

 Nikkei
national museum
& cultural centre

Annual Report 2023-2024

Nikkei National Museum & Cultural Centre
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centre.nikkeiplace.org

Mission

To honour, preserve and share the history and heritage of Japanese Canadians and Japanese culture in Canada.

Vision

A nationally recognized museum and gathering place that bridges Japanese and Canadian arts, culture and history, fostering pride in our heritage and strong multicultural Canada.

Values

- Respect for heritage
- Commitment to a diverse community
- Inclusiveness, compassion and humility

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Executive Director's Message

It has been another landmark year at the NNMCC, as outlined in the annual report. Without being too redundant, I would like to highlight a few activities, initiatives and significant changes that took place at the NNMCC in the last fiscal year.

In May, we hosted the unveiling of the Mitsuo & Emmie Hayashi Hall, with their niece Kayoko Ihara from Japan, Consul General Kohei Maruyama, and many local friends, to recognize their dedication and impactful legacy at the NNMCC. In October, we gathered with Michael Cameron and the family of Nancy Machiko Cameron, to remember and recognize her meaningful support for Nikkei Place with the unveiling of her beloved bench plaque and newly planted Osakazuki Japanese Maple tree.

With a modern splash of colour, Tokyo-born, Vancouver-based artist, Taka Sudo was commissioned to create a large-scale mural on the east Magnolia Lane pathway wall featuring two Red Crowned Cranes framed by traditional Japanese patterns. The design reflects Japanese cultural symbolism, invoking themes of happiness, good luck, family, and longevity, while representing the connection between Japan and Canada that we foster at the NNMCC.

After more than 16 years with the NNMCC, Linda Kawamoto Reid, retired from her role as Research Archivist, one she held as a volunteer, contractor, and highly valued employee. Linda has helped so many families, and researchers, dig deeply into the NNMCC archives, discover the past, and share our ancestral stories. We are eternally grateful for her enduring dedication as the Chair of the Japanese Canadian War Memorial Committee. As our new Research Archivist, Daien Ide returned to NNMCC, after nearly 20 years, in part with support from JCLS through our Heritage Hub Project (The Hub). In addition, JCLS funding through The Hub project has supported the Collections Team, including partial funding of the Collections Manager, along with new long-term contracted Librarian and Collections Assistant positions.

A special thanks to our building advisors – Frank Kamiya, Henry Wakabayashi, George Honkawa, Ken Takeuchi, and the late, Ian Miki – a true inspiration and driving force behind many initiatives at the NNMCC.

I wish to share my sincere condolences with Ian's family for their loss. Let us honour him in our work this year, and remember his encouragement, enthusiasm, and community spirit.

We are lucky to have such a gorgeous and flourishing garden to enjoy, thanks to the VJGA, and weekly care by the Usuda family of Kyoto Garden Landscaping. I hope that you will pause for a moment of tranquillity in the Nikkei Garden when you visit next. We look forward to welcoming you this year at the NNMCC and working together to celebrate our upcoming 25th anniversary in 2025.

Ganbarimashō!



Karah Goshinmon Foster, Executive Director

President's Report

As President of the Nikkei National Museum & Cultural Centre, I have the honour of once again addressing this annual President's Report to you, our valued members. However, it is with a heavy heart that I take this opportunity to remember my late fellow Director and friend, Ian Miki, who sadly passed away on May 11, 2024, following a brave battle with lymphoma. Ian served as a Director for over ten years and was passionate about his family, and the NNMCC.

We remain steadfast in our commitment to advancing the NNMCC's mission: *To honour, preserve and share the history and heritage of Japanese Canadians and Japanese culture in Canada*. Our expertise in digitization and curation of archival materials is critical to our mission. This expertise and the *National Japanese Canadian Digitization Strategy*¹ inform our approach to build the Digital Database Hub and Heritage Portal, which is being funded through B.C. Redress under the auspices of the Japanese Canadian Legacies Society.

Sherri Kajiwarra, Director-Curator, with the support of her skilled and dedicated team, has continued to work hard to enhance the museum's profile and well-earned reputation not only in Canada but also abroad – most recently in Japan, where the *Broken Promises* travelling exhibit continues to attract much interest. Of note, Sherri is Chair of the Museum Exhibit Cluster, and Lisa Uyeda, Collections Manager is co-chair of the Archives Cluster of *Past Wrongs, Future Choices*, an ambitious multi-year, multinational research and educational project that includes over 100 members on five continents, and involves 40 institutions, including the NNMCC, the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre and the University of Victoria (which serves as the project's home base). *Past Wrongs, Future Choices* follows on the success of the University of Victoria-led *Landscapes of Injustice* project in which the NNMCC was a significant partner. Sherri is much sought-after as a speaker and panelist both in Canada and abroad.

Throughout the past year, the NNMCC has remained a focal point for Japanese culture in the Lower Mainland. Favourites such as the Nikkei Craft Fair, Mochitsuki, and Farmers Markets continue to attract enthusiastic and diverse patrons, and the 12th annual Nikkei Matsuri Festival will once again bring excitement to Nikkei Place with one of Canada's largest authentic and family-friendly Japanese festivals. Special thanks once again to Louise Akuzawa, Chair of the Nikkei Matsuri Organization Committee, for her leadership in organizing this very successful event, and to the other members of the Committee on our Board – namely, Wakako Morris, Ron Kruschen and Cheryl Honkawa, and the approximately 300 volunteers and staff who make the festival a success each year.

Under the leadership of Carrie Okano, Director, we have renewed commitment to participate meaningfully as a member organization of the National Association of Japanese Canadians.

Governance

Our current Board of Directors held its first meeting immediately following our last annual general meeting and has continued to meet bi-monthly. The Executive Committee has continued to meet monthly. Meetings of the Finance Committee, the Fundraising Committee, the Governance Committee and the Communications Committee have been held on an as-required basis.

¹The National Japanese Canadian Digitization Strategy was developed in collaboration with the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre, and supported by funding from the Government of Canada. It is available for download at: <https://centre.nikkeiplace.org/resources/national-japanese-canadian-digitization-strategy/>

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 Executive Committee, each of whom have gone well above the call of duty: Carrie Okano, Vice President, Kevin Isomura, Vice President, Ron Kruschen, Treasurer, the late Ian Miki, Secretary, Craig Natsuhara, Acting Interim Secretary, and Fred Yada, Director and Past-President.

I would also like to acknowledge the many contributions of Karah Foster, our dedicated and resourceful Executive Director.

Acknowledgement and Appreciation

As I have said many times before, the NNMCC could not function without the generous and valuable contributions of the NNMCC Auxiliary, our many volunteers, and the tireless efforts of our talented and dedicated Staff, including Mike Ogawa, NNMCC's new Operations Manager. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I commend and thank you all for your continued support.

Thank You – And a Request for Your Assistance

The NNMCC'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) 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 the NNMCC.

Yoroshiku onegaishimasu.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Ono', written in a cursive style.

Herbert I. Ono, President

The Year in Review

Museum

Exhibitions

Karasawa Gallery



Where Songs Surface | Uta ga umareru basho | 詩が生まれる場所

Masako Miyazaki and Yoshimi Lee

March 18 - September 16, 2023

Masako Miyazaki and Yoshimi Lee work independently in the photographic medium, to connect time, place, and memory. With different origins and inspiration for their practice, their paths intersect with their mutual talent for storytelling to expand the narrative beyond what is visible. An online Artist Talk took place on April 15.



A Piece of Stone. 2019. Inkjet Print.
Masako Miyazaki



The Superlative Artistry of Japan

The Japan Foundation

November 7, 2023 - January 20, 2024

A travelling exhibit showcasing various art genres that emphasise highly skilled techniques, unique expression, and concepts intended to delight viewers. A Preview Party took place on November 4 at a time when Culture Day (bunka no hi 文化の日) is celebrated in Japan.



Food Sample (Sashimi Boat). 2017. Vinyl chloride resin. Courtesy of MAIDURU CO., LTD. Photo © Shu Nakagawa



Artist Unknown. Large Cloisonné Incense Burner with Mt. Fuji and Bird Design. Meiji period (1868 - 1912). Wire cloisonné. Photo © Shu Nakagawa

1900



The Japanese community built the first permanent hospital in Richmond in 1900. The hospital contained a ward of 30 beds and cost \$3 to become a member. It was based on the philosophy of "socialized medicine" and was open to any member of the community regardless of race or religion.

This facility operated until 1942 when the Japanese Canadians were evacuated from the BC Coast. The property was later purchased by the A.N.A.F. 284 in 1947. The Maple Residence is currently located on this site.

Building Community: Japanese Canadian Contributions to Steveston/Richmond exhibit panel featuring photograph 1978 14 10 from the City of Richmond Archives.

2nd Floor

TAIKEN: Generations of Resilience

A long-term mural exhibit presenting Japanese Canadian history and heritage in English, French, and Japanese. This exhibit is ongoing and free to visit anytime during the centre's opening hours.

Long-term exhibit **Women of Change: Celebrating Japanese Canadian Leaders** also continued.

Building Community: Japanese Canadian Contributions to Steveston/Richmond

February 6, 2024 - March 2, 2024

A popup exhibit highlighting buildings and public spaces in Steveston, Richmond with Japanese Canadian heritage. Created by the Steveston Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre Advisory Committee.



The Women of Change exhibit. Photo: Adam PW Smith



TAIKEN: Generations of Resilience exhibit. Photo: Adam PW Smith

Travelling Exhibits

Broken Promises

Continues to captivate audiences across Canada with its tour beginning in Japan.

Major venues:

- Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 (Feb-Apr 2023)
- Galt Museum & Archives (May-Sept, 2023)
- Exploration Place, Prince George (Sept 2023-Feb 2024)
- Nanaimo Museum (Mar-Sept 2024)

Small venues:

- Cowichan Historical Society (Jul-Sept 2023)
- University of Victoria (Oct-Dec 2023)
- Bradley Museum, Museums of Mississauga (Jan-Apr 2024)

Japan tour:

- Shiga Peace Memorial Hall (Nov 2023-Feb 2024)

The Suitcase Project

Major venues:

- Chilliwack Museum (Feb-May 2023)
- PAMA Peel Art Gallery, Museum and Archives (Jan-Aug 2024)

Small venues:

- Salt Spring Island Public Library presented by the Japanese Garden Society of Salt Spring Island (Jun 2023)
- Steveston Museum and Post Office (Jan-Apr 2024)



Collections & Archives



Sam Frederick, Lisa Uyeda, and Daien Ide gain hands-on experience at the emergency response and salvage for cultural institutions workshop provided by the British Columbia Heritage Emergency Response Network, November 2023. Photo courtesy of BC Museums Association.

We are home to the largest community-driven repository of Japanese Canadian history in Canada. By acquiring, preserving, and making accessible archival records, artwork, 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.

The Collections Team actively preserves:

- 59,500+ photographs and digital images
- 54.6+ metres of textual records
- 1500+ library books
- 677+ oral history records
- 191 film reels
- 3,225+ artworks and objects

We accepted many new donations this year and each donation ranges from one item to hundreds and may include documents, photographs, books, maps, artwork, films, oral histories, and objects. This year we accepted 80 new donations and accruals including 4.6+ metres of textual records, 7,000 photographs, 230+ books, 226+ objects and artworks, and more!



Dr. Shuichi Kusaka was an accomplished theoretical physicist and colleague of Dr. Oppenheimer and Albert Einstein. This year, Megan Koyanagi (Collections Assistant) with support from the Kusaka family processed and digitized part of the Dr Shuichi Kusaka collection.

Online Database - NikkeiMuseum.org

We host the national Japanese Canadian online database and this year, we had 1,671 visitors (29,593 visitor hits) explore our 643 collections and 40,812 items.

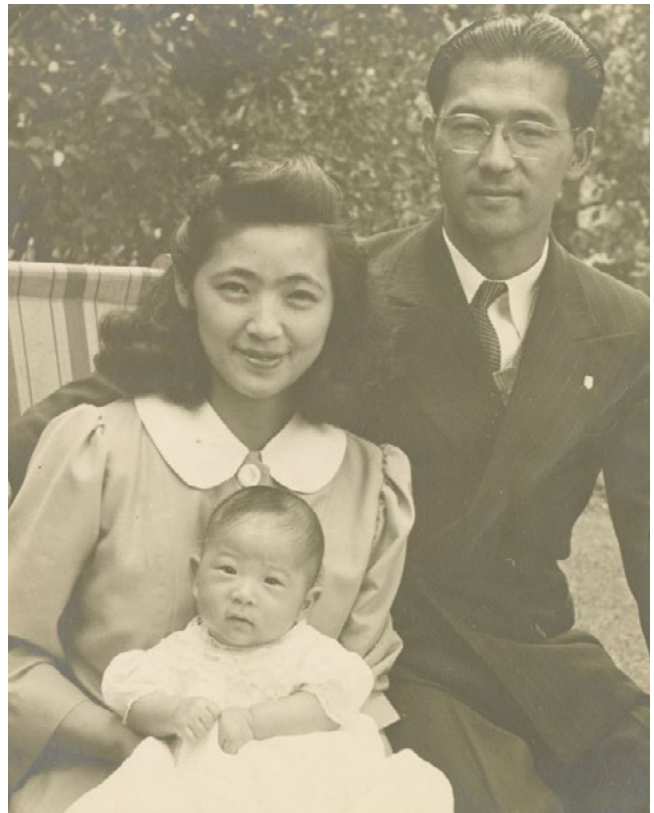
Available online are:

- Nikkei National Museum & Cultural Centre
525 collections and 31,257 items
- Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre
58 collections and 8,246 items
- Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre
51 collections and 1,242 items
- Kamloops Japanese Canadian Museum & Archives
9 collections and 62 items

Projects

Behind the Lens: The Okamura and Banno Families

Digitized more than 2000 items from the Banno Family Collection with significant materials spanning four generations of the Banno and Okamura families, thanks to the generous support from the BC History Digitization Program and Government of Canada.



Mata, Edward, and Robert Banno; circa 1943. Banno Family Collection. NNMCC 2016.30.11.25.83.

Japanese Canadian Mobile Digitization Project

Developed three travelling digitization kits to support capacity building in the Japanese Canadian community, to make more materials accessible in a digital format, thanks to the Government of Canada Museum Assistance Program.

1. a scanning kit for photographs, negatives, and documents
2. a photography kit for photographing objects, artwork, and other items
3. a audio cassette digitization kit



Daïen Ide and Lisa Uyeda deliver the mobile scanning kit to the Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre in New Denver, BC, July 2023. Our team provided onsite training and support to our *Japanese Canadian Mobile Digitization Project* partner.

Loans from the Collection

We loan archival records, objects, and artwork to other museums across Canada and the USA. This year, we lent 242 items!

- Art Gallery of Greater Victoria (August 2022 - May 2023). Exhibition: Start Here: Kiyooka, Nakamura, Takashima, Tanabe aggv.ca/exhibits/start-here
- Chilliwack Museum & Archives (January 2023 - July 2023). Exhibition: The Suitcase Project by Kayla Isomura
- Penticton Art Gallery (July 2023 - September 2023). Exhibition: The Offering - Shizuye Takashima www.pentictonartgallery.com/exhibition-archive/the-offering
- Canadian War Museum (November 2023 - February 2025). Exhibition: Outside the Lines - Women Artists and War www.warmuseum.ca/outside-the-lines
- Densho (January 2023 - January 2024). Digitization partnership project
- Call for Justice travelling exhibition (retired in 2023).
- Fraser / Spafford Ricci Art & Archival Conservation Inc. (conservation treatment)

Our long-term loans can be explored at:

- Tashme Museum
- Canadian Museum for Human Rights
- Canadian Museum of History
- Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21
- Museum of Vancouver
- NNMCC Broken Promises travelling exhibition

Charles H. Kadota Resource Centre

Staff facilitate access to rare and one of a kind resources in the library, archives, and museum collections. Our services include object loans, onsite filming and photography of objects, high resolution digitized reproductions, remote and onsite research & genealogy support, and commercial licensing.

- 534 research inquiries (almost two times more than the previous year)
- 650+ hours were spent helping researchers
- 121 in person visits (23%), up 50 visits from the previous year
- 413 remote inquiries by phone, email, and video calls (77%)
- 31 tours of the Resource Centre and Archives

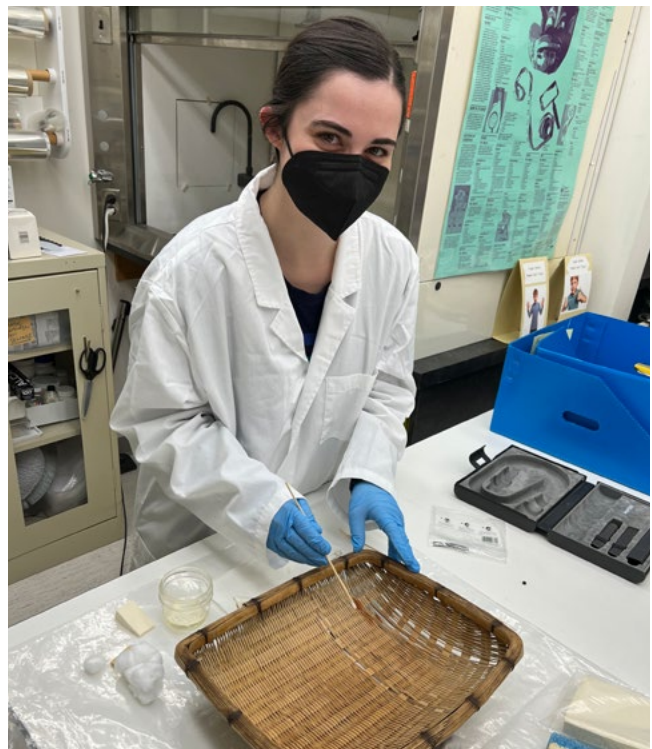
In-kind services and discounts valued at \$3,321 - reflect our commitment to support research and community projects.

Research Highlights

- NHK filmed onsite for a family history TV program that explored the connection between the Takata Tailor shop on Powell Street in the 1920s and well-known actress, Yoko Minamino.
- Past Wrongs Future Choices artist residents and bursary awarded artist photographed objects and archives for their projects.
- Supported BC Forestry Discovery Centre with the online education program funded through Digital Museums Canada.
- Successful nomination of Matsumoto Shipyard in North Vancouver for BC Industrial Heritage Cultural Map by Heritage BC along with 3 other Japanese Canadian Industrial heritage sites submitted by individuals.
- Publications and productions supported: Takao Tanabe: Life and Work publication by Ian Thom. Between Pictures: The Lens of Tamio Wakayama film by Cindy Mochizuki. Kimiko's Pearl ballet by Bravo Niagara! Landscapes of Home film by Alice Shin Productions. Past Wrongs Future Choices website. Nikkei History Research Guide by MONOVA Museum & Archives of North Vancouver.



Midori Hoy (Collections Assistant) encourages our visitors to wear yukata at Nikkei Matsuri. Watch her instructional How to Wear Yukata and Tie Obi reels on our Instagram!



Sam Frederick from the Collections Team completes conservation cleaning on a woven basket with support from conservator Liz Czerwinski at the Burnaby Village Museum, January 2024.

Museum Programs

Internment Bus Tour

Returning in July for the first time since 2019, the tour journeyed through Japanese Canadian internment sites and Nikkei communities across British Columbia. Participants, including guests from the University of Victoria summer school, embarked on a profound journey, delving into the complex narratives of resilience, injustice, and community strength woven into these historical sites. Through guided exploration and insightful commentary, attendees gained a deeper understanding of the impact of internment on individuals and communities.



Remembrance Day Ceremony

The annual ceremony on November 11, held at the Japanese Canadian War Memorial in Stanley Park and live-streamed, paid homage to the Japanese Canadian soldiers who fought for Canada. This year marked a significant return, as the reception at the Vancouver Rowing Club was reinstated for the first time since 2019. This provided attendees with a meaningful space to come together and reflect on the sacrifices and achievements of those who served, fostering a sense of unity and remembrance within the community.



Book launches

NNMCC hosted two book launches: On June 8, "Atomweight" by Emi Sasagawa was introduced, presenting a compelling coming-of-age narrative centred on a mixed-race immigrant woman navigating her identity. Then, on October 22, "Obaasan's Boots," authored by cousins Lara Jean Okihiro and Janis Bridger, was unveiled. Based on the true story of their Japanese Canadian grandparents, who, along with 22,000 others, were forcibly relocated to internment camps in 1942, this book offers a poignant reflection on history for young readers.

Education Programs

Total reach: approximately 1,817+

In-Person Field Trip Programs

- Approximately **1,445** students, teachers, and groups visited for in-person field trips.

The TAIKEN Field Trips are generously sponsored by Roy & Yaeko Uyesugi and family.

JOURNEYS Digital Resources

- Approximately **288** students in 14 schools and homeschools benefited from the kits. Accessibility outside the Lower Mainland increased with kits travelling to Fort St. Johns and various locations in the Lower Mainland.

2023-24 school year loans are sponsored by Michael Cameron in loving memory of Nancy Machiko Cameron (nee Uyesugi).

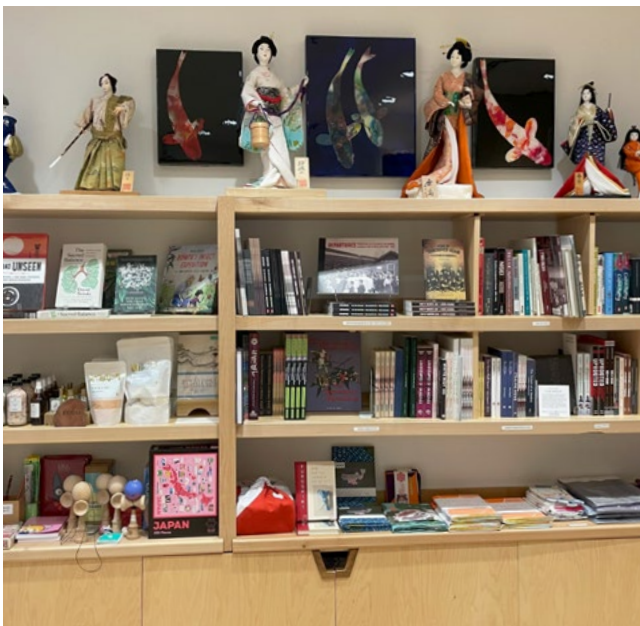
Manga Camps

- **58** children ages 9-12 participated in 4 Manga Camp sessions in July.
- **11** youth ages 13-15 participated in a Culture Clubs for teens program in August.
- **15** children ages 9-12 participated in 1 sold-out Manga Camp session in spring 2023.



Museum Shop

The museum shop operates as a social enterprise, generating revenue to support our programs and initiatives, while also serving as a platform to showcase Nikkei history and Japanese cultural heritage to our visitors. Offering a curated selection of items imported from Japan, such as Musubi brand furoshiki, Kaya Kaya pottery, and incense, the shop provides an immersive experience that connects visitors with the rich traditions of Japanese culture. Additionally, our selection of museum publications such as *Karizumai*, *Departures*, and *Taiken*, along with Asahi hats and t-shirts, reinforces our commitment to preserving and sharing Nikkei history. Recent additions to our shop merchandise include rare used Japanese Canadian books sourced from museum collection donations and plushies from the popular brand Jellycat. We also began incorporating donated vintage home goods into our inventory such as handcrafted kokeshi dolls. Notably, shop sales experience significant boosts during special events.



Museum Outreach

Learning exchanges

For professional development we offer tours to other museum professionals and also tour other institutions when time permits. Staff of the new Chinese Canadian Museum visited us in April in advance of their official opening. NNMCC Staff visited the UBC Residential School History and Dialogue Centre for a tour in November.

Director | Curator Outreach

Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21

An online panel discussion on the internment in Canada, as part of the programming for the Broken Promises travelling exhibit.

Department of Canadian Heritage

A virtual round table discussion to help inform the renewal of the Canadian Museum Policy, representing the NNMCC among 140 heritage organizations from all provinces and territories.

Canadian Historical Association at Congress 2023

A panel discussion, "Heritage Paradigm Shift: Roundtable on addressing difficult histories from intercultural community perspectives." This roundtable emphasizes the need for revolutionary changes to achieve a paradigm shift in global arts, culture, and heritage sectors.

BC Museums Association Conference 2023

Participated in a panel on the topic of Intercultural Alliance in Haida Gwaii.

Vancouver Art Gallery

This all-day Advocacy and Activism Intercultural Workshop included alliance leads Tzu-i Chung/RBCM, Yuxwulpton Qwalqaxala/RBCM, Satwinder Bains/SASI, Lucy Bell/Haida Gwaii Museum, and Sherri Kajiwara/NNMCC.

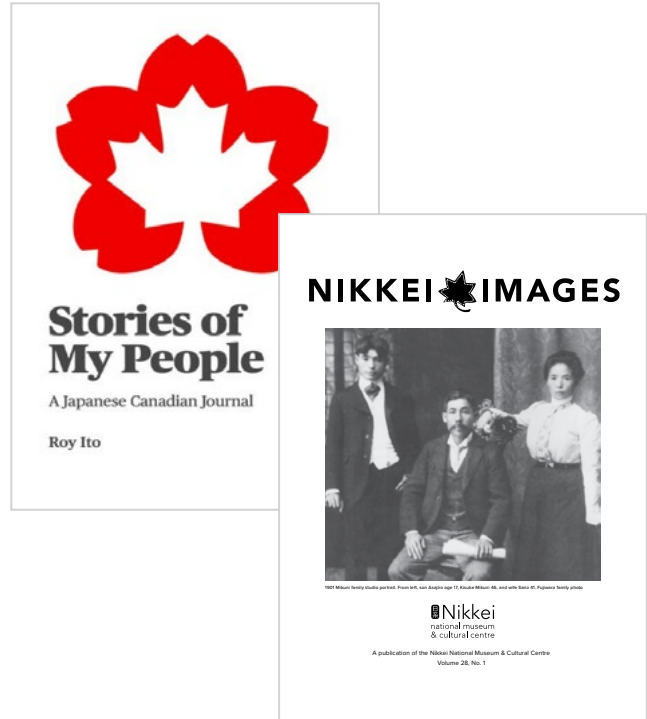
Partnerships



Past Wrongs Future Choices (PWFC)

Starting in May 2022, Past Wrongs Future Choices continues on the foundational work of Landscapes of Injustice (LOI), a SSHRCC funded research & public history project that investigated the mass forced dispossession of Japanese Canadians in the 1940s. PWFC analyzes the treatment of racially Japanese in Allied Countries in the wake of the Second World War. NNMCC is one of several national and international partners with Lisa Uyeda, Collections Manager, and Sherri Kajiwarra Director/Curator, taking on project cluster lead roles. Due to the global nature of the partnership, most meetings take place online, but in April 2023, project leads Drs. Jordan Stanger-Ross and Audrey Kobayashi, with Exhibitions Cluster Chair Sherri Kajiwarra, visited partners at Los Angeles, USA and São Paulo, Brazil in April 2023 for in-person meetings to support project progress. Other in-person activity included artist + scholar residency meetings at UVic in May, an orientation day at the NNMCC for UVic field school participants before the internment camp bus tour in July, and a meeting with institutional partner the Royal British Columbia Museum in October regarding potential interventions in their permanent displays. The curatorial team for Broken Promises, the capstone exhibition of LOI, came together for a full day workshop at the NNMCC in January 2024 to review exhibit development for an academic paper led by Ph.D candidate Kaitlin Findlay and Drs. Tevor Wideman and Yasmin Amarutunga.

Publications



Stories of My People

Stories of My People by Roy Ito, originally published in 1994, is now available for free download as an e-book. It serves as a valuable record of the contributions and stories of Japanese Canadians, intertwining community experiences with personal narratives, but was challenging to access due to being out of print. In response to a request from Roy Ito's family, the NNMCC produced a digital epub format to reach a wider audience and assist researchers.

Nikkei Images

Nikkei Images is a publication that offers a rich exploration of the history, experiences, and contributions of ethnic Japanese in Canada. While multiple issues were published annually in the past, our current goal is to release one issue per year. One issue was published with an article exploring the first Japanese immigrant in Canada.

Special Events

O-Hanami Festival celebrates spring Japanese style

On April 1, we celebrated Japanese culture with a spring-themed O-Hanami festival – our first full-scale event since the COVID-19 pandemic. The festival featured 8 stage performances, including the samurai troupe Hitotose. Attendees delighted in activities such as kimono rentals and tea ceremony workshops. The event showcased 12 food vendors and 9 craft vendors, with over 100 Sakura Bento and 100 packs of Manju sold. Attendance: 3,000.

A Tribute to Mitsuo and Emmie Hayashi

On May 6, 2023 a commemorative event was held in honour of Mitsuo and Emmie Hayashi. The couple was known for their tireless efforts to build strong relations between Canada and Japan, as well as their dedication to the Nikkei Place community since the 1990s. To honour their legacy, the event hall was renamed the Mitsuo and Emmie Hayashi Hall. About 50 attendees, including volunteers, Board Directors, Auxiliary, Consulate General of Japan in Vancouver, and friends, gathered to pay tribute.

Spring Bazaar enchants visitors with Japanese delights

On May 13, the annual Spring Bazaar returned for the first time since 2019. NNMCC Auxiliary members prepared and sold a variety of their staple recipes, attracting a massive lineup of people that extended from the street, through the garden, and into the lobby. Additionally, the Auxiliary members priced and sold many Japanese items donated for the flea market, resulting in an extraordinary assortment of goods accumulated over the pandemic years. Attendance: 2,000.





Nikkei Garden Farmers Market fosters meaningful connections

For the 3rd season, Nikkei Garden Farmers Markets took place twice a month from June to October. Each market presented an average of 34 vendors and attracted around 1,000 guests. A variety of cultural experiences were introduced at each market – from performances by groups such as Vancouver Okinawa Taiko and Appare Yosakoi Vancouver to interactive workshops like origami and manju making. We were also pleased to foster meaningful connections with local organisations by hosting community tents, welcoming partners such as the Burnaby Art Gallery, Burnaby Hospice Society, BC SPCA Burnaby, HK House, Burnaby Pride, and more. Attendance over 10 markets: 10,000.

Tanabata Flea Market offers cultural shopping experience

The annual Tanabata Flea Market took place in tandem with the Nikkei Garden Farmers Markets in mid July. It included a festive Tanabata display by KPU Japan Club students, and visitors could write their wish on Tanzaku.





Nikkei Matsuri 2023. Photo: Manto Artworks

Nikkei Matsuri brings community together

With the goal of recreating a Japanese festival in Burnaby, Matsuri serves as a conduit to unite our diverse community, spanning from niseis to new immigrants from Japan, in a shared mission to celebrate and share Japanese culture with all. The event showcased a wide range of attractions and activities, including traditional performances, cultural demonstrations, delicious food, children’s games, and Japan-themed markets, offering attendees a thorough immersion into Japanese culture.

A standout highlight was the performance by samurai artists Kamui from Japan. Additionally, the introduction of Zenyasai, a festival-eve celebration, proved to be a fantastic addition, attracting young adults. The return of the Talent Search competition after a three-year hiatus was also noteworthy, spotlighting emerging artists and performers and further enriching the Matsuri experience. This is our largest event and fundraiser of the year, where all staff work alongside volunteer committee members and hundreds of event volunteers to make it possible. We look forward to continuing this tradition of celebration in the years ahead, with gratitude to our partners, volunteers, and supporters. Attendees over 3 days: 9,000.



Nikkei Matsuri 2023. Photo: Manto Artworks



Zenyasai 2023. Photo: Manto Artworks

Bloom celebrates Japanese artistry

The Bloom – The Superlative Artistry of Japan Preview Party took place on November 4, bringing together community members with a shared appreciation for the artistry of Japan. Deputy Consul General Satomi Okagaki and Burnaby Mayor Mike Hurley delivered inspiring words during the exhibit opening. Wagashi Master Eijun Mitsubori performed a demonstration of traditional Japanese sweet-making, Dōjin Arts provided matcha tea service with fresh manju made by NNMCC Auxiliary members. Kado Sumi's seasonal ikebana flower arrangements added a visual feast to the occasion, while Kotononekai's live koto music provided ambience. Through Nikkei Place Foundation's fundraising initiatives, we raised funds to make admission to the Karasawa Gallery by donation, changing from the previous \$5 admission fee, thereby bringing more cultural experiences to our community. Attendance: 100

The Way of Wagashi provides traditional Japanese confectionery

Held from November 4 to 7, the KADO–The Way of Wagashi event featured Wagashi Master Eijun Mitsubori from Japan, who provided a captivating performance and three days of classes as part of his North American tour. In the month leading up to the event, an exhibition of artistic photos of wagashi was displayed in the Karasawa Gallery. Attendees had the opportunity to learn about Japanese culture and wagashi in depth through performances, Q&A sessions, demonstrations, and hands-on classes. Attendance: 180



Craft Fair celebrates local makers

On November 18 and 19, the annual Craft Fair brought together 80 local makers, attracting an estimated 1,500 guests over the two days. Ikebana, Temari, and Chigirie workshops were also offered to celebrate handmade culture.



Breakfast with Santa made special by Nikkei elves

On December 9, the annual Breakfast with Santa served families (120 adults and children) a pancake breakfast, and children went home with goodie bags handmade by NNMCC Auxiliary members.

Nikkei Mochitsuki pounds community together

On December 29, the annual Mochitsuki event was held in collaboration with the Vancouver Japanese Gardeners Association and the NNMCC Auxiliary. There were long line ups to purchase fresh and frozen mochi. Highlights included mochi pounding demonstrations and the popular "Pound Your Own Mochi" activity. Stage performances featured Chibi Taiko, Satsukikai, and Vancouver Okinawa Taiko. 9 food and drink vendors joined the event. CBC covered the event with an interview and live TV broadcast.

Shared concept of New Year brings people together

The New Year's Calligraphy Kakizome drop-in program on January 6 attracted around 200 diverse attendees to write new year's wishes and intentions. Consul General Maruyama Kohei demonstrated various calligraphy styles. The event was covered live on Global TV's noon newscast.

Other noteworthy events

From February 21 to March 2, we displayed ten sets of Hina dolls, along with numerous Japanese dolls, hagoita, and kites, many of which were sold by donation. Additionally, we hosted Japanese used book sales: a manga sale in June and a large-scale clearance sale from October to December.

Partnership events hosted at NNMCC

- Harumatsuri with Anime Evolution (March 25)
- Ikebana Spring Show with Vancouver Ikebana Association (May 6-7)
- Noto Night with BC-Japan Friendship Facebook Group (February 17)



Special Project



Mural enhances our presence in Burnaby

NNMCC commissioned Tokyo-born, Vancouver-based artist Taka Sudo to create a mural that enhances the Centre's cultural identity and celebrates Japanese heritage. This mural combines vibrant colours and dynamic imagery, featuring a custom-designed two-panel Red-Crowned Crane (tanchōzuru), seigaiha waves symbolizing peace and resilience, and kasumi mist evoking a sense of mystique. Reflecting Japanese cultural symbolism, it invokes themes of happiness, good luck, family, and longevity. The Red-Crowned Crane, native to Kushiro, Japan, Burnaby's sister city, underscores the bond between the two nations and celebrates their shared values.



Outreach



West Vancouver Community Cultural Fest

June 2-3, 2023

This two-day festival in West Vancouver unites people through food, music, and culture, celebrating multicultural diversity. NNMCC hosted the Japanese pavilion, offering cultural activities and enhancing understanding of Japan's rich heritage.

Hats Off Day

June 3, 2023

This two-kilometre street party in North Burnaby features live entertainment, street food, activities, and showcases from local businesses and organizations. For the first time, NNMCC set up a tent to promote and deepen engagement within the Burnaby community.

Daisy Days

June 17-18, 2023

Organized by our membership program partner Studio Brewing, Daisy Days was a lively block party aimed at fostering community spirit and providing a fun environment for residents to connect. Our participation offered an opportunity to engage with the local community, promote our programming, and contribute to Burnaby's vibrant cultural scene.

Powell Street Festival

August 5-6, 2023

Held annually in Vancouver, the Powell Street Festival is our main outreach activity with a long history of celebrating Japanese Canadian arts, culture, and heritage through diverse performances, exhibits, and community activities. NNMCC shared a tent with H.U.G.S. (Health Urgent Guide Services for Japanese Canadian Survivors in the Lower Mainland of B.C.), offering the opportunity to connect with a diverse, international audience passionate about Japanese culture and Nikkei history.

Programs

Cultural Programs

Cultural programs, facilitated by NNMCC staff designed to promote Japanese culture, were held in collaboration with special events as well as standalone programs. Regular programs such as Kizuna Japanese Arts and Shogi Meetups were offered as drop-in programs for easy access. Workshops on Bonsai, Ikebana, Kengido, Temari, and Tea Ceremony were presented intermittently. The high demand for these programs, evidenced by many selling out, underscores the community's eagerness for more cultural programming.



Programs by External Organizations

The number of weekly and monthly programs organized by external organizers renting our space increased from 24 to 26 this year, showcasing more cultural diversity. The centre bustles with activity as a vibrant hub for community engagement.

Budo, Japanese martial arts

- Aikido Vancouver Shomonkai
- Ishikawa Family Judo
- Nikkei Iaido
- Nikkei Karate

Exercise

- Adult Badminton
- Elite Gymnastics
- Jiriki Seitai
- Maison Studio Pilates
- Nikkei Gate Ball
- Nikkei Beginner Hula
- Nikkei Line Dance
- Nikkei Pickleball
- Senior Badminton
- Taz Badminton
- Wailele Wai Wai

Japanese culture

- Chibi Taiko
- Nikkei Senior Karaoke
- Nikkei Shohin Bonsai Club
- Ninja Star, digital arithmetic
- Satsuki Kai, Japanese dance group
- Shodo Kenkyu Isseikai, calligraphy
- Soroban, abacus
- Southern Wave Okinawan Music & Dance
- Ugatoe Kissa, group singing
- Vancouver Go Association, igo

Other

- Roundabout Cantonese Music Class
- Rhythm 'N' Rhyme (baby and parents activity)

Rentals

NNMCC embodies the warm, familial atmosphere of a traditional Japanese household, where generations come together under one roof to celebrate life's occasions and support one another. Our venue serves as a gathering place for groups and families, who infuse their events with personal touches, making each occasion unique. Many of our renters become NNMCC members, returning not only to host gatherings but also to participate in our programs and explore our galleries. For us, each rental marks the beginning of a relationship, rather than a one-time transaction. We are honoured to host a diverse range of ethnic and cultural organizations, from small meet-ups to full-scale events with multiple vendors, activities, and performances. It's a privilege to see the rich tapestry of cultures and traditions come to life at NNMCC, reflecting the vibrant diversity of our community.

NNMCC rents its venue for a variety of functions, including life celebrations such as birthday parties, weddings, and baby showers, as well as meetings and workshops, such as corporate gatherings and educational conferences. Additionally, the centre hosts various entertainment events, from concerts and music events to markets and fairs, providing a dynamic venue for a wide range of activities and occasions.

Testimonials

We came to NNMCC as Altan is half Japanese, and it was important to me to find a venue that would honour his heritage... The whole experience touched our hearts so deeply that now Nikkei Centre means much more to us than just a wedding venue. We still visit as much as we can!

- Noor & Altan, Ellipse Lobby Wedding Ceremony

Our Society is now contemplating on doing more community events at Nikkei, given this very wonderful experience we had during the Spring festival. Thank you so much and...we will be back!

- Alvin, Philippine Days Festival Society Director

We didn't hesitate to book our daughter's baptism celebration, 1st and 2nd birthday at NNMCC, and will surely be back for future special events! Thank you so much to NNMCC!

- Frequent renters, Mary & Yul



Renters

Nikkei Organizations:

- Nikkei Seniors: Christmas Party, meetings
- GVJCCA: Board Meetings, Keirokai, Volunteer Appreciation Lunch
- JCLS: Education Program Teacher Meeting
- Gladstone Japanese Language School: Graduation, Summer School
- Hokkaidojinkai: Ohanami
- Fukuoka Kenjinkai: Summer Event, gathering
- Okinawa Yuaikai Shinnenkai
- Shizuoka Kenjinkai Shinnenkai
- Satsuki Kai: Birthday Party, Year End Party
- Rakuichi: Meeting, 20th Anniversary Event
- Tonari Gumi JC Survivors Social Club
- Ohfukai: Seminar, meeting, fall konshinkai, shinnenkai
- Kiyukai Seminar & BBQ
- Asahi Baseball New Years Party
- Godo Shinnenkai (New Year Party)
- Noto Night (Earthquake Aid Fundraising)

Japanese Cultural Experiences:

- Temari Workshop by Tamarimo
- Ikebana & Bonsai Show
- VanKoji Miso & Shiokoji Workshop
- Kimono Kitsuke
- Book Launch 'Obaasan's Boots' by Janice Bridger & Lara Jean Okihiro
- Hitotose Tate Workshop
- Kakehashi Project
- Tomoe Arts, Fifteen Years of Dream
- Annual Sanshin Festival
- Japan Bowl by JETTABC

Cultural Organizations:

- Philippine Days Spring Festival
- LOVE. MOVES TOUR 2023 (Filipino Concert)
- Jason with Grin Department (Filipino Concert)
- Filipino Community Meeting
- Lagaya Fair (Music Event) by Tsikenstarr Production
- Sri Lankan Cultural Event
- Chin Society: Concert, Chin National Day Celebration
- Cantonese Story Telling

- Gitxsan & Wet'Suwet'en Unlocking Aboriginal Justice Annual Feast
- Spirit of Children Society Winter Feast
- Candle Day by Colombian Association of BC
- Arab Club Social Gathering
- FIESTA (Annual Indonesian Students Festival)
- BC Museum Association Tea and Talk Road Trip
- Past Wrongs Future Choices Group
- PCHC-MoM Volunteer Meeting
- Broken Promises Workshop
- ACT Board Meeting
- MOSAIC Multicultural Senior Day
- Live Dharma Talk
- Zhan Jia Wei New Year Speech
- Annual Lunar New Year Event
- Newcomer Services Society Dinner & Seminar

Religious Organizations:

- Agape Church Burnaby: Sunday services, Christmas Party, Easter Lunch
- Vancouver Nikkeijin Fukuin Church
- Mennonite Japanese Christian Fellowship
- Eritrean Church event
- Bridge Ministries
- Church of Christ
- Saddleback Church

And many more.



Nikkei Japanese Bookstore



We operate a Japanese used bookstore as a community oriented venture. Approximately 15 dedicated volunteers, including long-standing members who have been with us since the bookstore's inception, work shifts to operate the store four days a week. The little bookstore appeals to a wide age range from children to adults, and attracts many visitors especially when special events take place. Despite offering a selection consisting exclusively of Japanese-language books, the store remains popular among English speakers who cannot read Japanese.



Volunteers



Volunteer Contributions and Impact

Approximately 400 volunteers contributed an impressive 14,000 hours of service. Their dedication and expertise have significantly elevated our activities, making it possible to host large-scale events that have a profound impact on our community. We are constantly filled with gratitude for the considerable time and effort our volunteers dedicate to NNMCC.

Diverse Volunteer Engagement

Thanks to two daily gallery monitoring volunteers, we were able to expand the Superlative Artistry of Japan exhibit into the Intergenerational Room in addition to the Karasawa Gallery for three months.

Seasonal lobby displays are a volunteer-driven effort. Before Christmas, volunteers decorated Christmas trees around the building. And leading up to Hina Matsuri in March, volunteers displayed numerous Japanese dolls, creating a festive atmosphere for visitors.

The Nikkei Matsuri, our largest annual event, is a prime example of volunteer excellence. With approximately 400 volunteer shifts, their contributions were vital to the festival's vibrant atmosphere and smooth execution over three days.

Intergenerational and Multicultural Volunteerism

Volunteers span a wide range of age groups, bringing unique perspectives and experiences. Senior volunteers, particularly those from the Auxiliary, are invaluable, offering a wealth of knowledge from which younger volunteers can learn. High school students, for instance, participated in the Senior Lounge every Wednesday during summer break, engaging in enriching conversations with seniors, a heartwarming sight for all involved.

Additionally, many newcomers from Japan are finding their footing in Canada by volunteering here. This helps them integrate into Canadian life and build connections with Japanese Canadians and people from diverse backgrounds.

The annual Volunteer Appreciation Party on September 15, a day filled with good food, laughter, and heartfelt thanks for the incredible work our volunteers do.

We look forward to the continued involvement of volunteers from various age groups and cultural backgrounds. Volunteerism is a foundation to expand and strengthen our community.



NNMCC Auxiliary



Auxiliary Volunteers Celebrate Community Spirit

NNMCC Auxiliary members had another busy and productive year, supporting our mission through fundraising efforts that included selling food, plants, and secondhand items. A major activity was making manju for O-Hanami, the Spring Bazaar, Nikkei Matsuri, and the BLOOM opening reception. Additionally, they hosted manju workshops for Manga Camp and O-Tsukimi.

The annual Spring Bazaar in May was particularly successful. Delicious and popular food offerings, including gyoza, rice dishes, and chow mein, sold out quickly and received many positive reviews. Generous donations also contributed to the success of the plant sales and the flea market.





The Nikkei Garden Farmers Market and the Tanabata Flea Market saw strong sales of plants and mini market items, with apple pies remaining a crowd favourite. Sales at Nikkei Matsuri's O-Takara market were also strong. At the fall Craft Fair, Auxiliary members donated their time and talent to create hats, scarves, and various handicrafts. During the Breakfast with Santa event, tasty pancakes and sausages were a hit, and happy children received handmade goody bags after visiting Santa.



Mochitsuki, held at the year-end, was another busy and fun-filled event, providing great entertainment for all ages. Mochi sold as fast as it could be plated.

With the funds raised throughout the year, the Auxiliary was able to support annual educational and cultural programming and purchase two new stoves, three mochi machines, and a new microwave for the Community Kitchen. These items will benefit NNMCC and the Auxiliary for years to come.

Membership

Membership Growth and Engagement

We have seen significant membership growth, with numbers increasing from **390** to **598** in a year. By offering attractive programs, we have made membership appealing, which in turn strengthens community involvement. Member-friendly pricing and benefits, such as free entry to Matsuri and craft fairs, encourage ongoing participation. Our commitment to enhancing the membership experience remains strong, and we look forward to continued growth and engagement within our community.

Thank you

Funders

Akiko Gomyo Foundation

Canadian Heritage - Building Communities through Arts and Heritage

Canadian Heritage - MAP - Digital Access to Heritage

Canadian Heritage - Veterans Affairs Canada

Canadian Museums Association - Young Canada Works in Heritage Organization

City of Burnaby - Festivals Burnaby

City of Burnaby - Community Grant - Nikkei Seniors Lounge

City of Burnaby - Mural Grant Program

Deux Mille Foundation

Japanese Canadian Legacies Society - Heritage Hub

LA Shoji Foundation

Metro Vancouver - Regional Cultural Project

New Horizons for Seniors Program

Province of BC - Heritage BC - 150 Time Immemorial Grant Program

Province of BC - BC Arts Council - Arts Impact

Province of BC - BC Arts Council - Operating

Province of BC - BC Arts Council - Arts & Culture Resilience Supplement

Province of BC - Community Gaming

Province of BC - BC Arts Council - Arts Infrastructure

Province of BC - BC Fairs, Festivals, and Events: Dessert Festival, Dream State, Mochitsuki, Nikkei Matsuri, O-Hanami, Remembrance Day, Tanabata

SFU - Academy to Community

UBC - Irving Barber Foundation - BC History Digitization Program

University of Victoria - Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)

Doris Kimura Charitable Giving Foundation

Membership Sponsors

Chado Tea House

Hapa Izakaya

Modo

Pac West Kimono

Studio Brewing

Suzuya Japanese Market

Tama Organic Life

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Frank & Naomi Kamiya
Yoshiko Karasawa
Yosh & Gail Kariatsumari
Paul & Diana Kariya
Tomohiko Kato
George & June Kawaguchi

Donors

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Yoko & Tom Matsuno		Sasaki Art Gallery

Donors

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Sylvia Skratek	Hayato Ueda	Charito Yuen
Tsuyako Sokugawa	Ronald Ui	Zen Japanese Restaurant
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STEM Japanese Eatery	Roy & Yaeko Uyesugi	
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Kenneth & Rosemarie Takeuchi	Heather Wong	
Tama Organic Life	Cydney, Nellie & Terry Wong	
Mel & June Tanemura	Fred & Linda Yada	

Thank you

Collaborative Partners

Anime Evolution

Consulate General of Japan in Vancouver

Densho

Dōjin Japanese Arts Society

Gusta Cooking Studio

Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre, Toronto

Japanese Canadian War Memorial Committee

Kamloops Japanese Canadian Association

Kamloops Japanese Canadian Museum & Archives

Langham Cultural Centre, Kaslo

Miyazaki House, Lillooet

Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre, New Denver

Nikkei Place Foundation

Nikkei Seniors Health Care & Housing Society

Samurai Artist Kamui

Simon Fraser University

Studio Brewing

Tashme Museum

TomoeArts

University of British Columbia Indigitization Program

University of British Columbia Museum of Anthropology

University of Victoria

Vancouver Ikebana Association

Vancouver Japanese Language School & Japanese Hall

We apologize for any errors or omissions.

2023-2024 Board & Staff

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Craig Natsuhara, Secretary from October 2023

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Operations Manager	Mike Ogawa (from Jan 2024)
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Administrative Coordinator	Shanhong Wan (from Apr 2023)
NPF Marketing & Communications	Lindsay Fong (to Nov 2023)
Research Archivist	Linda Kawamoto Reid (to Apr 2023)
Research Archivist	Daien Ide (from Mar 2023)
Design & Exhibit Coordinator	Danielle Jette
Education Program Developer	Carolyn Nakagawa (to Oct 2023)
Education Coordinator	Kimiko Yoshino (from Nov 2023)
Event Coordinator	Yumiko Li
Rental Coordinator	Momoko Cuesta
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Receptionist	Shiho Kawasaki (to June 2023)
Volunteer Coordinator	Shiho Kawasaki (from July 2023)
Receptionist	Suzuka Natsuhara (from Sept 2023)
Facility Coordinator	Patrick Fujisawa
Program Coordinator	Joyce Lee
Reception + Program Assistant	Hiroshi Tse (to Dec 2023)
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Facility Team	Jamie Seo Matthew Armstrong Travis Armstrong Naruhito Kruschen Katnarine Lie Mackenzie Stewart Chayton Theys Carlos Juarez (from July 2023) Kaelan Oxford (from Sept 2023) Mizuki Yano (from Sept 2023) Honoka Kamada (from Oct 2023) Tai Anderson (from Jan 2024) Yuri Matsui (to July 2023) Nimatullah Ehsan Jawid (to July 2023) Kaishin Li (to Aug 2023)

Students | Contractors

- Collections Assistant**..... Bailey Irene Midori Hoy
Megan Koyanagi
Sakura Taji
- Digitization Technician**..... Sam Frederick
- Research & Genealogy Consultant**..... Linda Kawamoto Reid (May 2023 - Dec 2023)
- Librarian**..... Keiko Kaneko
- On-Call Museum Assistant**..... Wakana Shimamura
- Youth Program Leader**..... Emily Amic
- Event Planning Assistant**..... Frances Chan
- Digital Marketing Intern**..... Yuri Matsui
- Curatorial Assistant**..... Tiffany Lau
- IT**..... Robin Bains



The Year at a Glance

Membership



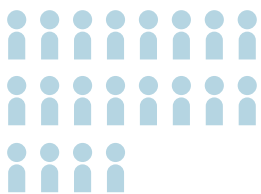
March 2023: 390

March 2024: 598

54% up

Volunteerism

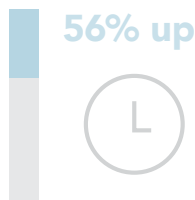
VOLUNTEERS



2022/2023: 540

2023/2024: 400

HOURS



2022/2023: 9,000

2023/2024: 14,000

Museum Attendees



2022/2023: 4,177

2023/2024: 5,606

34% up

Communication



Instagram Followers

March 2023: 4,903

March 2024: 5,782

18% up



Twitter Followers

March 2023: 2,175

March 2024: 2,282

5% up



Youtube subscribers

March 2023: 335

March 2024: 465

39% up



E-news subscribers

March 2023: 3,661

March 2024: 3,322



Facebook Likes

March 2023: 5,700

March 2024: 6,340

11% up

Collection & Archives



Film Reels

2022/2023: 191

2023/2024: 191



Artworks & Objects

2022/2023: 3,000

2023/2024: 3,225+

7.5% up



Textual Records

2022/2023: 50+ meters

2023/2024: 54+ meters

8% up



Photos & Digital Images

2022/2023: 52,500+

2023/2024: 59,500+

13% up



Oral History Records

2022/2023: 670+

2023/2024: 677+



1500+ library books

Lost and Found Blog

nmm-lostandfound.blogspot.com

40,771 views

2,412

individuals accessed resources from
our Collections & Archives