The Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History will design an exhibition on Japanese American experiences during World War II following the passage of Executive Order 9066 in February 1942. During the war, more than 110,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry faced imprisonment resulting from President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s order.

Opening in February 2017, the exhibition will feature the original Executive Order 9066 — on loan from the National Archives — and will display images and objects from the Museum’s own collection, as well as material collected for this project. This exhibition will interpret how Executive Order 9066 shaped the lives of Japanese Americans during World War II and continues to resonate throughout America and the community today.

In preparation, the Museum is seeking donations for possible inclusion in the new exhibition. It is through individual artifacts that reflect personal stories like yours that the National Museum of American History is able to share the historic and current impact of Executive Order 9066.

Smithsonian  
National Museum of American History  
Kenneth E. Behring Center

Clockwise: Pamphlet by Truman B. Douglass calling attention to treatment of Japanese American citizens; rejection letter from Yale based on ethnicity; school girls in Heart Mountain Relocation Center, WY; Toshio Asaeda’s watercolor of Topaz Relocation Center, UT; girls in Jerome Relocation Center, AR; War Relocation Authority Leave Pass
Under consideration for inclusion in the Museum’s new exhibition is Tetsuo Furukawa’s baseball uniform, pictured above, used during a playoff series at Gila River Relocation Center in Arizona. Part of the Museum’s collection, this uniform helps tell the complex story of Japanese American lives during the war. If you are interested in donating any of the items featured on the adjacent list or would like additional information, please contact Noriko Sanefuji at americanhistoryapacollection@si.edu or (202) 633-3340.

ABOUT US

Founded in 1846, the Smithsonian Institution is the world’s largest museum and research complex, with 19 museums, the national Zoological Park and nine research facilities. Its National Museum of American History, which opened in 1964, continues to preserve and protect an unparalleled collection of more than 3 million American treasures. It holds iconic objects such as the Star-Spangled Banner, Abraham Lincoln’s top hat, the Nisei Soldiers Congressional Gold Medal, and the Woolworth’s lunch counter where early civil rights sit-ins occurred. Through incomparable collections, rigorous research and dynamic public outreach, the Museum explores the infinite richness of American history, helping nearly 5 million visitors annually understand the past in order to make sense of the present and shape a more humane future.