

## CULCON Summit of U.S.-Japan Related Organizations

### ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATES

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## American Association of Teachers of Japanese (AATJ)



The mission of the American Association of Teachers of Japanese (AATJ) is to promote and encourage cooperation and exchange among teachers, scholars, and students of Japan related studies in such disciplines as Japanese language pedagogy, linguistics, literature, cultural studies, and others engaged in those activities, and to promote academic work and foster research and study in those fields and to broaden and deepen knowledge of Japan and its culture.

### **Ongoing and Future Programs:**

Ongoing:

- National and local conferences (annually in March and November) and seminars for Japanese language educators
- Publication of a peer-reviewed research journal, Japanese Language and Literature, and a quarterly newsletter
- Advocacy at the national, regional, state, and local levels for world language education
- Promotion of study abroad in Japan, including administration of the Bridging Scholarship program
- Professional development webinars for teachers
- Student activities and contests, including the Japanese National Honor Society for high school and college undergraduate students
- Administration of Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) at 18 locations in the U.S.
- Special interest groups for teachers interested in heritage language education, translation and interpreting, Japanese for special purposes, assessment, study abroad, and others

Future:

- On August 1-3, 2024, AATJ will host an International Conference on Japanese Language Education in Madison, WI, for 300-500 educators from around the world.

### **COVID Impact:**

Forced to move online with conferences and workshops, AATJ discovered new levels of resourcefulness and creativity among the membership, and found that virtual programming attracted a larger and more diverse group of members to participate in events and programs. After two successful years of online-only activities, we have returned to in-person conferences, but to provide programming that reaches the most widely diverse group of members, we will also continue our webinar series and other virtual events.

### **Response to the national racial reckoning:**

In 2022, AATJ set revised its bylaws and expanded its board of directors to include positions focusing on diversity, equity, and inclusion. An ongoing series of webinars on DEI – principles and ways to apply them in classrooms and departments – has been organized. Our study-abroad-focused programs (including the Bridging Scholarships) have concentrated their outreach on under-represented groups (including students at community colleges and HBCUs, first-generation students, and others).

### **Subnational Diplomacy:**

AATJ has 24 regional or state affiliates, which are supported both financially (a portion of each member's dues goes to their local affiliate) and programmatically (assisting and advising on establishing exchanges with sister schools, cities, or prefectures in Japan).

### **Contact Information:**

Susan Schmidt, Executive Director, [susan.schmidt@colorado.edu](mailto:susan.schmidt@colorado.edu)

Website: <https://www.aatj.org>

## **Asia Policy Point**

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Asia Policy Point is a membership nonprofit organization studying Japan and Northeast Asia. One focus of our work is the intersection of history and security in the Indo-Pacific. Another focus is Japanese domestic politics.

### **Ongoing and Future Programs:**

APP publishes for its members:

- *The Asia Policy Calendar* - a weekly preview of news, events, congressional hearings, and documents relevant to an Asia policy professional.
- *The Japan Point* – reports on Japanese politics, foreign policy, and politicians.
- *Japan's Cabinet/ Administration*: a signature publication highlighting critical details about the members of a current Japanese Cabinet/ Administration (LDP leadership included). Tables and charts show beliefs, affiliations, factions, English ability, age, social media, policy positions, and more.
- Public and private meetings featuring new books and scholarship on East Asia. APP also assists independent and international scholars present their research to Washington audiences.

### **For more information, or how to become a member, please contact:**

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## **Cultural Vistas**

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Cultural Vistas is registered as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Our mission is to enrich minds, advance global skills, build careers, and connect lives through international exchange. For more than 60 years, Cultural Vistas has developed and implemented experience-based international exchange programs in order to empower people to drive positive change in themselves, their organizations, and society. Designated by the U.S. Department of State as an Exchange Visitor Program (Intern/Trainee, Teacher, Korea WEST, and IAESTE categories), the organization works with students and professionals in internships and training programs for Americans and international visitors. In addition, it manages a variety of short-term programs in the United States and overseas that provide individuals the opportunities to network and learn about the international perspective on the issues on which they are working and studying.

**Ongoing and Future Programs:** no current Japan-related programming

### **COVID Impact:**

COVID continues to have residual impacts on our work schedules and programming. Cultural Vistas is a hybrid office with staff who are fully remote, hybrid, or mostly in-person. Each department determines the in-person work requirements based on need. Additionally, we have adjusted to working with partner organizations and stakeholders who have experienced similar shifts in work culture and have virtual options for hosting interns/trainees. Programming continues to be

affected and we are still adjusting to project timelines and budgets that were impacted by COVID. We continue to implement COVID policies for State Department funded programs which differ project to project based on need.

**Response to the national racial reckoning:**

Cultural Vistas established an Intercultural, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (ICDEI) working group in late 2017. The working group included members at every level of the organization from the Board to administrative assistants and it met over a period of approximately 2 years to develop a set of recommendations for each department at Cultural Vistas. In 2020, those recommendations moved from a review phase to a tiered implementation. In 2022, Cultural Vistas onboarded a Senior Advisor of ICDEI to keep these initiatives moving forward. ICDEI is imbedded in our programs and included from the grant writing level. ICDEI remains a strategic goal for the entire organization.

**Subnational Diplomacy:**

We do not currently have any projects that are categorized as subnational diplomacy.

**Contact Information:**

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**East-West Center**



The East-West Center promotes better relations and understanding among the people and nations of the United States, Asia, and the Pacific through cooperative study, research, and dialogue. Established by the US Congress in 1960, the Center serves as a resource for information and analysis on critical issues of common concern, bringing people together to exchange views, build expertise, and develop policy options. The Center's Washington, DC office focuses on preparing the

United States for an era of growing Asia Pacific prominence.

**Ongoing and Future Programs:**

- “Korea Matters for America/America Matters for Korea” Launch in Seoul, South Korea: October 13, 2023
- “APEC Matters for America/America Matters for APEC” Launch in San Francisco, CA: November 2023
- Asia Matters for America Leadership Program (August 28, 2023 - October 21, 2023)
- Congressional Staff Program on Japan (2020-2023)

**Promoted Programs:**

- Asia Matters for America Publication Series: The “Japan Matters for America/America Matters for Japan” publication was updated and re-launched in February 2023.
- Asia Matters for America Publication Series: The “Korea Matters for America/America Matters for Korea” publication was updated and re-launched in April 2023.
- Asia Matters for America Leadership Program: A professional development program for staff of American Governors’ offices to learn about US-Asia connections through travel in South Korea and Japan.

**COVID Impact:**

Due to Covid-19, the office has become used to the “new normal” of working twice a week from home. Staff are only required to work in the office three days a week. Covid-19 also forced many

programs to move online, which affected travel plans, our engagement with stakeholders in the Indo-Pacific and at home, and the proper execution of our programmatic agenda.

**Response to the national racial reckoning:**

The East-West Center now has a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Working Group as of June 2020. The purpose of the DEI Committee is to guide and hold the institution accountable in the integration of diversity, equity, and inclusion into all aspects of the work at the East-West Center.

**Subnational Diplomacy:**

Our Asia Matters for America website shares updates on subnational work in US states with countries in the Indo-Pacific region. Additionally, as part of our Asia Matters for America initiative, we have created a series of one-page briefs that highlights subnational relations between Japan and each of the fifty states across multiple sectors. We have also launched a new Asia Matters for America Leadership program, that will take subnational government staffers to countries in Asia to showcase the importance of US-Asia connections. The first iteration of the program will in South Korea and Japan in October 2023.

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## George Washington University Libraries: Okinawa Collection

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**THE GEORGE  
WASHINGTON  
UNIVERSITY**

WASHINGTON, DC

The Okinawa Collection, established in 2015, is a part of the Japan Resource Center, which was created in 2005 to promote scholarship on Okinawa and Japan with particular emphasis on foreign relations, politics, and economics in the 20th and 21st centuries.

**Ongoing Programs and Events:**

We are pleased to provide research assistance on Okinawan or Japanese topics as they relate to the collection and welcome all inquiries. We continue to develop our Japanese textbook collection as well as manga and graphic novel collection in the upcoming year. We invite information about Japanese Studies scholars focusing on Okinawa-related topics and Okinawan Studies scholars at any career stage to feature on our Spotlight on Scholars page. This space on our website is intended to showcase promising research on Okinawa and connect students, faculty, and researchers. We will promote exciting, upcoming events on our web page for the upcoming year soon!

**Promoted Programs:**

We continually augment our collection and resources to promote interest in Okinawa. Municipal resources remain a priority for the collection as well as primary sources published by the Okinawa Prefectural Government, the Government of Japan, and reprinted materials about Okinawa. In the past year, we also added to our collection a sound archive, literature, music, films, manga, and photo ephemera. In January, we hosted Vice Governor Yoshimi Teruya and his delegation; held the webinar, “50 Years After the Reversion: Present Okinawa and Its Future,” with Dr. Annmaria Shimabuku (New York University) and Dr. Steve Rabson (Professor Emeritus, Brown University) in February; welcomed Governor Denny Tamaki in March, which also included a symposium with the governor, GW Professor Mike Mochizuki, and Dr. Michael Swaine of the Quincy Institute; and hosted a special screening of Jon Mitchell and Natsuko Shimabukuro’s Nuchi Nu Miji: Okinawa’s

Water of Life in March as well. We continue to feature scholars whose research focuses on Okinawa; their profiles are published on our Spotlight on Scholars page. Please visit us at the Okinawa Collection to learn more about our Okinawa Studies Research Guides and Okinawa Collection Recent Acquisitions.

### **COVID Impact:**

GW Libraries and Academic Innovation, under which the Okinawa Collection and Japan Resource Center are housed, offers hybrid options for instruction and services. This includes virtual or in-person research consultations and class visits as well as a remote attendance option for many events, including symposia and webinars. Our library workforce is also largely hybrid. As such, we have been able to broaden our reach to patrons.

### **Response to the national racial reckoning:**

The Okinawa Collection and Japan Resource Center is aligned with the GW Libraries and Academic Innovation's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, also evidenced by our Special Collections Research Center's statement. This mirrors university-wide discussions and initiatives, which include renaming the university moniker and buildings. The Okinawa Collection continues to strive to incorporate diversity, equity, and inclusion in its holdings, particularly focusing on manga/graphic novels and music.

### **Subnational Diplomacy:**

The Okinawa Collection is generously funded by the Okinawa Prefectural Government to promote interest in and research on Okinawa. Dubbed the "Keystone of the Pacific," Okinawa plays an integral role in international relations and diplomacy. Our collection welcomes patrons and stakeholders from many communities, including scholars, students, policymakers, journalists, and activists, as well as members of the Okinawan and Japanese communities here in the Washington, D.C. area and beyond.

### **Contact Information:**

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## **Global Equity Forward**

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**Mission:** To advance global equity in all sectors so that every human being can have opportunity and dignity in their life and work.

Equity. Diversity. Inclusion. Systemic Racism. Anti-Racism. These are complicated and emotionally loaded concepts that people often have strong opinions and ideas about. The racial reckoning that gained prominence in the summer of 2020, led to so many questions both within U.S. borders and around the world. Our approach is grounded in the way we understand and define the concepts of diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging. While these terms are frequently used, the definitions are not universal. The meaning can vary greatly between nations and cultures. This makes discourse and learning about them challenging. And the possibility of any progress on addressing them, nearly impossible. At Global Equity Forward, we are unique in that we apply a global lens and utilize a cross-cultural approach to our training, teaching, and advising for clients. We provide the space for individuals, groups and organizations to work through and develop their own voices as it relates to these topics. We have expertise working with U.S.-Japan and Asia related organizations. Working with people of various ages, organizations, backgrounds, and parts of society allows us to share our expertise in all kinds of

places and spaces. This make sure that the information can be shared and perhaps contribute to increased understanding and acceptance of all people as humans worthy of dignity no matter where they are located in the world.

**Contact Information:**

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**Globalize DC**

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**Mission:** Our mission is to leverage DC’s wealth of global resources to increase access for DC public school students to global education, world language learning, and study abroad opportunities. We promote a strategic, systemic, and equitable approach, working collaboratively with partners and school officials. We are particularly committed to creating solutions that will reduce barriers to access for underserved K-12 students and schools, and that will support sustainable pathways to college and careers in global fields.

**Ongoing and future programs and initiatives:**

- “Japanese Plus” is our afterschool Japanese language, culture, and career exposure program open at no cost to students from any DC public high school (DCPS or charter). Students are selected for two-year cohorts; they meet twice a week (one weekday afternoon and Saturday mornings) from September through May each year. Students are eligible to earn academic credit for Japanese Levels I-II that can be used towards high school graduation.
- “Japan in DC” is a free six-week experiential summer program, open to DC public high school students, which explores people, places, and organizations in the city with a connection to Japan. Our summer 2023 program had a special focus on the World-War II era. We plan to extend Japan in DC’s programming into the 2023-24 school year, with webinars, field trips, student-led tours, creation of a website, and other activities (as funding permits).
- Our “#Anti-Asian Hate Project” grew out of our programming for DC students launched during the pandemic. It led to a successful two-year student-led effort to increase representation of Asians and Asian Americans in DC’s new K-12 social studies standards, adopted in summer 2023. In SY2023-24, Globalize DC will work with partner organizations to identify curriculum, professional learning, and other educational resources to support teaching about Asia and Asian Americans in local schools.
- We are currently advocating for a DC education policy that will allow students to earn academic credit by exam (“competency-based credit”) for world languages learned outside the traditional classroom. We believe this will open up new ways to make less commonly taught languages, like Japanese, more accessible to DC public school students. The State Board of Education has recommended the policy; we are currently working with a DC Councilmember and the Deputy Mayor for Education’s office on this effort.

**Any programs your organization would like to promote:**

- Our 128-page, full-color “Japan in DC” book, based on student writing and creative expression from our Japan in DC program, is currently available for sale at [www.globalizedc.org/jidc-book](http://www.globalizedc.org/jidc-book). Revenue from book sales provides critical funding for our upcoming Japan programs. We would be very grateful for any help in promoting the sale of these books within your networks. Reviews have been very positive!

### **COVID Impact:**

In response to COVID restrictions, we converted our Japanese Plus program in SY2020-21 to a less intensive, online program, called “Japanese Tamago.” In summer 2021, we created week-long online Japanese language and culture programs targeted at DC public middle school students. When we resumed our regular Japanese Plus programming in fall 2021, we created a hybrid program, in the hope that online weekday classes (rather than in-person) would increase access for students most geographically distant from our meeting site. This did not prove to be the case, and we missed the more intense bonding and commitment that a fully in-person program produced. Our plan for SY2023-24 is to resume as a fully in-person program. We believe for the student population we serve direct in-person exposure is vital.

### **Response to the national racial reckoning:**

Significant barriers to access that face DC’s lower income, Black and Brown students to global education, language learning, and study abroad – even those opportunities available in their own city – motivated the creation of Globalize DC and our menu of Japan programs. Our goal for the near future, given current attention to these issues, is to engage with partner organizations in academic, government, and nonprofit sectors to help us develop the programs, resources, and strategies that can support intentional and sustainable pathways to college and careers in the US-Japan space. We believe DC can serve as a useful model in this regard.

### **Subnational Diplomacy:**

All our work is focused on Washington, DC (as a local hometown city and “state”), creating connections that reach populations traditionally left out of more formal US-Japan relationships. We engage with local DC government, education, and business leadership.

### **Contact Information:**

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## **Institute of International Education (IIE)- IIE Programs with Japan**

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As a world leader in international education and exchange, the Institute of International Education (IIE) advances scholarship, builds economies, and promotes access to opportunity for all people. IIE has helped to welcome Japanese students to the United States since our founding in 1919. In 1952, IIE began collaborating with Japan to implement the U.S.

Department of State’s (DOS) Fulbright Program to promote mutual understanding between the U.S. and the rest of the world. The Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO) joined IIE’s Generation Study Abroad initiative launched in 2014, as one of 20 Country Partners committed to increasing and diversifying the number of U.S. students studying abroad. IIE and JASSO assisted CULCON to track progress in bilateral student mobility by providing annual data updates to its Education Review Committee. We remain dedicated to working closely with partners in Japan to design and implement customized cultural and academic exchanges with far-reaching impact.

### **IIE-administered programs with the U.S. and Japan:**

- The Fulbright Student, Fulbright Scholar, and Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) Programs are administered by IIE in close collaboration with the U.S. Department of State. The Fulbright Program operates in more than 160 countries worldwide and has provided approximately 400,000 participants with the opportunity to study, teach, or conduct research in each other’s countries and exchange ideas. The Fulbright FLTA



Program, established in 1968 and begun with Japan in 2007-2008, aims to strengthen foreign language instruction at U.S. educational institutions by establishing a native speaker presence in the classroom. In the past five years, over 560 U.S. and Japanese students, scholars, and teachers have participated in Fulbright programs.

- The U.S. Department of State's Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program enables U.S. undergraduates with limited financial means to study or intern abroad, thereby gaining skills critical to U.S. national security and economic competitiveness. IIE administers this program, which annually sends 250 U.S. students to study in Japan.
- The Quad Fellowship Program launched in 2021 as a joint initiative between the governments of Australia, India, Japan, and the United States. The program supports annual cohorts of 100 exceptional master's and doctoral students from these countries to pursue STEM degrees in the United States. The Fellowship cultivates a strong network of science and technology experts committed to advancing innovation and collaboration in public, private, and academic sectors in their own nations and among Quad countries. IIE supports Schmidt Futures by managing a competitive and transparent application, selection, and placement process for fellows and issuing fellowship payments.
- The Japan-IMF Scholarship Program for Advanced Studies provides funding to Japanese nationals to pursue a PhD in economics-related fields at a university outside of Japan. Up to seven scholarships are awarded every year.
- The Freeman Awards for Study in Asia have helped close to 5,000 U.S. undergraduates participate in credit-bearing study programs in East or Southeast Asia with support from the Freeman Foundation. Japan is the top host destination for Freeman awardees spending a semester or academic year abroad.
- The Global Engineering Education Exchange (Global E3), started in 1995, is an IIE-managed consortium of 30 U.S. and 36 non-U.S. institutions, which facilitates academic exchanges for engineering students between participating universities. In Japan, students from Global E3 member campuses study at Tohoku University. Qualifying Japanese students from Tohoku are able to enroll in engineering programs at any other member institution in the consortium.

### **COVID Impact:**

Throughout the COVID-19 global pandemic, IIE adapted quickly to deliver key program activities virtually to participants and sponsors, including outreach and recruitment, selection, pre-program training, advising, events, and monitoring and evaluation. In some cases, this involved scaling up our existing processes, such as those for virtual outreach and selection, which have been key components of our program delivery for a number of years; in others, we innovated to roll out new technologies and services to support participants and sponsors.

- Organizational leadership during COVID-19: IIE's Research, Evaluation, and Learning (REL) team led a two-year study of IIE team members and their experiences navigating the COVID-19 pandemic, bringing a personal lens to IIE's work and leadership in the international education field. The findings were published in the April 2023 report: *Leading with Resilience: COVID-19 Learnings*.
- COVID-19 Snapshot Survey Series: The REL team produced a COVID-19 Snapshot Survey Series analyzing the effects of the pandemic on global student mobility. This complementary work further led to focused research on topics like our latest paper on Mental Health and

Well-Being in International Education. Additionally, IIE partnered with the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE) Osaka to support their research on COVID-19 and global mobility and co-presented on this research at the Asia-Pacific Association for International Education (APAIE) Annual Conference and NAFSA.

- IIE Network COVID-19 Engagement Series: IIE has hosted a series of webinars and virtual discussions to enable higher education institutions to connect with each other, stay up-to-date on critical topics, and share expertise and experiences related to the pandemic.

**Response to the national racial reckoning:**

IIE's commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA), now and throughout our history, is a critical part of our effort to engage thoughtfully with all of our internal and external constituents around the world and reaffirms our deep commitment to these principles. We support programs with a universal commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion, multiculturalism, and international understanding and cooperation. We approach all program design, implementation, and evaluation through a culturally responsive and racial equity lens. The recently-launched IIE Center for Access and Equity focuses on expanding education and skills development and leveraging thought leadership to enrich global learning, programs and partnerships, and access for underrepresented communities.

**For more information, please contact:**

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## **International Student Conferences, Inc. (ISC)**



ICS's mission is to promote peace by furthering mutual understanding, friendship and trust through international student interchange.

**Ongoing Programs and Events:**

ISC facilitates four programs:

1. Japan-America Student Conference (JASC) - since 1934
2. Korea- America Student Conference (KASC) - since 2008
3. China-America Student Conference (ChASC) - since 2020
4. U.S.-Japan-Korea Trilateral Forum – since 2012

Summer 2023 Programs:

- 3rd China-America Student Conference
  - June 5 - 17, 2023: Washington, DC, and New York
- 16th Korea-America Student Conference
  - July 11-29, 2023: Washington, DC, Seoul, and Boryeong
- 75th Japan-America Student Conference
  - July 29-August 1: JASC American Orientation in LA
  - August 2 - 26: Kyoto, Nagasaki, and Tokyo

**Promoted Programs:**

The Japan-America Student Conference is an educational and cultural exchange program for university students from the U.S. and Japan. Beginning in 1934, JASC is the first and oldest

exchange between the two countries, conceived and carried out by university students. JASC provides a unique student-led month-long opportunity for American students from diverse backgrounds to carry out an intensive exchange of views on various subjects and issues with their Japanese counterparts. Held annually in the summer, JASC brings together up to 72 university students and recent graduates, half from Japan and half from the United States.

### **COVID Impact:**

COVID greatly impacted our organization. Our summer conferences all changed to a virtual format, which resulted in unique challenges in offering the same quality of student interchange programs. However, we were able to adapt and utilize Zoom and other technology effectively to facilitate online conferences. As the programs moved back into in-person formats, we had to create COVID safety measures and prepare for the reality of last-minute changes to the conference formats in real-time

For the organization itself, ISC moved to work from home at the start of the pandemic. With a small staff, we have not resumed fully in-person work, and employees continue to work remotely with no negative impact on productivity.

### **Response to the national racial reckoning:**

The past few years brought to the forefront awareness of the need for programs and organizations in U.S.-Japan relations to reflect the diversity of the United States. Internally, ISC aims to promote Conference inclusivity by ensuring the awareness and participation of students from diverse backgrounds and regions. Delegate selection aims to incorporate a wide range of perspectives, opinions, and experiences to reflect the diversity of the United States.

In 2021, ISC initiated an annual Plant a Diplomatic “Tree” campaign, which collects funds from alumni. These funds are dedicated to a needs-based scholarship fund that supports Delegates encountering financial challenges, ensuring their access to the Conferences. Last year JASC implemented a nationwide recruitment plan, targeting universities across all 50 states, including HBCUs. Lastly, ISC is enhancing the Board of Directors by appointing individuals who can offer valuable guidance in diversity, equity, and inclusion.

### **Subnational Diplomacy:**

All of them. Our programs create vibrant, long-term relationships between the next generation of leaders in the United States and our partner countries. Since 1934, JASC has produced thousands of alumni, many of whom have had substantial careers in business, government, academia, journalism, and the arts. The lasting friendships formed by the American and Japanese delegates foster understanding at the person-to-person and state-to-prefecture levels, now and into the future.

### **For more information, please contact:**

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## **Isamu Noguchi Foundation and Garden Museum**

### **Mission:**

The Noguchi Museum is dedicated to advancing the understanding and appreciation of the art and legacy of Isamu Noguchi (1904–1988). Founded in 1985, the Museum was the first in the United States to be established, designed, and installed by a living artist to show their own work. Located in Long Island City, Queens, the Museum itself is widely viewed as among the artist’s greatest

achievements, and continues to present exhibitions and programs that engage audiences around the world.

### **Ongoing and Future Programs:**

The Noguchi Museum features open air and indoor galleries in a repurposed 1920s industrial building and a serene outdoor sculpture garden. It presents an ongoing permanent installation of Noguchi's work, as well as temporary exhibitions exploring themes in Noguchi's work, the context in which he worked, and his ongoing influence. A vital cultural resource, the Museum facilitates scholarship and learning for audiences both in New York City and around the world through programming and research.

Upcoming projects at the Museum include the permanent collection-based exhibition *A Glorious Bewilderment: Marie Menken's Visual Variations on Noguchi* (September 27, 2023—February 4, 2024) and *Toshiko Takaezu: Worlds Within* (March 20—July 28, 2024), comprising an exhibition and national tour organized by the Museum, as well as a new monograph on the artist. The Museum will also provide education and public programming that reaches audiences of all ages as they engage with Noguchi's work and the Museum's exhibitions.

### **COVID Impact:**

While during the pandemic, the Museum postponed exhibitions and moved all public and education programs to a virtual format, most programs have now returned to their pre-pandemic, in-person format. One major change since the pandemic has been the incorporation of virtual programs into the Museum's program offerings. The Museum has found that a virtual format is more accessible for certain audiences, such as senior groups that are not mobile, homebound individuals, and some Integrated Co-Teaching (ICT) classrooms with students that have behavioral issues. The Museum has continued to work with groups, schools, and partners to offer free virtual or hybrid programming that best meets the needs of participants.

### **Response to the national racial reckoning:**

Fostering a culture of diversity, equity, and inclusion is an important goal for the Museum, especially as an institution founded by and dedicated to a biracial artist who grappled with, and was deeply engaged with, questions of his own identity and sense of belonging. The Museum has been working to integrate these lessons at all levels of the Museum—from governance to staffing to communication and programming. Recent efforts include the creation of a new Director of People and Culture position on its leadership team, a focus on adding non-white trustees to its Board of Trustees, and investments in staff payrates and benefits to advance equity.

### **Subnational Diplomacy:**

While the Museum does not directly participate in subnational diplomacy, it does encourage cultural connections we build between our audiences—including our local elected officials—and the art of Isamu Noguchi and other individuals reflecting the deep historical and cultural connections between the United States and Japan.

### **Point of Contact:**

Nanaho Kamei, [Nkamei@noguchi.org](mailto:Nkamei@noguchi.org)

## The Japan-America Society of Washington DC

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From our local schools to our top political leaders, we support the US-Japan relationship through programs and partnerships that unite Americans around a shared interest in Japan's vibrant culture.

### Ongoing and Future Programs:

- Sakura Matsuri Japanese Street Festival – April 13-14, 2024
- National Japan Bowl, April 18-19, 2024
- US-Japan Capital Gala – October 17 2024
- Japanese Language School

### Other Programs:

- Various networking event, cultural classes, and seminars

### COVID Impact:

Covid put the breaks on many of our smaller and ad-hoc community gathering events. We have begun gradually phasing such community and member events back in.

### Response to the national racial reckoning:

The Society has put out, on our various messaging platforms, several forceful public statements in support of BLM and out of concern for hatred against Asians. Promotion of cultural richness and understanding is otherwise in the Society's DNA. The Sakura Matsuri Japanese Street Festival rallies our community-- in all of its racial and ethnic richness, around a love for Japan and Japanese culture. Meanwhile, National Japan Bowl puts Japanese culture in the National spotlight and rewards young American's achievement demonstrating their Japanese cultural and language fluency.

### Subnational Diplomacy:

National Japan Bowl provides a tool for high schools across the United States to use to motivate Japanese language study and defend existing Japanese language programs in American high schools. Sakura Matsuri-Japanese Street Festival depends on a robust partnership and enthusiastic support from the District of Columbia, and often features DC city officials.

### Contact Information:

Saori Kobayashi, Director of Programs, [skobayashi@jaswdc.org](mailto:skobayashi@jaswdc.org)

## Japan Commerce Association of Washington, D.C., Inc. (JCAW)

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The Japan Commerce Association of Washington, D.C. (JCAW) was founded in November 1988, and consists of approximately 100 corporate members and 100 individual members. JCAW was established to create cooperation and friendship within Washington, DC business community, and promoting exchange and understanding with American society through education, sports, and social activities. The focus of JCAW activities include: Member Networking Events, Seminar Events, Cultural Exchange Activities, Community Relation Activities, and Public Relations.

### Ongoing and Future Programs:

- **Japanese Film Screening:** JCAW in collaboration with the Public Relations and Culture Center of the Japanese Embassy holds a Film Screening once a month to promote understanding of Japanese culture.
  - a. *Wheel of Fortune and Fantasy*: January 21<sup>st</sup>-January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022
  - b. *Café Funiculi Funicula: Before the Coffee Cools*: January 28<sup>th</sup>-January 31<sup>st</sup>

### Other Programs:

- **Sakura Grant Program:** The purpose of the Washington DC Sakura Grant Program is to support public, private, and charter/magnet schools that provide Japanese language and/or Japanese cultural education to students at the K-12 level in the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia. Due to limited funding, this year's program is not available for other areas.

Grants will range between \$500 and \$2,000 per school, per school year. Schools may apply for more than one project, but the total amount requested for all projects may not exceed \$2,000 in one school year.

### For more information, please contact:

Yuki Sako, [yuki.sako@kkgates.com](mailto:yuki.sako@kkgates.com)

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Naoshia Kitada, [n.kitada@jr-central-usa.com](mailto:n.kitada@jr-central-usa.com)

## Japan Center for International Exchange (JCIE/USA)



JCIE/USA seeks to strengthen US-Japan relations by advancing policy research and dialogues between American and Japanese leaders on bilateral, regional, and global challenges. Our mission supports our vision for a world in which the United States and Japan work together based on shared interests and values to build a safe, free and open, and sustainable world where all people can thrive.

### Ongoing and Future Programs:

- **2023 US-Japan Women Leaders Dialogue (September 11–16, 2023):**  
JCIE will host a delegation of Japanese women leaders in Washington DC for a week-long program as part of the 2023 US-Japan Women Leaders Dialogue, co-chaired by Hon. Seiko Noda (former Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications and former Minister in charge of Women's Empowerment and Minister of State for Gender Equality, among other posts) and Rep. Diana DeGette (D-CO). The Japanese delegation will be led by Ms. Noda and will include three other women legislators and two business leaders for a total of six participants. The group will join meetings with leaders and policy experts in government, industry, academia, and other sectors to further explore the themes that have been discussed to date in the Dialogue series regarding women's empowerment in politics, business, and STEM fields. The group will also participate in meetings to discuss broader issues in US-Japan relations and international affairs.
- **2023 US Congressional Staff Exchange Program (1987– ) (October 9–13, 2023):**  
Launched in 1982, this program seeks to enhance the quality of policy advice given to US legislators by providing influential Congressional staff members with opportunities to develop deeper appreciation for US-Japan relations and a better understanding of the

challenges and opportunities that US leaders face in their interactions with Japan. JCIE has resumed in-person exchanges for this program, and will take a bi-partisan group of eight Congressional staffers to Japan including Tokyo and Hiroshima in the week of October 9.

- **Expanding Support for Democratic Governance (October 2018–March 2023):**  
Working with an advisory group and through original research, conferences/webinars, and a dedicated website, this program (also known as the Democracy for the Future program), engages Diet members, policymakers, and leading experts in Japan in international and US-Japan discussions on the need for greater Japanese leadership and US-Japan cooperation to strengthen democratic governance in the region and around the world. In August 2022, JCIE resumed in-person activities for this program, including the hosting of the second Sunnylands Initiative Retreat in Odawara, Japan. Ahead of the G7 in March 2023, JCIE hosted a public symposium on “Defending Universal Values in the Indo- Pacific—Roles of Japan and the G7 Summit.”
- **Global Health and Human Security Program (2007):**  
Our activities in this program seek to advocate for strong Japanese leadership and international collaboration on global health toward more resilient health systems in low- and middle- income countries and universal health coverage (UHC). In June 2022, JCIE co-organized the 4th US-Japan Global Health Dialogue with the US National Academy of Medicine in person in Washington DC, also in partnership with the US Department of Health and Human Services and the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. Subsequently the program focused on launching JCIE’s G7 Global Health Task Force and releasing its recommendations for the Japanese government on the G7 agenda for global health. Since then, JCIE has been working to develop concrete action plans to follow up on some of the key recommendations to ensure continuity of the G7 global health agenda toward the Italian G7 presidency in 2024.

As part of our efforts on global health, JCIE also continues to support the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and will co-host a public event in New York on September 19, on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly High-Level Meetings on pandemic prevention, preparation and response (PPR), Tuberculosis, and Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

- **Healthy and Active Aging, including a US-Japan Community-Level Exchange Program on Healthy and Resilient Aging:**  
In May 2023, JCIE carried out the inaugural community-level exchange for our US-Japan Healthy and Resilient Aging Program, which brought a group of 5 community-leaders from Columbus, Ohio, to Japan for a one-week program featuring meetings in Tokyo and site visits throughout Kanagawa Prefecture. The delegation featured experts from the public sector, academia, and nonprofits who have demonstrated leadership in the Columbus community on issues related to healthy aging and the provision of services for older residents. The trip offered numerous opportunities for mutual learning with Japanese counterparts. If funding allows, JCIE will carry out a reverse exchange program, bringing community leaders from Kanagawa to Columbus next year. We also hosted a roundtable in New York in July for the governor of Kanagawa Prefecture with local experts from organizations related to aging and sustainable development.

We have also continued to work on our broader programs on Healthy and Active Aging, launched in 2017, and have been working to promote and highlight the work of the winners

of our Healthy Aging Prize for Innovation (HAPI), as well as preparing to open another call for submissions for HAPI in 2024.

**COVID Impact:**

Post-COVID, we now organize more hybrid events to allow for both online and in-person participation. However, we resumed international travel and in-person activities from mid- 2022 for our exchange programs, including the US Congressional Staff Exchange Program and the US-Japan Women Leaders Dialogue, both of which had been replaced with in- person programming during COVID.

**Response to the national racial reckoning:**

We seek diversity and equity in all of our programming, including when selecting participants for our exchange programs, such as the US Congressional Staff Exchange program.

**Subnational Diplomacy:**

In 2023 JCIE/USA launched a new community-level US-Japan Exchange Program as part of our broader program on healthy and active aging. In its first year, we took a delegation of community leaders from Columbus, OH, to Japan in May 2023 for a week-long trip to Tokyo and Kanagawa Prefecture, where they participated in dialogues with Japanese policymakers and experts on ways to build age-friendly communities. We expect to organize a reverse delegation from Japan to the United States in the coming year.

**Contact Information:**

Hayley Hutchison, Program Officer, [hhutchison@jcie.org](mailto:hhutchison@jcie.org)

Stephen McHugh, Program Officer, [smchugh@jcie.org](mailto:smchugh@jcie.org)

Kazuyo Kato, Executive Director, [kkato@jcie.org](mailto:kkato@jcie.org)

## Japan Society

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**Mission:**

Japan Society is the premier organization connecting Japanese arts, culture, business, and society with audiences in New York and around the world. We are inspired by the Japanese concept of kizuma (絆) forging deep connections to bind people together. We are committed to telling the story of Japan while strengthening connections within New York City and building new bridges beyond. In over 100 years of work, we've inspired generations by establishing ourselves as pioneers in supporting international exchanges between Japan and the U.S.

**Ongoing and future programs:**

- Gallery Exhibition - Out of Bounds: Japanese Women Artists in Fluxus (October 13, 2023 - January 21, 2024). This exhibition will be the first to fully explore the essential role of Japanese women in Fluxus, a movement that helped contemporary artists define new modes of artistic expression. Near the 60th anniversary of the movement's founding, this exhibition highlights the contributions of four pioneering Japanese artists — Shigeko Kubota (1937–2015), Yoko Ono (1933–), Takako Saito (1929–), and Mieko Shiomi (1938–) —and contextualizes their role within Fluxus and the broader artistic movements of the 1960s and beyond.



- Performing Arts - 2023 -2024 Season includes: John Cage's Japan Series, Nihon Buyo in the 21st Century: Kabuki Dance to Bolero, Beyond Ballet Beyond Hip-Hop
- Film - Year-round screenings of beloved classics, hidden gems and recent discoveries of Japanese cinema, presented in-theater at Japan Society.
- Language Center - Offers 13 comprehensive levels and six semesters each year. Also offered are specialized language and culture courses and workshops.
- Kids & Family - Annual festivities events invite young children and their families to learn about traditional Japanese celebrations, including the New Year's Celebration and Children's Day offering fun performances, workshops and hands-on craft activities.
- Education: Teacher & K-12 - Japan Society's Education Program sparks interest in Japan through a suite of family, school and educator programs including School Gallery Tours, Arts and Culture Workshops, the Japan Society School Partnerships and the Junior Fellows Program.
- Additional Events - Japan Society presents additional events, including the Talks+ series, year-round featuring diverse topics in Japanese art, cuisine, innovation and technology, hosted in a variety of formats.
- Business & Policy Forum - Japan Society's Business & Policy Forum hosts public and invitation-only programs about the people and issues that define U.S.-Japan relations in a regional and global context. Conferences, lectures, symposia and receptions that are invaluable for helping participants better grasp the financial, business, and policy challenges that affect Japan and the U.S. are held throughout the year.

**COVID Impact:**

In 2023, we gradually returned to in-person events and programs. Work schedules were hybrid.

**Response to the national racial reckoning:**

We have partnerships with Japanese American associations, play a leadership role in events such as Japanese Heritage Night and work with the Japanese consulate on DEI programs.

**Subnational Diplomacy:**

Dr. Joshua Walker, Japan Society's President and CEO serves on the Board of the New York Japan History Museum. Japan Society also partners with organizations such as the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry and The Nippon Club.

**Contact for more information:**

Chiharu Arai, Chief Marketing Officer, [carai@japansociety.org](mailto:carai@japansociety.org)

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## Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission (JUSFC)



JUSFC was established as an independent federal agency by the United States Congress in 1975 to strengthen the U.S.-Japan relationship through educational, cultural, and intellectual exchange. JUSFC is a grant-making agency. JUSFC also serves to maintain expertise on Japan Studies throughout the United States, and occasionally initiates new programs that address a compelling issue that may address a challenge to the U.S.-Japan partnership. JUSFC is committed to developing an inclusive community where contributions from underrepresented scholars and practitioners support and sustain bilateral relations.

### **Ongoing and Future Programs:**

*Institutional Grants:* In FY23, JUSFC awarded 23 grants totaling \$900,666 ([www.jusfc.gov](http://www.jusfc.gov)). JUSFC is committed to developing a diverse and inclusive U.S.-Japan community where contributions from underrepresented scholars and practitioners support and sustain the U.S.-Japan partnership. The agency partners with a wide range of non-profit and academic organizations in the United States and Japan to fulfill its mission. Grant decisions for FY24 will be released in October 2023. The FY25 application deadline is July 1, 2024.

### **COVID Impact:**

- The pivot to virtual programming has allowed for broader accessibility and engagement from audiences in the United States, Japan, and other countries.
- JUSFC also provides access to its online programming through interpretation services, including English-Japanese/Japanese-English and American Sign Language.

### **Response to the national racial reckoning:**

JUSFC has consistently conducted all aspects of its work through an equity lens, including confirming a diverse slate of new commissioners; reviewing and updating policies and procedures and grant application guidelines; and enhancing opportunities for supporting the bilateral relationship amongst diverse individuals and stakeholders.

- Previously, JUSFC internships were unpaid. However, since 2020 the agency has made its internship program more equitable by removing a financial barrier.
- Since 2020, JUSFC has continued to assess the impact of its longtime programs/grantees on Japan Studies and U.S.-Japan relations by actively examining diversity, equity, inclusion and access in Japan Studies and U.S.-Japan relations. JUSFC is also considering multi and interdisciplinary approaches to the future of Japan Studies.
- In 2022, JUSFC established an immersive faculty-led program designed to deepen undergraduate student interest in Japan and provide mentorship to students from underrepresented backgrounds. In May-June 2023, the first cohort of 16 undergraduates spent two days in Washington, D.C., followed by two weeks in Japan for academic training, practical experience, and mentoring. Students also received pre-departure online language training and virtual presentations.

### **Subnational Diplomacy:**

JUSFC's grantmaking and signature programs including academic grants, legislative exchanges, the U.S.-Japan Creative Artist Fellowship Program, and others promote people-to-people exchanges at the grassroots level.

### **Contact Information:**

Niharika Chibber Joe, Associate Executive Director, [njoe@jusfc.gov](mailto:njoe@jusfc.gov)

Paige Cottingham-Streater, Executive Director, [pcottinghamstreater@jusfc.gov](mailto:pcottinghamstreater@jusfc.gov)

## **The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation**



The Mansfield Foundation promotes understanding and cooperation among the nations and peoples of Asia and the United States. Maureen and Mike Mansfield's values, ideals, and vision for U.S.-Asia relations continue through the Foundation's exchanges, dialogues, and

publications, which create networks among U.S. and Asian leaders, explore the underlying issues influencing public policies, and increase awareness to advance mutual interests.

### **Ongoing and Future Programs:**

- Mike Mansfield Fellowship Program: 27th group of Fellows from the U.S. government is spending a full year in Japan from July 2023. 28 th class conducting language and area studies for a year before deploying to Japan in July 2024. Recruitment for the 29 th class is now open.
- Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission Thomas S. Foley Legislative Exchange: Legislators from Japan, Korea, and the United States will father in Tokyo in February 2024 and in Washington in April 2024
- U.S.-Japan Network for the Future: Cohort 6 of Japan Studies experts will conclude in Washington in June 2024; recruitment of Cohort 7 expected to begin this fall
- Mansfield-PhRMA Research Scholars Program: Japanese experts will visit the U.S. in September 2023
- U.S.-Japan Space Forum: ongoing; next scheduled for Washington from Nov 19-21, 2023
- Mansfield-Luce Asia Scholars Network: Cohort 3 under recruitment now □ Mansfield-CIIS Forum on Northeast Asia Peace, Security and Cooperation: ongoing, energy experts from the United States, Japan, and China.)
- U.S.-Japan-Korea Trilateral Women's Empowerment program for youth will conduct a capstone event in Washington in December 2023
- Next Generation of U.S.-Japan Nuclear Policy Experts program in DC Sept. 10-17, 2023
- Ongoing programming includes Capitol Hill Asia Policy Dialogues, Policy Roundtables, and U.S.-Japan Cooperation in the World seminar series.

### **COVID Impact:**

COVID has opened the door to more hybrid programming for virtual participants and attendees. Washington staff is also working in hybrid capacity, with all staff in the office on Wednesday, plus two other in-person days each week.

### **Response to the national racial reckoning:**

We remain dedicated to increasing diversity of program participants and audiences. In recent years, the board of directors has emphasized this diversity in our program goals, and leadership and staff have sought out training on increasing diversity and addressing unconscious bias.

### **Subnational Diplomacy:**

Most of our programs utilize people-to-people networks to engage local actors in the bilateral partnership. The Mansfield Fellowships has fostered nearly 200 federal employees across all levels of federal government, while our working groups and networks are built on relationships in academia and local actors. Mansfield continues to build on the sister-state relationship between Montana and Kumamoto Prefecture via programming in both locations.

### **Contact Information:**

Timothy White, Director of Communications, [twhite@mansfieldfdn.org](mailto:twhite@mansfieldfdn.org)  
Sayuri Romei, Associate Director of Programs, [sromei@mansfieldfdn.org](mailto:sromei@mansfieldfdn.org)

## National Association for Black Engagement with Asia (NABEA)



### Mission:

The National Association for Black Engagement with Asia, or NABEA, connects Black Asia specialists in both the public and private sectors and seeks to increase the representation of Black Americans engaging with Asia. Through our programming, we work towards building a mutually beneficial economic, political, social and cultural relationship between Black America and the Indo-Pacific.

### Ongoing and Future Programs:

N/A

### Promoted Programs:

NABEA Mentorship Program

### COVID Impact:

Contrary to our initial predictions, the COVID-19 pandemic catalyzed NABEA's reach and growth. Society's shift to virtual programming enabled NABEA to host public programming with limited resources as a young organization. Additionally, the rise in video conferencing eliminated previously barriers to connect NABEA members across the globe.

### Response to the national racial reckoning:

As an organization focused on lifting the voices of Black Americans in U.S.-Asia relations, NABEA is intrinsically linked to the nation's reckoning with race. NABEA has consistently worked to close the racial gap by highlighting the expertise of Black professionals, providing young Black professionals with mentorship to advance their careers, and eliminating barriers to diversify Asia related organizations.

### Subnational Diplomacy:

N/A

### Point of Contact (for more information):

NABEA Leadership, [Nabea@usnabea.org](mailto:Nabea@usnabea.org)  
Chadwick Eason, [chadwick.eason@gmail.com](mailto:chadwick.eason@gmail.com)

## NAFSA: Association of International Educators



NAFSA: Association of International Educators is the world's largest nonprofit association dedicated to international education and exchange, serving more than 10,000 members and international educators in more than 160 countries. NAFSA serves international educators and their profession, advances international education in institutions of higher education, and promotes international education and the policies that sustain it in the public arena. NAFSA encourages networking among professionals, convenes conferences and collaborative dialogues, and promotes research and knowledge creation to strengthen and serve the field.

### **Ongoing and Future Programs:**

NAFSA Regional Conferences (October-November): NAFSA's 11 Regions will be hosting their local conferences throughout the months of October and November. Registration for all Regional Conferences opens on August 15th : <https://www.nafsa.org/conferences/regional>

NAFSA 2024 Annual Conference (May 28-31, 2024): We are currently accepting Session Proposals, Poster Submissions, Exhibitors, and Sponsors for NAFSA's 2024 Annual Conference in New Orleans: <https://www.nafsa.org/conferences/nafsa-2024-annual-conference-expo>

### **Upcoming Events:**

To celebrate NAFSA's 75 th Anniversary, we have been hosting a summit series about the diversification and future of the field of International Education, with parts 2 and 3 in September and November respectively: <https://www.nafsa.org/nafsa-75th-anniversary-summits>

NAFSA has a variety of programs in its Professional Development Portfolio that are also offered throughout the year: <https://www.nafsa.org/programs-and-events>

### **COVID Impact:**

During the pandemic, NAFSA shifted entirely to remote work. Many previously in-person programmatic offerings, such as our Annual Conference and various Leadership meetings, were pivoted to be offered virtually. We returned to fully in-person Regional and Annual Conferences in 2022 with pre-pandemic levels of registration. We currently operate using a hybrid (3 days in office, 2 days remote work) work format, and maintain our incorporation of virtual programming for many of our offerings.

### **Response to the national racial reckoning:**

We are currently in the process of updating our DEI statement to reinforce our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. We continually address changes in U.S. policy and attitudes through our advocacy, Town Halls, comment letters to the U.S. government, and outreach to others in the field through our peer-to-peer programming and publications. NAFSA is also proud to be recruiting for the 4 th cohort of our flagship DEI program, the RISE (Representation, Inclusion, Support and Empowerment) fellowship. Applications close on August 15<sup>th</sup>

### **Subnational Diplomacy:**

The NAFSA Annual Conference convenes international educators, institutions, organizations serving the field, public officials, and country delegations in one place, including Japanese Universities and Organizations. In 2023, Study in Japan, made by JAFSA (Japan Network for International Education), JASSO (Japan Student Services Organization) and SGU (Top Global University Project), brought 36 Japanese Universities to NAFSA's Annual Conference and was our largest Country Consortia in the Expo Hall. Multiple session offerings included Japanese perspectives and Japan's role in International Education, and there were multiple interest groups dedicated to global perspectives and collaboration that used this time to network in person, including the Japan Specific Interest Group (SIG).

We have also returned to the practice of welcoming international groups and organizations for in-person meetings at the NAFSA office, an example of which included members of the Long-Term Education Administrators Program (LEAP) from Japan, as facilitated by representatives from Montana State University. LEAP participants are staff at Japanese universities and employees of MEXT, the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

**Contact Information:**

Tatiana Mackliff, Deputy Executive Director, Leadership and Professional Development Services,  
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Madeline Wiltse, Program Manager, ISSS-IEM and Volunteer Engagement,  
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**New York International Children’s Film Festival (NYICFF)**



**Mission:**

New York International Children’s Film Festival (NYICFF) was founded in 1997 to promote the creation and dissemination of thoughtful, provocative, and intelligent cinematic works for young viewers (ages 3-18). NYICFF’s programming encourages the expansion of participants’ intellectual and imaginative lives; fosters active, discerning viewing; and stimulates lively discussion among peers, families, and the film community. NYICFF is a not-for-profit organization.

**Ongoing and Future Programs:**

Annual Festival – March 2024

**COVID Impact:**

Our goal over the course of the pandemic was to keep all programming as accessible as possible to the widest-ranging audience and thus created online events and screenings, eventually moving to a hybrid format. In 2023, we returned to 100% in-person screenings with a reduced number of screenings to account for the uncertainty of audiences’ appetite for the return to theaters and communal viewing. While we are slowly beginning to see rising attendance in our in-person programs, the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a significant loss of revenue and reduction of box-office that has yet to return to pre-pandemic levels.

**Response to the national racial reckoning:**

In order to pursue a mission to create a more diverse kids’ media landscape, NYICFF invests in the development of underrepresented voices, prioritizing the curation of films by and about people from historically underrepresented communities, as selected and curated by individuals from those underrepresented communities. DEIA principles are prioritized in all staffing, partnership, board recruitment, and consulting processes, and NYICFF offers stipended fellowship opportunities to selected interns to foster diversity in the children’s media field and create meaningful impact.

**Subnational Diplomacy:**

Our annual spotlight of Japanese short and feature films in the New York International Children’s Film Festival, and expertise in media for young people, allows us to engage in, positively impact and amplify subnational cultural diplomacy. Working with partners such as the Japan Foundation; the Japan Prize Foundation which under the auspices of the Japanese government brings together cultural ambassadors and experts from around the world; the Japan Society in New York; Japanese film studios and international distributors, and of course the filmmakers themselves, NYICFF continually expands and renews its Japanese cultural connections and amplifies the vital contribution of Japanese film culture internationally.

**Point of Contact:**

Nina Guralnick, [Nina@nyicff.org](mailto:Nina@nyicff.org)

## PinPath LLC



**Mission:** PinPath, LLC empowers **global stewards** to imagine and enact uniquely human solutions to uniquely human problems. PinPath envisions a world in which everyone can interact successfully and respectfully with others and take responsible action toward sustainability, collective wellbeing, and higher quality of life for all.

### **COVID Impact:**

How has COVID impacted your work schedule and programming? - Since a lot of my work is with international exchange programming, COVID greatly impacted my work. In some ways, it created more work for me to design and implement a pivot to virtual programming and in other ways such as travel and on site programming it greatly limited my work and the types of programs I can offer to organizations and students.

### **Response to the national racial reckoning:**

I am a single member LLC, but I have been a part of my clients efforts to implement DEIB programming or DEIB principals into their current programming. DEIB is something I have actively engaged with and took initiative to further educate myself about.

### **Subnational Diplomacy:**

Almost every project I work on for USJETAA, JUSFC, CULCON, Kyodai Collaborative, or Kyoto University or other clients is categorized as subnational diplomacy.

### **Point of Contact:**

Danielle Reed, [Danielle@pinpath.co](mailto:Danielle@pinpath.co)

## Richard U. Light Fellowship at Yale University



**Mission:** Through intensive language study in China, Japan, Korea and Taiwan, the Light Fellowship program helps Yale students become highly proficient in one or more East Asian languages in order to cultivate intercultural understanding and engagement among future leaders.

This is an internal fellowship for Yale students (undergrad and graduate/professional) to study Japanese language for a term of a summer up to a year. You can also receive the fellowship more than once.

### **COVID Impact:**

As of summer 2023, the intensive language programs we support in Japan have returned to full, in-person implementation.

We are interested in exploring new partnerships with higher education institutions and language programs across Japan to provide more program options to our students. We would welcome the opportunity to learn more about your schools and possibly schedule an in-person visit during our next site visit trip currently scheduled for June or July 2024.

We also want to connect with U.S.-Japan organizations that may be looking for summer interns with Japanese language skills.

### **Contact Information:**

Dr. Mya Fisher, Director, [Mya.fisher@yale.edu](mailto:Mya.fisher@yale.edu)

## Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA

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Peace Foundation USA (Sasakawa USA) is a non-partisan 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to deepening the understanding of and strengthening the relationship between the U.S. and Japan for the benefit of a free and open international community. Its activities mainly focus on security and diplomacy, through exchanges, dialogue, analysis, publications, and networking.

### **Ongoing and future programs:**

Sasakawa USA focuses on 4 areas of programming, *Policy Engagement & Research*, *Grassroots Outreach & Exchange*, *Congressional Outreach*, and the *U.S.-Japan NEXT Alliance Initiative*. There are 4 areas of programming that are relatively new:

- [Future of U.S.-Japan Command & Control \(C2\)](#), US-Japan NEXT Alliance Initiative
- [Sasakawa USA Women's Advancement Network \(SWAN\)](#)
- [Women, Peace and Security \(WPS\) in the U.S.-Japan Alliance](#)
- Rising Indo-Pacific Security Experts (RISE)

### **COVID Impact:**

We are fully back to working at the office 5 days a week. Our programming has also gone back to in-person, with the addition of some hybrid and virtual programming, which we did not have prior to the pandemic. A silver lining of the pandemic for our activities is that we can now bring voices from Japan as speakers and attendees directly to our community through hybrid and virtual programming.

### **Response to the national racial reckoning:**

We recognize that racial equality and diversity are important, and we are working to reflect that in our activities.

### **Subnational Diplomacy:**

- [Japan U.S. Military Program \(JUMP\)](#)
- [Sasakawa USA Emerging Experts Delegation \(SEED\)](#)
- [U.S.-Japan Strategic Alliance Series](#)
- [JET Alumni Engagement](#)

### **Contact Information:**

Shanti Shoji, Director of Programs, [sshoji@spfusa.org](mailto:sshoji@spfusa.org)

## Study Japanese in Arlington (SJA)

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### **Mission:**

SJA's purpose is to promote and support the study of the Japanese language and Japanese culture by students of all ages in Arlington, Virginia and the greater Washington DC metropolitan area. SJA is organized and shall be operated exclusively for charitable and educational purposes.

### **Ongoing and future programs:**

SJA has various ongoing programs under its 3 strategic pillars: Outreach; Education; and Advocacy. . [Our Programs — SJA Study Japanese in Arlington](#); Please refer to SJA's event pages for upcoming programs and events. [Events — SJA Study Japanese in Arlington](#)



### **COVID Impact:**

Since the March 2020 lockdown, our in-person programs shifted to virtual programs (Japanese language lessons for youth, advanced adults, beginner adults, Origami workshops) and Japanese cultural in-person program for youth got cancelled.

### **Response to the national racial reckoning:**

SJA actively promotes a multi-racial environment where all, regardless of their gender, race, and ethnicity, are welcome to join SJA activities as participants and as volunteers. SJA also welcomes anyone regardless of their racial background to join its Board of Directors, to support the mission of the SJA. For example, since its founding in Fall 2018, SJA's board has included a diverse range of people interested in Japan, such as Japanese, Japanese-American, Mongolian-American, Korean American, and Causasian American. SJA's board also has had youth representatives who included Mongolian-American, African-American, and multiracial Latinx. SJA's volunteers also come from a diverse background from all races. It also has a formal partnership with an origami teacher in Washington, DC who focuses on teaching origami to BIPOC and low income communities, for example recent Afghan evacuees sponsored by the Red Cross and Salvation Army. SJA maintains an intentionally diverse board representing various age groups and communities interested in deepening their practice of Japanese language and culture.

### **Subnational Diplomacy:**

SJA has Setagaya-Arlington Committee (SETCOM) which promotes subnational diplomacy by online monthly youth exchange, ad-hoc adult exchange (started in 2022 on urban agriculture theme), and monthly SETCOM in-person happy hour in the local food court in Arlington, VA. SETCOM has been striving to create a sister city relationship between Setagaya and Arlington with various activities since 2020.

### **Name and email of point of contact “for more information”:**

Emiko Todoroki; (Interim President) [info@sjastudy.org](mailto:info@sjastudy.org)

### **Name and email of the representative attending the Summit:**

Yoshimi Muto (Board Member); [yoshimi.muto@sjastudy.org](mailto:yoshimi.muto@sjastudy.org) ([yoshimimuto@gmail.com](mailto:yoshimimuto@gmail.com))

## **U.S.-Asia Institute (USAI)**

**US-ASIA  
INSTITUTE**

BUILDING  
UNDERSTANDING  
SINCE 1979

Founded in 1979 by Esther G. Kee and Joji Konoshima, the USAsia Institute (USAI) is a private United Nations-associated nongovernmental organization (NGO). It is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit devoted to improving and strengthening ties between the people and governments of the United States and Asia. USAI is a nonpartisan, non-advocacy organization with no policy agenda. The organization works directly with 15 countries: Brunei, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand and Vietnam. Through conferences, off-the-record briefings, people-to-people exchanges and ongoing interaction at all levels, USAI has effectively built a bond of trust and mutual respect over the past 44 years and has succeeded in keeping channels for dialogue open. USAI's leadership includes many with close ancestral, professional and cultural ties to the Asia-Pacific region. Our network of political, business, government and academic leaders here and abroad provides unique insight and access toward these important relationships.

### **Ongoing and future programs:**

- Japan 2023 Briefing Series- Jointly hosted by the US-Asia Institute and the Embassy of Japan to the United States, Japan 2023 is a closed-door, invitation only briefing series for Congressional staff with interest in the US-Japan relationship and related policy areas. This series of roundtables presents unique opportunities for staff to gain knowledge of the bilateral relationship while engaging with US-Japan experts and the Embassy of Japan in Washington, DC. By covering a wide variety of policy areas such as domestic politics, security, trade, and culture, we intend for staffers to gain valuable insight in an off-the-record and highly personal setting right off of Capitol Hill. Sessions were held on March 28th and June 22nd of this year and more sessions will be held in the near future.

### **Any programs your organization would like to promote**

- Asia News Brief- <https://www.usasiainstitute.org/anb>

### **COVID Impact:**

We are very excited to have returned to almost entirely in-person programming. However, we still utilize some helpful tools that have emerged during the pandemic, such as virtual webinars, event recordings, and work-from-home days when necessary.

### **Response to the national racial reckoning:**

As a nonpartisan, non-advocacy organization founded by Asian Americans, USAI has always strived to provide platforms for individuals of all ethnicities, nationalities, genders, backgrounds, and identities to discuss matters relevant to US-Asian relations. The national racial reckoning that has occurred over the past few years has resulted in a deeper level of understanding and awareness among our staff regarding issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion, thereby strengthening our resolve to foster inclusive dialogue.

### **Subnational Diplomacy:**

- Election 2023: This annual program provides diplomats from Asian countries who are currently located in DC with opportunities to learn about local elections and democratic processes in the DMV region.
- Diplomatic delegations: In 2023, USAI began organizing diplomatic delegations to see state and local government in action. The inaugural program brought 26 diplomats from 13 Asian countries to Annapolis, Maryland, where they met with the Lieutenant Governor and the Secretary of State and observed the House and Senate in session. There has been a request for more such programs to help diplomats understand state and local government.
- In addition, many of our programs that are via Zoom or hybrid are available to state and local officials across the United States - an audience we started to build during COVID.

### **Contact Information:**

Amanda Earls, Program Manager, [amanda.earls@usasiainstitute.org](mailto:amanda.earls@usasiainstitute.org)

## **U.S.-Japan Bridging Foundation (USJBF)**



Created in 1998 by the United States-Japan Friendship Commission, the U.S.-Japan Bridging Foundation (USJBF) is an independently operated 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, designed to strengthen the U.S.-Japan relationship through study abroad in Japan. USJBF's mission is to nurture the next generation of American global leaders and enrich their experience by offering

them opportunities to deepen their knowledge and understanding of Japan. We do so by providing undergraduates from across the United States, including those from historically underrepresented communities, with scholarships for study abroad in Japan as well as mentorship and networking opportunities.

### **Ongoing and Future Programs:**

#### **Bridging Scholars**

Bridging Scholars Program: Over the past 20 years, the Bridging Foundation has supported 2,192 U.S. undergraduate students' cultural and educational exchanges, providing opportunities for a diverse cross-section of young adults to develop global leadership and workforce skills that will deepen their understanding of Japan and strengthen the U.S.-Japan relationship. The Bridging Scholars program has provided over \$7,600,000 in scholarship grants of \$2,500 to \$4,500 to help U.S. students with academic merit and financial need afford to study in Japan for a semester or academic year, as well as providing leadership development, mentoring, internship, and volunteer opportunities for students. Bridging Scholars hail from every state and U.S. territories and study for a semester or an academic year at Japanese institutions throughout the country from Tohoku and Tokyo to Nagasaki and Okinawa.

- USJBF funds these scholarships through AATJ to help students study abroad for up to an academic year.
- Undergraduate students majoring in any field are encouraged to apply. Japanese language study is not a prerequisite. Applicants must be U.S. citizens and be enrolled in an academic institution before and during their time studying abroad. Their study must also last up to 3 months and earn credit for their institution.
- Beginning in 2021 and continuing to the present, the Foundation and its funders continue to raise significant resources to support students specifically from historically underrepresented communities through the establishment of a special scholarship fund as well as a mentorship and networking program for students of color.
- Together with ACCJ, the Bridging Foundation has just announced the Bishop Family Memorial Scholarship Fund in honor of Bill, Izumi, and Sophianna Bishop to support U.S. undergraduate students to study abroad in Japan for a semester or academic year in a credit-bearing program where they will pursue classes in Japanese culture and language. The aim is to award scholarships to students who will study at Temple University, Japan Campus, where Bill served as a longtime board member and lecturer.

### **Upcoming Opportunities:**

The next Bridging scholarship application deadline for the Fall of 2024 will open in late spring.

### **Programs we would like to promote:**

Please help us reach as many interested undergraduates, study abroad offices, Japanese and East Asian Studies faculty as possible. The online application and additional information is available at <https://www.bridgingfoundation.org/scholarship-program>

### **COVID Impact:**

The pandemic and related border closures meant a pause in Study Abroad from Spring 2020 through Fall 2022. During this time, the Foundation pivoted to offering a series of on-line virtual talks centered on "How to Get a Japan-related Career." These sessions were well attended by college and graduate students, professors, and other community members.

### **Response to the national racial reckoning:**

USJBF has put a strong focus on diversifying our annual Bridging Scholars class to include those from communities typically underrepresented in U.S.-Japan relations. We have also begun to work with donors to raise scholarship funds specifically earmarked towards these groups. We are pleased to share that because of these efforts, 76% of our 2022-23 scholars class of 96 students self-identified as coming from an underrepresented community. On an organizational level, we are working to further diversify our board with the addition of new members.

### **Subnational Diplomacy:**

The goal of our Bridging Scholarship program is to nurture U.S. undergraduates to broaden their worldview through long-term study abroad in Japan. Many of our graduates assume leadership roles supporting the U.S.-Japan relationship by becoming experts in arts, education, culture, business, diplomacy and security. Bridging Scholars become proficient in Japanese culture and language, enabling them to engage effectively with their Japanese counterparts and to positively influence public life in the United States. Through their experience in Japan, Bridging Scholars cultivate a lifelong affinity for the country and become attuned to the cultural differences that facilitate working with people from any part of the world. We award 75-100 scholarships annually at a total value of \$350,000. Nearly 600 students apply for Bridging Scholarships each year. All scholars study in Japan in credit-bearing programs for a semester or academic-year. Since its founding the Foundation has awarded well over 2,000 scholarships.

### **Contact Information:**

Tom Mason, [Tmason@bridgingfoundation.org](mailto:Tmason@bridgingfoundation.org)

## **U.S.-Japan Conference on Cultural and Educational Interchange (CULCON)**



The U.S.-Japan Conference on Cultural and Educational Interchange (CULCON) is a binational advisory panel that serves to elevate and strengthen the vital cultural and educational foundations of the U.S.-Japan relationship, and to strengthen connections between U.S. and Japan leadership in those fields. The panel members' policy

recommendations work to ensure that the best of new ideas for cultural, educational and intellectual activity and exchange are implemented as operational programs. Established in 1961 to build stronger people-to-people ties between our two countries, CULCON has convened stakeholders in the U.S.-Japan relationship to encourage deeper cooperation in solving shared policy challenges, to develop better business practices, and to deepen the connections between civil society in the United States and Japan.

### **Ongoing and Future Programs:**

- **CULCON Working Group - Information Access & Sharing in the Digital Age:** This Working Group will make recommendations to enhance access to fact-based, affordable, and balanced resources. The WG is exploring two general topics: Expanding Japan Studies and Study of the U.S., and Expanding Access and Sharing of Digital Resources. Trevor A. Dawes is the U.S. co-chair of this WG.
- **CULCON Working Groups - Subnational Diplomacy/Local & Regional Exchange:** This Working Group was created for “exploring the role of subnational diplomacy/regional exchange on the U.S.-Japan partnership, as well as investigating ways to enhance this important form of interaction.” The WG discussions, “identify problems and search for

feasible projects, with the goal of recommending policies to the Japanese Prime Minister and the U.S. President, as well as nurture the next generation of leaders in the U.S.-Japan alliance.” Bill Tsutsui is the U.S. co-chair of this WG.

- **CULCON 30:** CULCON meets biannually to set its agenda for the coming two years. Although CULCON usually alternates meetings between Washington, DC and Tokyo, this year, the 24-member panel will meet in Atlanta, where we are excited to showcase Atlanta and Georgia’s rich diversity and history, as well as their strong ties to Japan.

#### **COVID Impact:**

- The pivot to virtual programming has allowed for broader accessibility and engagement from audiences in the United States, Japan, and other countries.
- CULCON also provides access to its online programming through interpretation services, including English-Japanese/Japanese-English and American Sign Language.

#### **Response to the national racial reckoning:**

CULCON has consistently conducted all aspects of its work through an equity lens, including confirming a diverse slate of new panelists and enhancing opportunities for supporting the bilateral relationship amongst diverse individuals and stakeholders. Previously, CULCON internships were unpaid. However, since 2020 CULCON has made its internship program more equitable by removing a financial barrier.

#### **Subnational Diplomacy:**

CULCON has made Subnational Diplomacy a specific focus of its work, establishing a Working Group to examine many aspects of the U.S.-Japan partnership through local and state-level activities.

#### **For more information, please contact:**

Pamela Fields, Deputy Secretary-General, U.S. CULCON, [pfields@jusfc.gov](mailto:pfields@jusfc.gov)

Paige Cottingham-Streater, Secretary-General, U.S. CULCON, [pcottinghamstreater@jusfc.gov](mailto:pcottinghamstreater@jusfc.gov)

## **U.S.-Japan Council**

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The U.S.-Japan Council develops and connects diverse leaders to create a stronger U.S.-Japan relationship. Founded by Japanese Americans, the Council brings together leaders of the United States and Japan from across backgrounds, sectors, and generations to partner for a better future for the Asia-Pacific region and beyond.

#### **Ongoing and Future Programs:**

- USJC Mentoring Program, Cohort # 3, virtual (kicked off in February)
- Japanese American Leadership Delegation, Japan (Mar. 3-11, 2023)
- TOMODACHI Next Generation Summit, Japan (July 1)
- Emerging Leaders Program, Washington, DC (Nov. 7-8)
- USJC Annual Conference, Washington, DC (Nov. 8-9)
- Toshizo Watanabe Study Abroad Scholarship Program, 2023-24 cohort
- Business Advisory Board Meeting, Japan (quarterly)

- USJC Climate & Sustainability Initiative, 2022-23 (throughout the year)
- TOMODACHI Initiative Programs & Alumni Activities (throughout the year)
- Silicon Valley Japan Platform activities (throughout the year)
- Topical/educational Webinars (throughout the year)
- Member-led Regional & Affinity Group Activities (throughout the year)

### **Promoted Programs:**

#### **The USJC 2023 Annual Conference: Building a Sustainable, Secure and Inclusive Future Together (November 8-9, 2023 Renaissance Washington, DC Downtown Hotel)**

The U.S.-Japan Council Annual Conference is a yearly event that brings together regional, national and international leaders from the government, business, academia and nonprofit sectors to discuss the current status and future outlook of the U.S.-Japan partnership across a range of timely and relevant topics. Each year we look forward to seeing our Council members, program alumni, sponsors, and friends across diverse backgrounds, sectors and generations, and uncovering new avenues of cooperation between our two countries through informed discourse, leadership development and people-to-people connections at all levels.

Information and registration here: <https://www.usjapancouncil.org/2023-annual-conference/>

#### **The Toshizo Watanabe Study Abroad Scholarship Program**

The Toshizo Watanabe Endowed Scholarship Fund provides financial assistance to undergraduates/graduate students for a semester or year-long study abroad program in either the United States or Japan. The scholarship supports up to the full cost of attendance to the study abroad program of the applicant's choice. Beginning in 2018 for American students to study in Japan and 2016 for Japanese students to study in the United States, the scholarship program grants awards to recipients in amounts determined by financial need and other qualifications. The 2024-25 scholarship application period will be open from January to March, 2024.

Information can be found here: <https://www.usjapancouncil.org/watanabe-scholarship/>

### **COVID Impact:**

The U.S.-Japan Council's programmatic activities transitioned back from virtual to in-person throughout 2022, with our flagship engagement being the USJC 2022 Annual Conference held in Tokyo, Japan, where we welcomed 400 attendees from the United States and hosted over 700 total onsite in October. Many other programs that had been deferred also resumed, including those under USJC's TOMODACHI Initiative and our Toshizo Watanabe Study Abroad Scholarship Program. We also continued our two-year Climate & Sustainability Initiative, which has provided a platform for dialogue, networking and policy discussions to strengthen connections between business and government leaders and provide real-time input into the policy-making process in both the United States and Japan. While in-person engagements have resumed, we have continued to utilize virtual platforms to keep our community connected and provide high-quality programming.

### **Response to the national racial reckoning:**

Over the past few years, USJC has included conversations around diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in our major events, including our virtual Signature Series, the USJC Annual Conference, TOMODACHI Initiative programs, member-led activities, and more. We are intentionally focused on broadening the pipeline of leadership development and engagement in the U.S.-Japan relationship. We have also intentionally increased the diversity on our Board of Directors and

established an advisory Outreach & Allyship Committee as part of our formal committee structure.

### **Subnational Diplomacy:**

USJC's member network spans the United States and Japan, and events and activities organized by members in their regions often engage state and local actors in the U.S.-Japan partnership. In addition, we engage in subnational diplomacy in the following ways:

- Each year USJC partners with the Embassy of Japan in Washington, DC to host a meeting of Japanese Consuls General in the United States and Japanese American community leaders in the consulate regions;
- USJC's Climate & Sustainability Initiative engages national and subnational actors to instigate critical conversations and key dialogues that identify challenges and promote innovative solutions for a greener future.
- USJC's Annual Conference is a platform each year for engaging national and subnational actors in dialogues that promote the bilateral relationship.

### **Point of Contact:**

Shane Graves, [Sgraves@usjapanCouncil.org](mailto:Sgraves@usjapanCouncil.org)

## **U.S.- Japan Exchange & Teaching Programme Alumni Association (USJETAA)**

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The mission of USJETAA is to strengthen US-Japan relations via the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme alumni network. USJETAA offers support and resources to all 19 JETAA chapters and the nearly 40,000 individual US alumni, thereby enabling them to more fully engage in and foster US-Japan ties.

### **Ongoing and Future Programs:**

#### **JETAA Chapter Grant Program**

In partnership with Sasakawa USA, USJETAA awards mini-grants to JETAA chapters and subchapters for programs and events which highlight and advance bilateral relations in their local communities across the USA.

#### **Microgrant Initiative for US JETs**

In partnership with the US Embassy Tokyo, this program provides small grants to current US JET Programme participants for projects and programs that introduce and/or expand participant knowledge on American culture and English language within their local Japanese communities.

#### **JETAA Chapter Support**

USJETAA continues to meet with JETAA chapter leadership to explore ways it can relieve the burdens of chapter management and facilitate their regional success.

#### **JETs on Japan Forum**

In partnership with Sasakawa USA, JOJF is a publication series that allows JET alumni perspectives to reach a broader audience on a variety of US-Japan topics. The series aims to elevate the awareness and visibility of JET alumni working across diverse sectors and

provides a platform for JET alumni to contribute to deeper understanding on US-Japan relations in their area of expertise.

### **Professional Development**

USJETAA offers a suite of programming including career counseling, resume reviews, webinars on various career fields of interest, presentations on how to navigate the job search, etc. These resources are targeted at both entry-level and mid-career JET alumni professionals to support their professional development.

### **Alumni Reunions**

Every 5 years, USJETAA hosts a JET Alumni Reunion/Conference to bring together alumni to celebrate and showcase the contributions JET alumni have made in US-Japan relations. This event also serves as an opportunity for alumni to reconnect and re-engage. The next reunion is slated for 2027.

### **COVID Impact:**

COVID-19 caused USJETAA to shift primarily to online opportunities, benefiting from increased engagement with JET alumni nationwide. In the aftermath of the pandemic, USJETAA has gradually departed from exclusively virtual interactions, leading to a reevaluation of the organization's approach in fostering meaningful connections with its members and delivering programming that adds substantial value to the overall community. USJETAA is currently in the process of assessing the relative effectiveness of virtual versus in-person programming, while also considering the financial implications associated with both formats of events and activities.

### **Response to the national racial reckoning:**

USJETAA has proactively prioritized Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) efforts within its organizational framework. One initiative undertaken involves the concerted endeavor to infuse greater diversity throughout the US-Japan relations pipeline starting at the foundational level of recruitment for the JET Program. USJETAA has found collaboration and coordination with other organizations to be foundational in this work. USJETAA has taken deliberate measures to ensure representation of underrepresented groups within its leadership, as well as in various roles such as panels and other high-profile positions. These actions reflect USJETAA's intent and commitment to incorporating diversity in our community and in the US-Japan dialogue as a whole.

### **Subnational Diplomacy:**

- Microgrant Initiative for US JETs
- JETAA Chapter Grant Program

### **Contact Information:**

Jessyca Livingston, Executive Director, [Jessyca@usjetaa.org](mailto:Jessyca@usjetaa.org)

## **U.S.- Japan Foundation**



### **Mission:**

The United States-Japan Foundation is committed to promoting stronger ties between Americans and Japanese by supporting projects that foster mutual knowledge and education, deepen understanding, create effective channels of communication, and address common concerns in an increasingly interdependent world.



**Ongoing and Future Programs:**

We give out grants. The deadline this to submit a letter of intent (LOI) is August 31. We will make decisions by the end of the year. We also have a US-Japan Leadership Program which begins taking applications in September and selects its fellows by March.

The USJF is currently reviewing its grant strategy, in terms of size/range of grants, and focus. In the past, the foundation has given out grants ranging from about \$10,000-\$150,000, with an average value of approximately \$50,000. The organization has supported a wide range of themes, from K-12 education to policy research to work on helping communities respond to natural disasters.

--Re USJLP, here's a link: <https://us-jf.org/programs/us-japan-leadership-program/>

**COVID Impact:**

I didn't join the foundation until this past April, so hard for me to say.

**Response to the national racial reckoning:**

Same answer on this one.

**Subnational Diplomacy:**

None at this point

**Contact Information:**

Jake Schlesinger, President/CEO [jschlesinger@us-jf.org](mailto:jschlesinger@us-jf.org)