



SAKURA
FOUNDATION

COMMUNITY REPORT

2023



SakuraFoundation.org



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We're pleased to present the Community Report for 2023!

I often say that the work of the foundation takes a village, so let me begin by expressing my deep gratitude to our members, donors, sponsors, event attendees, and community. Special thanks to the staff and Board of Directors for their dedication and hard work to carry out the mission of the foundation **to celebrate and share Japanese and Japanese American (J/JA) culture and heritage in order to promote a more compassionate, resilient, and equitable society.** In our efforts to be inclusive and respectful of our past, we adopted the following land acknowledgement:

Sakura Foundation honors and acknowledges that the land on which we operate is the traditional territory of the Ute, Cheyenne, and Arapaho Peoples. We also recognize the 48 contemporary tribal nations that are historically tied to the lands that make up the State of Colorado. Consistent with our values of community and inclusion, we have a responsibility to acknowledge, honor, and make visible the Foundation's relationship to Native land and people.

We had another busy year filled with events and programming that brought people together in a variety of ways and honored the hard work of others:

- Our cultural event offerings included concerts from the world-renown **KODO** Taiko Performing Arts Ensemble, a screening of the Japanese film **"A Mother's Touch"** at the **Colorado Dragon Boat Film Festival**, sponsorship of **"Celebrating AAPI Heritage Month Through Music"** in May, and the sold-out **Furoshiki Workshop** to learn the Japanese art of gift wrapping.
- We held our fifth session of the **Mirai Generations Leadership Program (MGLP)** which welcomed the Class of 2023: **Maile Cutter, Tiffany Lin, and Drew Matsushima.**
- The **49th Annual Denver Cherry Blossom Festival** was co-presented on June 17th and 18th with Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple. Attendees didn't let a little rain on Saturday keep them from enjoying the live stage entertainment, cultural marketplace, and delectable Japanese cuisine!
- Board Treasurer **Derek Okubo** was the well-deserved recipient of the Martin Luther King Jr. Business Award and board member and MGLP alumni **Brent Sabati** was recognized with the Young Hero Award from the Colorado Asian Culture & Education Network.

Additionally, we added two exciting new national initiatives to our programming: the **Torchbearer Program** for young adults in collaboration with the Go For Broke National Education Center and **Yo! Camp**, a week-long J/JA camp experience in Calabasas, CA for middle-schoolers. Both programs began locally in Los Angeles in 2022 and have since expanded to include several other states for a more enriching experience for all participants. After attending both programs, I can attest to the value they both offer. We are grateful to both programs for including our Denver community in their expansion efforts. We also welcomed four new board members: Alex Kimata, Kara Miyagishima, Nick Moskevich, and Gary Yamashita.

We continue to make strides in sharing our J/JA culture and welcoming new faces to our events and programming in order to have a positive impact on our community and greater society.

With gratitude,

Stacey I. Shigaya

NEW PROGRAMMING



itsyocamp.com sums it up: “It’s a ridiculous amount of fun.”

Sakura Foundation was thrilled to be invited as a **regional partner** of **Yo! Camp**, a week-long J/JA summer camp in Calabasas, CA. The program brings together middle-schoolers from Southern California, Chicago, Denver, and Seattle in a fun, safe environment to experience J/JA culture through engaging team-based activities. The camp is open to students of any ethnicity aged 9-14 (i.e. entering 4th to 8th grade). Three kiddos from Denver joined 111 campers plus 65 staff members for a camp experience they will never forget.

Craig Ishii, Yo! Camp Organizer and Camp Counselor Extraordinaire said it best:

“[The staff] take a piece of their heart and soul and infuse it into every single thing they do at camp. It’s about giving everything they have to ensure that every camper is part of the family and walks away feeling like they’ve made the best memories of the year—bonds and memories they’ll remember for the rest of their lives.”



The **Go For Broke National Education Center** is a nonprofit organization that promotes the JA veterans’ legacy of courage, sacrifice and obligation to others. It started its LA-based **Torchbearer Program** in 2022 with the mission to steward the Go For Broke spirit with young people through civic dialogue, engagement with emerging social issues, and building an inclusive community.

Torchbearers was expanded in 2023 to include 27 total participants from Chicago, Denver, Hawaii, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Vermont. The Denver cohort consisted of Maddie Saito, Allyson Goto, Alyssa Noguchi, and Akemi Tsutsui-Kunitake; the latter three who are MGLP alumni. The program began in June with a convening in Little Tokyo for the “Fellows” to listen, empathize, and engage with each other around such topics as the dynamics of privilege, discrimination, and collaboration.

A key to fostering engagement were city-to-city visits for the Fellows to learn more about a specific region and the strengths and challenges of those cities and their JA communities. Denver hosted Fellows from LA and Hawaii in October 2023, then visited San Francisco in January 2024. These visits further secured the bonds among the Fellows and produced rich and insightful conversations about who they are and the impact they want to make for themselves and others.

*National Torchbearer Convening in Los Angeles
at the Go For Broke National Education Center*




*Denver Torchbearers
Allyson Goto,
Alyssa Noguchi,
Maddie Saito, and
Akemi Tsutsui-Kunitake*



OUR IMPACT THROUGH PROGRAMMING

49TH ANNUAL CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL (CBF)



On June 17 and 18, 2023, Sakura Square was animated with excitement. We are grateful to our co-presenter, Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple (TSDBT), and our generous sponsors, donors, festival partners, volunteers, and attendees who helped bring the festival to life. We are pleased that the event remains free and open to the public. **The following highlights illustrate the many areas of success for the festival in 2023:**

- We estimate that attendance was in line with most years at 25,000 to 35,000 for the weekend. We continued with several changes we implemented last year to keep everyone safe due to both the pandemic and recent acts of violence and anti-Asian hate in our society: All dining were areas set up outdoors; extra security was hired; and training safety materials were given to volunteers and staff.
- At just over \$34,000, Sakura Foundation's profits increased by about \$5K from last year, despite the more than \$10K increase in expenses over 2022.
- We again offered Fukubukuro Bags for festival-goers. This initiative was started in 2021 when it became clear that it was still not safe to hold the festival that year. The bags were filled with CBF-branded bento boxes and Japanese-themed donations and goodies.
- Michelle Jing Chan, a children's illustrator with roots in Colorado, partnered with us for the second year to create the kawaii (cute) festival illustration of a shiba inu basking in the middle of a cherry blossom.
- We welcomed 76 festival volunteers who did an amazing job of setting up/tearing down the festival, manning the Kids' Craft Area, greeting attendees, serving as stage hands for the performance stage, etc. Additionally, Mirai Generation Leadership Alum Keiko Ozaki held a photography workshop in May to train volunteers to take festival photos.
- The National Park Service shared information about Amache, the WWII J/JA concentration camp which became a National Historic Site on March 18, 2022, as well as their project to archive Sakura Square, the data and photos for which will be housed in the Library of Congress.
- Our great Sustainability Committee and volunteers, led by Sakura Foundation board member Drew Domoto, diverted 485 pounds of festival recycling items from landfills, which was twice as much as last year!
- We obtained feedback from 152 festival-goers in our efforts to make the festival experience as fun and memorable as possible, via a survey accessible from a QR code throughout the weekend. A festival-branded drawstring bag was offered as a thank you gift. All participants were also eligible for a drawing to win one of three \$100 Visa gift cards; the lucky winners were notified via email. We will review the survey feedback and incorporate it into planning future festivals.



OUR IMPACT THROUGH PROGRAMMING (CONTINUED)

MIRAI GENERATIONS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM (MGLP)



Tiffany Lin, Drew Matsushima, and Maile Cutter

It was another great year for the **Mirai Generations Leadership Program** with the addition of three new alumni to the MGLP family: Tiffany, Drew and Maile. The participants continue to be a diverse, intelligent, enthusiastic, fun and enlightening compilation of young people who are making a mark in their networks and the community. This small but mighty cohort were impressive, attentive, insightful, and compassionate. We sincerely thank them for participation in the program and dedication to our JA community. There are now 28 MGLP alumni.

Sakura Foundation greatly appreciates the many contributors to 2023's MGLP. Several professionals in the community shared their time and talents to enrich the program and make it a success: Bennie Covington and Gil Asakawa presented at the kick off retreat and Joie Ha, Patrick Walton, Sakura Foundation Vice President DJ Ida, and MGLP alums Alyssa Nilemo and Allyson Goto facilitated Learning Sessions. We also acknowledge the generous grant support received from Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple - Nisei Veterans Heritage Foundation and Nikkeijin Kai of Colorado. The next MGLP class will convene in 2025, with registration opening in Fall 2024.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Sakura Foundation was pleased to present **scholarships** to the following 2023 graduating high school seniors who excelled in their high school careers and made significant contributions to the JA community through their volunteerism. The scholarships are administered and presented by the **Japanese American Community Graduation Program**, to whom we are grateful for their 60+ years of dedication to and support of the young people in our community.



**2023 TRI-STATE/DENVER BUDDHIST TEMPLE/
SAKURA FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP**

Kristi Case



**2023 SAKURA FOUNDATION
COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIP**

Amanda Charness



**2023 TRI-STATE/DENVER BUDDHIST TEMPLE/
SAKURA FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP**

Koji Inouye

CHIBI NO GAKKŌ

Chibi no Gakkō (Chibi) is a JA cultural and heritage program that provides first through eighth grade students the opportunity to explore the JA experience in a fun, “hands on” way. Students of the program can apply to be mentors once they reach high school age. Chibi is offered every two years (i.e. “even” years of 2024 and 2026) and includes the following activities: exploration of personal family and JA history, cooking Japanese cuisine, playing games, learning dances and songs, and Japanese arts and crafts.

OUR IMPACT THROUGH EVENTS



Uplifting the Community Through the Promotion of Events and Programming on Facebook & Instagram

82 Japanese /JA posts

95 Asian posts

25 Non-Asian posts

COMMUNITY SUPPORT THROUGH GRANTS, SPONSORSHIPS, AND DONATIONS



Lunar New Year Gift Drive
benefiting Colorado APA Families
February 5-16, 2024

Join the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Colorado (APABA) & the Colorado Asian Culture and Education Network (CACEN)* to support refugee families & help them celebrate the Lunar New Year.

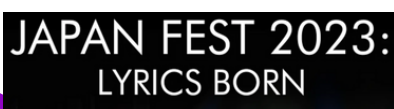
Sign up by February 12th to be matched up with a local refugee family served by the Asian Pacific Development Center (now part of the Aurora Mental Health & Recovery's Cultural Development & Wellness Center).

Put together a gift basket/bag based on information you receive about your matched family -- we have suggestions for items too. Red envelopes can also be donated in lieu of gift baskets/bags. Items purchased at Truong An Gifts will receive a 15% discount!!

Thank you for helping us create special memories for our community!

For more info & to sign up, visit:
<http://tinyurl.com/LNYDrive24>

Supporters: CO Dragon Boat / APMSADU / CAPU / Asian Girls Ignite / Sakura Foundation / Nathan Yip Foundation / Asian Chamber of Commerce / Truong An Gifts / Far East Center



ACC Cultural Experience Series
Meet and learn about the
Cambodian Community
Wednesday, March 15, 2023
Cambodian Buddhist of Colorado Temple
2780 W. 65th Place
Denver, CO 80221

6:00 - 6:10 Introduction to the Cambodian Community
6:10 - 6:45 Classical Dance Performance
6:45 - 7:15 Personal stories | Q&A
7:15 - 8:00 Dinner and Networking

Registration fee: \$10
Register at: www.acccolorado.org

COLORADO DRAGON BOAT FILM FEST

A Mother's Touch
Saturday, March 11, 2023 4:30 PM MST
See FilmCenter - 102 / Regal Theatre

MID AUTUMN FESTIVAL
in the Little Saigon District
333 S Federal Blvd
Sept 30th 2pm-10pm

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
ASIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE GALA
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2023
7:00PM
AMERISTAR CASINO RESORT SPA
SUMMIT BALLROOM 5TH FLOOR
BLACK HAWK, COLORADO 80422

CELEBRATING AAPI HERITAGE MONTH THROUGH MUSIC

PROCEEDS will support: **ASIAN GIRLS IGNITE**

FEATURING: Margaret Ozaki, Graves, soprano
with Jerene Siquia, bass-baritone, Kevin Sakai, clarinet
Jessica Niles Krasin, piano

TICKETS: \$15 GA \$30 VIP
tinyurl.com/MUSICMAY23

* NEW DATE!
FRIDAY, MAY 26TH, 2023, 6-7 PM

Scan for tickets:

Sponsor for tickets: Trinity United Methodist Church
1820 Broadway, Denver, CO 80202

TRINITY group project SAKURA FOUNDATION

JASCOLORADO.ORG

APRIL 15, 2023 JAPAN CUP 2023

ASIAN GIRLS IGNITE ELEVASIAN NIGHT MARKET FUNDRAISER

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, 2023
TIVOLI TURNHALL | DENVER, CO
4:00 - 10:00 PM

Lunar New Year Celebration

18th annual
Lunar New Year Celebration

Asian Avenue magazine
in partnership with Colorado Asian Culture and Education Network

January 14, 2023

FINANCIALS

SAKURA FOUNDATION

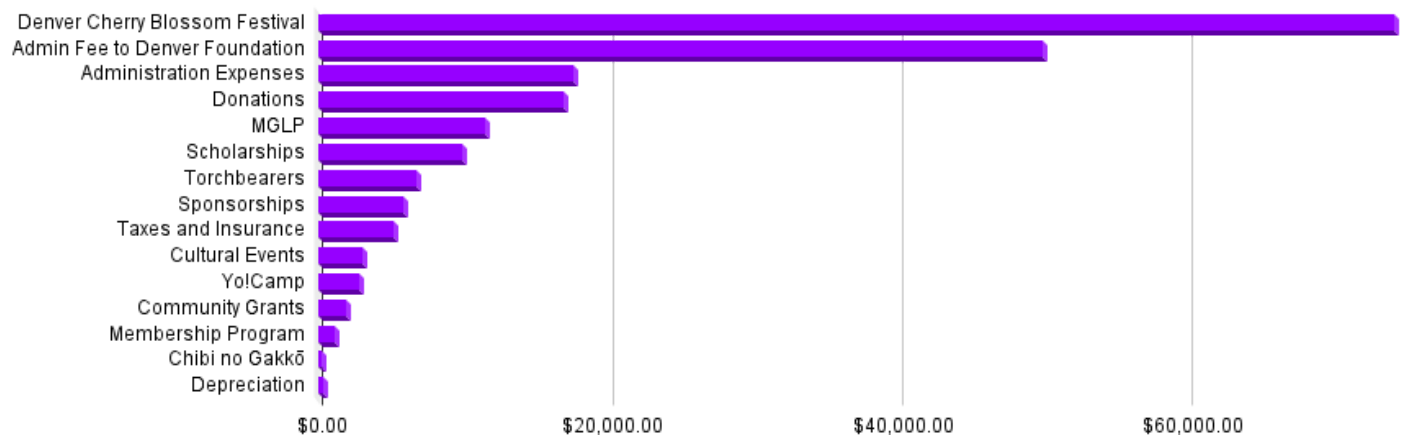
Statement of Activity

January - December 2023

	TOTAL
Revenue	
4000 Revenue from Contributions	43,119.49
4200 Revenue from Grants	19,395.00
4201 Revenue from Grants-restricted	33,000.00
5100 Revenue from Program Services	77,617.94
5300 Revenue from Investments	-80,213.54
Total Revenue	\$92,918.89
GROSS PROFIT	\$92,918.89
Expenditures	
6100 Program Services Costs	134,804.45
6300 Administrative Costs	17,673.87
6342 Administrative Fee	50,000.00
6600 Depreciation	356.04
6700 Taxes and insurance	5,230.88
Total Expenditures	\$208,065.24
NET OPERATING REVENUE	\$ -115,146.35
NET REVENUE	\$ -115,146.35

*As sole equity holder of Sakura Square LLC, revenues are reported using the equity method in which the investor holds significant influence but does not exercise full control over the entity it owns.

BREAKDOWN OF 2023 EXPENSES



OUR VALUED MEMBERS & DONORS

MEMBERS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2023

Ron Abo	David Goto	Alex Kimata	Sue Murahata	Bryan Tanigawa
Joan Adams	Thomas Greenlee	Julie Kimura	John Newton	Debby Tanigawa
Jesse Aerni	Vickie Handler	Thomas Knight	Jennifer Newton	Florence Ternes
Derek Akerhielm	Kay Harada	Jun Koyama	Karen Omoto	Katie Thompson
Mike Andersen	Penelope Harrison	Latha Kumarswamy	Deb Omoto-Berve	Robyn Tsukayama
Mio Austin	Sarah Harrison	Grace Leung	Jeff Osaka	Stacey Umemoto
Stephanie Berry	Katherine Hernandez	Stevie Lo	Charles Ozaki	Ospina
Carin Chapman	Joshua Higashi	Clarence Low	Courtney Ozaki	Shannon Umetani
Brandon Cribb	Jami Hiyakumoto	Deb Maruyama	Joe Ozaki	Luis Vidal
Ethan Davis	Janet Hoaglund	Fay Matsukage	Shari Revier	Patricia Wallace
Thomas DeZauche	Kirk Horiuchi	Noelle Maynell	Jeannette Rome	Leslie Wright
Drew Domoto	DJ Ida	Tom Migaki	Leilani Rose	Tim Wright
Sharon Eshima	Catherine Ishida	Marie Miller	Joni Sakaguchi	Kelly Yamasaki
Yvette Feiteira	Lauren Ishida	Alan Miyagishima	Stacey Shigaya	Gary Yamashita
Emily Freeman	Sachi Ishida	Linda Miyamoto	Karen Shimamoto	Linda Yokota
Bob Fujimoto	Al Kawakami	Naomi Miyazawa	Suzuho Shimasaki	Greg Yoshida
Lisa Fukuhara	Kenzo Kawanabe	Doreen Morishige	Blaze Spiker	Kevin Yoshida
Karen Garrus	Kanji Kawanabe	Nicholas Moskevich	Christopher Spinney	Richard Yoshida
Jorge Godill	Gwen Kawashima	Stephen Moss	Rob Tanaka	Michael Zadra
				Drew Zinke

GENEROUS DONORS IN 2023

We greatly appreciate the public donations received in 2023 from the following donors. Gifts, including recurring donations, can be made at SakuraFoundation.org.

We're thriving because of you!

Anonymous	Janet Hoaglund	Claudia Kitamura	Joni Sakaguchi
Ronald Abo	DJ Ida	Cynthia Kiyotaki	Stacey Shigaya
Eileen Barela	Rich Ida	Clarence Low	Mary Tsutsui
Susan Clasen	Sachi Ishida	Tom Migaki	Lynn Wells
Drew Domoto	Lauren Ishida	Gail Montgomery	Kelly Yamasaki
Andre Dustin	Cathy Ishida	Nick Moskevich	Gary Yamashita
Bob Fujimoto	Kenzo Kawanabe	Joe Ozaki	Kevin Yoshida
Lisa Fukuhara	Alex Kimata	Joao Porto	Wing Yu
Sarah Harrison	Aiko Kimura		

Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics
Osaka Brothers LLC
University of Colorado at Denver

OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS

The generous support of grantors, sponsors, and donors ensures that the mission of Sakura Foundation is activated to enhance our community.
We are extremely grateful to you all!

2023 CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

PLATINUM SPONSORS



MEDIA SPONSOR



GOLD SPONSORS



SILVER SPONSORS

Dochi
ECO Products
FirstBank
Kokoro Restaurant
SumUp
Sushi-Rama Restaurant
Yonsei Restaurant

COMMUNITY SPONSORS

Asian Chamber of Commerce
Museum of Contemporary Art

FESTIVAL PARTNERS

Asahi | Asian Avenue Magazine | Coors Distributing Company | Eldorado Natural Spring Water | Green Spot Inc | Group Project
Insights Protective Services | JA Community Foundation | Jagged Mountain Craft Brewery | Japanese American Resource Center of Colorado
JFC International | Michelle Jing Chan | National Park Service | Nisei Veterans Heritage Foundation/Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple
Pacific Mercantile | Republic Services | Sakura Square LLC | Sapporo | Volunteers of America Colorado

IN KIND DONORS

3Fish | Asahi Beer | Asian Avenue Magazine | Eldorado Natural Spring Water | Classic Hawaiian Designs | Mariko III | Meow Wolf | MEP Consulting
Nikkei Treasures | OKA from Japan | Pacific Mercantile | Petrocco Farms | Sapporo Beer | Sharon Brooks | TOKIO Restaurant

MIRAI GENERATIONS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Nikkeijin Kai of Colorado
Molson Coors
Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple - Nisei Veterans Heritage Foundation

ABOUT SAKURA FOUNDATION

The Mission of Sakura Foundation is to celebrate and share Japanese and Japanese American culture and heritage in order to promote a more compassionate, resilient, and equitable society. Sakura Foundation is a Colorado nonprofit and supporting organization to The Denver Foundation. It is the sole owner of Sakura Square LLC, which is located in the heart of downtown Denver.



2024

Board of Directors

Joni Sakaguchi, President
DJ Ida, Vice President
Derek Okubo, Treasurer
Kelly Yamasaki, Secretary
Drew Domoto
Cathy Ishida
Sachi Ishida
Alex Kimata
Tom Migaki
Kara Miyagishima
Nick Moskevich
Charles Ozaki
Brent Sabati
Gary Yamashita

Advisory Council

Bob Fujimoto
Steve Nitta
Joe Ozaki
Richard Yoshida

Management and Staff

Stacey Shigaya, Executive Director
Grace Leung, Program Coordinator
Tim Higashide, Executive Advisor
Junya Nakajima
Juri Levchuk



*We are grateful to **Sarah Harrison**, whose board term came to an end on December 31, 2023. As our liaison to The Denver Foundation, Sarah's commitment to Sakura Foundation is greatly appreciated. We will feel the benefits of her contributions for years to come.*

STAY CONNECTED WITH US!

JOIN OUR MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

Become a member of the Sakura Foundation Family at
<https://sakurafoundation.org/membership/>



SUBSCRIBE TO OUR ENEWSLETTERS

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SakuraFoundation.org

303.951.4486

info@sakurafoundation.org

1255 19th Street, Suite 103

Denver, CO 80202

