

Application Instructions for the Class of 2023



presented by Sakura Foundation

Please review the information below and contact us should you have any questions:

Stacey Shigaya, Program Director: StaceyS@sakurafoundation.org

Please submit the following information no later than **February 4, 2023**:

- ✓ Application including responses to essay questions
- ✓ CV/resume including employment and education history
- ✓ Letter of Recommendation – see Guidelines for your endorser

Selection Criteria

- An interest in learning about/ participating in the Japanese/ Japanese American (J/JA) community, strengthening leadership skills, and building community
- A desire to learn about and support the J/JA community into the future
- Commitment to fully engage in all MGLP activities and events
- Applicants of any ethnicity may apply to the program

Program Schedule

The 2023 Mirai Generations Leadership Program (MGLP) runs March through April 2023. **We ask that you confirm your availability on the dates below before you apply. Your attendance is essential to the success of the program.** However, we will work with you if scheduling conflicts arise during the run of the program. If you know in advance that you cannot attend all events/activities, please contact us for further discussion. Those who do not live in metro Denver may have virtual options to attend meetings. In order to get to know each other and start creating relationships, we strongly encourage everyone to attend the kick-off retreat in person.

Key Dates for the Class of 2023

All events will be held in The Hub @ Sakura Square

Feb 16, 21, or 22, evening	Applicant Interviews (1 date per applicant) Zoom link available in the event of inclement weather or for applicants outside of metro Denver
March 9, 6:30pm	Meet and Greet for the Class of 2023 and the MGLP Alumni
March 11, 10am – 7pm	Kick-off Retreat and co-hort dinner
March 18, 10am – 1pm	Learning Session with Joie Ha
March 25, 10am – 1pm	Learning Session with Alyssa Nilemo and Allyson Goto
April 1, 10am – 1pm	Learning Session with Patrick Walton
April 8, 10am – 1pm	Learning Session with DJ Ida
March – June	“Community Connection” interviews with 2 or more leaders of your choice in the J/JA community
March – May	“Group Huddles” to be scheduled at a convenient time for all to discuss Community Connections and other timely topics
July	Celebration Lunch, date and location TBD

Letter of Recommendation:

With your application, please submit at least one Letter of Recommendation, preferably from a participant in the Japanese/Japanese American (J/JA) community. The endorser can be a community or professional colleague, supervisor, professor, etc. (no family members, please).

The Guidelines for the Letter of Recommendation are as follows (a separate instruction sheet for your endorser is available at the end of these instructions and at www.SakuraFoundation.org.)

1. Endorser name, mailing address, email address and cell number
2. Under what circumstances and for how long you have known the applicant
3. A brief description of your involvement in the Japanese/Japanese American (J/JA) community
4. Your assessment of why the applicant would be a good candidate for the Mirai Generations Leadership Program, including the following:
 - Your knowledge of the applicant's professionalism, initiative, capacity for team work/interaction with others and capacity for growth
 - Your knowledge of the applicant's commitment to the J/JA community

The Letter of Recommendation must be submitted no later than February 4, 2023. It may accompany your application or may be sent directly from the endorser to MGLP@SakuraFoundation.org.

Tuition

The tuition for the Class of 2023 session is \$250 per participant. Lack of funds should not prevent a candidate from applying to the program. Requests for financial aid or scholarships will be taken on a case-by-case basis after the selection process. All program materials are covered by the program. *Payment is due on or before the first MGLP session on March 11, 2023.*

For the safety of all, Sakura Foundation will implement and adjust its safety guidelines throughout the program based on community health conditions and CDC, state, and local guidelines in order to protect participants, staff, and presenters.



SAKURA
FOUNDATION

Thank you for your interest in the Mirai Generations Leadership Program.

Sakura Foundation is pleased to present this valuable program to our community.

Essay Questions

Please answer the following questions (up to 500 words per question):

- 1) What do you know about the Japanese/Japanese American (J/JA) community in Denver and what makes it important to you?
- 2) What do you want to learn about the J/JA community through this program? About yourself?
- 3) What do you hope to gain personally from participation in the Mirai Generations Leadership Program?
- 4) (Optional) What else would you like us to know about you?

Letter of Recommendation

At least one Letter of Recommendation, **preferably from a participant or leader in the Japanese/ Japanese American community** is required. The endorser can be a community or professional colleague, supervisor, professor, etc. (no family members, please). **It is your responsibility to provide the Letter of Recommendation Guidelines to your endorser.** The letter must be received by the application deadline of **February 4, 2023.**

Are there any items you would like to share for safety reasons, such as allergies, COVID concerns, etc.?

Statement of Agreement

I hereby confirm the following:

- **All information in my application is true and accurate, and I give the Mirai Generations Leadership Program (MGLP) organizers my permission to verify any facts or statements with appropriate parties.**
- **I confirm that I am available to attend all MGLP activities and events as outlined in the application and acknowledge that excessive tardiness and/or absence from these events may result in my dismissal from the program.**
- **Any unforeseen circumstances that would prevent my attendance at an event will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.**
- **I give Sakura Foundation permission to use my photo and/or likeness in the promotion and reporting of MGLP and Sakura Foundation events and activities.**
- **I acknowledge that I am responsible for communicating with MGLP organizers and fellow participants in a timely manner to facilitate the effectiveness of the program.**

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Letter of Recommendation Guidelines



To the Applicant:

Please submit one Letter of Recommendation, preferably from a participant in the Japanese/Japanese American (J/JA) community, with your application for the Mirai Generations Leadership Program. The endorser can be a community or professional colleague, supervisor, professor, etc. (no family members, please).

The Letter of Recommendation must be submitted no later than February 4, 2023, either online with the application submission or via email to MGLP@SakuraFoundation.org.

To the Endorser:

The **Mirai Generations Leadership Program (MGLP)** provides a space for its participants to learn more about themselves, grow their leadership skills, learn about the Japanese/Japanese American (J/JA) community, discover how they want to contribute to and be a part of the community and meet mentors and peers with whom they will make lifelong connections. The program is presented annually by Sakura Foundation.

In your Letter of Recommendation, please include responses to the following:

1. Your name, mailing address, email address and cell number
2. Under what circumstances and for how long you have known the applicant
3. A brief description of your involvement in the Japanese/Japanese American (J/JA) community
4. Your assessment of why the applicant would be a good candidate for the Mirai Generations Leadership Program, including the following:
 - Your knowledge of the applicant's professionalism, initiative, capacity for team work/interaction with others and capacity for growth
 - Your knowledge of the applicant's commitment to the J/JA community



SAKURA
FOUNDATION

Sakura Foundation shares and celebrates Japanese/Japanese American (J/JA) community, culture and heritage through programs, events, grants and scholarships in order to create a more harmonious and respectful society. The Foundation encourages and embraces community members of all walks of life to share in the J/JA experience in metro Denver.

Questions? Contact Stacey Shigaya, Program Director at staceys@sakurafoundation.org