

Nikkei National Museum & Cultural Centre

# Annual Report

2020-2021



6688 Southoaks Crescent  
Burnaby, BC V5E 4M7  
604.777.7000  
[centre.nikkeiplace.org](http://centre.nikkeiplace.org)

 **Nikkei**  
national museum  
& cultural centre

## MISSION

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To honour, preserve, and share Japanese culture and Japanese Canadian history and heritage for a better Canada

## VISION

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Strengthening Canada as a multicultural nation by bridging Japanese and Canadian culture.

## VALUES

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1. We take pride in our multi-cultural, multi-generational community, and respect and honour our heritage.
2. We honour our commitment to our diverse community.
3. We embrace inclusiveness, compassion and humility

## President's Report

At this time last year, we had just started to emerge from what is now known as the First Wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, and Nikkei Centre had re-opened its doors on June 2, 2020 - albeit subject to strict social-distancing protocols. Although we welcomed the partial lifting of the Provincial health restrictions that had forced the closure of Nikkei Centre on March 18, 2020, it was clear that we still faced much uncertainty – and a daunting financial challenge. Amongst other things, we had foreseen that we would be compelled to put into abeyance many of our signature events and programs, including our annual Nikkei Matsuri Festival and the Community Awards Dinner, and that our ability to earn revenues from the rental of our space would be severely compromised for an indefinite period of time.

As feared, Nikkei Centre was again forced to close to the public on November 9, 2020. Although we were able to reopen on November 24, 2020, we continue to remain subject to significant operational restrictions. However, I am pleased to report that we find ourselves in better financial shape than could otherwise very well have been the case. This is mainly due to:

- The generosity of you, our Community. Under the leadership of Ian Miki, Chair of the Fundraising Committee, the Resilience Fundraiser campaign raised over \$306,000 between April 1, 2020 and January 22, 2021, surpassing our target of \$250,000. This is truly remarkable in the midst of a global pandemic, which has had a profound adverse impact on our economy.
- Prudent fiscal management. Karah Goshinmon Foster, Executive Director, working closely with Ron Kruschen in his capacities as Treasurer and Chair of the Audit & Finance Committee, developed a budget and operational plan that, upon adoption by the Board of Directors, was executed by our dedicated Staff in a manner that controlled costs without compromising the safety of employees and visitors to our Centre.

- Government support. Government support - principally in the form of the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidies and a Canada Emergency Business Account loan. We successfully received grants from the Government of Canada, Province of British Columbia, and benefited from the one-time property tax reduction from the City of Burnaby.

## Governance

Our current Board of Directors held its first meeting immediately following our last annual general meeting and has continued to meet monthly, moving once again to a virtual meeting format in the fall in keeping with Provincial COVID-19 Public Health Orders. The Executive Committee has also been meeting monthly, typically one week in advance of each board meeting.

Meetings of the Finance Committee, the Fundraising Committee and the Governance Committee have been held somewhat less frequently, on an as-required basis.

I would like to acknowledge and thank the members of our Board for their continued attention and support. Special thanks are due to my fellow members of our 2020-2021 Executive Committee, each of whom have gone well above the call of duty: Carrie Okano, Vice President, Kevin Isomura, Vice President, Ron Kruschen, Treasurer, Ian Miki, Secretary, Fred Yada, Director, and Karah Goshinmon-Foster, Executive Director.

## Highlights

### ***Tree-Planting Ceremony to Mark 20th Anniversary***

In September, we held a modest, socially-distanced tree-planting ceremony in our Garden that marked the 20th anniversary of the Nikkei National Museum & Cultural Centre, which opened on September 22, 2000.

We wish to acknowledge the kind support of the Vancouver Japanese Gardeners' Association, represented by Toshiyuki Izawa, President, and Kyoto Garden Landscaping, represented by Kenji Usuda.

Also in attendance were special guests Sam Yamamoto (Director Emeritus, Nikkei Place Foundation), Brian Tsuji (President, Nikkei Place Foundation) and Ruth Coles (President, Nikkei Seniors Health Care and Housing Society).

### ***Summer at Nikkei Garden***

Although we were prevented from holding our Nikkei Matsuri Festival in 2020, we pivoted to a socially-distanced outdoor marketplace that was held on August 7, 8, 21 and 22, and September 4 and 5. Japanese culture themed arts and crafts were featured, as well as Japanese cuisine-inspired food trucks. Used Japanese books were also offered for sale on site.

Special thanks to Louise Akuzawa, Chair of the Nikkei Matsuri Organization Committee, for her leadership in organizing this very successful event. Summer at Nikkei Garden was made possible with support from All Nippon Airways, Telus, the Government of Canada – Canadian Heritage, and the Consulate General of Japan in Vancouver.

## Museum

The Museum continues to flourish under the leadership of Director-Curator Sherri Kajiwarra. At the risk of detracting from the many other initiatives that the Museum has undertaken this past year, I would like to take this opportunity to mention only that *Broken Promises*, the much-anticipated exhibit focusing on the dispossession of the Japanese Canadian community in the 1940s, opened at the Museum on September 26, 2020.

*Broken Promises* represents the culmination of seven years of research through *Landscapes of Injustice*, a federally-funded university research project led by the University of Victoria, in which the Museum has been a key partner.

### ***Event in Celebration of the Emperor of Japan, His Majesty Emperor Naruhito***

In February 2021, in my capacity as President, NNMCC, I had the honour of being invited to participate in a virtual celebration hosted by the





Consulate-General of Japan in Vancouver to commemorate the birthday of His Majesty, the Emperor Naruhito. In my remarks, I had the opportunity to reiterate that the Ellipse Lobby of our Centre contains two massive pillars — one made of local Douglas Fir and the other crafted from a Hinoki Cypress from Japan — which serve as continuing symbols of the lasting bond between Canada and Japan, and of our mission: To honour, preserve, and share Japanese culture and Japanese Canadian history and heritage for a better Canada.

### ***Acknowledgement and Appreciation***

As I have said before, Nikkei Centre simply could not function without the generous and valuable contributions of our many volunteers, and the tireless efforts of our talented and dedicated Staff. The past year has been unlike any other we have experienced at Nikkei Centre, requiring a willingness to adapt to new ways of doing things, and to take the initiative to ensure that everybody stays safe and — perhaps just as importantly — feels secure.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I commend and thank you all for rising to the unprecedented challenges posed by the current pandemic.

### ***Thank You – And a Request for Your Assistance***

Nikkei Centre's continued success is directly attributable to – and most certainly dependent on – your support, in the form of: (a) financial donations and testamentary bequests; (b) donations of your valuable time for our many programs and initiatives that require volunteers; and (c) once things return to normal, simply showing up at our many events and inviting your friends and families to attend as well.

I would once again personally like to thank you all for your support and continued interest in Nikkei Centre, whose Values and Mission remain as important as ever during these times.

*Yoroshiku onegaishimasu.*

**Herbert I. Ono**

*President*



# Message From the Executive Director

This year, April 2020 began unlike any other. The NNMCC had been closed since March 18, 2020 under the BC state of emergency due to COVID-19, and on June 2nd we reopened with limited operations and a mini Japanese book sale throughout the month of June. Looking back, with our first documented response to the novel coronavirus on January 28, 2020, the NNMCC has been engaged in responding to public health notices and orders for a year and a half, and will continue to do so as required. Our sources of revenue were immediately impacted by the BC Public Health Orders, and remained at significantly reduced levels throughout the year.

However, our dedicated staff, with resilience, resourcefulness, and ingenuity, continued to deliver modified and new programming, both online and in-person, and successfully accessed essential grant funding in support of operations, projects, and programming. Staff recreated and delivered increased programming online, which provided new opportunities to expand connections nationwide, and highlighted the need to update online resources, such as our searchable museum database, [nikkeimuseum.org](http://nikkeimuseum.org).

While most onsite activity was halted, limited activity continued throughout the year. In partnership with Vancouver Mikoshi – Rakuichi, an elegant new case was assembled onsite to display a smaller omikoshi (portable shrine) decorated with bright orange rope. The two omikoshi remain side by side on display at Nikkei Centre, and are regularly seen out at Nikkei Matsuri and festivals throughout Metro Vancouver during the summer months.

After many years teaching Martial Gym in our Event Hall, Mario Lam retired from bouncing off the walls, and introduced us to 1984 Olympic gold medal winner Lori Fung, who was seeking a practice space for Elite Gymnastics to train, after their usual space closed due to COVID-19.

We look forward to Elite Gymnastics' continued use of our hall, with Canada's future champions!

In fall 2020, Leslie Luu and her Elle Weddings team decorated our garden, lobby, and hall into a beautiful wedding ceremony and reception venue with 50 guests, for the one, and only, wedding this year. Then in the spring, Elle Weddings installed three photo-spot spring backdrops in our lobby in conjunction with O Hanami/cherry blossom viewing season and Kodomo no hi/children's day. Mid-December, UW Productions and associates, brought excitement to Nikkei Place and the surrounding area, when they transformed Southoaks Crescent, Nikkei Garden, and our Ellipse Lobby into a movie set for one full day of filming.

We were pleased to work closely with Gladstone Japanese Language School to provide additional necessary classroom space, allowing for in-person and online classes to continue, given the cancellation of programming in the various multipurpose rooms. We wish Principal Yoko Murakami, all of the students, teachers, and families a Happy 50th Anniversary! Congratulations to the class of 2021 – wishing you all a fun-filled summer and success in your future endeavors!

With sincere gratitude, I would like to thank all of our generous donors, who came to our aid and offered financial support in extraordinary circumstances. Thank you. We managed to end the year in a positive, stable financial position, ready to recover, rebuild, and expand our regular operations into the future. I look forward to welcoming you back to the Nikkei National Museum & Cultural Centre. Hold on tight - the best is yet to come!

**Karah Goshinmon Foster**

*Executive Director*

# 2021 NNMCC Board Candidates

## LOUISE AKUZAWA

While working in both business and not-for-profit sectors including BC/Yukon Society of Transition Houses as an Office Manager, Louise has also been a senior reporter for the Japanese weekly newspaper Vancouver Shinpo. She was also a coverage team member for the 2009 Canadian visit of the then Their Majesties the Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko of Japan.

Louise has been Chair of NNMCC's major fundraising event Nikkei Matsuri since 2016. She sits on the NNMCC Fundraising and Community Award Dinner and is a member of the Japanese Community New Year's Celebration organizing committee.

Louise grew up in Tokyo and lives in Vancouver with her husband Ron Kruschen, the NNMCC Board Treasurer, and their son Naruhito, who works as a NNMCC facility staff while attending University. She looks forward to continuing to contribute to the community.

## DEAN LEWIS DALKE

Dean is a lawyer with DLA Piper (Canada) LLP where he has practiced since 2004. His law practice focuses on commercial litigation and general advice to corporate clients, including Japanese companies. He and his wife Ayumi have three young sons. He lived in Fukuoka for one year (2007-08) and obtained a master's of law from Kyushu Daigaku. While in Japan he completed an internship at the Japanese law firm Nishimura & Asahi in Tokyo.

Dean is eager to contribute to the mission of NNMCC so that his sons will have opportunities to preserve their Japanese heritage and to learn about the history of Japanese immigrants and their contribution to Canadian society.

Outside of the NNMCC, he has served on the board of an international development charity (ACTS.ca) for over 10 years and is currently vice-chair. He is also a member of the Canada Japan Society of BC.

## KIYO GODO

Kiyo is the Managing Director for Lightheart Properties and Darby's Hospitality. These entities operate a number of businesses from a pub and liquor store to real estate portfolio. He previously consulted internationally for a product and brand management company and continues to provide consulting services to executive teams, committees and boards today. Kiyo holds an Engineering Degree, Business Degree in Real Estate, MBA, and a black belt in Karate.

As a third generation (sansei) Japanese Canadian, born and raised in British Columbia, Kiyo wanted to maintain, develop, and expose his 4 children to their Japanese heritage and community. He has been serving on the NNMCC board since 2017.

## NAOKO HALL

Naoko was born in Fukuoka, Japan. She moved to Vancouver in 2017 with her family. She has been a board member of Vancouver's Japanese Business Association (Kiyukai) as the Secretary. In addition, she is a board member of Vancouver Fukuoka Kenjinkai and acts as a liaison between Fukuoka and Vancouver.

Naoko is now the COO of Gabby Communications International Inc. in Canada while leading Gabby Academy Co. Ltd. in Japan as the CEO. Prior to these positions, she worked at Kyushu University for 16 years to foster a global mindset in Japanese students. Her company, the Gabby Academy offers a program to accelerate acquisition of second language speaking skills. The methodology is being invented jointly with a Neuro-Scientist from the University of Tokyo.

Her goal is that, in the future, many people will develop the ability to communicate confidently in English, empowering them to connect with the world.

## **CHERYL HONKAWA**

Cheryl is a *sansei* Japanese Canadian, born in New Westminster, and raised in the Fraser Valley. She graduated with diplomas from both Douglas College and BCIT in graphic design, media, and information technology.

During a 30-year career with BC Hydro, she held various positions while working in the engineering, finance, distribution, and field operations areas of the company. As an admirer of various Japanese art forms, such as dance, handcrafts, and culinary arts, she has been a student of Japanese dance for over 25 years.

A firm believer in giving back to one's community, Cheryl has volunteered for Canadian Cancer Society events, BC Cancer Foundation events, BC Hydro community events, the Powell Street Festival, has been elected to strata council several times, and is currently a very active member of NNMCC's Auxiliary, serving on their Committee as the Volunteer Coordinator.

She is committed to assisting NNMCC's mission to honour, preserve, and share Japanese culture, and Japanese Canadian history and heritage for a better Canada.

## **KEVIN ISOMURA**

Kevin has been a director of NNMCC since 2016 and has served as Vice-President, Chair of Community Awards Dinner, and member of the Executive and Finance Committees.

Kevin is a partner with Dale Matheson Carr-Hilton Labonte LLP and is a Chartered Professional Accountant who has over 30 years of financial experience. He has a Bachelor of Commerce from UBC and has served as a director of various private and not-for-profit organizations.

As a *sansei* whose parents were interned in Greenwood and Tashme, Kevin is committed to preserving Japanese Canadian history and advancing NNMCC's mission.

## **GARY KAWAGUCHI**

Gary has been the President of the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre in Toronto since 2009 (board member since 1992). He recently retired having sold his Employee Group Benefits and Pension business. Prior to that, he was a senior executive in Finance, Operations, Marketing and Strategic planning in corporate Canada working in packaged goods, banking and telecommunications.

He has also served as President of the Summit Golf Club and on the board of the Canadian Cancer Society. Gary brings valuable synergy between the NNMCC and the JCCC.

## **RON KRUSCHEN**

Ron has been on the NNMCC Board since 2014 and currently serves as the Society Treasurer, Chair of the Audit & Finance and the Nomination & Governance committees. He is also actively involved with major NNMCC fundraising events. Prior to retirement, he was president of a national Investment Consulting firm serving Institutional investors such as Foundations and Pensions.

He is currently on the boards of several Arts and Culture Not-For-Profit organizations and also sits on the board of several investment industry organizations. Ron holds a degree in Econometrics, an MBA and is a fellow of the Institute of Corporate Directors holding the ICD.D designation.

## **RYAN D. LANG**

Ryan Lang is a *yonsei* and currently lives with his wife, Eliza, in Vancouver, BC.

He first visited the Nikkei Centre when his great grandmother Tamako Miki moved to Nikkei Place in the early 2000s. Ryan's grandfather, Patrick Miki and his great aunt, late Joan Miki, have been significant contributors to the Nikkei Place. Ryan has attended many Nikkei events and would like to ensure the 4th generation Japanese Canadians are educated and active in the local community.



Ryan is a Managing Director at Deloitte Corporate Finance. Prior to Deloitte, Ryan spent 12 years in commercial and corporate banking, business strategy, and real estate development.

Ryan holds a Bachelor in Business in Real Estate degree from the University of British Columbia, a Master in Business Administration from IE Business School in Madrid, Spain and is a CFA Charterholder.

### **IAN MIKI**

Ian has been a director since 2012. He is a third generation Japanese Canadian, born and raised in Surrey, BC. As a professional engineer with a MBA, Ian is a Project Director with FortisBC Energy Inc.

He has been involved in many Japanese community groups including Japanese school, kendo, bonsai and the Powell Street Festival. Ian and his wife Chieko have three children.

### **WAKAKO MORRIS**

Born in Tokyo, Japan, Wakako spent much of her childhood in the Philippines and Peru. She graduated from Sophia University in Tokyo with a BA in Spanish and moved to Vancouver in 1979.

Most of her career has been with the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC), a five-country international governmental organization as its administration and financial officer. After 30 years, she retired in 2016 and received a lifetime achievement award from the NPAFC.

Since 2014, Wakako has been volunteering as Nikkei Matsuri Games' Coordinator and joined the Board of Directors in 2016.

In her spare time, she is busy with many hobbies: golfing, kayaking, snowshoeing, playing classical guitar and piano, painting, and travelling. She resides in North Vancouver with her husband Alan, an economist and retired university professor. Their two grown sons now live in Tokyo and Toronto, respectively. She is a proud grandmother of two.

### **KAORI (MICK) NAMIKI**

Mick is the President & CEO of Mitsubishi Canada Ltd and a Director of Japanese Business Association of Vancouver (Konwakai) from 1st April, 2020.

He graduated from Waseda University with a Bachelor of Economics in 1991 and started his career at Mitsubishi Corporation. He has been engaged in trading and investment in the mineral resources sector during his 30-year career and stationed in Shanghai, China (1999-2006) and Jakarta, Indonesia (2017-2020) in addition to Tokyo, Nagoya in Japan.

Mick was very impressed to learn the history of Japanese Canadians and their contribution to Canadian society and he is very honored to be a board member of NNMCC and he hopes to contribute to the mission of the NNMCC and the prosperity of Japanese Canadian society.

### **CRAIG NATSUHARA**

Craig is a fourth generation Japanese Canadian, born in Prince Rupert, BC. He has been an NNMCC Director since 1998, including five years as President and Co-President, and was a Director of the Japanese Canadian National Museum before the two organizations merged.

He spent the first 11 years of his legal career practicing at DLA Piper (Canada) LLP (previously Davis LLP), and was mentored by Robert Banno. He has been at EY Law LLP since 2013.

Craig is the proud parent of three children, Karsten, Kaeden, and Kaia. His wife Emily, is also involved in the Japanese Canadian community, including the Sakura Days Japan Fair and the Powell Street Festival.

### **CARRIE OKANO**

Carrie was born in Burnaby, BC and attended Simon Fraser University. She worked for 25 years in various human resources roles including senior leadership positions.

More recently Carrie has provided consulting services in human resources to a broad range of clients in the private, public and not for profit sectors.

Carrie has served on the NNMCC board as a member of the human resources committee, as secretary, and is currently a member of the governance/nominations committee. She enjoys being part of a dedicated group of directors and values being able to support the NNMCC in all of its important endeavours.

### **HERBERT I. ONO**

Herbert is the Co-Chair of McMillan LLP's Japan and US Securities Practice Groups, with two years' experience as a foreign lawyer with the Tokyo "Big Four" law firm known as Nagashima, Ohno and Tsunematsu.

A sansei born and raised in Sechelt, BC, he holds Master of Laws, Bachelor of Laws, and Bachelor of Arts degrees, and is committed to advancing the mission of the NNMCC.

### **LEIGH ANN SHOJI-LEE**

Leigh Ann was born and raised in Chatham, Ontario. Her grandfather, Yasuzo Shoji, arrived in Canada from Japan in 1906. During World War I he served in the Canadian Army and after the war, he farmed in Whonnock, BC. The Shoji family moved to Ontario in the late 1940's.

Leigh Ann is a graduate of the University of Toronto with a BAsC in Mechanical Engineering and also holds an MBA. In 2001, she moved to Vancouver with her own family, for a work opportunity.

She is currently President of Pacific Northern Gas (PNG); and EVP, Utility Operations for TriSummit Utilities. Leigh Ann has served on a number of non-profit Boards and recently completed a term as Chair of the Board of the Canadian Gas Association. With her Japanese heritage, Leigh Ann wants to give back to the community and is looking forward to supporting the work of the NNMCC.

### **LESLIE TERAMOTO**

Born and raised in Vancouver, Leslie is nisei, has been a long-term volunteer at the NNMCC, and has served on the Board since 2010.

She has worked in international business in the private sector, handling strategic planning and procurement. With the Government of BC, she has worked on corporate governance, 2010 Olympics, export development and strategic investments. Her experience has been in both natural resources and technology-based industries, spanning Europe, Asia and the United States.

Leslie holds a Bachelor of Arts from McGill University and a MBA from the University of London. She also is a Board member with the Canada Japan Society of BC. Utilizing her skills and experience, she hopes to contribute further to the efforts and goals of the Centre.

### **FRED YADA**

Fred is retired and was a partner in the chartered accounting firms Ernst & Young and DMCL. Fred was the treasurer and director of the Japanese Canadian Redress Foundation for 10 years. He is the treasurer and director of the Nikkei Place Foundation.

He is an honorary director of the Lions Gate Hospital Foundation and was the treasurer and Board member for 6 years. Fred is a past director of the Sarah McLachlan Foundation.

His most rewarding accomplishments were being president of NNMCC for 4 years and during his term with the Redress Foundation granting funds to acquire the land to build Nikkei Place.

# Minutes of the 2020 AGM

**Saturday, July 18, 2020 | 11:00 am**

**Special Events Hall, NNMCC at 6688 Southoaks Crescent, Burnaby, BC**

**Present: A quorum was present.**

Karah Goshinmon Foster, Executive Director

Herb Ono, President | Akiko Gomyo, Vice President | Ron Kruschen, Treasurer | Ian Miki, Secretary/Recorder

**1. Confirmation that the Notice of the AGM was distributed to the Members in accordance with the Society Act and the By-Laws of the Society and that a Quorum is present.**

## **2. Adopt the agenda**

Motion to adopt the agenda

Moved by: Ron Kruschen

***Agenda approved***

## **3. Approval of Minutes of Annual General Meeting July 20, 2019**

Motion to adopt the AGM minutes of July 20, 2019

Moved by: Akiko Gomyo

***Minutes approved***

## **4. President's Report**

Herb Ono referenced highlights from the President's report on page 2 of the Annual Report which summarizes the activities and accomplishments of the NNMCC that occurred in 2019 - 2020.

Herb recognized the loss of the following community leaders and supporters: Robert Banno, Gordon Kadota, Emmie Hayashi, and City of Burnaby councillor Paul McDonnell.

Herb also recognized the leadership of Karah Goshinmon Foster and Sherri Kajiwarra, and the hardworking staff.

## **5. Executive Director's Report**

Karah Goshinmon reported on highlights of the previous year which is found in the Executive Director's report on page 3 of the Annual Report.

She acknowledged the past as a challenging one but also a year of change and opportunities. The new fiscal year started with the completion of the newly renovated Karasawa museum.

Past executive director, Roger Lemire retired near the end of 2019 and transitioned the leadership duties to Karah.

2020 is the 20th anniversary for Nikkei Centre. In late 2019, a successful fundraising campaign was undertaken to grow the building maintenance fund.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been unprecedented. Through perseverance and resilience, we will get through these unusual times and become stronger together.



## 6. Auditor's Report

Receive and approve the Auditor's Report and Financial Statements of the NNMCC for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2020.

Presented by Ron Kruschen, Treasurer.

Financial Statement included in board package.

Ron presented a financial summary including income statement and balance sheet.

## 7. Appoint Auditors

Motion to appoint Tompkins Wozny as auditors for the NNMCC for the coming year.

Moved by: Ron Kruschen

***Motion carried***

## 8. 2020 Resilience Fundraising Campaign

Presented by Ian Miki, Secretary.

## 9. Appoint new Board of Directors

Presented by Ron Kruschen, Treasurer and Governance Committee Chair

Motion to set the number of directors at 17.

***Motion carried***

Nominees for the 2020 2021 Board of Directors of the Nikkei National Museum & Cultural Centre, as recommended by the Governance Committee:

- |                     |                     |                         |
|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Louise Akuzawa   | 7. Ronald Kruschen  | 13. Herb Ono            |
| 2. Dean Lewis Dalke | 8. Ryan Lang        | 14. Teresa R. Tabo      |
| 3. Kiyokazu Godo    | 9. Ian Miki         | 15. Leslie Teramoto     |
| 4. Naoko Hall       | 10. Wakako Morris   | 16. Fred Yada           |
| 5. Kevin Isomura    | 11. Craig Natsuhara | 17. Ana Elisa Yamaguchi |
| 6. Gary Kawaguchi   | 12. Carrie Okano    |                         |

***The new board was approved by acclamation.***

## 10. President's closing

Presented by Herb Ono, President

Personally thanked Akiko Gomyo for her long, outstanding contributions and support to the board and Nikkei National Museum & Cultural Centre.

## 11. Termination of the Annual General Meeting

Herb Ono observed that the formal business of the meeting having been concluded, and there being no new business raised for discussion, the meeting could be terminated.

The meeting ended at 11:49 am.

Final Minutes Approved by Herb Ono, Board President

# NNMCC 2020-2021: The Year in Review

## NNMCC STAFF

April 1, 2020 - March 31, 2021

Executive Director	Karah Goshinmon Foster
Director  Curator	Sherri Kajiwarra
Operations Manager	Trisha Roberson
Collections Manager	Lisa Uyeda
Museum Programmer	Nichola Ogiwara
Research Archivist	Linda Kawamoto Reid
Culture, Education & Program Coordinator	Carolyn Nakagawa
Sales Coordinator	Karen Duffield (to July 2020)
Special Event Coordinator	Yukiko Nishikawa
Office Assistant	Yoko Ariura (to July 2020)
Receptionist	Toko Peters (from February 2021)
Volunteer Coordinator	Emiko Newman (to August 2020) Li Xin Shi (from August 2020)
Program Assistant	Marina Mayumi de Souza
Communications Assistant	Kaoruko Sasaki
Facility Team Coordinator	Patrick Fujisawa
Custodian	Herozal Evalle Rainier Dalisay
Maintenance Coordinator	Dave Bergen
Facility Staff	Jamie Seo Scott Stewart Matthew Armstrong Tai Anderson (Receptionist) Naruhito Kruschen Travis Armstrong

## Committees of the Board

Executive  
Finance  
Fundraising  
Governance & Nominations  
History & Heritage  
New Immigrants  
Next Generation

Nikkei Place Foundation performs the function of fundraising and processing of all NNMCC donations.

We are immensely grateful to our donors and members who continue to believe in our mission and place their trust in the Nikkei National Museum & Cultural Centre past, present and future.

The Nikkei National Museum & Cultural Centre would like to acknowledge the generosity of our numerous and loyal volunteers during the challenging time. Without you we could not provide the programs and services we do.

THANK YOU to our summer students, practicum/intern students, community members, and community partners for continuing to support our museum and cultural centre. Without you we would be hard pressed to fulfill our mission.



## VOLUNTEERS

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Nikkei Place Volunteers support the efforts of the Nikkei National Museum & Cultural Centre. They lend their time and expertise in working towards our vision of strengthening Canada as a multicultural nation by bridging Japanese and Canadian culture. This year the volunteer team and the NNMCC Auxiliary contributed over 2000 hours and 37 new volunteers were welcomed.

Despite challenges and restrictions brought forth by the pandemic, over 40 volunteers participated in the Summer at Nikkei Garden event between August 7 - 8, 21 - 22 and September 4 - 5, 2020. In this event alone, volunteers contributed over 300 hours.

In response to the needs of the Nikkei National Museum, remote volunteer opportunities were created. The volunteers served both remotely and on site in a variety of projects, including creating

metadata for archival records and photographs for the Museum's 20 in 2020 anniversary project, and preparing descriptions for the Irving K. Barber BC History Digitization Program. Additionally, our volunteers provided video editing skills to create content for Treasures from the Vault series as well as translation skills, translating Japanese documents from the 1890s and early 1900s.

Volunteers dedicated their time as workshop leaders and camp assistants for the Summer Manga Camp. Our regular bookstore volunteers contributed to the success of the Japanese Bookstore and book sale events.

In October 2020, a book recycling project was initiated to recycle and remove old books stored in the facility. Volunteers came in weekly to separate the plastic pieces from books in preparation for recycling and disposal. In December 2020, over 20 360L containers of books were recycled — a credit to the consistent efforts of the volunteers.



# NNMCC Auxiliary

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## **2020 began with the election of officers :**

1. Chair - Yoshi Hashimoto
2. Secretary - Ruth Tsukishima
3. Treasurer - Craig Maruyama
4. Social - Kaori Yano

## **Assisted NNMCC in approving funding requests :**

1. Reproduction of two additional education kits (\$5000)
2. Auxiliary education outreach (\$1500)
3. Digitizing pre-war films (\$3700)

**March 2020** - the Auxiliary decided to continue meeting monthly over Zoom. NNMCC Executive Director, Karah Goshinmon-Foster became a member in standing of the Auxiliary and began attending Zoom meetings as Board representative.

**April 2020** - Project titled Cookbook: "Nikkei Favourites" is presented by Carolyn Nakagawa. Auxiliary members contributed familiar recipes from events and other activities and provided anecdotes.

**July & October 2020 and March 2021** - Auxiliary fundraising continued with participation in the Shoten, Mini Markets selling plants, flea market items, kimonos, and Japanese items.

**June 2020** - Auxiliary donated \$5000 to kick-start the Resilience Fundraiser and participated in the Tanabata Flea Market. Five volunteers completed COVID-19 Food Safe training.

**August & September 2020** - Participated in Summer at Nikkei Garden Event with Japanese items for sale.

**December 2020** - Auxiliary's S&B Club made COVID-19 masks for NNMCC to send to selected donors.

**February 2021** - Auxiliary supported the NNMCC's new project, Nikkei Garden Farmers Market proposal.



# EXHIBITIONS

## Exhibitions in the Karasawa Gallery

### Nikkei 日系

Through July 2020 (opened July 2019)

The term Nikkei originated in Japan during the Meiji imperial restoration, beginning in 1868, to identify Japanese immigrants and their descendants residing in foreign countries. Today, it is widely used within the Japanese diaspora worldwide but often requires explanation outside of Japan where the label is most relevant. More than 25 individual and family stories, accompanied by rare and previously inaccessible personal belongings from the community held within our permanent archives, give evidence to lived experience of Nikkei in Canada. These are unique stories of arrival, heroism in the face of racism, the resilience of community, and the experience of generations through the intersections of migration, identity, and belonging.

### Broken Promises

September 2020 – June 2021

Grounded in research from Landscapes of Injustice – a 7 year multi-disciplinary, multi-institutional, community engaged project, this exhibit explores the dispossession of Japanese Canadians in the 1940s. It illuminates the loss of home and the struggle for justice of one racially marginalized community. The story follows seven narrators – Kaoru Atagi, Eikichi Kagetsu, Teiji Morishita, Keiko Mary Murakami (Kitagawa), Hiroshi Okuda, Masue Tagashira, and Tsuma Tonomura over a decade. Supplementing these storytellers are excerpts curated from diverse oral histories (first person, inherited experience, and bystander), letters of protest, government records, maps, and photographs. Through images, objects, text, and interactive a/v stations, Broken Promises demonstrates life for Japanese Canadians in Canada before war, the administration of their lives by the State during and after war ends, and

how legacies of dispossession continue to this day. Both this exhibit and a smaller condensed version are new additions to our traveling exhibit roster.

Thank you to our Landscapes of Injustice Partner Institutions:

<https://www.landscapesofinjustice.com/partner-institutions/>

This project has been made possible by the Government of Canada.

Ce projet a été rendu possible grâce au gouvernement du Canada.



## Exhibitions in the Ellipse Lobby

In a pandemic pivot, in 2020 we created a discrete social enterprise gallery niche in the Ellipse lobby as an opportunity to showcase local creative talent and Japanese culture.

September – *Robert Stickney* : wood fired tea ware

October – Antique Imari plates

November & December - Mizuhiki + Chiyogami accessories

January – *Robert Shiozaki* : earthenware

February & March – *Hitomi Mckenzie* : ceramics

# NIKKEI NATIONAL MUSEUM COLLECTIONS

## Repository

The Nikkei National Museum is home to the largest community-driven repository of Japanese Canadian history in Canada. By acquiring, preserving, and making accessible archival records and personal belongings related to Japanese Canadian heritage, we offer an important resource for all to learn about Japanese Canadians' place in our country's history. Preserved within our archive's storage vault are over 43,300 photographs and digital images, 42 metres of textual records, 650+ oral history records, 156 film reels, and over 2600 artworks and objects that were once personal belongings of individuals and organizations in our community. We continue to grow and between April 2020 and March 2021 we received 34 new donations and accruals and due to Covid-19, we have 50 pending donations to be received in 2021-2022. The number of items in each donation can range from one to hundreds and may include documents, photographs, books, maps, artwork, films, oral histories, and objects.

We are governed by our NNM Collections Policy and our NNM Loans Policy. In November 2020, both policies were reviewed, revised, and approved by the NNMCC Board of Directors. We carry out work procedures in accordance with the NNM Collection Management Practices and Procedures which includes but not limited to acquisitions, rejections, deaccessions, appraisal, arrangement and description, digitization, preservation and conservation, repatriation, and access; we aim to review and revise our practices and procedures within the next two years. We support the code of ethics of the International Council of Museums, Association of Canadian Archivists, Canadian Conservation Institute, and the Canadian Museums Association.

## Online Collection

Partnered with the Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre in New Denver, the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre in Toronto, and the Kamloops

Japanese Canadian Museum & Archives, visitors can explore over 32,550 archival records and objects from all four institutions through our online database at [nikkeimuseum.org](http://nikkeimuseum.org).

Of the 32,550 items available online, 25,575 are from the NNM! Visitor hits on our online database have increased from 24,012 page views last year to 33,791 between April 2020 and March 2021. We aim to increase our annual visitor hits to over 100,000 within the next 2-3 years. To meet this goal, we are exploring the option to enhance our online database with a focus on user accessibility.

## Donation Highlights

While all of our donations are exciting additions to our holdings, there were two in particular that significantly increased the Japanese language resources in our museum's archives.

### ***The Vancouver Shinpo fonds 2020.15***

Vancouver Shinpo was a Japanese-language weekly newspaper published between December 1978 and April 30, 2020 by Vancouver Shinpo-sha Publishing Ltd., founded and owned by Saeko Tsuda.



*Image caption: Lisa Uyeda, Collections Manager, reviewing the Vancouver Shinpo collection recently rehoused by Keiko Kaneko, Collections Assistant, into archival-quality storage boxes for long-term preservation in the Museum's vault. Photograph by Keiko Kaneko, 6 January 2021.*





The newspaper was started by Ms. Saeko Tsuda with a few volunteers to serve the Japanese population living in the Vancouver area who were hungry for the news from Japan because there were no Japanese-language newspapers at that time. The paper grew and developed over time in an effort to meet the needs of its readers. Today, the Vancouver Shinpo continues to share the news with Japanese language readers in digital form at [www.v-shinpo.com](http://www.v-shinpo.com). The Vancouver Shinpo fonds (collection) was donated by Ms. Saeko Tsuda and consists of almost every printed issue of the newspaper produced over 41 years. Once rehoused, the newspaper collection fills 90 archival-quality newspaper boxes! In addition, the donation included 5 boxes of handmade newspaper layouts and transfer sheets that document how the newspaper was printed; examples of printed advertisements showcasing community partners; and 21 boxes of negatives and photographs, mostly captured by the reporters.

*"Newly acquired records from the Vancouver Shinpo, now account for the Nikkei National Museum & Cultural Centre's largest publication collection to date. This invaluable acquisition supports our goals to preserve diverse stories, and connect Japanese Canadian history and heritage across generations."*  
- Executive Director, Karah Goshinmon-Foster

### **The ICAS collection 2019.10**

The Intercultural Action Society (ICAS) was a Japanese TV production for a local multicultural channel in Metro Vancouver.

The new acquisition was donated by Naoto Horita, Producer and Executive Director of ICAS Nikkei TV between 1995 and 2005. The collection consists of approximately 500 broadcast-quality Betacam tapes covering community events and interviews created by ICAS from 1995 to 2005, with a few tapes from the Redress era in the late 1980s. Only 8 tapes have been digitized and shared via our online database.

To digitize all 500 tapes for long-term preservation and access will be a large and expensive undertaking and we estimate approximately 10% of the tapes will require conservation treatment prior to playback. This is a large project we hope to undertake in the future and will need the support of grants and the community to help us meet our goal. In the coming years, we aim to translate the titles and catalogue the tapes in English and Japanese into our database.

### **Grants**

BC History Digitization Program 20 in 2020 project  
Now Online

The 20 in 2020 digitization project includes over 3900 photographs & 35mm negatives preserved in the Nikkei National Museum & Cultural Centre (NNMCC)'s archives that capture the life of the NNMCC from its pre-history in the 1980s to the present day. 2020 marks the 20th anniversary of the opening of the NNMCC and 2021 celebrates 40 years of the Japanese Canadian community's dream to establish a community archive to honour, preserve, and share Japanese culture and Japanese Canadian history and heritage for a better Canada.



The recently digitized photographs follow the archives from a small office on Broadway to our purpose-built museum space today: a journey seen through groundbreaking ceremonies and community gatherings.

Explore the Nikkei National Museum & Cultural Centre fonds (collection) at [nikkeimuseum.org](http://nikkeimuseum.org). See highlights in the 20 in 2020 photo gallery at [centre.nikkeiplace.org/resources/20-in-2020](http://centre.nikkeiplace.org/resources/20-in-2020). Photograph gallery curated by Lindsey Jacobson, NNMCC Collections Assistant.

Photographs digitized and described by NNMCC Collections Assistants Hannah Babki, Dorothy Poon, Tai Anderson, and Lindsey Jacobson.



*Image caption: Lindsey Jacobson, Collections Assistant, stands next to the new mobile units in the collections vault. Photography by Tai Anderson.*

### **Department of Canadian Heritage Museums Assistance Program Grant**

The COVID-19 Emergency Support Fund for Heritage Organizations provided \$100,000 in financial assistance to the museum to allow for the continuous care of our collections.

This emergency relief support granted us the ability to: keep our Collections Team employed; hire 3 Collections Assistants and a Film Conservation Technician on contract to support our collections-related work; purchase archival, library, and office supplies; digitize audio and film reels; insure our valuable collections; appraise one of our collections; and help cover operational expenses associated with our online database.

We contracted the professional conservation support of Shabnam Honarbakhsh from Revival Conservators to assist with the care and rehousing of our Samurai armour from the Robert Samuel Alexander collection 2016.20. Stay tuned for a new Treasures from the Vault video highlighting the custom-made storage solutions.

Additionally, less than 10% of the funds were allocated to complete a mini storage renovation project allowing us to extend our compact mobile units from Hi-Cube Storage. The new units help us maximize our storage space and provide us with double the storage capacity on our mobile units.



*Image caption: Keiko Kaneko completed the cataloguing of our Japanese-language library publications classified using our Japanese Canadian Classification Scheme. Aira Ng, practicum student from Langara College, completed the rehousing and reorganization of our library publications.*



### **Lost and Found Blog has a New Look!**

Our Lost and Found blog remains an incredible online tool to share featured photographs from our repository and ask the community for help identifying people, places, and dates. This year, we posted 185 photographs related to the Asahi Baseball Team from our Home Run at Powell Street project including a few never-before-seen photographs from private collections in Japan. Overall we had 8,159 visitor views (our highest year yet!) and 16 new comments, plus many more comments via Facebook and email connecting us to the community.

### **Nikkei Voice Newspaper**

Founded in 1987, the Nikkei Voice newspaper serves the Japanese Canadian community across Canada and continues to work in partnership every month with the Collections Team to promote awareness of and access to our collections.

### **Lost and Found NNMCC Monthly Column**

For the months of April 2020 to May 2021, we featured photographs from our completed Home Run at Powell Street project. The community response remains very positive and we have been successful in receiving identifying information for many people and places. Beginning in June 2021, our monthly column will now feature photographs from 20 in 2020 project capturing the early NNMCC days and community events spanning the 1980s to 2000s.

### **Treasures from the NNMCC Monthly Column**

The goal of our treasures article is to highlight a significant item or collection from our repository. This year our articles featured stories about Arrandale, BC; an udon maker; the rare book *Kanada no Sakae* (Prosperity in Canada) published in 1921; a

mystery carving by Maede; Mrs Hanako Sato's engagement ring; the Yano family beet topping knife; the Nimi Shoten storefront tiles; and a beautiful tea set from the prewar Marpole community returned after 79 years. Read the stories shared by Lindsey Jacobson, Ophélie Alvaro, Jeffery Chong, Hannah Babki, and Lisa Uyeda on the Nikkei Voice website, [www.nikkeivoice.ca](http://www.nikkeivoice.ca).

### **Tadaima! Virtual Pilgrimage Week 7: The Politics of Racism with Ann Sunahara**

Ann Sunahara, author of *The Politics of Racism: The Uprooting of Japanese Canadians During the Second World War*, and Collections Manager Lisa Uyeda were invited by the Japanese American Memorial Pilgrimages (JAMP) to take part in a virtual pilgrimage aimed to provide educational and community-building opportunities over the course of 9 weeks. Ann and Lisa discussed how *The Politics of Racism* was created, the role it played in the redress campaign, and how it and its supporting documents and interviews came to be digitized and are now accessible on-line through the NNMCC. The discussion was pre-recorded and was presented on Friday, July 31, 2020 followed by a live Q&A.

Watch the program at <https://youtu.be/Rklicqu4tRc> and learn more about the pilgrimages at <https://www.jampilgrimages.com/>



## **Landscapes of Injustice (LOI) Digital Archive**

The LOI digital archive online xml-database is the culmination of a four-year intensive research period conducted by project members. It includes a diverse array of materials from archival and government records to oral histories as well as land title records and transcribed directories. This archive boasts a total of 32,042 html documents collected from over 20 archives and repositories from Canada, US and UK. The documents include over 10,000 case files from the Office of the Custodian, over 1,400 files related to the Bird Commission, 7,397 land title documents, 1,019 Fishing Boat Ledger files and 454 protest letter documents. All this material is harmonized into one cohesive unit easily searchable by the public with a static search capability. The materials will provide insight into people doing research on their family history or for researchers interested in the topic of the dispossession of Japanese Canadians.

Watch the recorded launch events on March 28, 2021 and March 31, 2021 at:

<https://www.landscapesofinjustice.com/upcoming-events/exploring-jc-family-history-through-the-digital-archive-database/>

The digital archive cluster was co-chaired by Lisa Uyeda and Stewart Arneil, Manager of the University of Victoria's Humanities Computing and Media Centre.

## **Charles H. Kadota Resource Centre**

Our Charles H. Kadota Resource Centre is used by students, educators, academics, archivists, curators, filmmakers, the general public, and our community for personal and family research. Our staff facilitate access to rare and one of a kind resources in the library, archives, and museum collection. From April 2020 to March 2021 we received 181 research requests and spent over 200 hours helping researchers access our resources.

In response to COVID-19, our Research Archivist Linda Kawamoto Reid began providing Family History 1-1 Genealogy consultations online, connecting nationwide. In comparison to last year, the number of requests and time spent with researchers was the same but our in-kind services doubled, valued at \$3,553. In addition, our in-kind support for providing custom digitized files for the LOI digital archive was valued at over \$745,000. Our services include object loans, high-resolution digitized copies, research support, and commercial license fees and remain lower than similar institutions across Canada. Our revenue was \$1,730, less than half of the last fiscal year. Our numbers are a direct reflection of our commitment to support our researchers and community partners.

## **Nikkei National Museum Loans**

Objects from the collection on long term loans can be explored at:

The Canadian Museum for Human Rights

The Canadian Museum of History

The Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21

The Museum of Vancouver

and traveling within the A Call for Justice exhibition.

# Thank You to Our Collections & Archives Volunteers & Supporters!

*Your help enables us to continue to offer an important resource for all to learn about Japanese Canadians' place in our country's history.*

## 20 in 2020 Digitization Project

Thank you to our dedicated volunteers Wendy Fang, Katie Breakwell, Karlene Ooto-Stubbs, Mandy Choie, and Aira Ng who worked remotely to help describe our photographs.

Thank you to the Irving K. Barber British Columbia History Digitization Program at the University of British Columbia for helping us preserve and make accessible these important photographs. More information about the program can be found at [www.ikebarberlearningcentre.ubc.ca](http://www.ikebarberlearningcentre.ubc.ca)



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  
Library  
Irving K. Barber Learning Centre

## Department of Canadian Heritage Museums Assistance Program Grant

Thank you to our incredible donor, Linda Kawamoto Reid, for their generous contribution in memory of Tamiko Nakamura Corbett. Thank you to the Government of Canada for their support.

Funded by the  
Government  
of Canada

Financé par le  
gouvernement  
du Canada

Canada

## Landscapes of Injustice (LOI) Digital Archive

Thank you to the community council, project team, research assistants, volunteers, and the numerous archives for their support.

## Collections Team

A special thank you to our support team who continue to assist staff members Lisa Uyeda and Linda Reid in all of our collection-related activities such as digitization, database descriptions, exhibition preparations, research, and preservation/conservation work.

Thank you to our volunteers, summer students, practicum/intern students, community members, and community partners for continuing to support our museum and for helping us shift to continuing our important work remotely in response to COVID-19.





# PROGRAMS + EVENTS

## Museum Programs and Events

A variety of formats of programming were offered through re-imagining, experimenting, and researching online programming and resources.

- One planned in-person program, Preserving Your Photographs, was cancelled.
- Film screening of The Wound and The Gift and a talk by director Linda Hoaglund was presented online instead of an in-person event in May. This event was successful for raising \$600 in donations with 50 tickets sold.
- In July, Museum Programmer Nichola Ogiwara attended a three-day Digital Ladders Learning Lab hosted by the BC Arts Alliance.
- We partnered with the Historic Joy Kogawa House to present our second online event Opening the Memory Chest: How to Research and Write Your Family Story in July. Writer in residence Sally Ito spoke about her new publication, and Linda Kawamoto Reid explained NNM's Family History One-on-one program. Program delivery improved with a Zoom webinar platform, and summer student tech support. 29 tickets were sold.
- We were successful in receiving the SFU Co-op award, which enabled us to recruit student intern Alan Sanderson for the fall semester to assist with program delivery as well as to conduct digital program research, which helped analyze suitable digital programs for NNM.
- In September, Nichola, Linda, and Alan attended a five-day Digital Ladders Prototype Lab, which resulted in re-imagining the Marpole neighbourhood walking tour into a mini-podcast series. This project received funding from the Yosef Wosk Publication Grant, and is expected to be completed in summer 2021.
- The NNMCC 20th anniversary project Nikkei Poem launched in April in partnership with Tasai Collective (Soramaru Takayama and Yurie Hoyoyon) to gather poetic input from the public about Nikkei history, culture, and identity. We received 32 submissions of words, images, and sound which were collaged into a six-minute video Nikkei Kotoba Forest (500 views on Youtube) about the past, present, and future. A hybrid event Nikkei Kotoba Forest Lounge was hosted in September with limited attendance in person following PHO, and became our first experimental live-stream event on Facebook.
- Our most successful event of the year was Broken Promises exhibition opening ceremony in partnership with the Landscapes of Injustice. The live stream attracted a large audience and has our highest views on Youtube at 4700.



- In response to the positive reaction to our staff book recommendation, social media posts coordinated by Emiko Newman, and the timely publication of a new educational graphic novel *On Being Yukiko* by authors Lillian Michiko Blakey and Jeff Chiba Stearns, we offered three types of digital programs. The Meet the Authors event was successful in offering a space to connect with others across Canada, while the book club discussion and Discord chat only attracted a small audience with 7 tickets sold.
- The documentary film *Bitter Sweet Trail* created by Kenji Dyck stems from the NNM bus tour of Southern Alberta in fall 2019. The film premiere was co-hosted by NNM and producers NAJC and David Iwaasa. Youtube views are our second highest at 4200.
- The Remembrance Day ceremony at Stanley Park was live-streamed and a well-attended virtual event with 400 views. Funding enabled us to recruit film and tech professionals.
- As the SFU internship support was coming to an end in December, we shifted our efforts to produce evergreen content. Two Treasures from the Vault one-minute videos were released with the help of a volunteer video editor, and have 377, and 433 views on Youtube. This project is on-going with an average of one film produced per month.
- Six days of in-person aizome indigo workshops were presented between July and October. 46 students in total. Fall PHOs cancelled further programming.

## Cultural Workshops and Programs

### ***Kimono Dressing: July 2020***

Rescheduled second half of in-person kimono dressing workshops postponed from March 2020. Participants practiced physical distancing and wore masks. For further cultural offerings, see the Online Resources section of this report and our website.

### ***Tea Ceremony: Fall 2020***

Masterworks of Japanese Tea Culture online lecture series; Maiko Behr of SaBi Tea Arts co-presented a 6-part lecture series with the Nikkei National Museum & Cultural Centre about the aesthetic of wabi, one of the defining characteristics of the major streams of Japanese tea tradition, from the vantage point of the material culture of tea in Japan.

- Over 30 people registered for the full series; 45 additional single-lecture tickets purchased
- Lively, engaged Q&A session after each lecture; included local participants and those from around the world



## Weekly/Monthly Public Programs

Onsite programs were suspended in March 2020. When the Nikkei Centre re-opened in June 2020, many programs chose to extend their hiatus due to an abundance of caution. Other programs resumed with adapted safety protocols and continued to adjust their procedures to match ever-changing public health guidelines, including pausing activities when needed.

Thank you to the dedicated program coordinators for their hard work adapting to public safety needs and for continuing dedication to Japanese culture and the Japanese Canadian community. There were many difficult decisions made in the past year, whether to resume, continue, or pause in-person activities. Children and youth programming has continued to bring life to our facility during these hard times.

List of regular onsite programs operating in-person when public health permits:

- Chibi Taiko
- Gladstone Japanese Language School
- Igo Club
- Satsuki-kai Japanese Dance
- Badminton (Senior & Adult)
- Ji Hong Tai Chi
- Line dancing
- Seniors' Gateball
- Shinbukan Iaido
- Vancouver Shomonkai Aikido
- Ishikawa Family Judo Club
- Nikkei Karate
- Studio Maison Pilates
- Elite Gymnastics

### Cultural Events hosted by NNMCC

**June** Japanese Book Sale

**July** Tanabata + Flea Market and Mini-Market\*

**August/September** Summer at Nikkei Garden (three weekends)

**October/November** Japanese Book Sale

**March** Japanese Book Sale + Mini-Market\*

\*Coordinated by Auxiliary Committee

## RENTALS

### Multiple and One-time Rentals

COVID-19 Refunds – pandemic restrictions on gatherings affected many of our community rentals. The NNMCC provided options for postponing events, receiving credit for a future booking, or receiving a refund on the rental cost.

**Canadian Blood Services** | Blood Donor Clinics – 13 instances

**Agape Church Burnaby** | multiple rentals + live-streaming

**604 Real Estate Services AGM**

**Weddings**

**Celebration of Life**

**BC Election Polling Station**

**UW Productions Ltd** | Film Production

**John Knox Christian School** | Graduation Ceremony

**Mindfulness Meditation Retreat**

**Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival Filming**



## MUSEUM SHOPS

### Museum Shop

- The Squareup online shop is available across Canada. Orders are shipped locally and as far as Nova Scotia. A select number of items are available on Amazon Marketplace, serving Canadian and U.S. customers; orders are sporadic, and profit margins are slim. The small physical shop is limited to one family unit. Visitors are sporadic and rarely need to line up to enter. Although there was significant increase in online shopping, 70% of sales were in-store.
- Moving products on the shelf to online inventory, our online offerings increased during the early shutdown months. After reopening in June, inventory is managed separately (i.e. we don't have an integrated system) for online and in-store.
- Japanese Canadian books continue to be our best sellers. Top sellers: Karizuma(67), Landscapes of Injustice(50), Departures(49), Kyowakai(27)
- A popup shop was offered during Summer at Nikkei Garden events to enhance museum shop visibility and offerings.
- When the annual craft fair was cancelled, handmade knits by Nikkei Home seniors were sold in-store. Visitors drastically declined in the fall with new PHO restrictions, and in-store visits dropped dramatically. However, it made a good story of a local business donating yarn to the senior home, who then donated knitted items to NNM.
- Since fall 2020, commercial art for sale has been displayed in a glass case in the lobby. Displays change on a monthly cycle and feature Japanese arts and crafts, Japanese Canadian artists, and artists who have supported past museum art auctions. Featured art and artists: ceramics by Hitomi McKenzie, earthenware by Robert Shiozaki, mizuhiki and chiyogami accessories by Paper For You, antique Imari curated by Michiko Sakata, tea bowls by Robert Stickney.

## BOOKSTORE

### Bookstore

A very important part of the Nikkei Japanese Bookstore are our much appreciated volunteers, who include high-school students, full-time workers, and retirees. We cannot thank them enough for their ongoing hard work, time, and contributions.

#### Operation:

- The Bookstore re-opened on September 12, 2021 after being closed since mid-March 2020, and has been regularly operated by 6-8 volunteers.
- A tracking system has been established to understand customers' needs.
- Book donations are accepted at the bookstore during bookstore hours. Outside bookstore hours, books are screened at reception in order to reduce the need for book recycling.
- Beginning in January 2021, Tuesdays have been added to the bookstore schedule to accommodate more dates for the public.

#### Customer experience:

- Customer experiences have been enhanced by offering in-store payments - including cash and credit card - and making the bookstore a donation drop-off station.

#### Sales:

- The bookstore was closed for 3 weeks in November due to the PHO's regulations, but the daily average sales have remained stable throughout the year.
- We have a daily average of eight customers, and 112 books were sold monthly between September and December 2020. Between January and March 2021, there were a total of 238 books sold monthly.
- Book sales are increasing and have remained stable in 2021.



# NNMCC ONLINE RESOURCES

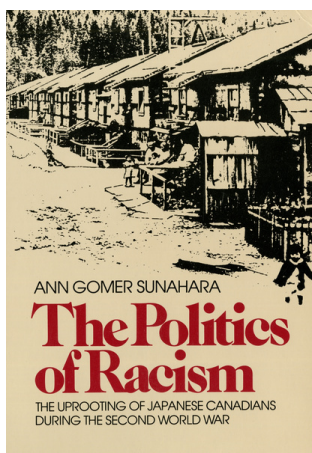
To see the latest in our digital offerings visit <https://centre.nikkeiplace.org/resources/>

## Writing Wrongs: Japanese Canadian Protest Letters of the 1940s online exhibit

[writingwrongs-parolesperdues.ca](http://writingwrongs-parolesperdues.ca)

Released in March 2021 after a four-year development process with Digital Museums Canada, Writing Wrongs is inspired by over 300 letters written by Japanese Canadians in the 1940s to protest the Canadian government's forcible sale of their property. Follow the stories of the Japanese Canadian community from Japanese emigration, to building communities in Canada, forcible removal from their homes to internment sites, and the legacy of standing up for justice that continues to this day. Archival photographs and stunning multimedia bring this story to life in the past and present, and the exhibit is available in both English and French

## Politics of Racism Ebook

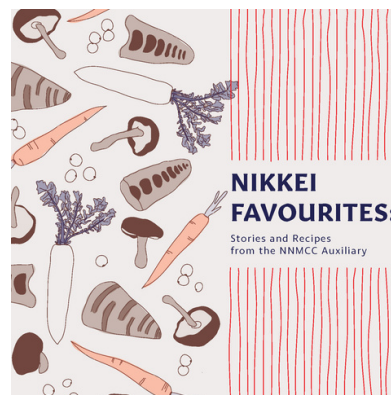


*The Politics of Racism: The Uprooting of Japanese Canadians During the Second World War* is the first book to fully document the politics behind the 1942 expulsion order that saw 20,000 Japanese Canadians evicted from their homes in British Columbia and sent inland to work camps, detention centres and farms in Alberta and Manitoba. It is available to read online through our website:

<https://centre.nikkeiplace.org/research/por/>.

Thank you to Ann Gomer Sunahara for generously donating copyright for her ground-breaking publication and the website domain [www.japanesecanadianhistory.ca](http://www.japanesecanadianhistory.ca) to the NNMCC.

## Nikkei Favourites: Stories and Recipes from the NNMCC Auxiliary



- *Nikkei Favourites* is a cookbook highlighting classic recipes prepared by Auxiliary members for fundraising, and some potluck specialties

- A free online ebook funded by Metro Vancouver, was release March 2021, hard copies also available through museum shop

- Download from our website:

<https://centre.nikkeiplace.org/resources/nikkei-favourites-stories-and-recipes-from-the-nmcc-auxiliary/>

## Stories From the Stage: 2020-21

In a time of social distancing, performing artist Kunji Mark Ikeda takes the reins of Sounds Japanese Canadian to Me to lead a series of conversations with some of today's most exciting Japanese Canadian performing artists.



## Broken Promises Exhibit: Virtual Tour

The Broken Promises Exhibit is available to view virtually through the free Broken Promises exhibit tour app. Download for iPhone on the *App Store* and for Android on the *Google Play store*. View the exhibit virtually through the *Matterport 3D Virtual Tour of Broken Promises at NNMCC*.

## Research Online

The Nikkei National Museum houses archival materials, art and objects relating to Japanese Canadian heritage. The easiest way to search the collection is by looking through our *online collection database* at *nikkeimuseum.org*. You can also access the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre, the New Denver Internment Memorial Centre, and the Kamloops Japanese Canadian Museum & Archives' collections by way of this address. The database is updated on an almost daily basis.

Thank you to the Museum Assistance Program of Canadian Heritage, the Vancouver Foundation, the Irving K Barber BC History Digitization Program, the Library and Archives Canada Documentary Heritage Communities Program, Young Canada Works, and Canada Summer Jobs for their support of our work.



## Moving Image Collection

<https://centre.nikkeiplace.org/research/moving-image-collection/>

The Nikkei National Museum has digitized over 62 historical home movies from its moving image collection. These fragile 16mm, 8mm, and Super 8 films along with VHS tapes are now safely placed in long term storage within the museum repository. Watch these incredible films to capture a glimpse into the personal and public lives of Japanese Canadians from the 1920s to the 2000s on the west coast, throughout Canada, and abroad. These films present a unique perspective on Canadian history highlighting generations of the Japanese Canadian community and their resilience in a time of discrimination and in a post-redress era. The conservation and digitization of these films was made possible with support from Library and Archives Canada and the *NNMCC Auxiliary*.

## Lost and Found Blog

<https://centre.nikkeiplace.org/research/lost-and-found-blog/>

Lost and Found is a blog created by the Nikkei National Museum with featured posts from our friends to generate a conversation across our community. This conversation will help us put names to faces and places on some of the more mysterious photographs in our collection. Each week we will post new photographs and we hope you will join in by leaving your comments on who or where or when or what you think about the photograph. The blog can be found at *nnm-lostandfound.blogspot.ca*. You can also spot Lost and Found in the Nikkei Voice. Each month the newspaper publishes a photograph from our collection in the hopes that you might recognize some faces and places. If you do please contact us at [collectionsmanager@nikkeiplace.org](mailto:collectionsmanager@nikkeiplace.org).



## Museum



9025

Attendees of  
Virtual Museum Events



## Collection & Archives Repository

43,300

Photographs + Digital Images

2600+

Artworks + Objects

42m

Textual Records

650+

Oral History Records

156

Film Reels



## Volunteerism

258

Volunteers

37

New Volunteers

2643

Hours



## Social Media



4,744

Likes



2,597

Followers



1,989

Followers

# DONORS

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## March 31, 2020 - April 1, 2021

Anonymous (20)	David & Beverley Foy	The Johnston Family (Erik Johnston)
Janet Abe	Joseph Fry	Stephanie Jost
Michael Abe	Katsuyo Fujishima	Shinobu Kadome
Aikido Vancouver Shomonkai	Stanley & Masako Fukawa	Ellen Kadonaga
Akiye Kay Akada	Kiyokazu Godo	Paul & Naoko Kadota
Louise Akuzawa & Ron Kruschen	Yoshiko Godo	Bill & Toshiko Kajiware
Jean-Pierre Antonio	Akiko Gomyo	Sherri Kajiware
Miwako Aoki	Karlee Gorrie	Sumiko Kamachi
Grace Asao	KODO Collection (Reyna Goshinmon)	Kami Insurance Agencies Ltd.
Yoshiharu & Fumiko Aura	Roy & Audrey Hamaguchi	Edward Kaminishi
Connie Ball	Mutsumi Hamakawa	Frank & Naomi Kamiya
Yasuhiko Bando	Taeko Darlene Hamakawa	Randy Kamiya
Jennifer Barnett	Masami Hanashiro	Art Kanzaki
Jaroslava Belava	Judy Hanazawa	Yoshiko Karasawa
Pat Berda	Kathy Harris	Stephanie Kawamoto
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Canadian Heritage:

- Building Communities Through Arts & Culture
- Building Communities Through Arts & Culture COVID-19 Emergency Support Fund
- Canada Summer Jobs
- Museum Assistance Program
- Museum Assistance Program, COVID-19 Emergency Support Fund
- Enhancement of Official Languages Program, Promotion of Linguistic Duality
- Canadian Museums Association - Young Canada Works
- Veterans Affairs, Commemorative Partnership Program

## Provincial

BC Arts Council:

- Arts & Culture Operating
- Arts & Culture COVID-19 Resilience Supplements
- Pivot Program
- BC Museums Association
- Community Gaming 2020

## Municipal

Metro Vancouver:

- Regional Cultural Project

## Foundation

- Irving K Barber, British Columbia History Digitization Program, UBC
- Vancouver Foundation - COVID-19 Community Response
- Vancouver Heritage Foundation - Yosef Wosk Publication Grants

## Other

- Canadian Museum of History - Digital Museums of Canada (formerly Virtual Museums of Canada)
- University of Victoria - SSHRC
- SFU Academy to Community Award
- ECUAD - Shumka Award
- National Association of Japanese Canadians - Community Development Fund

## NNMCC-Partner Organizations

- Japanese Canadian War Memorial Committee
- NNMCC Auxiliary Committee
- Steveston Memorial Committee
- Nikkei Matsuri presents Summer at Nikkei Garden Sponsors:
- All Nippon Airways, Consulate General of Japan in Vancouver, Telus

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Burnaby Village Museum  
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Burnaby Arts Council  
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National Association of Japanese Canadians

We apologize if we have missed anyone or any organization.





**[centre.nikkeiplace.org](http://centre.nikkeiplace.org)**

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