

Roosevelt's signed Executive Order 9066 on Japanese American internment to go on view in L.A.



A detail from a War Relocation Authority photo, taken at the Jerome internment camp in Arkansas, 1944. (Dr. Toshio Yatsushiro and Lily Koyama / JANM)



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You are young, say, 10 years old, and you live in downtown Los Angeles near the intersection of East 1st and South San Pedro streets. You were born in this neighborhood, a three-mile radius that houses the largest Japanese American community in the U.S. You play stickball in the streets and walk your dog along the cracked, uneven sidewalks. It is home.

Today, however, Saturday, May 9, 1942, there is no stickball. You are given instructions, simple but devastating: Pack only what you can carry and

abandon everything else, even the dog. Your family is to be shipped to an internment camp, where you will live in barracks, behind barbed wire, for the duration of World War II. You will never see the dog again.

A new exhibition at the Japanese American National Museum, “Instructions to All Persons: Reflections on Executive Order 9066,” revisits the internment experience through a specific lens. The museum has acquired, on loan from the National Archives, President Franklin Roosevelt’s original Executive Order 9066 calling for the incarceration of about 120,000 people of Japanese descent, most American citizens. On Saturday, the museum will open an exhibition commemorating the 75th anniversary of Roosevelt’s signing of that document, a somber day known as the Day of Remembrance.

The exhibit is particularly relevant today, curator Clement Hanami says, as new executive orders roll out regularly and after Trump signed an executive order, since halted, temporarily prohibiting citizens of seven predominantly Muslim countries from entering the U.S.

<http://www.latimes.com/entertainment/arts/la-et-janm-instructions-exhibit-20170217-story.html>