



INDIVIDUAL HONOREE

# RAY HASHIMOTO

**R**ay Hashimoto feels lucky that he pretty much always knew what he wanted to do. The president and principal of HMM, an engineering and land use company, remembers back in high school that he was intrigued by how cities were built and knew he wanted to build a career around that.

“I love cities,” he said. “I really enjoy being in urban places, and I love the government process. It’s really about working with people and trying to get projects across the finish line. I enjoy being a part of that process and being part of projects that form what cities look like and how they function.”

He said city planning combines his love of architecture, urban design and politics, so he studied that in college. His first job out of school was as a planning intern with the city of Palo Alto.

He stayed there for five years until he took a job with the city of San Jose, where, over a decade, Hashimoto’s team processed development projects throughout the South Bay Area, including everything from single-family houses to major transportation-oriented developments.

Hashimoto said the relationships he built with public agency staffers working for the two cities laid the foundation for his success at HMM. He’s been with the company for 25 years now and is preparing to help them celebrate 50 years in business.

“I think a lot of my success is due to a big network of people, not only on the private side but also the city of San Jose, which is known as a training ground for city planners,” he said. “Having that experience has allowed me to have access to, and know people in a lot of communities, which allows me to get that access, and that’s all because of my network. Clients appreciate that I can pick up the phone and call the city manager in San Jose. I think that’s all part of what I enjoy – what I can bring to the table for my clients and having good working relationships.”

In addition to all the connections Ray brings to HMM, he has also played a big part in the company’s growth over the years, thanks to the success of many of his projects. Leading the Land Planning and Entitlements department, Hashimoto has worked on hundreds of projects across the Bay Area and nearby regions including Communications Hill, Samaritan Medical Center, Gateway At Millbrae, The Irvine Company’s Santa Clara Square, Google Downtown West, the Kelsey Ayer residential project and Shea Properties San Jose Japantown Mixed-Use project.

Hashimoto says his strong work ethic comes from his parents, who were detained in Japanese

**Company:**  
HMM

**Title:**  
President/  
Principal

**Number of  
Employees:** 88



HENRI BOULANGER | FOR SVBJ

internment camps as children.

“I am proud of my Japanese American roots,” he said. “My parents spoke about the camps and some of the history and the hardships they went

through. They were quite young, so it’s good to hear the stories. Knowing that history has definitely helped me in my career.”

– Michelle Boudin