



SAKURA
FOUNDATION

Community Impact Report

2025

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

In a year defined by purpose and partnership, we've continued to uplift and celebrate Japanese and Japanese American (JA) culture in ways that sparked joy, deepened connections, and strengthened our community.

We proudly co-presented the **51st Annual Denver Cherry Blossom Festival** with Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple, welcoming an estimated 30,000 to 35,000 attendees. Sakura Square was transformed into a vibrant hub of music, dance, art, and incredible food in a powerful celebration of heritage and togetherness that filled the streets with energy and pride.

Our second sold-out presentation of **Spirit of Japan** was welcomed by enthusiastic guests ready to indulge in Japanese street and festival cuisine, enjoy thoughtfully curated spirits, and soak in an atmosphere alive with flavor, music, and connection. More than a night out, it became a vibrant shared experience and a powerful reminder of how culture brings us together and turns celebration into lasting community.

Investing in the next generation remains at the heart of our mission. The year marked the sixth session of the **Mirai Generations Leadership Program**, bringing our network to a strong and impactful 32 alumni. We were also thrilled that three Denver participants were selected for the Go For Broke National Education Center's **National Torchbearer Program**. These young leaders inspire us by representing a future rooted in courage, dialogue, and community care. In addition, we supported five Denver-area middle schoolers and two adult counselors to attend **Yo! Camp** in Southern California where they experienced a week-long adventure of a thoughtfully designed curriculum and just the right touch of camp magic. It was an unforgettable experience of laughter and discovery in which the campers developed confidence and friendships, celebrated culture, and made memories to last a lifetime.

We created meaningful cultural touchpoints through programs like **Kintsugi Wisdom** with community member Janet Redford and the **Nikkei Treasures** pop-up shop, which raises funds to support Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple and Sakura Foundation. Many thanks to those who made generous donations of their gently-used and new Japanese items and to the volunteers who manage and staff the monthly Saturday pop-ups.

Behind every achievement stands the generosity and commitment of our donors, members, volunteers, sponsors, and friends. Your support powers every festival, every leadership session, every gathering, and every opportunity we create. Together we are not only preserving culture, but are also nurturing resilience, advancing equity, and strengthening bonds which will carry us forward for generations.

Thank you for walking this journey with us. The momentum continues to build and I'm excited for all that lies ahead.

With deep gratitude,

Stacey L. Shigaya





DENVER CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

June 21 & 22, 2025



We are filled with appreciation to the upwards of 35,000 people who joined us on **June 21st and 22nd, 2025** for the **51st Annual Denver Cherry Blossom Festival!** Sakura Square was blooming with happy faces entertained by song, dance, and martial arts, satisfied tummies filled with delectable treats, and shopping bags brimming with cultural delights. As always, the festival was free and open to the public. **Join us for the 52nd annual festival on June 27 and 28, 2026!**

*** The data below reflects that of Sakura Foundation only i.e. excludes Temple data*

Fukubukuro Bags were back!

132 Bags
pre-ordered
online

97
sold at the
festival

20+
vendors, companies, sports
teams, and community members
make **donations** to the bags



48 Volunteers

made this year's festival possible! We thank all of them for their hard work and support!

2025 Financials

\$72,765	Festival Expenses <i>\$73,804 in 2024 \$75,575 in 2023</i>
\$101,213	Gross Festival Income
\$45,010	Donations, Sponsorships, Grants <i>\$12K less than in 2024</i>
\$56,203	*Revenue from Vendor Fees, Merch Sales, Bev/Beer Sales <i>*nearly \$8K more than 2024 due to Fukubukuro bags</i>



924 lbs of recyclable items diverted from landfills, which is **double** that of 2023 & 2024

Net Profit

2025
\$28,448

2024
\$30,436

2023
\$34,735

FESTIVAL PARTNERS

Asahi Beer | Asian Avenue Magazine | Carver LLC | Eco Products | Eldorado Natural Spring Water
Full Frame Beer | Green Spot Inc | JFC International | MEP Commissioning | NXT Square | 1900 Lawrence
Pacific Mercantile | Republic Services | Sakura Square LLC | Solera Apartments | SumUp | Western Sugar

CO-PRESENTED BY



PLATINUM SPONSORS



GRANT FUNDING



SILVER SPONSORS

Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck
FirstBank
Janus Henderson

MEDIA SPONSOR



GOLD SPONSORS

-196
Alpine Bank
Denver International Airport
SouthState Bank
Renewal by Andersen

Community Sponsors

Asian Chamber of Commerce
ZenBusiness



◆ ◆ ◆ スピリット オブ ジャパン ◆ ◆ ◆

Spirit of Japan returned to Sakura Square in downtown Denver for its second year, thanks to the continued collaboration between Sakura Foundation and Japan Taste Marketing. Building on the success of the inaugural event, we incorporated valuable community feedback and thoughtful improvements, including expanding the event footprint with a full street closure of Larimer Street, refining operations, and introducing staggered timed-ticket entry to enhance the guest experience. In 2025 we welcomed 6,005 attendees to Savory Street, Spirit Alley, and the BOK Financial Entertainment Stage, a 16% increase from the previous year, and generated \$506,000 in total revenue, a 31% year-over-year increase. The event continues to grow as a vibrant celebration of Japanese food, culture, and community in the heart of Denver!



-  **3 SOLD OUT DAYS**
- 6,005 ATTENDEES** 
-  **60+ SPIRIT BRANDS**
- 21 FOOD VENDORS** 
-  **\$10K+ AVG PER BOOTH REVENUE**



CO-PRESENTED BY



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



SHAPING THE FUTURE THROUGH PROGRAMMING



MIRAI GENERATIONS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

The **Mirai Generations Leadership Program** (MGLP) celebrated another outstanding year, welcoming four new alumni into the MGLP family: Jon Cook, Stephanie Lang, Joanne Migaki, and Reiko Williams. With their addition, the alumni network now proudly stands at 32 members.

This year's cohort brought remarkable energy and depth from a dynamic group of thoughtful, driven, and community-minded young leaders who are already making meaningful impacts within their circles and beyond. They showed up curious, engaged, perceptive, and compassionate, embodying the spirit of leadership the program strives to cultivate. We are deeply grateful for their commitment to the program and to the JA community.

Sakura Foundation extends heartfelt thanks to the many community leaders who helped make the 2025 program a success. Gil Asakawa and Emily Frank inspired participants at the kickoff retreat, while Dr. Cody Walizer, Dr. DJ Ida, and MGLP alum Brent Sabati led engaging and impactful Learning Sessions. We also gratefully acknowledge the generous grant support from **Nikkeijin Kai of Colorado**.

The next MGLP session will take place in 2027, with an Open House and registration in Fall 2026.

TORCHBEARERS



The Go For Broke National Education Center's **National Torchbearer Program (NTP)** cultivates courage, sacrifice, and civic responsibility by engaging emerging leaders in meaningful dialogue around today's most pressing social issues. The program brings together a diverse cohort of young people to examine themes of privilege, discrimination, and community building while encouraging thoughtful conversation and informed action.

The 2025 cohort of 26 participants included three from Denver who also took part in the Mirai Generations Leadership Program: Reiko Williams, Stephanie Lang, and Jon Cook. Kendall Kunitake, a member of the 2024 Denver cohort, serves as Vice Chair on the national leadership team and Sara Ozawa, also from the 2024 Denver cohort, is Denver's regional representative.

The experience began with a spring convening in Los Angeles where participants explored community leadership and identities across generations. They toured Little Tokyo and learned the history of the location and its JA community. The fall convening took place in Chicago where participants examined the city's JA history, visited significant community sites, and engaged in robust discussions centered on civic engagement and empowerment in a multi-racial democracy. They also attended Aki Matsuri at a local JA church and were hosted by the office of the Deputy Consul-General of Japan in Chicago.

The meaningful discussions and activities of the NTP build community and meaningful connections that will last a lifetime.

SHAPING THE FUTURE THROUGH PROGRAMMING

Chibi no Gakkō



Chibi no Gakkō is a JA culture and heritage program that offers first through eighth graders a hands-on opportunity to explore the JA experience. Held every-other year, Chibi's third session since partnering with Sakura Foundation will take place in 2026, with an Open House kick-off that took place in Fall 2025.

Students engage in activities such as discovering their family and JA history, cooking Japanese cuisine, playing traditional games, learning dances and songs, and creating Japanese arts and crafts.

2025 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Kiana Takahashi

SAKURA FOUNDATION
COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIP



Maxwell Watada

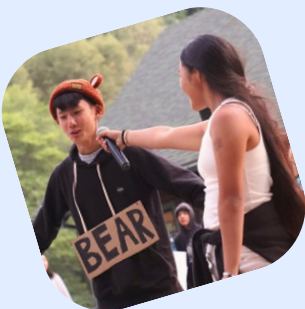
TRI- STATE/DENVER BUDDHIST TEMPLE /
SAKURA FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP



YO! CAMP



Sakura Foundation was excited to continue its partnership with **Yo! Camp**, a week-long summer camp in Calabasas, CA that connects middle schoolers from Southern California, Chicago, Denver, and Seattle through engaging team-based activities. The camp provides a fun and safe environment for students of all backgrounds and ethnicities to experience Japanese/JA culture.




In its second year of participation, Sakura Foundation supported two counselors, three chaperones, and five campers from Denver. With a total attendance of 152 campers, Yo! Camp continues to provide an unforgettable experience that fosters community, cultural learning, and lifelong friendships and memories.

RECAP OF SAKURA FOUNDATION AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

PRESENTED

Kintsugi Wisdom


Embracing Brokenness as a Source of Power



Healing isn't easy - it's powerful!

In the art of **kintsugi**, broken pottery is mended with gold, transforming fractures into unique, celebrated features. As kintsugi teaches us to honor and embrace imperfections...

Surviving Secondary Trauma reveals how the invisible cracks left by trauma can become **pathways to strength and beauty.**



GRANTS AWARDED



DONATIONS AND SPONSORSHIPS

LUNAR NEW YEAR

On Havana Street

2025
Year of the Snake

Sunday, January 26
12pm - 6pm

Stampede | 2493 S. Havana St., Aurora
Free & open to the public.
Ticketed VIP experiences available.

Global Market & Food, Cultural Performances, Firecrackers Presentation, Kids Activities & more!

ORIGAMI FOR GOOD

aofundme

JARCC

THE COLORADO JAPANESE AMERICAN WOMEN'S QUILT PROJECT

SPRING-O BINGO

TRI-STATE/DENVER BUDDHIST TEMPLES

SCAN QR CODE

MILE HIGH ASIAN FOOD WEEK 2025

CACEN

GO FOR BROKE Golf Tournament

ACC

Asian Chamber of Commerce Colorado

Gala Silent Auction

DBT DHARMA SCHOOL PRESENTS

TURKEY BINGO

lunch raffle
pickles prizes

NOVEMBER 23, 2025

ACC

Asian Chamber of Commerce Colorado

Cultural Experiences

6th Annual Winter Drive for Colorado's Senior Citizens (December 1 - December 12, 2025)

Help bring a smile to 400+ immigrant and Asian seniors this holiday season! Sign up to make a gift bag for a senior in need. Perfect for a group community service project!

More details & sign-up here: <https://tinyurl.com/apa-drive-25>

2025 FINANCIALS

REVENUE

Contributions	\$17,761.17
Grants-unrestricted	\$200
Program Services	\$555,210.74
Investments	-\$539,631.77
*Income	\$8,595.35
Total Revenue	\$42,135.49
Total Revenue excluding Investment (LLC):	\$581,827.26

EXPENDITURES

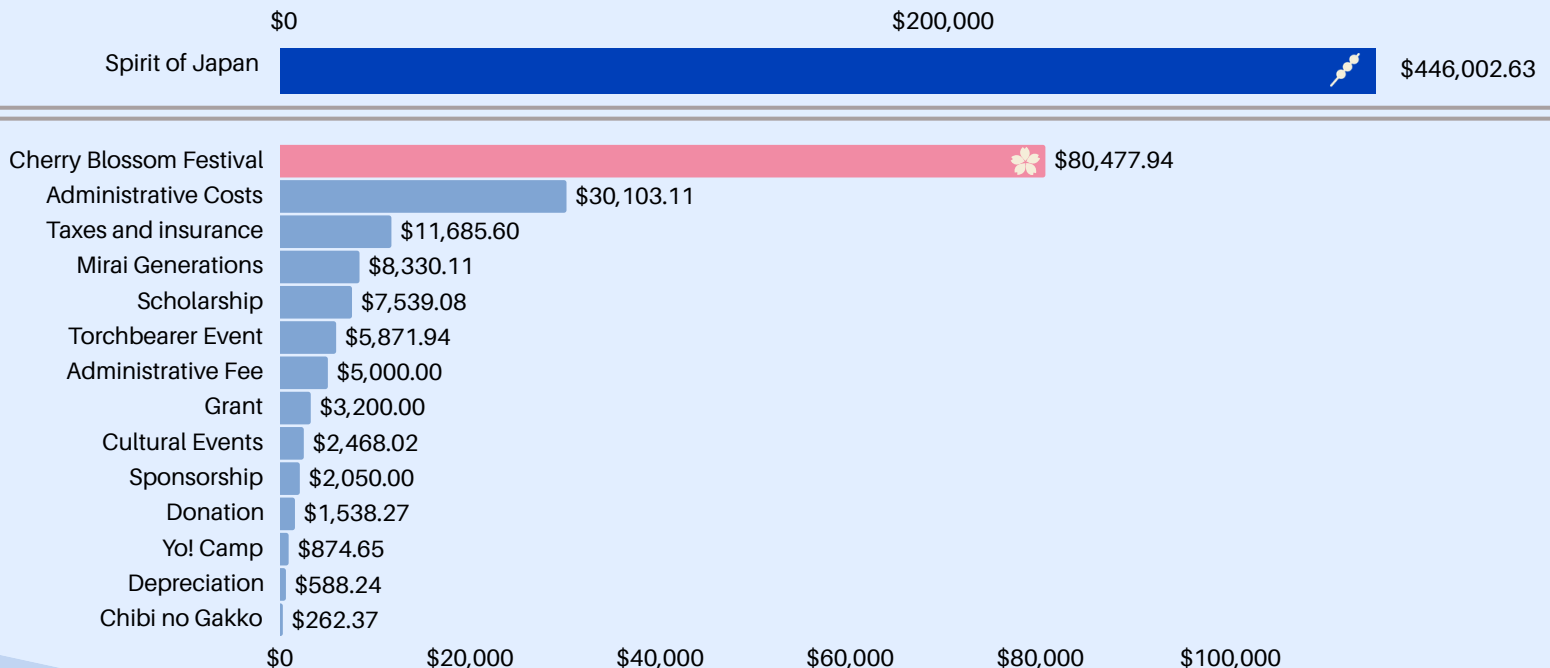
Program Services	\$559,510.64
Administrative	\$30,103.11
Administrative Fee to Denver Foundation	\$5,000
Depreciation	\$588.24
Taxes and insurance	\$11,685.60
Total Expenditures	\$608,887.59

*NET REVENUE

-\$27,060.33

*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 2025 EXPENSES



OUR VALUED MEMBERS AND DONORS



MEMBERS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2025



Aaron Takiguchi
Abigail Sonobe-Jensen
Al Kawakami
Alexander Hubert
Alex Kimata
Andrew Guild
Anni Bengtson
Bob Fujimoto
Brent Sabati
Bryan Kono
Bryan Tanigawa
Carol FitzSimons
Catherine Ishida
Charles Ozaki
Chiyoko Yokota
Clarence Low
Clarynne Blanchard
Courtney Ozaki-Durgin
David Breeden

Deandra Bedford
Deb Maruyama
Debby Tanigawa
Derek Okubo
DJ Ida
Drew Domoto
Emiko Schwab
Emily Freeman
Gary Yamashita
Grace Leung
Greg Yoshida
Gwen Kawashima
Jeff Osaka
John O'Brien
John Smith
Joni Sakaguchi
Julie Kimura
Junichi Arakawa

Junko Nakao
Karen Omoto
Karen Shimamoto
Karla Powell
Kay Harada
Keiko Yoneyama-Sims
Kelly Yamasaki
Kenzo Kawanabe
Kevin Yoshida
Lani Manning
Leilani Rose
Leslie Schuman
Lillian Miyazawa
Linda Miyamoto
Lisa Fukuhara
Maggie Dixon
Maggie Miller

Michael Zadra
Richard Yoshida
Rob Tanaka
Robert Yamamoto
Robyn Tsukayama
Ronald Abo
Sachi Ishida
Sarah Campbell
Sherri Nitta
Stacey Shigaya
Stevie Lo
Sue Murahata
Susan Niles
Thomas Knight
Tom Migaki
Winrich Cruz



GENEROUS DONORS IN 2025



Al Kawakami
Alex Kimata
Bianca Akers
Bob Fujimoto
Brandon Iwamoto
Brent Sabati
Carol FitzSimons
Carrie Fiore
Catherine Ishida
Charles Ozaki
Colette Sterling
Connie Regan
Derek Okubo
Diane Etsuko Johnson

Drew Domoto
Fay Matsukage
Gary Yamashita
Hing Wong
Jack Robber
Jennifer Oyer
Jidou Art Studio
Joni Sakaguchi
John MacCabe
Karen Omoto
Kelly Yamasaki
Kenzo Kawanabe
Larry Wyeno
Lisa Fukuhara

Mamie Jane Kosaka
Marie Miller
May Bewley
Miguel Mejia
Nancy Oliver
Nick Moskevich
Patricia Sato
Sachi Ishida
Sandra Beutler
Sherri Nitta
Stacey Shigaya
Tom Migaki
William K Kitamura

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, located in the heart of downtown Denver.



2026

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joni Sakaguchi, President
Sachi Ishida, Vice President
Kelly Yamasaki, Secretary
Derek Okubo, Treasurer
Lauren Araki
Drew Domoto
Maya Fieweger
Alyssa Inouye
Cathy Ishida
Alex Kimata
Tom Migaki
Nick Moskevich
Charles Ozaki
Brent Sabati
Gary Yamashita

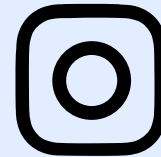
ADVISORY COUNCIL

Bob Fujimoto
Steve Nitta
Joe Ozaki
Richard Yoshida

MANAGEMENT AND STAFF

Stacey Shigaya, Executive Director
Steve Bernini, Program Manager
Tim Higashide, Executive Advisor
Junya Nakajima
Juri Levchuk

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