

We Tell Makers

We Tell prefers to call the many people who worked on the media projects in this exhibition makers rather than filmmakers, video artists, or directors.

First, very few of these works were produced by one person, so the auteurist model is insufficient.

Second, most of these were produced by collaborative, collective, or cooperative teams where members had shifting roles and made different kinds of contributions.

Finally, we offer the proviso that this list is most likely not complete and will evolve as more research about each of these films and their participatory production process is uncovered. We provide this list to honor the people who contributed to these works.

BIOGRAPHIES OF MAKERS

Duane Kubo was one of the founders of Visual Communications, a media group that began in 1970 in Los Angeles to develop and support the voices of Asian American and Pacific Islander filmmakers and media artists. He made *Cruisin' J-Town* (Visual Communications, 1974). Visual Communications (VC) is the nation's premier Asian Pacific American media arts center. Duane later went on to co-direct (with Robert Nakamura) and produce the VC production *HITO HATA: RAISE THE BANNER* (1980), the first feature length narrative film created exclusively by Asian Americans. Kubo moved back to his native San Jose, CA in 1982 and started teaching at De Anza College in Cupertino, CA. He later became dean of the Intercultural/International Studies Division, teaching Asian American Studies and overseeing the Ethnic Studies and International Studies programs. Retired from De Anza College, Duane volunteers in San Jose Japantown by running J-Town Community TV ([youtube.com/c/jtowncommunitytv](https://www.youtube.com/c/jtowncommunitytv)) and the J-Town FilmFest.