

Annual Report 2024-2025

Nikkei National Museum & Cultural Centre
6688 Southoaks Crescent, Burnaby, BC
604.777.7000

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

Table of Contents

Executive Director's Message	2
President's Report	3
Building Enhancements	6
Museum	7
Exhibitions	7
Collections & Archives	12
Heritage Hub	16
Education Programs	17
Special Events	18
Programs & Outreach	22
Museum Shop	26
Nikkei Japanese Bookstore	26
Rentals	27
Volunteers	28
NNMCC Auxiliary	29
Thank Yous	30
Donors	32
2024-2025 Board & Staff	37
The Year at a Glance	40

Executive Director's Message

This year marks important milestones in our history: the **25th anniversary** of the NNMCC at Nikkei Place, which opened on September 22, 2000, and the **50th anniversary** of the founding of our society, the Japanese Canadian Society of Greater Vancouver for Community Facilities, established on September 16, 1975. Our path—shaped by decades of collective effort, vision, and resilience—continues to unfold, with each of us contributing to its journey.

Membership grew to over 700+ —an encouraging sign of deepening connection and engagement. Our dedicated volunteers remain essential to all aspects of our work and their steadfast commitment is a powerful reminder of the heartfelt spirit that reflects our community.

The **Building** Committee made significant progress on much-needed upgrades to our 25 year old facility to keep it safe, functional, and welcoming for years to come. Major improvements to the roof, heating and cooling systems are underway and on track for completion this summer. As we prepare to launch the **Nikkei Next Capital Campaign** in 2025, we look forward to sharing new opportunities to be a part of ongoing improvements that will sustain a vibrant Centre for the next 25 years and beyond.

The **Sakura-Momiji Project** continued to advance thanks to the vision and support of Ken Shinozaki and dedicated efforts of Keiko Funahashi (Nikkei Place Foundation), Henry Wakabayashi, Nick Sueyoshi, and the Vancouver Japanese Gardeners Association. You will see a new garden, sakura and momiji trees along Kushiro Lane and Magnolia Lane, surrounding Nikkei Place in vibrant growth and symbolism.

Meaningful progress was also made on our **Heritage Hub** project, undertaken through the JCLS Heritage Preservation Pillar. We approach this initiative with humility bearing the responsibility to ensure a lasting impact. While we are based in British Columbia, this project holds national significance and global reach, and we look forward to sharing more with the community in the coming year.

I'm continually inspired by the dedication and care our staff bring to their work. We celebrate three long-serving team members whose contributions have helped shape who we are today:

- Nichola Ogiwara, who joined in 2004, has brought 20 years of creativity, clarity of purpose, and dedication to numerous roles, and remains a steady and trusted presence as Communications Coordinator.
- Ella Law, with us since 2009, is a vital part-time team member for 15 years whose accounting expertise and integrity support both NNMCC and NPF with exceptional care and precision.
- Patrick Fujisawa, who began as a volunteer and joined staff 10 years ago, serves as Facility Team Coordinator, where his hard work and dedication ensure the smooth running of events, rentals, and day-to-day activities.

Their contributions are a testament to the passion and purpose that drive our work every day.

To all who walk this path with us—members, volunteers, staff, donors, partners, and community—thank you. Your continued support guides our way forward.



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.

On September 22nd, we will celebrate the 25th year anniversary of the opening of the Centre. We have much to be proud of! Thanks to the generosity of our Community, the expertise and dedication of our staff, and the enthusiastic support of our many volunteers, the Centre remains as vibrant as ever. Our thought-provoking Museum exhibits and our engaging cultural programming have uniquely positioned us to continue with our mission to *honour, preserve, and share the history and heritage of Japanese Canadians and Japanese culture in Canada*.

As we approach our silver anniversary, it is inevitable that we have had to mark the passing of many notable members of our Community. Without diminishing the accomplishments or importance of others who have sadly passed away during the past year, I feel compelled to mention Kaye Kaminishi, who, until his passing on September 28, 2024, was the last surviving member of the storied Vancouver Asahi baseball team, and Grace Eiko Thomson, our inaugural museum executive director and curator, who sadly passed away on July 11, 2024.

Kaye was a revered ambassador for our Community, known for his dignity and humility. He was featured in Historica Canada's 2019 *Heritage Minutes* vignette – produced with support from the Nikkei National Museum – honouring the team and its role in helping to briefly transcend some of the racial barriers that were faced by our Community in the decade before the Second World War, at least amongst fans of the team who were drawn from all walks of life. Grace was a passionate leader of our Community who was instrumental not only in keeping the Japanese Canadian wartime experience in the public eye, but also in raising current awareness of the Vancouver Asahi – as personified by Kaye – and the team's impact that extended well beyond the baseball field. Together Kaye and Grace memorialized the team beginning with her seminal exhibition *Leveling the Playing Field* in 2002.

It was an honour for me to be invited to once again participate as your President in the most recent Conference of Heads of Japanese Missions in Canada, an annual meeting of Consuls General of Japan in Canada hosted by His Excellency, Ambassador Yamanouchi, at the Embassy of Japan in Ottawa, in early December 2024. The Conference afforded me with the opportunity to reconnect with my counterparts from across Canada, and to provide Ambassador Yamanouchi, the Consuls General, and representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, with an update on our Centre's activities. It was also delightful to catch up with Deputy Head of Mission Maruyama, Consul General Takahashi's immediate predecessor in Vancouver, who made time to meet with me despite the demands of his busy schedule.

On February 14, 2025, we signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Mitsubishi Canada Ltd., marking the beginning of a three-year partnership that will enhance and expand our TAIKEN Field Trips Program. Each TAIKEN Field Trip offers an immersive educational experience that brings Japanese Canadian history and culture to life for participating students, exploring key moments from early immigration to the internment era and beyond. This partnership will allow more students to participate in enhanced activities supported by expanded educational resources, leading to an improved field trip experience. We wish to thank Mitsubishi Canada Ltd. for their dedication to education and cultural understanding. We also wish to acknowledge and thank Mr. Kaori (Mick) Namiki who, until he recently wrapped up his tenure as President and Chief Executive Officer of Mitsubishi Canada Ltd., served on our Board of Directors for the past five years.

As I mentioned in my last annual report, we have embarked upon an ambitious multi-year project to implement a Digital Database Hub and Heritage Portal, which is being funded through B.C. Redress under the auspices of the Japanese Canadian Legacies Society. The project is being facilitated by RYŌSHIN Solutions, a local project management firm with a proven track record and deep connections to our Community, whose team reports directly to our Executive Director, Karah Foster. The project's direction has drawn heavily on our Museum Staff's expertise in digitization and curation of archival materials and has been informed in part by the *National Japanese Canadian Digitization Strategy*.^[1] We also wish to acknowledge and thank Canon Canada Inc. for offering certain technical services in support of this project.

Sherri Kajiwarra, Director-Curator of the Nikkei National Museum, 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 Peru, where she and Dr. Jordan Stanger-Ross were invited to speak on the topic of *Connecting Nikkei Communities through Past Wrongs, Future Choices* at the 2nd Nikkei Museums & Archives Symposium. Sherri continues to serve as Chair of the Museum Exhibit Cluster, and Lisa Uyeda, Collections Manager continues to serve as co-chair of the Archives Cluster of *Past Wrongs, Future Choices*, the multi-year, multinational research and educational project that I referenced in my report last year. *Past Wrongs, Future Choices* follows on the success of the University of Victoria-led *Landscapes of Injustice* project in which the Centre was a significant partner.

Throughout the past year, the Centre has remained a focal point for Japanese culture in the Lower Mainland. Favourites such as the Spring Bazaar, Nikkei Craft Fair, and Mochitsuki continue to attract enthusiastic and diverse patrons, and the 13th annual Nikkei Matsuri Festival will once again bring excitement to Nikkei Place with one of Canada's largest authentic and family-friendly Japanese festivals.

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 bi-monthly. Meetings of the Finance Committee, the Fundraising Committee, the Governance Committee and the Communications Committee have been held on an as-required basis.

Acknowledgement and Appreciation

We continue to enjoy a warm and supportive relationship with all levels of Government. We have continued to welcome local Members of Parliament and Members of the Legislative Assembly to many of our events, and the Honourable David Eby, Premier of the Province of British Columbia, was a special guest at the opening ceremony of our 12th annual Nikkei Matsuri Festival last summer.

I wish to extend special thanks to His Worship, Burnaby Mayor Mike Hurley, and members of Burnaby City Council, for taking time out of their busy schedules to attend many of our key events. At the invitation of the City of Burnaby, we are working on an initiative to mark the 60th anniversary of the recognition of Burnaby and Kushiro as sister cities.

I would like to acknowledge the kind and unwavering support of the Consulate General of Japan in Vancouver. In particular, I wish to thank Consul General Takahashi and Deputy Consul General Okagaki, who, like their predecessors, have generously lent their valuable time to attend our many events, and have helped to enhance the visibility of not only our Centre but also other important stakeholder groups within our Community.

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/>

Nikkei Centre 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. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I commend and thank you all for your continued support.

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, Craig Natsuhara, Secretary, and Fred Yada, Director and Past-President.

Finally, but certainly not least, I would also like to acknowledge the many contributions of Karah Foster, our dedicated and resourceful Executive Director, and of Keiko Funahashi, the Executive Director of the Nikkei Place Foundation. Keiko has worked closely with Karah to help raise the profile of Nikkei Place both within and outside of our Community.

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) simply showing up at our many events and inviting your friends and families to attend as well.

As I expect all of you will have seen, Nikkei Place has recently launched the Nikkei Next fundraising campaign to fund critical infrastructure upgrades, the reimagining of shared spaces, and the creation of new immersive cultural experiences. In addition to allowing the Centre to complete much-needed building repairs and improvements, such as roof and HVAC system upgrades, the Nikkei Next campaign seeks to enable us to revitalize Hayashi Hall, our Resource Centre Library and our outdoor gardens. Additionally, we are seeking funds to transform our Tatami Room into an Immersive Cultural Space that will authentically reflect Japanese tradition and aesthetics, and offer a serene and educational space for cultural appreciation.

I would once again personally like to thank you all for your support and continued interest in Nikkei Centre.

Yoroshiku onegaishimasu.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Herbert I. Ono', with a stylized, flowing script.

Herbert I. Ono, President

The Year in Review

Building Enhancements



Photographer Adam PW Smith

New Water Fountains

Thanks to a generous anonymous donation from a community member, we were able to replace the original failing water fountains on both the main and second floor with modern bottle-fill fountains, encouraging sustainability and green practices at NNMCC.

Roof Replacement Project

With partial funding support from a Japanese Canadian Legacy Society Infrastructure grant, the NNMCC was able to initiate a project to replace the 25 year old roofing system. A committee was formed with a team of community experts (Henry Wakabayashi, Art Kanzaki, Frank Kamiya) to help plan the project and guide the construction with Construction Management by Cascadia Projects. Following a rigorous bidding process, Marine Roofing Group, a Burnaby-based roofing company, was awarded the project and has been committed to working with our team to minimize disruption to our activities.

The roof work itself commenced in early spring 2025 with an expected completion in the summer of 2025. Funding from our Nikkei Next Fundraising Campaign, our Friends of Nikkei Centre Maintenance Fund and reserve funds will be contributed to ensure the project completion.

HVAC Replacement Project

Funded by the JCLS Infrastructure Building Improvements grant, NNMCC began replacing its aging 25-year-old rooftop HVAC units. The committee managing the roofing project expanded its scope to include the HVAC upgrades, creating efficiencies by coordinating both initiatives. New units were ordered in early spring 2025, with installation scheduled for completion by the end of summer. The upgrades will enhance climate control for the Karasawa Gallery, museum collections and archives, Community Kitchen, and Budojo.

Museum

Exhibitions

Karasawa Gallery



The WOVEN exhibit opening was held on March 16, 2024 with artist Setsuko Piroche in attendance. Photographer Adam PW Smith

WOVEN: Setsuko Piroche's Wonderland

Co-Curated by Makiko Hara +
Sherri Shinobu Kajiwara

March 18 - September 16, 2024

This exhibition showcased a retrospective of works by Setsuko Piroche (née Hane), a cross-cultural artist with a 70-year career, featuring textiles, paintings, and illustrations. The exhibit offered a comprehensive view of Piroche's diverse and unique artistic vision.



Haq and History

The Punjabi Canadian Legacy Project:

A Quest for Community Voices

October 19, 2024 – January 25, 2025

This travelling exhibit originating from the South Asian Studies Institute (SASI) and the Royal British Columbia Museum (RBCM), presented the experiences of South Asian Canadian immigrants in British Columbia. NNMCC contributed research on the intertwined histories of South Asian and Japanese Canadian families in Paldi, integrating a Nikkei perspective and expanding the exhibit's content.



Haq & History exhibition opening, Nov 2, 2024.
Photographer Adam PW Smith



Umami: Savouring Artistic Nikkei Identity

Part 1: Feb 8 – May 17, 2025

Artists: Todd Inouye, Brian Kobayakawa & Annie Sumi, Ken Mizokoshi, Wendy Tanaka

As part of our 25th anniversary celebrations, this exhibition highlights the rich essence of our Japanese Canadian creative community, featuring a range of artistic styles from traditional to contemporary, and including both established and emerging artists.



2nd Floor: Gordon & Kyoko Kadota Landing

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.



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:

- Nanaimo Museum, Nanaimo BC (Mar-Sep 2024)
- Museum Strathroy Caradoc, Strathroy-Caradoc ON (October 2024-February 2025)

Small venues:

- Bradley Museum, Mississauga ON (Jan-Apr 2024)
- Salmon Arm Museum, Salmon Arm BC (summer 2024)
- Bulkley Valley Museum, Smithers BC (Sept 2024-Jan 2025)

Japan tour:

- Canada Museum, Mio, Wakayama (Apr-Jun 2024)
- Kyoto University of Foreign Studies, Kyoto (October 2024)
- Doshisha University, Kyoto (December 2024)

The Suitcase Project

Major venues:

- PAMA Peel Art Gallery, Museum and Archives, Brampton, ON (Jan-Aug 2024)
- Woodstock Museum, Woodstock ON (Sept 2024-June 2025)

Small venues:

- Steveston Museum and Post Office, Richmond BC (Jan-Apr 2024)



Museum Collections & Archives



Artist Linda Ohama donated the cloth letters from her Kids for Kids Quilt (Cloth Letter) Project. Created in response to the Tōhoku earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear disaster in 2011, Linda coordinated the creation of hundreds of cloth letters from children across Canada & Japan. Linda, left, and Lisa Uyeda with the cloth letters created by children from Yamanote Elementary School in Kobe, Japan, Burnaby, BC, 9 July 2024. (Photographer: Sam Frederick)

Home to the largest community-driven repository of Japanese Canadian history & heritage, we house and care for nearly 2,000 remarkable collections & fonds that capture and preserve the lived experiences that people of Japanese ancestry have in Canada, sharing their contributions, innovation, creativity and development from the late 1800s to the present day. We safeguard thousands of archival records, rare publications, artwork, and personal belongings donated by individuals, families, businesses, and community organizations.

OVER 150 DONATION OFFERS:

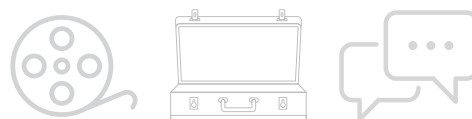
One donation can consist of hundreds of items:

- Documents, photographs, books, maps, artwork, films & home movies, oral histories



OVER 107 NEW DONATIONS AND ACCRUALS WERE ACCEPTED:

- **16.4+** metres of textual records, **2,111** photographs, **374** oral histories, **239** audio & video recordings, **514** books, **114** objects and artwork



Online Database - NikkeiMuseum.org

We host the national Japanese Canadian online database hub and this year, we had 2,886 visitors (31,422 visitor hits) explore our 663 collections and 40,936 items.

- Nikkei National Museum & Cultural Centre (NNMCC) – 524 collections and 31,339 items
- Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre (JCCC) – 61 collections and 8,293 items
- Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre (NIMC) – 51 collections and 1,242 items
- Kamloops Japanese Canadian Museum & Archives (KJCMA) – 9 collections and 62 items

Loans from the Collections & Archives

We loan archival records, objects, and artwork to other museums across Canada and the USA. This year, we lent 70 items.

Long-term loans:

- 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
- Canadian War Museum (November 2023 - extended for a modified travelling exhibition). Exhibition: Outside the Lines - Women Artists and War.



Lisa Uyeda, Collections Manager, wrapping items from the Woven exhibit for freezing. The museum staff undertook conservation cleaning to protect the items from bug damage. (Photographer: Sakura Tajiri)



The Charles H. Kadota Resource Centre is open to community members and researchers and includes a self-serve reference library, subject files, and knowledgeable staff that facilitate access to the collections in our archives. Here, community members look through a photograph album to help identify names, locations, and dates in the Charles H. Kadota Resource Centre. 12 February 2025. (Photographer: Hikaru Ikeda)

Charles H. Kadota Resource Centre

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

Archives Open House

- 3 offered
- 50 visitors: to conduct research, explore our resources, and learn more about accessing the Collections & Archives.
- During the Nikkei Matsuri 920 festival-goers visited the Resource Centre.

We look forward to offering more open houses in the future.

Research Highlights

We supported:

- 806 research inquiries (272 more than last year)
- 850+ hours, assisting researchers (200 hours more than last year)
- 192 in person visits (24%) (60 more than last year)
- 614 remote inquiries (76%) by phone, email, and video calls (201 more than last year)
- 43 tours of the Resource Centre and Archives (12 more than last year)
- In-kind services and discounts valued at \$5,005.60, reflect our commitment to support research and community projects. (\$1,684 more than last year)
- 64 known Japanese Canadian Legacies Society funded projects supported (9 Arts, 5 Japanese Canadian organizations, 18 Non-Japanese Canadian Organizations, 31 family projects, and the Japanese Canadian Legacies pillars)
- A delegation from the Japanese American Historical Association and the Japanese American National Museum, and on another occasion a group from the Japanese Community and Cultural Centre of Northern California, toured and consulted with staff on the NNMCC's development since its inception and its current museum activities.



Author Eriko Ishikawa visited from Japan and donated her children's book ボタ山で あそんだころ (When I Played at Bota Mountain) to our reference library, Burnaby, BC, 12 September 2024. (Photographer: Lisa Uyeda)



Debbie Jiang spearheaded a lightning-fast community fundraising effort to secure Yasushi Yamazaki's 1913 trophy for the museum's archives. Debbie, 3rd from left with family and museum staff, Lisa Uyeda, Daien Ide, and Sam Frederick, Burnaby, BC, 10 January 2025. (Photographer: Nichola Ogiwara)

- Publications and productions supported:
 - *Landscapes of Home* film: research support. Screened by filmmaker Alice Shin at the JCCC and NNMCC.
 - Revelstoke Museum exhibit: research support and content review for section on Japanese Canadian families, launched in fall 2024.
 - *The Nail that Sticks Out: Growing Up Japanese Canadian* book by Suzanne Hartmann.
 - *Les Derniers Des Asahis*: a novel in French by Alain M. Bergeron.
- With gratitude for the newly established Tetsuo and Frances Itani Endowment fund managed at Nikkei Place Foundation to support the collection & archives, staff met and toured three generations of the Itani family that came from across Canada and as far away as Denmark.
- Supported artist and curatorial research for the exhibit at CEED, Maple Ridge (opened May 2025), *Seiko Udoku: Remembering the Lost Legacy of the Japanese Canadian Farming Community of Maple Ridge*.

Projects

Past Wrongs Future Choices (PWFC) Project

PWFC is a partnership project based at the University of Victoria focusing on the global history of the mistreatment of Nikkei during the Second World War.

- **Archives Cluster:** This year in the Archives Cluster, staff supported research, contributed to the technical development of the archival spotlights, and co-led outreach initiatives in Whitehorse, YT, Tashme, BC, and Toronto, ON.
- **Exhibition Cluster:** In May 2024 Project co-chair Dr. Jordan Stanger Ross, Project Manager Michael Abe, and Exhibition Cluster chair Sherri Shinobu Kajiwarra were in Japan for a series of PWFC events including giving talks at Sophia University, Doshisha, and Ritsumeikan, as well as meetings in Yokohama and a symposium in Mio, Wakayama where the Broken Promises exhibition translated into Japanese had it's second stop on a Japan tour. In 2025 Jordan and Sherri presented on the PWFC project at the *2nd International Symposium of Japanese Immigration Museums: New Perspectives in Japanese Immigration Museums* in Lima Peru Jan 30 - Feb 1, 2025.

Rintaro Hayashi Book Translation

In 1974, Rintaro Hayashi published the historic book in Japanese, "Kuroshio-no-Hate-ni" which translated to "Beyond the Black Current," examining the place of Japanese Canadians in the early days of the British Columbia fishing industry. The Hayashi family teamed up with the NNMCC to create an English translation of this historically significant document. With financial support from the Japanese Canadian Legacies Society Community Projects grant, the team at A+E Translations was engaged to translate the material, having completed one third of the book as of the end of 2024. The remainder of the translation is on track to be completed by the end of 2025 with the goal of an e-publication and limited physical run publication in 2026.



Members of Rintaro Hayashi Project Committee: Ian Miki, Dan Nomura, Shizu Hayashi, Paul Kariya, Tak Oyama, 2 of Tak's colleagues visiting from Japan, Karah Foster, Leslie Budden.



Tomoko Shida, Archivist from the Past Wrongs Future Choices Project's Archives Cluster, and Sam Frederick, Outreach & Processing Archivist from the NNMCC, met with Japanese Canadian families from across Canada and the USA at the Ask an Archivist Booth during ensoku 2024, alongside NNMCC's Sam Frederick with NNMCC books and merchandise. 17 August 2024. (Image credit: Paul Jette)

Heritage Hub



This year marked the launch of the Heritage Hub project, a multi-year initiative supported by the Japanese Canadian Legacies Society under the Heritage Preservation Pillar. Designed to preserve and amplify the history of Japanese Canadians, the project focuses on building a dynamic digital platform for the Nikkei National Museum & Cultural Centre that ensures long-term accessibility, sustainability, and community engagement.

At the heart of the project are four key objectives: digital preservation, accessibility, community engagement, and education. By digitizing and safeguarding historical documents, photographs, and multimedia materials, the Heritage Hub will ensure these invaluable resources are preserved for future generations. The creation of a user-friendly online portal will make this content widely accessible to researchers, students, families, and the public. The project also emphasizes active community involvement and the integration of educational resources to deepen awareness and understanding of Japanese Canadian history.

To support this ambitious undertaking, Ryoshin Solutions has been contracted to lead project management through a phased approach, ensuring the initiative stays on time and on budget. We are pleased to be working with Ryan Yada, principal of Ryoshin Solutions, whose unique combination of expertise in project management, technology systems, team leadership, and digital strategy—along with his personal connection as a yonsei Japanese Canadian and past service on the Nikkei Centre board—brings invaluable insight and dedication to the project.

The project is currently progressing through Phase 1: Research & Evaluation. This phase focuses on establishing the initial project charter, governance, and defining the vision and purpose; extensive requirements gathering with input from varied stakeholders; strategy and policy revisions; and evaluating potential solutions. We will enter Phase 2 of Implementation in the 2025–26 fiscal year, and look forward to sharing more updates and information about the project in the coming year.

Education Programs

Total Reach: Approximately 2,153

(2023-24 reach: 1,817)

In-Person Field Trip Programs

- Approximately **1,562** students, teachers, and groups visited for in-person field trips.

JOURNEYS Outreach Classroom Kits

- Approximately **591** students in 16 schools and homeschools benefited from the kits.

Manga Camps

- **15** children ages 9-12 participated in 1 Manga Camp session in March.
- **19** children ages 9-12 participated in 1 Manga Camp session in July.

Tomoshibi 灯 Journey

In 2024, we ran two internment bus tours. “Tomoshibi 灯,” meaning “to light,” guided participants through Japanese Canadian internment sites and Nikkei communities across British Columbia, illuminating a path of understanding and healing. These five-day journeys traced the internment’s beginnings and visited historic and remote sites, including those now vanished, and highway commemorative signs. The tours provided historical accounts and site commentary. Woven throughout the journey were counseling support and healing circles, aiding participants in processing the complex emotions evoked by both the beauty of British Columbia and the somber history of the locations, thanks to the support of the Japanese Canadian Legacies Society. (Attendance: 99)



Summer Manga Camp. Photographer Adam PW Smith.

Special Events

Community gather at Spring Bazaar

Visitors enjoyed a day of shopping for nikkei treasures and foods at the annual Spring Bazaar on May 11. The event featured Japanese plants and trees, including freshly picked fuki. This year, NNMCC Members were treated to priority access to the flea market before the crowds, where they discovered Japanese items such as dolls, fans, dishes, kimono, and more from various vendors. Customers eagerly lined up for foods made by the NNMCC Auxiliary members, including manju, anpan, ohagi, chirashizushi, inari, onigiri, and gyoza. Attendance: 2,000.



The Rakuichi mikoshi group entertains visitors with shishimai during the Nikkei Garden Farmers Market, Jun 9, 2024. Photographer Nichola Ogiwara

Nikkei Garden Farmers Market fosters meaningful connections

For its 4th season, the Nikkei Garden Farmers Markets were held twice a month from June to October, drawing an average of 1,000 guests and featuring around 38 vendors each market. Beyond the fresh produce, each market offered a variety of cultural experiences, including performances by groups like Rakuichi, Vancouver Okinawa Taiko, and Appare Yosakoi Vancouver, as well as interactive workshops in Ikebana, origami, and manju making. We also fostered meaningful connections with local organizations

by hosting community booths for the Burnaby Art Gallery, Electronics Recycling Association, Telus, BC Cancer Society, and Burnaby Community Action Team. Furthermore, we successfully implemented the BC Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon Program, redeeming over 1,200 coupons throughout the season. The annual **Tanabata Flea Market** took place in tandem with the Nikkei Garden Farmers Markets in mid July. It included a festive tanabata display and visitors could write their wish on tanzaku. Attendance over 10 markets: 10,000.



Bon odori at the Nikkei Garden lead by Satsuki Kai dance troupe during Nikkei Matsuri, Sep 1, 2024. Photographer Adam PW Smith

Nikkei Matsuri 2024

The 12th annual Nikkei Matsuri, held from August 30 to September 1, celebrated Japanese culture with a vibrant mix of traditional and contemporary arts, food, and music. The festival featured a mikoshi parade, cultural demonstrations, bon-odori dancing, yatai food, and a popular Otakara Market, alongside special guests from Japan—kimono designer Kiwa Anraku and sanshin master Masaki Yogi. Welcoming dignitaries and supported by 250+ volunteers and 500+ participants, the festival successfully fostered community engagement and cultural sharing, with proceeds benefiting the NNMCC's programs. Attendance: 10,000.



Zenyasai ~ kick starting the night before Nikkei Matsuri pre-party with DJs in the garden.



San san kudo ceremony performed by actors Haruno Niiyama & Yuki Kedoin during the Kanpai event, Nov 2, 2024. Photographer Adam PW Smith

A Memorable Sake Celebration

The **Kanpai! Sake Celebration** on November 2 successfully blended culinary and cultural experiences, offering guests a diverse selection of sake from local and international producers paired with delectable dishes from local vendors. Cultural highlights included vibrant taiko drumming, samurai sword demonstrations, hands-on workshops for karesansui and bonsai creation, and guided gallery tours, culminating in a breathtaking kimono show featuring a traditional Japanese wedding procession and the symbolic san-san-kudo ceremony. Attendance: 300.

Remembrance Day Ceremony

The annual Remembrance Day 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. The reception at the Vancouver Rowing Club 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.

Craft Fair celebrates local makers

To celebrate and support local artisans, the annual Craft Fair on November 16 and 17 featured 80 talented makers showcasing their handcrafted wares. In addition to the bustling marketplace, the fair offered seasonal temari and wreath-making workshops, fostering a deeper appreciation for handmade culture. Attendance: 2,000.

Breakfast with Santa: Nikkei Original

On December 7, the annual Breakfast with Santa expanded its capacity to the whole hall, serving families a pancake breakfast and, for the first time, an onigiri option. Children enjoyed crafting activities and received goodie bags handmade by NNMCC Auxiliary members, delivered by Santa himself. Attendance: 170.

Pounding Out Tradition: Nikkei Mochitsuki Delights Community

The annual Nikkei Mochitsuki took place on December 29 as usual, featuring a live mochitsuki demonstration by the Vancouver Japanese Gardeners Association, vibrant performances by Chibi Taiko, Satsuki Kai, and Vancouver Okinawa Taiko, and the tireless efforts of the NNMCC Auxiliary who provided fresh mochi to be savored by the crowds. Attendance: 2,000.



Mochitsuki demonstration by members of the Vancouver Japanese Gardeners Association, Dec 29, 2024. Photographer Adam PW Smith



A lively gaji game taking place during the inaugural Oshōgatsu event, January 4, 2025. Photographer Adam PW Smith

New Year Celebrations Garner Media Spotlight

Our inaugural **Oshōgatsu Japanese New Year Celebrations** on January 4 successfully fostered community and cultural exchange, bringing together numerous Nikkei groups to share traditional activities. Participants enjoyed engaging in karuta, gaji, shogi, go, origami, tea tasting, hula dancing, and kakizome calligraphy, where they reflected on the past year and set intentions for the new year. Attendance: 1,500.

Programs & Outreach



Spreading the word! We reached new audiences at outreach events including Hats Off Day, Ensoku, Powell Street Festival, Burnaby Blues + Roots Festival, Grey Cup, and Anime Evolution. Photographer Yukiko Nishikawa

Programs

Cultural Programs

This year marked a significant expansion of our cultural program offerings, resulting in notable achievements. We successfully delivered 152 programs featuring 38 distinct options, attracting over 2,200 participants. Key highlights include:

- **Japanese Language Programs:** Responding to strong community demand, our Japanese language offerings for adults have experienced an excellent start.
- **Culinary Workshops:** The return of culinary workshops proved highly popular, effectively utilizing our kitchen facilities and engaging a broad audience.
- **ichi-go ichi-e 一期一会: Guests From Japan Series:** This unique program, partnering with artists from Japan, provided exceptional and memorable workshops and performances.
- **Community Partnerships:** Our inaugural collaboration with Bite of Burnaby (Tourism Burnaby) in March enabled a series of Japanese culinary experiences. This partnership provided grant funding and marketing support, allowing us to expand our offerings under the “Taste of Japan” banner for the month of March.



Wagashi workshop with Sen Sakamoto of Kintoki Sweets, Feb 22, 2025. Photographer Adam PW Smith.



The Vancouver Japanese Gardeners Association presented a karesansui workshop, Nov 2, 2024. Photographer Adam PW Smith.

List of Programs

Ichigo Ichi-e Programs

- Ryūho Miura: shakuhachi concert and lecture
- Eriyo Watanabe: kohdo incense lecture & ceremony
- Masaki Yogi: Miyako Island folk song and sanshin maintenance workshops
- Kiwa Anraku: finger-knitted kimono scarf workshops
- Keiko Honda: author talk
- Misato Tachidani: kokyū performance

Japanese Language Classes

- Beginner Japanese 1 and 2 Classes
- Japanese Conversation Class
- Japanese Language Exchange

Culinary Workshops

- Chocolate Making
- Loose Leaf Tea Lecture and Workshops
- Miso Making
- Nerikiri Workshops
- Soba Making
- Wagashi Workshops



Miura Ryuho (shakuhachi) and Yoshiya Shizuga (koto) from Japan in concert with local shakuhachi player Alcvin Ramos, Aug 7, 2024.
Photographer Yukiko Nishikawa

Japanese Culture

- Bonsai Demonstration & Workshop
- Cherry blossom lecture
- Furoshiki Workshops
- Ikebana Workshops
- Incense Ceremony
- Indigo Dye Workshops
- Introduction to Iaido
- Japanese Folk Dance
- Karesansui Rock Garden Workshop
- Kengido Japanese Sword Fighting
- Kimono Kitsuke / Yukata Kitsuke
- Kintsugi: Introduction Class / Jewelry Making / DIY Workshops
- Kizuna Art Salon
- Mizuhiki Workshops
- Public Tea Ceremony
- Shichigosan, Coming-of-Age Kimono Photo Shoot
- Shogi Meetups
- Temari Workshops
- Wreath Making

Programs by External Organizations

The number of weekly and monthly programs organized by external organizers renting our space who run their own programming in 2024-2025 were 30. (2023-24: 26 groups)

Budo, Japanese martial arts

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

Exercise

- Adult Badminton
- Elite Gymnastics
- Jiriki Seitai
- Maison Studio Pilates (till April 2024)
- Nikkei Gate Ball
- Nikkei Beginner Hula
- Nikkei Line Dance
- Nikkei Pickleball
- Senior Badminton
- Taz Badminton
- Wailele Wai Wai Hula Dance

Japanese culture

- Chibi Taiko
- Nikkei Senior Karaoke
- Nikkei Shohin Bonsai Club
- Ninja Star, digital arithmetic (till June 2024)
- Samurai Cinema Club
- Satsuki Kai, Japanese dance group
- Shodo Kenkyu Isseikai, calligraphy
- Soroban, abacus
- Southern Wave Okinawan Music & Dance
- Sogetsu Ikebana Class
- Ugatoe Kissa, group singing
- Vancouver Go Association, igo
- Vancouver Youth Go Academy, igo for kids

Other

- Rhythm 'N' Rhyme (baby and parents activity in Cantonese)
- Turkish Choir

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. Photographer Manto Artworks

Nikkei Japanese Bookstore



Visitors are welcomed to explore Japanese literature and manga at the Nikkei Japanese Bookstore, a community gem run by dedicated volunteers. Books are generously donated by the public, and all proceeds support the organization's programs. Photographer Nichola Ogiwara.

Rentals

NNMCC continues to serve as a significant community gathering space, reflecting the characteristics of a traditional Japanese household where intergenerational connection and celebration are central. The venue facilitates a wide array of events, from intimate family gatherings to larger organisational functions. The centre observes a pattern of renters becoming recurring participants in NNMCC programs and gallery visits, suggesting a transition from transactional venue usage to sustained community engagement. NNMCC remains committed to hosting diverse ethnic and cultural organisations, accommodating events ranging from small meetings to comprehensive programs involving multiple vendors, activities, and performances. This support underscores the centre's role in showcasing the community's rich cultural diversity.

The venue's rental services encompass a broad spectrum of event types, including personal celebrations such as birthday parties, weddings, and baby showers, as well as professional functions like meetings and workshops for corporate and educational entities. Furthermore, NNMCC provides a platform for entertainment events, including concerts, music performances, markets, and fairs, thereby offering a versatile space for diverse community activities.



Testimonials

As soon as we saw the sign advertising wedding rentals, we knew that the Nikkei Centre was the place for us. As a half-Japanese gosei, I grew up attending all sorts of events at the Nikkei Centre and even volunteering at summer camps as a teenager. My partner and I continue to frequent the Centre as regular patrons of the farmers market and craft fairs, and we can't imagine a venue that would have been better-suited to celebrate our marriage.

- Kaya & Ryan



Photographer: Stephanie Townsend

Volunteers



Volunteer appreciation lunch event on June 1, 2024. Photographer Adam PW Smith

The Gift of Time: Our Volunteer Impact

Our 400 volunteers contributed 10,000 hours (2023-24: 14,000 hours), enabling us to host impactful events and enrich our community. From operating the bookstore to assisting programs and ensuring the smooth operation of Nikkei Matsuri, their dedication was invaluable. Volunteers of all ages and backgrounds, including seniors, students, and newcomers, fostered intergenerational and multicultural connections. We celebrated their contributions at our annual appreciation party, and we are grateful for their continued support in strengthening our community.

Volunteer Community Committee Chairs

Auxiliary (vacant)
Japanese Canadian War Memorial...Mandy Shintani
Nikkei Matsuri.....Louise Akuzawa

NNMCC Auxiliary



Photo booth at the Kansha event on September 22, 2024. L-R: Frank Kamiya, Yukiko Nishikawa, Kaori Yano, Yoshi Hashimoto, Reiko Kurushima, Cheryl Honkawa. Photographer Adam PW Smith

The NNMCC Auxiliary continued to be a pillar of our community this year, passionately supporting our mission through their tireless efforts. Their impact was felt across a wide array of successful fundraising initiatives, from delicious food sales to thriving plant, secondhand, and craft markets. The dedicated service of manju-making remained a cherished contribution.

Our annual Spring Bazaar flourished, with popular offerings like gyoza and ohagi. The generosity of donors fueled the success of the plant and flea market components. The Nikkei Garden Farmers Markets and Tanabata Flea Market saw enthusiastic engagement, with their signature apple pies nearly selling out through pre-orders. The O-Takara market at Nikkei Matsuri also enjoyed robust sales, drawing eager crowds. The fall Craft Fair showcased the Auxiliary's beautiful handcrafted items, such as hats and scarves, which were warmly received. Breakfast with Santa provided a heartwarming experience, where attendees enjoyed pancakes, sausages, and a new Japanese breakfast option, and children were delighted by



handmade goody bags. The year concluded with a lively Mochitsuki, where Auxiliary volunteers produced over 3,700 pieces of fresh mochi. The immeasurable hours and unwavering dedication of our Auxiliary members are vital to the continued success and vibrancy of NNMCC programs.

Heartwarming event Kansha

The Kansha (感謝) event on September 22 celebrated over 24 years of collaborative effort in fostering the NNMCC, bringing together past and present NNMCC Auxiliary and Board volunteers. The event, themed around deep gratitude, featured a multi-course lunch, soothing piano melodies, engaging games, a vibrant Vancouver Okinawa Taiko performance, and a fun photobooth, all designed to honour the volunteers' dedication and contributions. As the NNMCC looks forward to the next 25 years, Kansha underscored the vital role of volunteers and community in preserving and sharing Japanese Canadian history and culture.

Thank you

Funders

Akiko Gomyo Foundation
LA. Shoji Foundation
Oakville Community Foundation
Canadian Heritage - Building Communities through Arts and Heritage - Nikkei Matsuri
Canadian Heritage - Museums Assistance Program - Digital Access to Heritage - Mobile Digitization
Canadian Museums Association - Young Canada Works in Heritage Organization
Canadian Museums Association - Young Canada Works - Building Careers in Heritage
City of Burnaby - Festivals Burnaby - Nikkei Matsuri
Employment & Social Development Canada - New Horizons for Seniors Program
Employment & Social Development Canada - Canada Summer Jobs
Japanese Canadian Legacies Society - Heritage Preservation Pillar - Heritage Hub
Japanese Canadian Legacies Society - Community Project - Rintaro Hayashi
Japanese Canadian Legacies Society - Community Project - Kansha Auxiliary Volunteer Gathering
Japanese Canadian Legacies Society - Heritage Site - Japanese Canadian War Memorial
Japanese Canadian Legacies Society - Infrastructure - Roof Replacement
Japanese Canadian Legacies Society - Infrastructure - Building Improvements - HVAC Replacement
Japanese Canadian Legacies Society - Intergenerational Wellness - NNMCC Tomoshibi Journey
Province of BC - Heritage BC - 150 Time Immemorial Grant Program
Province of BC - BC Arts Council - Operating Assistance
Province of BC - Community Gaming
Province of BC - BC Fairs, Festivals, and Events - Nikkei Matsuri Sake Event Mochitsuki
Tourism Burnaby - Bite of Burnaby
University of Victoria - Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) - PWFC
Veterans Affairs Canada - Commemorative Partnership Program - Remembrance Day & Warrior Spirit Online Exhibition

Membership Sponsors

Chado Tea House
Hapa Izakaya
Modo
Pac West Kimono
Suzuya Japanese Market
Tama Organic Life

Thank you

Corporate Sponsors

Axis Planning Inc.
Amenida Seniors Community
Cantrail Coach Lines Ltd.
Cheena
CHOYA
DLA Piper (Canada) LLP.
DMCL
Fujiya
Kami Insurance Agencies Ltd.
Mayekawa Canada Inc.
McMillan LLP
Metrotown Mazda
Metrotown Mitsubishi
Mitsubishi Canada Ltd.
Naoto Horita Inc.
OpenRoad Honda Burnaby
Stem Japanese Eatery
TD Bank
Telus
Toyo Tire Canada Inc.
Tsukiji Fish Market Inc.
Wing International (Trading) Inc.
Yokohama Tire (Canada) Ltd.

In-Kind Sponsors

Canadian Tire
Global TV
Fraser Monthly
Okinawa Convention and Visitors Bureau
Oomomo
United Rentals
What's On Burnaby

Collaborative Partners

Anime Evolution
Consulate General of Japan in Vancouver
Densho
Dōjin Japanese Arts Society
Greater Vancouver Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre
Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre, Toronto
Japanese Canadian War Memorial Committee
Kamloops Japanese Canadian Association
Kamloops Japanese Canadian Museum & Archives
Kenyu-kai
Kwantlen Polytechnic University
Langara College
Langham Cultural Centre, Kaslo
Miyazaki House, Lillooet
Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre, New Denver
National Association of Japanese Canadians
Nikkei Place Foundation
Nikkei Seniors Health Care & Housing Society
Powell Street Festival Society
Simon Fraser University
Tashme Museum
TomoeArts
Tonari Gumi
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
Vancouver Japanese Gardeners Association

We apologize for any errors or omissions.

Donors



Sakura Appreciation event on March 9, 2025. Photographer: Adam PW Smith

Patricia Akiyama

Louise Akuzawa & Ron Kruschen

Kelly Alexander

Susan Arai

Marion Arai & Family

Yoshio Arai

Janice Arjomandi

Carl & Akemi Armstrong

Yoshiharu & Fumiko Aura

Auxiliary at the NNMCC

Connie Ball

Reiko Barabas

Friends from BC Provincial
Medical Genetics Program

Maiko Behr

Heather Bepple

Kazuo Bessho

Gianni Del Bianco

Mireille Bilodeau VongPhit

Michael Black

Kathy & Derek Bonin

Michael Borowski & Diane
Shikaze

Yasuyo Bosshardt

The Family of The Late May
Mukaida

Phyllis & Gotham Bruce

Kevin Buckham

Tristan Calvo

Michael Cameron

David Cao

Christine Carriou

Patrick Chan

Wendy Chang

Tenny Chui

Bill Chung

Lisa Codd

Michael & Ruth Coles

Phil & Pauline Cooper

Dawn Copeman

Yumiko Cybucki

Dean & Ayumi Dalke

Mary Eaglesham

Sindy Easter

Mary & Robert Farris

Dana Fong

Bonnie Fong

Helen Fong

Patricia Fong

Donors

FortisBC Energy Inc.	Catherine L. Hoogerhyde	Sumiko Kamachi
Stanley & Masako Fukawa	Masako Hori	Kami Insurance Agencies Ltd.
Keiko Funahashi	Fumiko Horii	Edward Kaminishi
Minako Gardner	Akira & Hamako Horii	John & Carol-Anne Kamitakahara
Akiko Gomyo	Toshie Hosonuma	Frank & Naomi Kamiya
Kirsten Green	Ronald Hunt & Shizu Hayashi	Mihoko Kanashiro
Claire De Guzman	Jen Hunter	Bryce Kanbara
Deidre Hamaguchi	Ruth Ikoma	Y Kanno
Mutsumi Hamakawa	Daebin Im	Yoshiko Karasawa
Taeko Darlene Hamakawa	Angela Inglis	Naomi Kariya
Aiko Marlene Hamakawa	Kikuye Inouye	Michiyo Katayama
Betty Hamanishi	Chieko & Yuki Inouye	Jeannie Kawada
Takashi Hamatake	Takeshi Inouye	George & June Kawaguchi Family
Christine Hamrol	May H. Ishikawa	Tosh & Mary Kitagawa
Masami Hanashiro	Akiko Ishikawa	June Kitamura
Judy Hanazawa	Kenneth H. Isomura	Masaru Kiyota
Kathy Harris	Kevin Isomura	Roger Knecht
Ellen Harvey	Frances Itani	Dave, Bev & Phyllis Kobayashi
Michelle Hasebe	Don & Kumi Iwanaka	Cassandra Kobayashi
Kazuko Hasebe	Takashi Iwata	Keiko Kobiyama
Yoshiharu Hashimoto	Scott Jan	Larissa Kondo
Kelvin & Kay (Kazuyo) Higo	Charlene Jenzen	Fay Y. Koyama-Ishii
Miki & Miyako Hirai	Bobbi Lynn Jones	Lorna Koyanagi
Shigeru & Akemi Hirai	Brenda Joy	Wesley Koyanagi
Tami Hirasawa	Aoyama/June Family	Noriko Kumagai
Michael Holm	Shinobu Kadome	Junko, Yuki & Elina Kurahashi
Elaine Homma	Ellen K. Kadonaga	Reiko Kurushima
Shinobu Homma	Mark Kagetsu	

Donors

Terumi Kuwada	Gail Mayer	Dan & Rury Nakagawa
Lily Kwan	Diana & Grant McDonald	Shari Nakahara
Sheila Laidlaw	Kelty McKinnon	Haruko Nakamura
Greciana Langamon	Bill McNulty	Lenora Ho, Raymond & Risa Nakamura Family
Dan & Caprice Lau	Denise Meloche	Gerry Nakamura
Angela Lee	Les Merson	Teruo Nakanishi
Margaret Lee	Helen, Patrick & James Meyer	Jim & Louise Nakano
George Leontowicz	Minoru Miki	Kaori (Mick) & Mariko Namiki
Suzanne Lewis	Izumi Miki McGruer	Janet Nasu
Ava Li	Joseph & Suanne Miki	Roberta H. Nasu
Carolyn Lim	Noriko Miki	Joyce Nasu
Imogene Lim	Diane Miki	Craig Natsuhara
Wayne & Kaori Lytton	David & Kiyomi Minamata	Late Lily Kamachi Family
Marion MacQueen	Florence Mitani	Evelyn Negoro
Mikiyo Maeda	Mitsubishi Canada Ltd.	Jesse Neri
Cathy Makihara	Kay Mitsui	Philip Nishikihama
Sally M. Maruca	Harriet Miyagawa	Sunni Nishimura
Jim Mason	Setsu Miyanishi	Yoko Nishimura
Keiko Masuda	Harry & Akemi Mizuta	Mot Tanaka & Doris Nishizaki
Ted Matsumoto	Arimasa & Miwako Mori	Jan Nobuto
Laverne Matsumura	Dennis Morishita	Halley O'Byrne
Heather Matsune	Alan & Wakako Morris	Daniel Obara
Yoko Matsuno	Rene Mrzljak	Deanna Oda
Gary Mayede	Yoko Murakami	Julia Ogawa
Julie Mayede	Ray Murao	Dereck Oikawa Family
Norine Mayede	Les & Phyllis Murata	Evelyn E. Okano
Janice Mayede	Gloria Murray	Carrie Okano
Gordon & Masayo Mayede	Kesia Nagata	Nancy Okano
Tracey Mayede-Lok	James Nakagawa	

Donors

Lara Okihiro	David & Denise Sakai	Adam PW Smith
Sachiko Okuda	Rodney Sakai	Mike Stanger Family
Corinna Omae	Richard & Yoshie Sakai	Steveston Kendo Club
Darrel & Dorothy Omae	Linda Sakai	B Masako Stillwell
Maryka Omatsu	Pat Sakai	Bernard Stoltz
Terumi Omaye	Laura Sakai	Bill Sudo
Richard Chow, Cynthia Chow, Yuki Omoto Family	Jean Sano	Shinichi & Rumiko Sueyoshi
Herbert Ono & Tara O'Connor	Rumi Sasaki	Yoshi Sugiyama
Paul Osaki	Sachie Sato	Wendy Tagami
Richard & Victoria Pellegrini	Satsuki-kai	Yosh & Kim Tagami
Mike Perry-Whittingham	Jim & Norma Sawada & Family	Daisaku Taguchi
Setsuko Piroche	Crystal Schatz	Motoya Takahae
Joni Pleau	Andrew Schiewe	Louise & Norma Takahashi
Maurizio Ponzini	Karla & Eric Schroter	Mark Takahashi
Leah Prentice	Sea Island Heritage Society	Terry Takashima
Sachi Pretty	Wayne Seller	Kenneth & Rosemarie Takeuchi
Brock Radloff	Kumi Shanahan	Theresa Tan
Karen Read	Diane Shikaze	Michael Tanaka Family
Linda Kawamoto Reid	Douglas Shimada	Mel & June Tanemura
Renfrew Kendo Club	Ray & Joyce Shimokura	Kaoru Tang
Wendy Robillard	Karen Shimokura	Claude Tani
Larry & Jeanne Ryan	Howard Shimokura	Kaz & Chic Tasaka
Vivian Rygnestad	David Shimosawa Family	Bruce & Nan Tasaka
Jas Sahota	Ken Shinozaki	Charles Tasaka
Laura Kumi Saimoto	Shintani Family	Julie K. Tateyama
Shigeo Saimoto	Mandy Shintani	Carol-Lyn Thaler
Miyo Saito	Mary Teruko Shintani	Elle Ting
Yosh Saito	Leigh Ann Shoji-Lee	Setsuko Toliver
	Christine Skorek	Tomoe Arts Society

Donors

Lindsay Tonogai	Ken & Dorothy Yada
Toshiyuki & Yukiko Tosa	Cathy Yamamoto
Joyce Trinh	Kathryn Yamamoto
Emily Tsen	Sam Yamamoto
Shauna Tsuchiya	Kasumi Yamashita
Lawrence Tsuji	Beverley T. Yamaura
M Tsujimoto	Jordan Yano
Hiro Tsujimoto	Lou Yano
Joann Tsumura	Kaori Yano, Sheri & Graham
Anne Uchiyama	Parke & Family, Glenn &
Hayato Ueda	Jennie Momotani & Family
Satoko Mary Uyesugi/Judy & Ed	Mas & Kaori Yano
Whitehead	Ta-Shan Yao
Tracey Valente Family	Fukashi & Chiyo Yasui
The Vancouver Japanese Gospel	Susan Yatabe
Church	Jack Yeh
Jason Vanderhill	Eiko Zhao
Barbara Voyer	Christopher Zhu
Henry & Yvonne Wakabayashi	Anonymous (37)
Shanhong Wan	Estate of Mary Elizabeth
Ryoko Ward	Todd
Yuichiro Watanabe	Estate of Nancy Miyuki Oka
Neil Whaley	Woodward
Michael C. Wilson	
Sarah Wong	
Marie Wong	
Lynn Wong	
Donna & James Wuest	
Fred & Linda Yada	

2024-2025 Board & Staff

Directors 2024-2025

Herbert I. Ono, President

Kevin Isomura, Vice-President

Carrie Okano, Vice-President

Ron Kruschen, Treasurer

Craig Natsuhara, Secretary

Louise Akuzawa

Dean Dalke

Kiyo Godo

Cheryl Honkawa

Gary Kawaguchi (until February 2025)

Ryan Lang

Shawn Lytton

Wakako Morris

Kaori (Mick) Namiki (until March 2025)

Leigh Ann Shoji-Lee

Fred Yada

Staff

Executive Director..... Karah Foster
Controller | Accountant Ella Law

Operations, Rentals, Venue Facility

Operations Manager..... Mike Ogawa
Rental Coordinator..... Momoko Cuesta
Administrative Coordinator..... Shanhong Wan
Facility Coordinator Patrick Fujisawa
Custodian Herozal Evalle | Rainier Dalisay
Facility Team Jamie Seo
Matthew Armstrong
Travis Armstrong
Naruhito Kruschen
Katnarine Lie
Mackenzie Stewart
Chayton Theys
Carlos Juarez (Until December 2024)
Mizuki Yano (Until June 2024)
Honoka Kamada
Tanakit Chaikanjanasak (Until September 2024)
Tai Anderson (Until June 2024)
Hikaru Yamada (Until March 2025)
Rachel Lige (From March 2025)
Moay Sakata (From March 2025)
Emiko Wallis (From March 2025)

Museum Collections & Archives, Exhibitions, Education

Director | Curator Sherri Kajiwarra
Collections Manager Lisa Uyeda
Research Archivist Daien Ide
Design and Exhibit Coordinator Danielle Jette
Education Coordinator Kimiko Yoshino
Museum Assistant Marika Bise (From November 2024)

Project-Based Temporary Positions

Assistant Archivist..... Hikaru Ikeda (From January 2025)
Collections Assistant Sakura Taji
Database Archivist..... Reiko Pleau (From January 2025)
Digitization Technician..... Sam Frederick (To June 2024)
Librarian..... Keiko Kaneko
Museum Intern..... Marika Bise (May 2024 - November 2024)
Processing & Outreach Archivist..... Sam Frederick (From June 2024)
Youth Program Coordinator..... Annika Louie (May - Sept 2024)

Staff

Programming, Events, Outreach

Communications Coordinator	Nichola Ogiwara
Community Engagement Coordinator	Yukiko Nishikawa (Leave of absence from February 2025)
Event Coordinator	Yumi Li
Public Programmer	Kaelan Oxford (From July 2024)
Receptionist	Suzuka Natsuhara
Volunteer Coordinator	Shiho Kawasaki
Event Assistant	Kaelan Oxford (To July 2024)
Event Assistant	Sherise Wong (From May 2024)

Project Managers & Contractors

Heritage Hub	Ryan Yada, Ryoshin Solutions
IT Services	Robin Bains, Bains Digital
Japanese Canadian War Memorial	Michael Yamauchi
Nikkei Next Roof & HVAC	Henry Wakabayashi
Tomoshihi Bus Tour	Michael Abe

The Year at a Glance

Membership



March 2024: 598
March 2025: 736

Collection & Archives



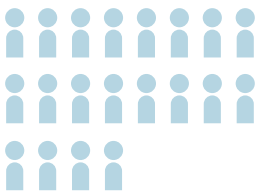
Film Reels
2023/2024: 191
2024/2025: 191



Artworks & Objects
2023/2024: 3,225+
2024/2025: 3,340+

Volunteerism

VOLUNTEERS



2023/2024: 400
2024/2025: 400



Textual Records
2023/2024: 54+ meters
2024/2025: 71+ meters



Photos & Digital Images
2023/2024: 59,500+
2024/2025: 61,500+

Museum Attendees



2023/2024: 5,606
2024/2025: 6,571



Oral History Records
2023/2024: 677+
2024/2025: 1,050+



2,000+ library books

Lost and Found Blog
nmm-lostandfound.blogspot.com

20,349 views

Communication



Instagram content interactions

10.9K



Facebook content interactions

7.4K



Youtube subscribers
March 2024: 465
March 2025: 605



E-news subscribers
March 2024: 3,322
March 2025: 3,502

4,503

individuals accessed resources from
our Collections & Archives