Matsunaga

box Box 2/4
1983 - Q: Tracy Isawa

box Box 3/4
1959 - Q: Faith Higurashi
1960 - Q: Pennu Akemi Tani
1965 - Q: Carol Kunitsugu
1972 - Q: Carol Matsunaga
1976 - Q: Sandra Toshiyuki
1977 - Q: Loris Kurashige
1978 - Q: Lisa Yamamoto
1983 - Q: Tracy Isawa
1984 - Q: Tamlyn Tomita

box Box 4/4
1976 - Q: Sandra Toshiyuki
1977
1978 - Q: Lisa Yamamoto
1979 - Q: Jeanne Nakagawa